

Daly just short of joining elite band

MALCOLM Daly's quest to become another of the elite band of Hastings & St Leonards Cycling Club's 25mph plus 10-mile time triallists came close to fruition on Saturday morning.

He was short by just five seconds after clocking a time of 24.04 (a PB by more than one-and-a-half minutes) in San Fairy Ann's event on the Harrietsham course.

In Gear's Pete Tadros (20.21) won the event on a bright but blustery morning in a time less than 30 seconds off the course record he set last year. Junior Joe Jenner (25.54) did his best time for that course, less than 30 seconds off his PB, and Chris Parker (28.36) also rode.

Simon Newell (1.18.47) is also looking for his first 25mph plus 10 (with a recent PB of 24.02) but was riding Lewes Wanderers' Uckfield 30 on Sunday with Tim Carpenter (1.24.22) in windy conditions with some heavy showers.

Parker (1.11.46) rode Sunday's Thanet RC 25 on the Thanet Way on a fine but windy morning where Datateam's Kevin Tye set a new course record in 51.58.

Daly (47.10) won the last of the three Hastings-Rye-Hastings classics to extend his lead at the top of the points table. Making up the top five were Ivan Johnson (47.44), Newell (49.25), Jenner (50.07) and Joe Kingsman (51.38). Four of the season bests were by more than a minute - Paul Baxter (1.57), Steve Denny (1.44), Kingsman (1.28) and Jay Miles (1.23).

Fastest time of the night was by Bayeux's Nathan Russell (45.33), whose time has only been bettered by Tadros this season, although four riders did 46s.

Wednesday's time trial is scheduled to sign on at 7pm in the lane under the west wall of Pevensey Castle for a Pevensey 10 but evening roadworks are likely and the event may be cancelled.