

## **Glendene Cycling Club: The Early Days**

On 6th December 1921 the Glendene Cycling Club was founded by ten enthusiasts at 269 Monega Road, East Ham, the home of Mr E J Moran, who was elected President.

The Club soon began to win acclaim in the racing world. In 1923-4 Ernie Haley won the Eastern Counties Championship with the Club winning the Counties 50-mile Team Championship. The latter Championship gained the Glendene its first notch on the Sid Bailey Bowl, later won outright following further wins in 1924 and 1928; this trophy is now awarded for the season's best 12-hour performance. Numerous individual and team successes led to the Glendene CC being described in Cycling in 1924 as 'the nursery of budding speed men'.

In 1925, W B (Bill) Temme startled the cycling world by winning the North Road Memorial '50', an invitation event limited to the best twelve 50-milers in the country, from Frank Southall and Andy Wilson; Bill also won this Classic in 1926. The Glendene was established at the top. Temme's prowess is legend; his great win in the Hovis 100 at Herne Hill, an event from which Southall was forced to retire; his victory in the Bath Road 100 (The Blue Riband); his National Competition records at 100 miles (4-44-48, including two punctures and a bike-change) and over 30 miles on the tandem with Bob Harris (1-9-00).

Bill Temme represented England in the World Championship Road Races of 1925 and 1926. Apart from Bill, the Glendene had many prominent riders gaining records, Messrs Sarluis, Bailey and Drayton to mention but a few. Bob Harris, also acknowledged as a contender for first-class honours, first appeared as a prize winner in 1928 and, while Bill Temme was hospitalised, Bob kept the Glendene name to the fore and in 1929 broke the ECRRA London-Cambridge and 100 mile road records. He continued winning until he lost an arm at work, but courageously, he came back to produce some great rides before his untimely death in 1961.

At the outbreak of war Ted Walker, as General Secretary, and Bill Temme kept the Club going and through their efforts the Glendene not only survived, but started to climb back to the top. Tom Brewer shone as a roadman and in 1948 was voted the most outstanding rider in London.