

A 200-mile problem

HAVING a new champion in Stuart Jackson, who covered over 200 miles more than the slowest rider, created constant problems for officials in the national 24-hour championship as they endeavoured to keep the field within manageable range, and several individual distances were corrected afterwards.

These changes made no difference to the medal-winners who were all affected by a newly-opened roundabout near Bere Regis, which reduced their distances slightly. Happily it did not rob Jackson of his record mileage for the course and when chief timekeeper, Bill Kiddle, followed him out for the last few minutes he signalled "Time" for the new champion just 200 yards further than Nim Carline's Wessex record which had stood since 1966.

The chief beneficiary now that figures have been double-checked is the Morden CRC veteran, Ian Barnett. Originally placed sixth, he has now displaced the 1979 Wessex winner, George Berwick from fifth spot after it was found that the hard-riding Scot had been wrongly credited with nearly 14 miles of the Fawley Road alongside Southampton Water on Saturday night. Only five men, the top four, plus John Cahill, who abandoned shortly afterwards, went into that detour, and the turn marshal, Ken Whitmarsh, national "100" champion in 1952, kept a lonely vigil on duty at the Hardley roundabout.

An encouraging feature of the race was the 100 per cent finishing success of the 14 novices taking part. They included the only woman, Esther Carpenter, from Hastings, who beat no fewer than 102 of her male competitors, including Norwood Paragon's Frank Payce-Drury. He made frequent stops for a quiet smoke during the event, but this became impracticable when heavy rain on Saturday afternoon threatened to extinguish his cigarette!

Another unusual entrant was Graham Peddie, who rode up to the start

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hostel. His equipment included heavy duty high pressures, an outer cover strapped to his carrier, saddlebag and guards, and 24 hours later he still was not sure if the Marathon he ran in a few seconds over three hours on the Isle of Wight a month ago was better preparation than his cycle ride for his next major objective, the European athletics championships for veterans in Strasbourg. His programme for that extends to the five- and 20-kilometre walk, the 10,000-metre and another Marathon - all in the space of one week!

Peddie was not the only Marathon runner taking part; Bournemouth Jubilee Wheeler, Phil Dade, ran the London Marathon earlier this year, and his next ambition is to combine his undoubted stamina of these two tests of endurance by completing the three Peaks cyclo-cross race in September.

The championship organiser, Tom Lodge, was in overall command of a task force exceeding 200 officiating at different times during the event, and his wife, Daphne, assisted by a willing team of helpers, served meals at the race headquarters throughout the 24 hours. The village hall in Bisterne was hired for the occasion, and other services set up there were massage facilities provided by the Oasis Health and Beauty Centre of Child Okeford in Dorset. Their busiest time came at the finish when several competitors took advantage of free treatment to soothe aching limbs.

Stuart Jackson, Farnham CC.....	496.487
B. Morris, Mid-Shropshire Wh	476.100
J. Dow, Oxford City RC.....	466.305
T. Icke, Poole Wh.....	460.563
I. Barnett, Morden CRC.....	446.768
G. Berwick, W Pennine RC.....	428.382
R. Dowling, Farnboro' & Camberley.....	423.923
S. Paulton, RAF CC.....	422.286

P. Dade, Bournemouth Jubilee Wh.....	401.710
C. Dean, Mid-Shropshire Wh.....	398.008
D. Spraggett, Mid-Shropshire Wh.....	395.055
R. Gee, Sotonia CC.....	394.781
R. Burden, Ashford Wh.....	385.864
R. Alma, Worcester St Johns CC.....	384.715
R. Geere, (T) Farnboro' and Camberley.....	379.905
E. Dunston, New Forest CC.....	377.968
B. Beardsley, S Elmsall SCC.....	372.881
D. Stevens, Exeter Wh.....	372.643
Esther Carpenter, Hastings & St Leonards CC.....	365.710
P. Wren, Exeter University.....	364.651
G. Davis, Hampshire RC.....	362.271
A. Burr, VC Venta.....	358.232
S. Trott, Exeter University.....	349.491
M. Winson, Chippenham & Dist ..	348.275
W. Pasley, Farnboro' & Camberley.....	346.797
B. Annis, Farnham RC.....	338.526
G. Peddie, Redhill CC.....	304.171
G. Thompson, Reading CC.....	300.481
F. Payce-Drury.....	