

SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

NEWS LETTER

JULY 1969

Editor:

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Dear fellow members,

I notice that in the recent "Milk Race" one stage was disallowed because riders did not comply with the Highway Code - in particular, riding on the right hand side of the road. One B.B.C commentator made the point that road-racing could be banned from the public highway.

No doubt the B.C.F rules should be more strictly enforced, but to ban cycle racing on the road would be completely wrong. The enthusiasm and energy which youngsters put into their sport is a great thing. It is surely right that they should be able to put this energy into the sport, even if the public are slightly inconvenienced. It is a small price for the public to pay when compared with the discipline of mind and character-forming obtained from our sport.

W.R.M

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Extract from "CYCLING" - May 30 1912

THE WRONG LAMP

After the North London "50" one of the competitors, S. Parkinson, accidentally carried off a lamp belonging to someone else.

He had asked his Century R.C clubmates to place his lamp on the machine, and told them they could identify it by its unique muddiness.

But some other rider also had a muddy lamp, and now Parkinson wants to exchange!

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MEN WANTED ...

for the S. W.R.C Open "100" time trial - Sunday, September 28 1968.  
Bath Road area. Forty points to marshal and feeding to be done. Let Ted Shead know as soon as possible if you can help. His address is:  
21 Baskerville Road, Wandsworth Common, London S.W.18. 01-870 3386.

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ARTICLES WANTED

No articles = No Newsletter

All anecdotes, tours, etc, etc, etc, please send whatever you can to the Editor. Don't worry about the form. We'll put it into shape.

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## TIME TRIAL REPORT

The first Club 25 was run on May 4 on the Chertsey 107 course. The expected marshalling troubles did not arise, and familiarity with this course should make it no harder than the Hampton 25 to control. Certainly from a rider's point of view it appears faster and easier, and this may be because the riders see each other more on the three legs. The event proved interesting in that battles developed between riders, and particularly between Paul Hillyard and Brian Morrison, the latter riding a time trial: he is not yet a Club member.

Brian Morrison started a minute behind Paul Hillyard, who had the misfortune to unship his chain a hundred yards or so from the start. The result was that Paul just got under way again as Brian started. They were within sight of each other all the way round, with both leading in turn. On occasion both were well clear but Brian - who was such a fast rider when he was a Club member some years ago - pushed Paul to a good ride so that Paul did 1.6.46 to win the event proper, and Brian recorded 1.5.32. Adrian Philpot, with no road race handy, came out to whack the T.T boys, but found that time trials are no respecter of road racing men, and he could do no more than 1.7.4. Another war was waged as Bill Clements, starting three minutes ahead of Geoffrey Parsons, tried to keep in front to the finish. But he did not make it. Geoff gradually closed the gap, and went ahead on the run down the Staines bypass to do 1.7.17 to Bill's 1.10.41. Other times were Bill Squirrell's 1.9.46 and Dave Leak's handicap-winning 1.8.20. Present Handicap Award points under the new system show that Paul Hillyard with 17 points leads Dave Leak with 15, with Bill Squirrell third with 10 points.

We had four riders in the Ross Wheelers 50 on the Bath Road H.35 course on May 18. The weather was very bad, with a strong wind holding the riders back on the way to the turn. Experience showed on the way out with Bill Squirrell getting there in 1.17.16 and Bill Clements in 1.18.51, whereas Geoff Parsons could manage only 1.19.49 and Dave Leak 1.20.2. Geoff was unlucky in that a bit of trouble on the way to Theale meant that he was literally chucked on to his bike at the start as the time-keeper got down to 3,2,1,go. He started very slowly indeed. Coming back was different, but the order remained unchanged: Bill Squirrell finished with 2.25.58, Bill Clements 2.26.3, and Geoff Parsons 2.26.30. Dave Leak sagged to 2.34.34. As a matter of interest, Ant Taylor won the event, going out in 1.2.14 and finishing with 1.55.53.

