

MIDLAND ROAD RECORDS ASSOCIATION

Committee & other Officials

President : John Taylor - email [president](#)

Vice Presidents : Jim Hopper, Tony Shardlow

Hon. General Secretary : Jim Hopper - email [gensec](#)
Rosedene, Hadley End, Yoxall, Burton on Trent, DE13 8PF
Tel. 01543 472349.

Affiliation Fees : Membership application form for both Clubs and Private members may be downloaded from [the website](#)

Hon. Records Secretary : Jim Hopper - email [recordsec](#)

Hon. Treasurer : Ian Hill - email [treasurer](#)

Past Presidents

W. Ballantyre 1893 - 1894
I. B. Carslake 1894 - 1904
A. Eadie 1905 - 1912
W. B. Goodwin 1913 - 1915
A. J. Urry 1916 - 1927
W. H. Henman 1928 - 1962
J. A. W. Walker 1963 - 1986
L. J. De Mouilpied 1987 - 2005
P. Kenny 2005 - 2011
(Interregnum) (2011 - 2014)
J.W.Taylor 2014 -

Past Secretaries

W. F. Ball 1893 - 1901
W. B. Goodwin 1902 - 1911
W. H. Henman 1912 - 1924
A. Lusty 1925 - 1948
J. A. W. Walker 1949 - 1968
L. J. De Mouilpied 1969 - 1986
J. B. Cuthbert 1987 - 1990
P. Kenny 1991 - 2011
J.Hopper 2011 -

Notes :

Records currently recognised by the MRRA are listed as an addendum, together with start, finish and any turning points, and can also be found on the MRRA [website](#). Junior riders (under 18 on day of attempt) may attempt separate records for 25 miles, 50 miles and Birmingham-Derby-Birmingham. Any properly performed ride over a Record route or distance, at which there is no prior best performance, may be accepted as a Record at the discretion of the Committee.

The website substantially reflects the current Objectives, Rules and Records of the Association, however it *should be used for guidance only*. Latest information is available from the Hon Secretary (see Committee links) and this Handbook is also available as a pdf download from the website.

Amendments to the handbook will appear on the website and may be circulated from time to time to all Officials and Members of the Association.

Any other person in possession of a handbook and requiring amendments should write to the Hon. Secretary enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope.

Association Constitution & Rules

1. The name of the Association shall be the "Midland Road Records Association".

The Association was established in November 1892, and is a sister organisation of the national [Road Records Association](#).

2. The objectives of the MRRRA are to check and verify the genuineness of claims by male and/or female cyclists for unpaced records over approved courses and distances, starting and/or finishing in the Midland Counties, and to maintain lists of the best performances on record.
3. The district covered by the Association shall be the counties of West Midlands, Warwickshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Derbyshire and Avon.
4. The Association shall consist of:
 - (a) Cycling Clubs within the counties above specified, joining it as such, who shall, on making application for affiliation, submit their rules; and
 - (b) Private Members subscribing individually and not necessarily members of affiliated clubs.

In each case the application shall be accompanied by the appropriate subscription. Election shall be by the committee or Annual General Meeting.

5. The committee shall consist of

President; Vice President; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Record Secretary; Hon. Treasurer; Timekeepers; Delegates from each Affiliated Club and Delegates representing Private Members. Five to form a quorum.

All committee and annual general meetings shall be chaired by the President or a Vice President or, in the absence of any of the above, a Chair may be elected from the floor

The Hon. Secretary may arrange for a sub-committee to meet as required solely to consider claims to records. Membership shall consist of:-

- (a) President or Vice President as Chairman (1 person);
- (b) Two delegates having no connection with the record claimant or holder (2);
- (c) The Timekeeper of the attempt or, if not available, another invited timekeeper (1);
- (d) The Secretary and Record Secretary (2).

A total of six (6) who shall be contacted at least seven days before the proposed meeting and their firm intention to attend obtained. Five to constitute a quorum. The sub committee shall have full authority to approve a record, but if less than four members are in favour, the claim shall be referred to the next full committee meeting or A. G. M. The claimant and organiser may attend, but shall speak only at the invitation of the Chairman and shall withdraw whilst the claim is considered. Any other person concerned with the attempt (e.g. observer; checker; course measurer) may be invited to attend for purposes of giving information or explanation.

