

Broadsheet of the South Western Road Club

President:- E. O. Shead
Editor:- J. N. Bertrand,
120 Arlington Drive,
Carshalton,
Surrey.

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EDITORIAL

In contrast with last year's Reunion "do", we have a good handful of prize-winners. This is the result of efforts by all members, active and semi-active. Most popular must be Bill Clements, who has been absolutely dedicated to the job he set himself. Also to be congratulated is Mike Smith for his President's Award: his opinions at committee meetings have been very useful on several occasions.

Following individual achievement, the Club did well to win the Inter-Club "25", after several years in 3rd place. We nearly got 1st team in our Open "100": however, Mac and Bill turned in two consistent performances.

Our juniors also have made their presence felt in Combine events, and in the Schoolboys T.T. Championship. We pride ourselves in our organising ability, but alas, our several promotion efforts this year have not met with the support we should have liked. Still, if our quest for fame does not succeed, we still have that which keeps the Club going in spite of everything - friendship.

J.N.B.

Dates for your Diary

December 25: Christmas morning run, to Frank and Eileen Slingers, 6 Oaklands, Walton-on-Thames.

February 5: S.W.R.C Cyclo-Cross at Shirley Hills.

Committee Capers

November meeting at Fred's place: not enough to start at the appointed time but after persuading Phil to "Chair" we were off! The Herne Hill cabin question came up again, we are 2nd on the waiting list and the cost - £10 - was something to be considered. Information on Schoolboys massed-start events was available, and venues for these were at Crystal Palace and Ewell.

We heard from Dan Allman that he is looking round for a suitable trophy. It also seems that at a previous meeting we decided to give the old "12" trophy to the Junior 25, whereas it was already transferred to the "100"!

A report on the W.L.C.A A.G.M informed us that the gathering had thrown out a proposal to drop their "12". If only we had hung on to ours, their date would have suited us admirably!

The R.T.T.C A.G.M threw out our proposal on Entry Forms: Ted was voted a dolegate on National, and we may run a G.H.S Schoolboys "10" Championships heat.

George gave us his last report of the financial year; £53 at the bank, £23 in hand, but after liabilities we had £20 clear. John on social matters reported that 28 attended the Battersea lecture by Peter Scott of C.T.C West Kent D.A. Profit was small, but a good evening was enjoyed by those there. 30 turned up for the film show, resulting in a small profit. The Dinner was settled, but the price was slightly up on '65.

I had to leave then so you'll have to wait till next issue for the rest.

J. N. B.

The Bridge over the River Severn

The Severn Bridge was completed this year, and quite a feat of engineering it is. It is claimed that 50 miles is saved, or - in time - about 2 hours, which could have been spent waiting at the Beachley ferry. It is also claimed that trade will increase; whatever else is increased, certainly road congestion in the area will be. So the question is, will the bridge be a boon, or is it really something engineers like to do: a sort of challenge to be taken up?

However certain statistics are interesting; e.g At Aust the high water level is +20 feet and low is -19 feet, and maximum current is 9 knots. The main span is 3,240 feet, towers 445 feet. The 2 roadways are 25 feet, footpath 12 feet and a 12 foot cycle track (no banking?). It should stand up to a 100 m.p.h wind.

The bridge will eventually form part of the M4, but the Motorway is not quite finished, and decisions on the actual route are still to be finalised. The London end is the 25 miles from Chiswick to Maidenhead, and the next bit is to be cut south of the Bath Road, re-crossing it at about Theale. From Theale there is some argument between the M. O. T and affected landowners in the path of the monster. It could mess up our Pangbourne Lane courses, or on the other hand it may take vehicles off the Bath Road to our benefit as time-trial enthusiasts. It is as much a dilemma as the Bridge: will it benefit us or will it be a curse?

J. N. B.

Cyclo Cross

Ray Ward won the Schoolboys event, known as the Forty-Hall Cyclo Cross. He did a "time trial" and won by 35 seconds. Our juniors have done well in several other events lately.

Bits and Pieces

I see that a proposal before the B.C.F A.G.M wants to break the agreement with the R.T.T.C on T.Ts. The B.C.F would run its own programme of events. Other ideas put forward are betting at track meetings and control of the size of "commercials" on riders clothing.

Raleigh's offer a 5-speed hub gear at this years Cycle Show. Typical ratio is 86, 72, 57, 45, 38; ideal for touring, but a bit wide for racing. It is controlled by 2 levers.

National Schoolboy "10" Champion is Chris Wilson; 6 foot, 12 stone and 16 years. He didn't like the restricted gear (76), reckons 80 would be better. Anyhow, he managed 24-7, and has also a 59-51 and a 2-6-20 "50" to his credit. At present studying for "0" levels at Loughborough G.S, in the Leics. R.C. The G.H.S trophy he receives he also gets a replica, is worth £350. Next year's Championship is in the Midlands on 8-7-67.

Jimmy Saville, who once rode in the Tour of Britain, and is now a kind of entertainer, recently broke the one-Hour Roller record by $\frac{7}{8}$ mile; total $41\frac{1}{8}$ miles on 82.6 gear at 160 R.P.M!