Speaking to Ant Taylor afterwards, I asked if it was easy anywhere round the course and he said "No", and carried on "If I find it getting easy I go up to a higher gear and make it hard." Perhaps that is why he goes so fast!

F.C.P

## ROAD RACING

Road racing is known as a modern cycle sport activity, if you can rely on the term modern. However, the first cycle race on the roads took place quite a while ago, in 1891 to be exact. It was staged in (where else could it have been!) France.

It was a long-distance event, even in "modern" eyes, and was started from Bordeaux on the edge of the Atlantic. The finish was in Paris, 250 miles away, over what must have been quite arduous terrain, and the victor was a Briton! The machines used were an early design of the so called "safety" - to differentiate between it and the Ordinary high bicycle.

Of course, racing in France went from strength to strength, culminating in the Tour de France, first organised in the '20s by Henri Desgranges. There is a gigantic monument to him and his idea at the top of the Col du Gallbier in the French Alps, a truly massive memorial in more ways than one.

In Britain things took a different course and time-trials became the most popular method of cycle "racing" between the wars, and up to 1942. That year saw the birth of the British League of Racing Cyclists, the "League" as we referred to it then. It brought forth a new idea - for British clubmen - of road-racing. A new type of rider and machine were developed during this period. Bikes used had quite long wheelbases, and more sloping angles than previously. The Courses were generally very hilly and arduous, in the pursuit of breeding a really tough bunch of riders. This was an attempt to produce contenders for world honours, and also a winner of the Tour de France. Although in Britain we have since produced world-beaters in road racing, we have not produced a Tour winner, although Tommy Simpson came close to achieving it.

Since the League days, bikes have reverted to medium and short wheelbases, at times more like track bikes with brakes, and riders have varied their careers by mixing time-trials with road racing to create a more all-round type of capability.

In fact, maybe the 1969 Tour de France is the answer to Britain's quest for a winner, as the daily stages are a bit shorter, and numerous time-trial stages are planned.

If the Yanks reckon to be on the moon before the '70s perhaps Britain can have the victor of the Tour before then, too!

J.N.B

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EASTER TOUR 1969

The venue for this year's Easter tour was Leckhamstead, tucked away in the Berkshire hills north-east of Newbury. Among those attending the gathering of the aged of limb but not of mind were Bill Clements, Dave Kewell, George Oliver, Phil Parkinson, Ted Shead, Bill Reed, Art Smith, Yours Truly, and our host - Curly Robinson... plus miscellaneous "camp followers".

This chap Curly, not being of our Club, had actually written out our day's routes completely in advance - and even tried to make us stick to it! The slightest "mike" on a grassy bank in the sun and he was there appealing to our consciences (mine, anyway) that this was not what they did in his club. He also had a remarkable ability: you have heard of water diviners, haven't you? - well Curly could divine tea where others were as blind men.

On Good Friday we rode and walked to Kintbury through some very pleasant lanes when - lo and behold - out of the blue came the Belle Vue. It's funny, you know, but on recollection it is not the countryside that sticks in my mind but the chocolate biscuits we had with our coffee at Kintbury.

We rode on to Highclere, where the "camp followers" had already arrived for lunch. And after the repast we were entertained by Bill Clements - who performed the marvellous trick of free-wheeling in both directions! Then on to Inkpen Beacon, where Combe Gibbet was located. The hill falls away steeply to the north, giving a wide vista. Curly went on ahead, and where our maps showed only primitive country he had found a tea oasis. After tea, we rode down to the trout farm at Hungerford, along the canal to Kintbury, and thence back to Leckhamstead.

