

A Tribute to TOM FEARGRIEVE

Tom Feargrieve recently passed away and his funeral was attended by many - here are some snippets from Eileen Gray's tribute to Tom.

Tom Feargrieve, a stalwart of the WCRA from its inception to the present day, after passing his driving test in 1955, was able to hire a van to transport WCRA riders around the country.

Later, whilst passing a second hand car site, he saw his ideal vehicle and, after haggling, bought for £75 (10 weeks wages), the 'estate' eventually to be known as "Brittania".

She was a Ford, ex War Dept Staff Car, powered by a 3 litre V8 petrol engine with a 3 speed box, limited to a top speed of 45mph, in which it was possible to get 14 miles to the gallon on a run.

A roof rack to take 6 bikes - 2 rows of seats which folded into a bed for Tom and mechanic Ian Thackeray, whilst the racing girls had accommodation. Many other adaptations were made to their race bus.

For many years 'Brittania' was known and loved throughout Great Britain and Europe at Stage Races and World Championships.

Without Tom the WCRA could not have received the accolades which have been paid to them over the last 5 decades in their defence and support of women's racing.

He and his beloved van called 'Brittania' were the life line that allowed girls from all over the country to participate in road racing.

In 1960 it was largely due to him and his van that we took full teams for track and road to the Championships in East Germany on the £100 given to us by the BCF.

2 Golds, 2 Silvers and a Bronze were the outcome of that event, but it was his continued support over so many years that gave him a special place in our hearts.