

Royal baby special

In a spontaneous display of solidarity with the travails of The Nation's Sweetheart, whose stoicism was surely sufficient to melt the heart of the most ardent republican, the intermediate training ride of the famous Macclesfield Wheelers Cycling Club last night themselves laboured through 30.5 miles of back roads only a wheel's spin away from Cheshire's fabled footballers' enclave. Riders were so frenzied with the expectation that His Royal Highness The Royal Baby would be named after Prestbury's favourite son as Britain's first Prince Wayne that they achieved an average speed of 21.4 mph back to Siddington Crossroads and 20.9 to the summit of Mount Pectoral, where they toasted their forthcoming future king in the residues of lukewarm orange squash.

Last night's 18 young gun salute comprised: Privy Councillor Sir Tufton Higham, Lord of the Bedchamber Sir Andrew Jackrabbit, Keeper of the King's Bike Sheds Sir Colin Yates, Lord of the Time Trial Sir Stephen Burke, Groom of the Stool Lord Paul Dean, Ladies Not Waiting Around Mistress Chris Higgs and Mistress Jill Wesley, Custodian of the King's Binbag Sir Johannes Baggers, Yeoman Usher of the Black Stair Rod Sir Richard Dearly-Beloved, Joint Custodians of the Colnago Lord James Russet Apple and Sir Gregory Yves-Rocher. Keeper of the King's Costa Coffee Pot Sir Robert Maxwell House, Serjeant at Arms Sir Michael Gormenghast, Warden of the Seven Decades Sir Michael Wolstenholme, Keeper of the Drivel Sir Christopher Cottom, Page Boy Master Matthew Burt and new courtiers Sir Stephen Lomas and Sir David Roberts.

Fortunately Matthew Burt's mysterious disappearance last night (yes Matthew I was worried about you) was only the result of a puncture at the summit of Daffodil Hill. Nice touch that last night's youngest rider was rescued by its oldest, Mike Wolstenholme, 70 years young today.

Happy Birthday Mike