6. The Association's Financial Year shall end on 31st December each year.
7. The subscriptions to the Association per annum shall be as defined from time to time. Current subscription rates are available from the Hon Secretary (see Committee link). Private Members shall be represented on the Committee by one delegate for each ten members, with a maximum of two delegates. Such delegates shall be elected annually at the A.G.M. by Private Members there present.

8. Dissolution

The Association may be dissolved only after discussion at two consecutive AGM's. A formal "proposal to dissolve" is required on the first AGM agenda, and a two thirds majority vote of those present to agree. During the year between the first and second AGM, the proposal to dissolve shall be communicated to all member clubs and private members, then at the next AGM the vote upon dissolution shall be tabled. If a majority of two thirds attending this second AGM are in favour, the proposal shall be carried and dissolution shall proceed.

9. Disposal of Assets

Upon dissolution of the Association, any remaining assets shall be divided as follows:

The minute books and record lists shall be lodged with the National Cycling Archive at Warwick University. Trophies, plaques, medals etc shall be offered to the Transport Museum at Coventry, or other suitable place(s) as decided upon by the Committee.

It is important that every Official and Record Aspirant makes him/herself familiar, and complies, with the following Rules.

10. Notice of a proposed attempt to improve any existing record, or to establish a new record, must be received by the Records Secretary *at least seven clear days before the start*, and be accompanied by not less than 24 copies of the Schedule giving approximate times of arrival en route. For the 12 and 24 Hour, Holyhead, York, and Circuit records, 36 copies of the schedule are required. A Record Attemptee Disclaimer Form should also be completed. Copies of all forms are available for download from the MRRA website. The Records Secretary shall give immediate notice to the holder of the existing record at his last known address.

The start shall be made at the time appointed, but the Committee may, at their discretion accept as sufficient such explanation of any unforeseen delay as may appear to them reasonable, provided that in no circumstances shall a start be made more than 30 minutes after the appointed time of start for the scheduled ride.

If a start is made, and the attempt terminates sufficiently soon to enable the rider to make a fresh start, he may do so within 30 minutes of the time appointed for the scheduled ride. When a start is not made, or a ride is abandoned after such a start is made, notice must immediately be sent to the Records Secretary.

If a start is not made or the attempt terminates within one tenth of the time of the existing record, or within thin 30 minutes of the start, then the attempt may be postponed, providing such postponement is notified to the Record Secretary immediately. If a new date is not notified at the time of the postponement, the rider shall be at liberty to start on any day in the same year providing that three clear days notice is given to the Records Secretary.

11. Once the Records Secretary has received notification of an attempt on a record, or a new date, the rider may not use that date for an attempt on any other record except by giving three

days notice in the case of a record for which notice has already been given, or seven days in any other case. Postponements not exceeding six may be made without additional fees, to the following or any later day in the same year, provided all postal, telephone and other expenses incurred by the Association are paid by the rider. A postponed attempt shall conform with the original notice in all respects except the date.

12. All notices from members of Affiliated Clubs or Private Members shall be accompanied by the appropriate fee. Details of current fees are available from the Hon Records Secretary (see Committee link). An additional £1.00 shall be payable if more than one record is attempted in one ride. For all non-affiliated riders double fees shall be charged. Tandem riders shall pay a total sum equivalent to the appropriate fee for a single rider, each. Timekeepers fees and expenses must be arranged and paid for by the rider.

13. The Committee may each year appoint competent persons as Official Timekeepers of the Association, and shall consider the reappointment of Timekeepers annually.

Every Official Timekeeper shall use a watch with a centre second hand capable of being split, or a quartz-crystal controlled watch or timer which must have a display indicating seconds and part thereof. Each such watch or timer shall during the past 36 months have obtained a certificate of performance from British Calibration Services. If any timing instrument is damaged or adjusted, a new certificate must be obtained. The certificate must be produced on request.

The Secretary may appoint any person as Timekeeper for a record attempt providing he is satisfied that:-

- (1) The attemptee has made every reasonable effort, without success, to obtain the services of an Official Timekeeper, and
- (2) The person nominated is a competent Timekeeper, is familiar with the rules of the Association, and will use a watch or timer as

described above.

