
THE SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB
NEWSLETTER

President:- E. O. Shead

Hon. General Secretary &
Editor:

F.C. Parsons
43, Ruskin Drive
Worcester Park
Surrey
(DEWent 8034)

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EDITORIAL

Far too much water has flowed down the Thames since the last issue, and much news is now stale. When I took on the Newsletter I said that it should appear monthly to be of real value. I also like a big fat issue, but it is apparent that both are not possible with so many demands on time. I shall then, stick my neck out again and try to go back to much more frequent issues of a smaller size. The twelve page size takes over ten hours from start to finish and I keep putting off the evil day. Of course a smaller issue might go the same way! The old un~~s~~ recently had a very fine tour of East Anglia over the Easter holiday, Art Smith was a very welcome addition to the gathering, and perhaps his effort this Easter might bring other old faces back. The thanks of the party go to Syd Parkinson who supplied a treat in the restaurant at Wells - a dinner which was better than the official Annual Club do - there were fourteen at table and for well over an hour we dined and talked and had a very fine time. It was a wonderful treat Syd, thanks from everyone.

Incidentally, this retiring business looks pretty good the way he is doing it!

TIME TRIAL REPORT

Whilst time-trialling is taking second place to massed-start with most club members the "races of truth" this season are going to hold more suspense than ever because for the first time in four years George Gilleland's club championship title is under serious threat --- and from a dedicated roadman!

This rideris, of course, John Bromley, who has found time to ride one or two time-trials recently and on each occasion has screwed George by two minutes. He dosen't admit to being a contender yet however, but George is more than pleased to see some real opposition coming along.

The juniors ~~too~~ are getting down to it and judging by recent results the junior championship is anybody's race.

The season didn't get off to a very good start however, the first event on March 11th being null and void due to a marshall's error. March 18th saw George doing 1-6-32 as a private on the Hampton course in the Ross Wheelers "25" and the following week 1-7-27 on the same course. The second club "25" was held on the Hampton on April 8th and attracted six entries. The morning was extremely hard and Graham McDonald put up a good ride of 1-11-31 to take first place in the event and the handicap, George Gilleland having punctured. Second place went to Fred Thompson with 1-12-18 and C. Beavis was third with 1-20-11. Non starters were Pete Loveday and Lee strugnell who is resting a strained knee.

The first indication of form came in to Ross Wheelers "25" on the Hampton on April 15th. when we rode privates and George received his first thrashing. In the face of icy winds John Bromley pounded round to record the fastest time of the morning 1-5-33. This was a minute faster than John Finch (Ross Wh) could manage and two minutes better than George's 1-7-20. Mac McDonald, John's two-minute man, punctured at ten miles when John was breathing down his neck.

George's second thrashing came on Easter Monday in the Actonia C.C. "25" on the Bath Road. John, who had ridden a 65-mile road race the day before, clocked his fastest time this year, 1-1-56. George did 1-3-38 and Mac McDonald 1.5.40. L.A.S.

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C O M M I T T E E
C L I P P I N G S

At long last a decision has been taken on our Club record and B.A.R. certificates and the job has been passed to the printer. The next dinner should see a lot of them being handed out as none have been issued since 1951. This, incidentally, is the last major item on my list, we have only to keep going now, thanks to Les Warner for his efforts.

After a lot of talk and letter writing the date and place for the IC 50 with the North Road and Veg has at last been fixed. The date Saturday May 26th on the E.1. starting at 3.30 p.m. just north of Bishops Stortford. Help needed.

We have had a lot of new members since the last issue, many of them old members re-joining:-
George Muncey, 99 Allfarthing Lane, S.W.18
Alec Stewart, 100, Ashridge Way, Sunbury
Alf and Mrs. Fincham, 15 Dartmouth Road, Hayes Kent
R. Bartlett, 66 Chevening Rd, N.W.6. to all
of the above welcome back to the fold. Also new:-
Colin Haldane, 27 Maskell Road, S.W.17
Graham McDonald (young brother of Mac) 1, Frensham Drive, S.W.15.

The following address changes should be noted:
Ken and Barbara Verco to 6, Anthony Drive, Stanford le Hope, Essex.

Les and Sheila Warner to 26 Melbourne Road, Bushey, Herts. (Phone Bushey Heath 3024)

In case there is anyone left in the club who hasn't heard, one committee meeting this year was interrupted to be given the news that Phil and Dorothy Parkinson have a second lovely boy!

In case you don't yet know, we have booked the Cornet of Horse for our Annual Dinner again next year, the date is February 2nd, please mark your diaries now.

Our Press Sec, Lee Strugnell, is getting very good club coverage in the Wimbledon Boro News these days. It's an odd fact, but now the Wandsworth Boro just does not seem to print cycling news, a few years ago the position was reversed. Lee also wrote both the racing reports in this issue of the NL, both very gratefully received.

