

Keith Butler

Keith Butler was born in London in 1938 to a famous cycling family. His father Stan was a top cyclist and champion team member, and his son Gethin followed in their footsteps.

Keith's list of achievements in the sport, both on and off the bike, is unrivalled in British cycling. As an amateur road and track rider, he won stages of the Tour of Britain Milk Race in 1961 and 1963. In 1962 he took part in the Peace Race and finished 51st. He won the British Amateur Road Race Championships in 1962. Keith won the National Team Pursuit Championship with teammates from the Norwood Paragon club in 1963. Soon afterwards he went to Belgium to race where he won his second race, the first of 11 victories

He won the professional British National Road Race Championships in 1964, and finished third in 1965 riding as an independent - a semi-professional allowed to ride with both amateurs and professionals - and was the first rider to win both the amateur and professional road race national titles.

Returning to Belgium he took a full professional licence and then rode the Belgian spring classics finishing 14th in the Ronde van Vlaanderen. In 1965 he was selected to ride the World Road Race Championships and assisted Tom Simpson to become World Champion. He rode for seven professional teams.

Turning to his abilities as an administrator and serving on several national committees, Keith organised cycle races in southern England. In 1983 he founded the Surrey Cycle Racing League, a consortium of organisers, providing racing for more than 1,300 riders in each season - the most successful league in the country. For this he was awarded The Bidlake Memorial Prize in 2002. He managed the British road teams at the world championship in Colorado in 1986 and has managed other teams in France, the Netherlands and Ireland including The Tour de Femme. His achievements were formally recognised in 2009 with his inclusion in the British Cycling Hall of Fame.

Retiring from committee work in 2018, Keith passed away in March 2019

Club: Norwood Paragon Cycling Club

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