

THE SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

NEWSLETTER

President:- E.O. Shead.

Editor:- W. Reed,

36, Gap Road,

Wimbledon,

December, 1963.

S.V.19.

EDITORIAL

Dear Fellow Members,

We may well call this season the "year of the Curates egg", good only in parts. For the first time in our history we held no Club T.T. programme, due almost entirely to a lack of entries or indeed any interest in these events. Much hope was expressed in the early months about the fine crop of youngsters who joined and made the clubroom a good place to visit, and to see their enthusiasm. Alas however after a few events they all drifted away and we rarely see them now. In the Open events field our 12 hrs. went with its usual swing, but again lack of entries robbed it of much of its former interest. With the departure of Jim Dobbs to the West the Open Road Race got somewhat neglected, and this coupled with the fact that much of the usual help was on holiday on the day resulted in it not being up to our usual high standard. Then too in the General affairs of the Club especially this newsletter, Fred Parsons who slaves away for this Club got a well deserved rise in the world at his work which left him no time to spare, hence no newsletter lately.

But if all that was on the gloomy side there were many very bright moments. The wonderful performances of our slender band of active men has filled the year with interest. Be it in Road or T.T. events we have shone, our team haslobbered up most of the opposition in Combine, Inter Club and an encouraging number of Road events. Four Club records have been broken each one a great ride and none more so than Bill Squirrells epic trike 24. The Club has taken its full share of the local day to day work in the various bodies we belong to and promoted a new event for the Combine which we have helped in no small manner to put its feet again after its disastrous previous season.

What of the future however, unless we get new blood to back up and follow our present active men there is no future. There are only four active seniors now and only one junior. So there is hardly any possibility of a Club programme again unless we get more lads with a sustained enthusiasm. Socially this Club is as strong as ever, in this field hardly anything changes and the pleasure of meeting never wanes, may this state of affairs return once more to our primary object, Racing.

A happy Christmas to you all and in the light of my prayer above a Good New Year.

Bill Reed.

## TIME TRIAL REPORT.

Any listener to racing talk in Club circles at the beginning of the year would have been well aware that the Time Trial side was going to be in for a thin time. The active lads decided that Road Racing which they had proved so promising at was there game this year. This has meant that for the first time in our history no sort of Club Time Trial programme has been carried out. True we turned our early dates into 15 ml. Time Trials for the then keen band of juniors and later even managed to rustle up six riders in a Club "25". Even so despite the colicums the season has produced some very fine rides in Association and Open events and we reigned supreme in the Inter Club "50".

After a few early month events or "pipe openers" notably the Crusader Hill "27" in which John Bromley came second and Lee Strugnell third, and Fred Keir did 1.1.49. in a Belle Vue T.T., we held our first "15" for the youngsters. Here Graham Macdonald the youngest of that clan prevailed with 39.55., and we thought that he with the other closely following lads like Mick Axtell and Graham Bromley would have a good chance in the S.L.C. junior championship. Then these races came round however they all hit bad patches together, and the promise was not fulfilled.

George Gilleland had meanwhile been grinding away doing 1.1.53. in the 54th Nomads "25" and then a week later 2.5.51. to come 4th fastest in the V.L.C.A. "50". On that day too we had our most well supported Club event a 15 ml. T.T. with no less than eleven entrants and once again Graham Macdonald did a fine ride to win the hcp.

A couple of weeks later saw a real Club effort in both riding and assistance in the Inter Club "50" v the North Rd./Veg. It was a glorious morning as our cavalcade of Ted Sheed, Bill Clements, Dick Bartlett and myself with our three motors crammed with riders and machines sped up to Aylsbury and a start on the Bicester road. The only fly in the ointment was that three of our team had ridden Road Races the day before and were therefore not in their prime.

However in brilliant sunshine we got them off and herded off down the road to Bicester and beyond. It soon became apparent that our George was in very serious mood and that he wasn't giving Wingfield the North Road Flyer an inch. We did our feed and then climbed aboard the Sheed wagon and some time, and 70 miles an hour later we caught our George nearing the finish. In true Gilleland style he was flogging himself climbing all over his bike, but doing as always a great ride. He crossed the line in 2.3.57. and we thought it was his, but Wingfield was the stronger finisher and his 2.3.24. pipped George. However it is a team event and so we waited with apprehension for the rest of our jaded team. They did not let us down for with John Bromleys 2.6.47., Mac's 2.10.53. and Fred Keirs 2.13.13. we walked the team race winning the event by 7 points.