Did you know that Campag. gears are tested for 400 hours, 38 changes a minute, equals 912,000 changes. What a gnashing of teeth!

A Six-Day in 1967! Sponsored by Skol Lager, on September 17-23. There will be 2-3 British teams; track length 166 metres, 10 laps per mile, at Earls Court. Track by Mr. Champion and seats for 3,000.

A "24" for Women; the Merseyside Ladies C.A are talking about such an event.

Christmas morning "25", 18-12-66. Hot drinks to all riders. Who's riding?

PLEASE TURN OVER FOR THIS MONTH'S EPIC

THE NAMING OF TRIPLY-KATE

(being a rather one sided conversation between
one of the old codgers and a club young hopeful)

"Well, we've got a Club Champion again! -- Eh! not much of a champion? Look lad, nobody else in the club had better times did they? You can't blame Bill if the others didn't do the rides -- don't try to tell me that Smithy and Mac and Ian and John could all have beaten him, the point is they didn't do the rides and old Bill Clem did, and good luck to him I say, Champion in 1937 and 1940 he was, mind you he had a bit more competition in those days. ---- Eh! bribed the marshall at the Dorchester turn? well Smithy should've ridden the Combine event, what's a bit of rain? --- and paid Mac's fare to France? look lad you'll be in trouble you will saying things like that---- Different next year you say, yes it might be but we'll see about that next year and meanwhile Bill's name is going on the cup and right well earned too, any man of fifty who can ride a 100 in less than five hours deserves a cup.

What do you mean? what's another thing?--- his name, you mean his initials? oh! too clever by half are they? and his first name should have been Thomas So you think T.W.I.T. is nearer the mark do you? getting a bit too cheeky you are ---- look lad would you like to know how he got those initials? no? well you're going to so sit back and shut up!

It was back in the dark days of 1915--- no that's not why they were dark, there was a war on you know? Well this little lad had been born and Pa and Ma and Grandma Clem were all mulling over what to call him, --- yes you might, but let's stick to the story, He's a lovely boy said Ma half to herself, think he should be called William.... Eh, don't be daft lass, said Pa what will country think what with Kaiser Bill lording it over in Germany.... I think, he said, he should be called Isaiah (Pa fancied himself a bit of a prophet and kept one of those glass globes on the dresser) Well Grandma cackled he looks doubtful to me, better call him Thomas and she cackled away into her knitting dropping another couple of stitches (Grandma worked a pattern of knit two drop two, it made the wool go further) Well this went on for a few evenings and at last Pa said names must be chosen and he got out his glass ball and turned the light low. Eh? it's dark he said, yes said Ma you've just about put out the light! Hush lass said Pa it's clearing and I can just discern(e) giant figure on a road with a club in his hand Eh! he said, fine figure of a man is that, nay Ma he said you wouldn't be able to see it. Now he said, one o' they weathercock things and it's only got two arms left, the South and West ones, and man's getting on to a bike with club. That's it he said South Western Road Club it is, lad's to be a bike rider. .. Well well said Ma, better not tell neighbours, all that getting up early in the morning! Now said Pa the clubs turning into a cup, a Champions Cup lass, our lad's to be a champion cyclist, eh think of that, he said, but that's odd, cups changing shape to a tea cup and lads drinking tea and as fast as he drinks one cup up comes another, that's real odd he said, now cup after cup, now there in two ranks, now they are in threes, cup after cup lass, lad must be going to be in tea trade when he grows up! Now he said he's riding the bike and a servant is offering him another cup of tea and he's bowing and smiling as he takes it, very polite I must say, said Pa but what does it mean. Must be a very civil servant said Ma, right lass, that's it.... lads to be a Civil Servant, no wonder there were so many cups of tea!

Here Grandma piped in, don't see what that's to do with his name, she said..... Wait said Pa, now lads taking papers out of cup and it's a list with six names on it, all the cups have lists with six names and they're all numbered, favourite on top, that's it lass a voting system, guess that's how they'll do it in road club

get out list each, favourite name on top, second below, and we'll give lad three names to be decided by the papers. Well this they did and there was a lot of thinking and sighing as they struggled for the list of names. At last they were all done and Pa collected the papers and spread them out. You write down names lass he says, as I call the top one out of each paper. First list, he said, "William", Ma sniggered, Grandma said that must be my paper, nay said Pa, tis mine, and I thought you wanted Thomas, Grandma! well she said, weren't going to let you beat Ma and she wanted William! Well said Pa, so we've all voted first for William, so William it must be, Ma said nothing. Eh, said Pa that's odd that is all that trouble and now we all vote William, have to have two other names now though, Can't help thinking he said must be a sign here somewhere. He shot another glance in his Glass ball but Ma had turned up gas and there was nothing to be seen. William, said Pa, all vote Willaim, three Williams and all that tea and that Civil Servant, must be a sign! Ma he said excitedly, of course, William three times, in fact Ma William In Triplicate, and that lad is how old Bill Clem got his initidds, but don't go telling everybody

Note: Any offence, whether accidental, inferred or intended, not to be taken too seriously. Author.