Such an appointment shall be made in writing and shall be valid for one attempt including postponements.

For each ride a Timekeeper shall use a timing instrument as described above, and shall also carry a reserve instrument not necessarily certified. At least one timing instrument must register hours. The Timekeeper shall check both timing instruments against the British Telecom Speaking Clock or B.B.C. sound radio time signal (N.B. not a digital broadcast signal which can be wrong by several seconds) as near as practicable before and after officiating. Any variations or the fact that there was no variation shall be reported to the Records Secretary.

The chronograph mechanism shall be in continuous operation between these checks, the exact timing of records to be by means of the split facility. The Timekeeper shall supply a certificate of details of the timing of the record attempt, i.e. starting time and place, finishing time and place, and certification numbers of instruments used.

14. If the Secretary is satisfied that the attemptee has made every reasonable effort, without success, to obtain the services of an Official Timekeeper, and the Secretary has been unable to provide a competent Timekeeper to officiate, the following procedure may be adopted, in respect of the start only, with the prior agreement of the Secretary:-

Two previously named witnesses shall certify in writing that the attemptee did not depart from the scheduled starting point until the scheduled starting time has been indicated by British Telecom Speaking Clock or B.B.C. sound radio time signal (N.B. not a digital broadcast signal which can be wrong by several seconds). Persons eligible to act as such named witnesses shall be the President, Vice Presidents, Official Observers, Private Members and Delegates.

To facilitate this starting procedure, it will be necessary to

arrange the starting point and/or starting time accordingly. This starting procedure shall only be implemented when the Secretary has received an assurance from an Official Timekeeper that he will be available to time the finish of the ride.

15. The Committee may appoint as Official Observers, persons whom they consider creditable and independent, and may terminate these appointments at any time. All Official Timekeepers shall be ipso facto Official Observers. In exceptional circumstances, the Secretary may authorise any person to act as an Official Observer, subject to their ability to carry out their duties satisfactorily.
16. A rider attempting a record shall ride entirely alone, and shall not be preceded by any mounted helper within sight. The rider may be followed by helpers or witnesses mounted on cycles or (subject to Rule 14) in motor vehicles, who shall not, whilst the rider is mounted, approach within 50 yards, except that:-
 - (a) An Official Timekeeper may approach or pass a rider for the purpose of timing the finish, and (b) at the discretion of the Official Timekeeper (or Observer nominated to the Records Secretary at least 24 hours in advance of the start of the attempt), motor vehicles may pass the rider at any time, except within two miles of a town.

Substitution of motor vehicles may be allowed in the case of mechanical failure of the vehicle(s) nominated. All passing must be reported to the Records Secretary. The nominated motor vehicle(s) passing the rider must under clause (b) above must carry an Official Observer.
17. When a motor vehicle is used for following, it shall carry an Official Timekeeper or Observer appointed by the Association and shall carry a prominent notice that a cycle record attempt is in progress. When more than one vehicle is used for following, the leading vehicle shall carry an approved Observer whilst the rider is in sight.

18. In an attempt on a record, it is necessary for the rider, when dismounted, to wheel, or carry his machine without assistance whilst covering any part of the route. Ordinary riding costume shall be worn.
19. Not more than one attempt to beat a specified record will be allowed on the same route at the same time.
20. Association records must be claimed and proofs lodged with the Records Secretary within 14 days of the ride in respect of which the claim is made. Such proofs are to include Check Cards from stationary checkers furnishing necessary information and/or the rider arranging for an Official Observer to follow the ride. Check cards in support of a record attempt must be posted on the same day, directly to the Records Secretary, and should be posted as near as possible to the point at which the rider was observed.
21. The entire onus of proof shall rest with the rider making the claim. It shall be the right of the Committee to reject any claim if they consider the interests of the sport would be in any way injured.
22. Claims to records shall only be considered which better existing figures by more than one second per hour or part thereof, based on the elapsed time of the existing record, or in the case of distance records by more than one furlong in 12 hours or 2 furlongs in 24 hours.
23. Timing of records by two Timekeepers in telephone communication with one another during the ride is allowable.
24. Course used during attempts on the 25, 50 and 100 miles, and 12 and 24 hours records, must be within the county areas governed by the Association unless it is a dual attempt with a place-to-place record, when a portion of the place-to-place record covered outside the area shall count, only if all subsequent mileage is within the Association area. No portion of the course may be covered more than twice, and no ferries may be used in any record attempt.