With the Isle of Man week fully supported by our Ford Race team we awaited with interest their concerted attack on these events. The weather was atrocious but it didn't stop our team of John, Fred Keir and Mac from winning a fine team award in the Manx "25".

(continued on page 5.)

"Once upon a time or A true tale of "Bungay Smith".

A little pen sketch from my memory of my first meeting with one of the two lovely ladies', who are one of the reasons why so many of the South Western go down to 'Brooklands Park'.

About the year '31' or '32', we were all gathered in the clubroom at East Hill, Wandsworth when my friend Jack Geale came up to me and said, "I've met a bird Art, will you do me a favour and bring her out to the Balham, ( a Rough Stuff "25" ) next Sunday. Being my friend and having spent many happy week-ends at his house, ( my sincere thanks to 'Ma' Mrs. Geale, Hilda and Jacks' mother ) I of course agreed to his favour, although as I told you in the last Newsletter, I am a confirmed bachelor and I went to bed on the Saturday rather worried.

On Sunday I overslept, dashed out of bed, but was already late, and when I met the bird she had been waiting sometime and was pretty cold. It was February by the way. Well we crept up the road, and after about three miles she said, "Mr. Smith, can we stop a minute please, I want to blow my nose". Strike me, I thought, A Right One Here!!

About 20 minutes later, ( and two miles further on ) she wasn't looking very comfortable, so I asked her if everything was O.K. Yes thank you Mr. Smith, but I want to spend a penny. Well after three more stops, and another penny we got to where Jack was passing, and my favour was completed, except to take her along to the tea place for elevenses.

Now, 50 years later, I am waiting for Jack to take me aside, and say, "Art, do me a favour, take Sylvia to Brighton".

BRAKE CABLES.

The good news has come out of the West that Jim and Bjordis Dabbs have another son, Hamish Lars, congratulations to you both.

"God's own Country" is about to be invaded by our Hon. Pres., he will be jet propelled across the Atlantic on the 6th January. We await with interest his "travellers tales" and we hope pictures.

Also in mint condition, a new arrival at the Parkinson menage, "lovely boy No.3", what a team that lot will be in about 1980.

It had all the ingredients, hospitality, wonderful grub, sunshine, beautiful countryside, all the things you would expect on a Les and Sheila Warner invitation run, why did they have to include "parcels" for at least two ageing gents. Anyone want to buy a "push pedal bicycle".

There seems to be a certain amount of "keeping up with the Jones", the Armstrong Jones I mean, prospective Mums are much in evidence in Club circles at present.

Ted Shead descended on Barnes police station the other day and dug out a very old friend and early days Club member Roy Simper, Roy is a fish head in the police force and evidently he is anxious to see his old Clubmates again.

We heard of a sad fall from grace the other day. That staunch supporter of the bicycle that scurge of the stinking motor car, Bill Warner, has acquired a vintage automobile and has actually learned to drive. Ah! what, what falling off there was there!!!

The Parkinson country and seaside residence at Wells next the sea has seen a almost continuous procession of Club folk this year and as usual a good time was had by all.

We hear that Margaret Squirrell has been badgering husband Bill to ride a single 24 hr. next season, with such support we look forward to a new record on the books.

Further to the first item we hear that Jim Dabbs is returning to the "Smoke" it will be good to see him in circulation again.

Young Mick Axtell recently got the worst of a battle with a bus, he was in a serious condition for some time but we were pleased to see him at the clubroom recently smiling his usual cherubic grin, how be it, out of a somewhat battered face.

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The following letter has been received from the West London Cycling Association, anyone interested please contact Dave Kewell at the Clubroom.

Dear S.W.R.C.,

The Annual Tea and Prize Presentation of the West London Cycling Association will be held at the Feltham Hall, Manor Place, off Bedford Lane, Feltham, Middx., on 19th January, 1964.

Once again we have invited Ron Mellet, so well known to all cyclists who race down "The Lane", to present the prizes. Unfortunately, in the past two years illness and the weather have prevented him from carrying out this duty. We sincerely hope that this time he will really make it. All that is required to ensure the success of the evening is for all prize winners to be present at 8.30 p.m. to receive their awards from Mr. Mellet.

For your entertainment there will be an eating contest, waltz, twist and jiving contest, and a funny hat competition. There will be male and female sections to this competition, with a crate of beer for the club coming with the most hats. There will, however be a limit of one hat per person for this competition. The M.C. for the evening will be Peter Valentine of the Middlesex Clarion.