Saturday found us starting off in a ploughed field. According to Curly, a bit of rough-stuff should have cut off a corner - which he and George proposed to go round. Having got half-way along the track we discovered that it disappeared - leaving a lot of irate Old Codgers to dither on. Needless to say, Curly and George were nowhere to be seen when

We rode on to the Ridgeway against a strong wind, along the Ridgeway down to Letcombe Regis, and on to Letcombe Bassett - a village whose main occupations appear to be racehorses and growing watercress. There was no sign of Curly and George, and we were convinced that they had come and gone (or been and gone!). Then, just as the last biscuit had been consumed, up they turned, with the explanation that they had been looking at an old church. After a pleasant lunch at Uffington, we rode on to Lambourn and back to Leckhampstead. That evening, a darts match was arranged against the Belle Vue. They won the first two games with the aid of a local (aged 85), but we fought back to win the final game and save our face.

On Easter Sunday we rode down to Whitton Ditch, accompanied this time by Art Smith, who kindly kept me company at the back. We went on to Great Bedwyn and were served lunch in an antique-panelled room that had my betters reminiscing about the glorious 20's etc. Then on to Chilton Foliat and Lambourn. And from there we went on the biggest piece of rough-stuff I have ever seen, called Lambourn Downs. We were all very glad to get back to base.

Throughout the holiday we had wonderful weather. Mrs Robinson and her daughter made the most excellent food, and I am sure that a really good time was had by all.

W.R.M

RACING RESULTS

S.W.R.C Open Road Race: April 27 1969

1st, 2nd & 3rd categories

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|----|---------------|------------------|
| 1. | J. Winstanley | Finsbury Park    |
| 2. | R. Smith      | East Grinstead   |
| 3. | G. Clarke     | East Grinstead   |
| 4. | E. Richardson | Bognor Regis     |
| 5. | W. Hill       | V.C. NovioMagnus |
| 6. | I. Jewell     | S.W.R.C          |
| 7. | D. Wright     | Belle Vue        |
| 8. | D. Witt       | G.C. Europa      |

3rd & Junior Categories

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|----|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. | D. Cross    | Middx Clarion      |
| 2. | A. Kavanagh | Middx Clarion      |
| 3. | R. Robinson | S.W.R.C            |
| 4. | H. Williams | Redhill C.C        |
| 5. | S. Foster   | Redhill C.C        |
| 6. | A. Fidgett  | Festival R.C       |
| 7. | G. Smith    | Charlotteville C.C |

S.W.R.C 25 miles T.T. Chertsey 107 May 4 1969

	<u>Time</u>	<u>H' cap</u>	<u>H' cap time</u>	<u>Points</u>
1.	P. Crump	D.N.S	5 mins	-
2.	W. Clements	1.10.41	5 1/2 "	4
3.	M. Smith	D.N.S	1/2 "	-
4.	M. Dore	D.N.F	5 "	-
5.	G. Parsons	1.7.17	1 1/2 mins	2
6.	D. Leak	1.8.20	6 "	7
7.	A. Philpot	1.7.4	Scratch	1
8.	W. Squirrell	1.9.46	4 1/2 mins	3
9.	P. Hillyard	1.6.26	1 1/2 mins	5

Ross Wheelers May 11 1969

Junior Event

Ray Ward .. 5th

Senior Event

Ian Jewell.. 9th

Ross Wheelers Open 50 May 18 1969

W. Squirrell	..	2.25.58
W. Clements	..	2.26.3
G. Parsons	..	2.26.30
D. Leak	..	2.34.34

South West London & Surrey B.C.F Division Championships      May 18 1969

Junior Road Race

Ray Ward      2nd

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S.W.R.C 25 miles T.T      Chertsey 107      June 1 1969

	<u>Time</u>	<u>H'cap</u>	<u>H'cap Time</u>	<u>Points</u>
1. S. Parkinson	1.39.31	20 mins	1.19.31	0
2. M. Dore	1.16.38	5 "	1.11.38	1
3. W. Clements	1. 9.10	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1. 5.40	7
4. G. Parsons	1. 7.17	1 "	1. 6.17	3
5. D. Loak	1. 8.46	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1. 6.16	4
6. W. Squirrell	1. 9.33	3 "	1. 6.33	2
7. P. Hillyard	1. 6. 8	Scratch	1. 6. 8	5

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PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE "WANTED" COLUMNS ON THE FIRST PAGE.