25. A rider may if he wishes indicate on a schedule the he has arranged for another person to act as organiser for the ride. The rules herein will then apply equally to both organiser and rider, and infringements by the organiser will be regarded as having been made by the rider. A person named as an organiser may not act as a Timekeeper or Observer for that particular ride.
26. The route proposed to be followed, as listed on the schedule, must be the one used when the attempt is made. The Committee will require to be provided with evidence that the proper and complete course was followed, in particular where more than one route exists between two places. Any mileage covered off the scheduled route is inadmissible in 'distance' records.
27. Every successful claimant to a record shall receive, a certificate of performance. For certain records, plaques have been donated to the Association to be presented to the record holder and (subject to certain conditions and at the discretion of the Committee) retain by him until such times as the record is beaten.
28. In these Rules and the following Notes for Guidance, the single number shall apply equally to the plural, and the male gender equally to the female, where appropriate. The term 'Hon. Secretary' shall be deemed to apply to the Records Secretary and any person appointed by the Committee or by the Hon. Secretary to act in that capacity for the time being.

Records and Record Holders

Currently records are recognised for the following fixed distances, times and "place to place" performances. They can be attempted on single or tandem bicycle, and single or tandem tricycle. Single records are recognised for both men and women, whilst tandem records are recognised for both same and mixed sex crews. Each listed Record has a website record of all current and past Record Holders :

- 25 miles *
- 50 miles *
- 100 miles
- 12 hours
- 24 hours
- Circuit of the MRRA (A circuit visiting Warwick, Worcester, Gloucester, Shrewsbury, Stafford, Leicester, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, and Derby)
- Birmingham - Llandudno (or reverse)
- Birmingham - Bristol - Birmingham
- Birmingham - Cardiff (or reverse) #
- Birmingham - Derby - Birmingham *
- Birmingham - Hereford - Birmingham
- Birmingham - Holyhead - Birmingham
- Birmingham - London - Birmingham #
- Birmingham - Manchester - Birmingham
- Birmingham - Northampton - Birmingham #
- Birmingham - Oxford - Birmingham
- Birmingham - Shrewsbury - Birmingham
- Birmingham - York - Birmingham

* Additionally, claims for these records can be accepted from Junior riders aged under 18 on the date of the attempt.

N.B. Route alteration for records using the Cardiff, London and Northampton routes. Alterations (on safety grounds) to the terminal points for these routes have resulted in new terminal/turning points further out of Birmingham, London and Northampton centres. To allow for the reduction in distances, riders attempting to better London and Northampton records established prior to 1985 will be required to improve the relevant time, in addition to the standard requirement (one second per hour or part thereof based on the elapsed time of the existing record), by a further THREE MINUTES. e.g. the 1984 record for the Men's Bicycle Birmingham/Northampton/ Birmingham standing at 4:39:50 would require a minimum improvement of 3 minutes 05 seconds i.e. to 4:36:45 or better. Riders attempting to better the Cardiff records established prior to 2007 will be required to improve the relevant times by FIFTEEN MINUTES. Requirements for subsequent improvements will revert to standard conditions.

Record route start, finish and turning points

Fixed distance or time records must be within the Association area unless it is a dual attempt with a Place to Place record, when a portion of the place-to-place record covered outside the area shall count, only if all subsequent mileage is within the Association area. The route must be accurately measured by an approved Course Measurer before any Claim to Record can be entertained.

For Place to Place records, the terminal points to be visited are more accurately defined as :

- Birmingham. Hay Mills Traffic Island:- junction of Coventry Road (A45) & Heybarnes Road.
- Birmingham. Griffins Hill:- The intersection in Bristol Road (A38) dual carriageway at the junction with Weoley Park Road.
- Birmingham. Tyburn Island:- The junction of the A38 and the A452.
- Birmingham. Gravelly Hill:- The northern junction with Kingsbury Road.
- Birmingham. Robin Hood Island:- The junction with the A34 and B4024.
- Birmingham. National Conference Centre:- Beneath footbridge over Broad Street. (no longer used)
- London. Highgate Archway:- The rider to pass completely under the archway.
- Bristol. Horfield Barracks:- Opposite Wessex Avenue.
- Manchester. Trafford Bar:- The junction of Talbot Road and Chester Road.
- Holyhead. Head Post Office:- The clock tower of the H. P. O. in Boston Street.
- York. Fulford Church:- The front gates of St. Oswald's church, Fulford.