As in the past, the catering will be carried out by myself, together with a small team of helpers, and each person attending the Tea should bring a knife, fork and spoon.

We will once again be joined by the South West London Ladies, who will present their prizes on this occasion, and we extend to them a cordial welcome and wish them an enjoyable evening.

Prize winners have priority for tickets, and are asked to reply before 15th December. After that date first come, first served, from applications from Clubs by Secretaries. Applications for tickets will not be considered unless the correct money is sent with the application.

Yours sincerely,

Signed - Ethel Brambleby.

Weybridge Wheelers.

TEA & SOCIAL 6/0d.

SOCIAL TICKETS ONLY 2/6d

Tea starts at 5.00 p.m. prompt.

Social from 7.00 to 10.30.

DRESS STRICTLY INFORMAL

ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

Green Line Buses on London- Ascot & Sunningdale Routes 701 & 702, pass top of Bedfont Lane ( 5 minutes walk ), so does Bus 116 Staines to Hounslow, Buses 117 & 257 Hounslow, Egham and Chertsey, 90B Yeading, Hayes, Feltham Twickenham, Richmond and Kew, 285 Wembley, Kingston, Hampton, Teddington, Feltham, London Airport, all stop two minutes from the hall.

TRAINS 25 minutes from Waterloo, half-hourly service, ample car parking at Feltham Station, then a two minute walk.

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(continuation of Time Trial Report from page 2.)

That same weekend and in the same sort of weather George Gilleland was scratch man in the V.L.C.A. 100 miles. We saw him off on a cheerless morning and later on the way back from the Abingdon turn we could see that he was justifying his mark and on the way to another fine ride. Shortly after Dorchester however as we awaited him he appeared in a shocking condition and covered with blood. "Been knocked over he yelled," still riding like mad. We handed him up a sponge, he wouldn't stop, and on he went in true Gilleland fashion battling his way through torrential rain over most of the final 30 miles to record 4.26.38. for second place and despite everything only 27 seconds behind the winner.

There was no improvement in the weather when we set out on the Saturday morning of the 6th July to see that Bill Squirrell made sure of the trike 24hr. record. It took courage over the next few rain drenched hours to keep going but as night fell and conditions improved with Bill still setting about his task we knew he had won a hard battle.

What an experience it is to be out for the whole of a 24, every corner sees eager supporters out assisting either the organisers or their riders in such an atmosphere of dedication and enthusiasm that defies description.

Bills next crisis came in the cold early hours when he arrived at Roman Gate a few seconds before the cold hard leg down to Billingham was closed. We feared for him as he disappeared southward but after what seemed an age his blue lamp appeared and off he went towards the Portsmouth Rd., where as always for men who come from this area comes the greatest test of courage and determination. Bill afterwards confessed that he was very near to "packing" but as we waited at Guildford and saw him struggle back we knew that he was now certain to finish, and with a fine mileage.

After this epic weekend came a couple of ordinary weekends and then it was our George once again who made the headlines. I talked above of atmosphere but no atmosphere is so potent as that on the Bath Road 100 morning. Like everyone else George had got the message too and we knew we were in for a Club record. At 85 miles that record was going to be well inside 4.20.0. but the hard conditions over the last few miles slowed him down, yet he battled on as only George can to do a fine 4.23.3.

The Club team was out in force on the same roads in the S.W.L.C. 100 the following week. What followed was team riding at its very best, for Fred Keir after an indifferent season was out to prove he could do a good 100. Prove it he did with a fine 4.28.9. for first

place, but roaring along right on his heels came Mac Macdonald doing easily his best performance in the time trial game, his 4.31.11. for second place gave us all a great deal of pleasure. Then came John Bromley who is not comfortable at 100s. yet with 4.32.0. for third place and bringing up the rear a most unusual place for him came a jaded George Gilleland. One race, and the record, the first four places, and three personal bests, quite one of the best Club mornings for years.

John Bromley our superb short distance stylist came into his own on the two following weeks. First he broke Club record in the Fulham Whlrs. 50 with 2.3.3. and next led our galloping team in winning the Inter Club 25 where we were once again 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th.

Now our team were at the peak of form and in the West London 25 John proved what we all suspected that he could do a 58. Once again a Club record went as John passed the timekeepers in 58.32, and what a team record was set with Fred Keirs 1.10.25 and Mac Macdonald's 1.1.35.

John rode again the next week but the conditions were unfavourable and he fell back a bit to record a 59., and with this event came the close of a very interesting and rewarding season.

Bill Reed.