

# MIDDLETON CYCLING CLUB

Founded 1941

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## A brief history of the club

The club was formed in 1941 from an early club called the 'Tonge cycling pack' (T.C.P) which had been formed at the spiritualist hall in Gilmore Street in Middleton, Manchester. The membership at the time was eight.

The next club room was at the Verity Buildings in Wood Street in Middleton, Manchester which the club occupied from 1945 until 1953 . During our stay at Wood Street we had to make new club rules restricting the membership to 100 members; we peaked at 96 members and had 3 club nights per week back then!

Friday night was the main club night, Wednesday night followed the club 10-mile time trials at Bowlee and Sunday night after the club runs when the touring, intermediate and racing sections of the club came together .

In 1953 the club was forced to move to Rutland Street but the costs got too high and we had to vacate Rutland Street where many members had put in a lot of very hard work.

After vacating Rutland Street we hired a room at Middleton Labour Club on Friday evenings only. The time at the labour club was limited as expenses were going up, whilst the membership was unfortunately going down.

After we left the Labour Club, around 1957 we did not have a real club room for many years. Instead we used the pubs in and around Middleton until membership declined to about 20 members. With membership dwindling we started to meet at members houses and at one point our membership reached an all time low of nine!

It was then decided we had to recruit some new members, which happened over the next few years. We also managed to obtain a new club room at Cleworth Road activity centre where we are still based. Membership has increased and we now have over 30 members.