- Oxford. Wolvercote:- Wolvercote traffic island at the junction of the A40 and the A4144, about 900 yards south of the junction of the A34 and the A43.
- Warwick. The traffic island at the junction of the Myton Road, A425 and Banbury Road, A425, at Bridge End.
- Worcester. The Cross.
- Llandudno. Head Post Office:- The clock tower of the H.P.O. in Vaughan Street.
- Gloucester. The traffic island at the junction of the A38 and the A40.
- Stafford. The junction of Bridge Street and Newport Road.
- Shrewsbury. Lord Hill's Column:- The traffic island adjacent.
- Leicester. Clock Tower:- The junction of Belgrave Gate and Humberstone Gate.
- Northampton. Castle Station, for circuit of the M.R.R.A.
- Northampton. The traffic island at the junction of the A45 and Upton way, 1.5 miles east of Kislingbury traffic lights.
- Nottingham. The junction of Derby Road and Clifton Boulevard.
- Derby. Pastures Hill:- Traffic Island at Crest Hotel. St. Mary's Bridge for circuit of M.R.R.A.
- Hereford. Roman Road East:- Traffic island at junction of A465, A4103 and road to Sutton St. Nicholas.
- Cardiff. National Museum of Wales:- Outside main doors.

N.B. On all "return journey" records, a complete circuit of traffic islands is mandatory.

Notes for the guidance of riders making attempts on Records

1. It is desirable, where this can be arranged without much difficulty, that at least one of the officials in the record attempt (Timekeeper or Observer) is a member of a different club from the attemptee. The following car should carry an Association Official who is not a member of the attemptee's club. An up to date list of both Timekeepers and Observers may be obtained from the Records Secretary.
2. There is no firm requirement as to the number of, and intervals between, checker's cards arranged by the rider. The Committee feel that, as an absolute minimum, such cards should be submitted at hourly intervals by persons whom the rider passes.
3. It is important to ensure that checkers, whether appointed by the rider or Association, are informed (or able to seek and receive information) when a ride has been postponed or abandoned. The method of doing this is at the riders discretion. While it is desirable that a telephone information service be maintained throughout the duration of the ride, this is not obligatory. However, where the schedule states such a service is to be maintained, it must be readily available to the Association's Officials as well as the riders helpers.
4. It is essential that schedules should be clear, and unambiguous. The Records Secretary is empowered to reject a schedule if he considers that it is not likely to be understood by persons who receive a copy.
5. Prior publicity of a record attempt is allowed, but if a riders schedule states that he does not wish the ride to receive prior publicity, the Association expects its officials and members to comply with the riders wishes in this respect.
6. It is not essential for the name of the Timekeeper to appear on the schedule, but his name must be given to the Records Secretary with the notice of the attempt. It is not acceptable to submit a notice of attempt stating that the Timekeeper will be nominated later. Once notice is given, a change of Timekeeper may only be made with the agreement of the Records Secretary.

7. The Secretary and Committee will give guidance to anyone contemplating an attempt on an Association record, but the onus of ensuring that the ride complies in all respects with the Association requirements rests entirely with the attemptee.
8. Whilst the Association will normally accept notices for attempts on any day, it will generally be found easier to arrange for adequate numbers of checkers, marshals etc. if the attempts are at weekends or on Public Holidays. It will be noted (Rule 17) that the onus of providing that the course is properly covered, the relevant regulations observed, etc., is the rider's, and the Association Observers and Checkers are appointed only for confirmatory checks and reports to the Committee considering the validity of the claim to the record. As a body of volunteers, Observers and Checkers are more readily available at weekends and Public Holidays. It is therefore helpful to all concerned if midweek attempts are planned only in exceptional circumstances.
9. It is considered courteous for persons seeking information from the Association to enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope.
10. On request, the Hon. Secretary will supply a specimen schedule for the guidance of attemptees.