The Open Road Race this year showed a very small loss of 14/5d. This was because the junior event was short of riders. A very good event, which is covered in Road Race Report, very well organised again by Jimmy Dabbs. Congratulations to him and to our team of Fred Keir, 'Mac' McDonald and Lee Strugnell, who were the only team to finish.

The clubroom is still running at a loss, it costs us 15/-d. per night, with refreshments we still need an attendance of about two dozen to make it pay.

F.C.P.

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MEDAL FOR HANDICAPPED SCOUT

The Chief Scout, Sir Charles Maclean, recently awarded Geoffrey Fielding, the elder son of our old member Fred Fielding, the medal for meritorious conduct - one of the highest awards in the Boy Scout movement - in recognition of his courage, fortitude and devotion to duty over a very long period despite a serious disability. Mr. Jack Tivers, the District Commissioner, presented the medal to Geoffrey on behalf of the Chief Scout after a church parade at St. Barnabas', Southfields, on a Sunday morning.

As many of you know, Geoffrey was afflicted with muscular distrophy when he was five years old, and within four years was unable to walk. He joined the scouts when he was eleven and has been a regular attender for the past eight years. He

goes with other handicapped scouts on a camping holiday each year.

R O A D R A C E
R E P O R T

The club's massed start men, under the leadership of John Bromley (1st cat), have now been in action since March 11th. and with three team wins to their credit are again already proving that the South Western R.C. is the strongest team in the division.

The following is a summary of their activities:
March 11th: Classic 75-mile Brighton Trophy R.R. for 1st cats. Rider: John Bromley.

Brilliant ride by John against all-star field including National B.A.R. Champion and National 12-Hour champion. Average speed of 26 m.p.h. was too hot for most but John survived to the Brighton prom with fourteen others, but was brought down in crash in sight of the finish. Remounted and came 17th.

March 18th: Thame's Velo 65-mile R.R. at Herriard, Hants. Riders: John Bromley, Mac McDonald, Fred Keir and Bob Maylin.

John joined vital break on first of four laps and gained 1 min. on bunch which Mac and Fred were controlling. Fred retired on lap three with chain trouble. Bob also retired. John dropped back to bunch on last lap and finished with Mac equal 14th.

March 25th: 25-mile "Chiltern Chase", High Wycombe. Riders in Senior event: John Bromley, Mac McDonald, Fred Keir, Bob Maylin. Juniors: Mike Smith and Reg Morgan.

This was our first team win. Bunch was all together at foot of final hill (1 in 6). Bas Carter (Carlyle C.C.) won sprint, with Fred 3rd, John 4th and Mac 5th, with Bob 20th. In the junior event both our riders punctured.

April 1st: Our own 57-mile event at Ashdown Forest.

Riders: John Bromley, Mac McDonald, Lee Strugnell, Fred Keir and Mike Smith.

This was a magnificent ride by our team which was the only one that finished. John joined the vital break on the "wall" after four miles and stood a good chance of winning, but unfortunately punctured. Weather was atrocious but Bill Stocker (29th Wheelers) won by three mins. and only eight other riders finished, including Fred 5th, Mac 6th and Lee 9th. Mike punctured.

April 7/8th: 145-mile Dover two-day R.R. Riders: John Bromley, Mac McDonald and Fred Keir.

The team put up a great performance in their longest ever event against an all-star field. Fred Keir strongest on first day (75-miles) with 12th place. Mac and John finished in bunch. Fabulous ride by John on second stage when he caught break (Tour of Britain class riders) and took fifth place in sprint after being hindered. Mac came 25th after 30-mile lone chase. Fred punctured at 50 miles.

April 22nd: Ealing Manor R.C. 65-mile R.R. at Beasonsfield. Riders: John Bromley, Mac McDonald and Mike Smith.

Third team win when John took fourth place in sprint with Mac 9th and Mike 12th. John and Mac broke away with Bill Stocker (29th Wh) on the penultimate lap, but were caught before finish.

L.A.S.

Letter from Ron Gould:

Ron's new address is: Wilderhope Manor
Longville
Much Wenlock
Shropshire.

I recently received a letter from Ron, and as the committee know, he turned up at one of our committee meetings at the clubroom. He and Lily are once again Youth Hostel wardens at a National Trust property. He says that Lily and he would be very pleased to see any club members, the property is

is reasonably on the road to North Wales, and he says he could always manage to find a spare bed. For those who wish to find it, the Manor is on the South side on Wenlock Edge down a side road close to "Wenlock Edge School", between the villages of Longville and Five Chimneys, coming down.

Letter from John Penney (last year's 12 winner) to Ted Shead.

Ted delivered the Cup to John Penney and also the plaque that we provided for him in place of the monetary award. A very nice letter was received by Ted following this. John said that he appreciates very much Ted bringing the cup and plaque, and that he was sorry he missed seeing Ted. He follows up by saying that he will see us all again in July, and the twelve last year was the best for organisation he had ridden in. He also says that now we are using the new finishing circuit, miles are added to the distance a fit man can cover.

Thanks John.

