

DAILY EXPRESS

Forty-two riders leave Bournemouth on the final stage of the "Tour of Britain" Cycle Race. Already they've covered nearly 1500 miles. Several times the coveted Race Leader's Yellow Jersey has changed hands. Now, with 119 miles to go - to Olympic Way, Wembley, 32 year-old Gordon Thomas is over four minutes ahead of the field on time aggregate.

On through Sunningdale. For mile after mile, the leaders have tried desperately, to break away from the pack - hoping to snatch a long lead over Thomas, and a last-stage victory.

But only one rider gets away, Robert Grondelaers of Belgium, as he sweeps down the Olympic Way, to win by thirty yards. And seconds behind, "Tiny" Thomas is the overall winner of the Tour - having covered 1606 miles in just over seventy hours.

So amid great applause - the wool merchant from Shipley, Yorks, is crowned "King of the Road!"

~~Thomas averaged nearly 23 miles an hour for the~~

The oldest rider to finish, Thomas averaged nearly 23 miles an hour for the course. Now he is to retire - a worthy champion.

(SOUND TO END).