BRITISH CYCLING FEDERATION:

Recent issues of news from the B.C.F. have stressed the importance of insurance. Apparently two fatal accidents were reported to them in one week, but neither were members. It is really important for cyclists to be a member of a national organisation and to be covered against Third Party Risks, and to have the advantage of Free Legal Aid. They mention that if you ride in Cyclo Cross events, that the Federation Cycle Insurances DO NOT cover you for accidents!

COMING EVENTS

May 13th: Club "25" Hampton Course 6.30 a.m.
May 26th: Inter Club "50" E.1. 3.30 p.m. (SAT,
June 3rd: S.W.L.C. "50" Bath Road.
June 10th: Club "25" Hampton 7.00 a.m.
July 1st: Club "25" G.10 6.20 a.m.
July 22nd: CLUB OPEN TWELVE HOUR

In connection with the CLUB OPEN TWELVE:

JUST A REMINDER THAT OUR BIG DAY IS NOW
NOT FAR OFF, NAMELY THE OPEN 12 HOURS ON
JULY 22nd. PLEASE KEEP THE DATE IN MIND,
I WILL BE CIRCULARISING EVERYONE SOON TO GET
NECESSARY GEN FROM YOU ON HOW BEST YOU CAN
HELP MAKE THE EVENT GO RIGHT. DON'T FORGET
JULY 22nd. AND EXPECT NOTE FROM ME IN THE NOT
TOO DISTANT FUTURE.

Jack Bertrand
Hon. Event Sec.

B R A K E C A B L E S

To Dave and Valerie Kewell a daughter, a very new arrival who we happily welcome and give our congratulations to the fond parents.

Also newly arrived, although some time before the above, a brother for young 'lovely boy' Parkinson, making lots of increased work and more happiness for Phil and Dorothy.

The two Scots, Fred Keir and Fred Dabbs, have just left on the first leg of their wanderings about Europe. After months of planning they will arrive in Luxemburg this weekend to begin their three or four months tour, which will take in Austria, Yugo-Slavia, Greece and as far as I can see whole of the Common Market. I hope all goes well, especially so because I, myself, have had no mean hand in it, dreaming this exciting journey up.

The occasion of the Wesser R.C. Dinner has always had an attraction for our club, and this year's event was even more attractive, for the venue was Blandford, that glorious Dorset town. Fred Parsons, Bill Clements, George Oliver and I travelled by train to Winchester where we met Fred Dabbs who had ridden down, and on a freezing cold, but clear day, tried out and proved our complete unfitness in the miles between there and Blandford, where, later in the evening at the Crown Hotel, we met Ted Shead, Jack and Tiddler and some of the friends from the farm.

All afternoon, there cycled into those quiet streets, coming from all directions, more well known riders and personalities, especially of slightly earlier times, than I have seen for a long time. The dinner and speeches which followed will always remain in my memory. I shall keep the menu written in the dialect with it's Termarker Zoop, Vried Rolled Zole wi Zaas, Roast Darset Ducklin wi Orange Zaas, Grean Peaz, Bruzzel Sprouts, Roast an Parsley Taties, Chick 'n Livers 'n Bacon, and Caulfee, and remember the final speech by E.B. Brown, the old Wesser distance man, given all in dialect, which brought the house down.

But most of all, I am sure we will remember the

mother and father of all parcels which we gathered on the ride back to Winckster, parcels which give great point to the little verse which also appeared on the menu, "The bestest greace avore a-zetten down to woone's vittels be t' veelen in th'cart that the bit and drap ave been zweeted vor", and when I think of those two rides we can say in the modern dialect "you can say that again".

Our George, Hon Treas, has done it again, and again, on two consecutive Saturday evenings he sallied forth and picked up a 10/-d. note, don't ask me how he does it, perhaps his bike is fitted with a Geiger counter.

We hear that Bob Maylin is in St. James Hospital, something has gone seriously wrong with his eyesight and that the treatment will be prolonged. We all send him our sympathy and hope that he makes a good recovery.

Yet another successful Easter Tour has gone into Club History, this year's effort will be subtitled, Suffolk, Norfolk and Syd Parkinson, Art Smith shocking oarsmaen, wind behind all the way, haunted beds, primroses, primroses, all the way, a stinking fit Hon. Pres, churches, carving, mile upon mile of deserted and unspoiled lanes, and a frog who made the rounds and lasted practically the whole tour's "japes and wheezes".

Lee Strugnell, who recently rode so well in our Open Road Race, has had to give up racing for the present, he has had a recurrence of his knee trouble, and the doctor has ordered rest. This is a great pity, for Lee has all the potential to become areally fine rider, and his loss is also a loss to the club nad it's team efforts.

Les and Sheila Warner are now snugly installed in their new home, Ted and I were there recently and enjoyed with them their happiness in at last being "at home" at their Bushey hearth, complete we saw with a local handpicked supply of logs, and a little gleeny man with a hammer, who runs up and down inside the water pipes, tapping away for dear life.

Bill Reed-