

S.W.R.C.

NEWS LETTER

CLUB PRESIDENT E.O. SHEAD

Dear fellow club members,

I went to the annual dinner as many of you did also. It was a good dinner, I thought, with reasonable food and a good crowd of people. These occasions are great on the nostalgia aren't they? It's at times like this one is able to see what one was like 20 years ago and what one will be like in 20 years to come, that is assuming you are about my age. I thought the cross toasting was fantastic this year, starting before I'd even lifted my soup spoon. The "bon viveur" humour falls into a number of distinct types:- Humour personal to the select few who took part, humour that could be enjoyed under the warm glow induced by alcohol. The toasting commenced as usual from the old members, who are still the back bone of the club. Bill Reed and Bill Squirrel led the way with Bill Reed jumping up and down like a Yo Yo. One can only surmise that he practises for weeks at jumping up and down at the tea table - how irritating for Vera!

Ted Shead proposed the toast to our friends including the Slinger family, Gertie Kemp, Tommy Miller and official guests Mr. & Mrs. Barnhard and D. Hacker of the Bellevue and Mr. & Mrs. A. Wingrave of the Redman. Alec Wingrave proposed the club and after a hesitant start due to reading his notes by candlelight gave a good speech, if unorthodox. One of his main points was the importance of getting young members into the club. Fred Parsons replied for the club. He mentioned founder members John Dunkley and Alec Stevens not being able to attend as being unwell. Fred then brought us down to earth with the statement that the clubroom cost is going up to £2. Fred went onto plead for youngsters to stick with the club as the memories get better with time. I was almost in tears by this now. Fortunately the prize giving brought us all down to earth.

Club Awards 1973

Senior Time Trial Champion:

Mike Fantham 22.508

Veterans Trophy:

W. Squirrel 23.467

Senior Road Race Champion:

R. Robinson

Handicap Award:

D. Kewell 31 points

100 Mile Trophy:

Mike Fantham 4.47.35

Most Meritorious Performance:

Robert Squirrel

50 Mile Trophy:

Mike Fantham 2.12.12

Junior Trophy:

Glen Redman 21.756

Runner-up Time Trial Championship:

Robert Squirrel 21.072

Hill Climb Trophy:

G. Redman

Editor

P.S. You may like to compare my view of the club dinner with that of Brake Cables - we did attend the same event, but I don't think Brake Cables had his glasses on.

CYCLO CROSS - 17TH FEBRUARY, 1974

Despite one or two hangovers from the club dinner the previous evening many members braved the miserable weather to help run our annual cyclo cross event at Shirley Hills. Keith Mernickle without any real opposition due to the fact that other top riders were on their way to San Sebastian for the World championships romped away to win by 7 minutes. Second man home was L. Parker of the Kingston Phoenix.

Bob Squirrel and Geoff Parsons - who had a nasty crash managed to hold up the club colours finishing in the middle of the field. The school boys event, however, turned into quite an interesting race. P. Turrel of Addiscombe R.C. led for 3 of the 4 laps, but was caught just before the line by R. Mumford of the Morden C.R.C. Third man home was S. Mott of the South Eastern R.C. Hoping to see all the members out next year on the 19th January, 1975 at Shirley Hills.

John Bromley,  
CYCLO CROSS EVENT  
Secretary

TIME TRIAL REPORT

On Sunday, 10th February, the Weybridge Wheelers/Feltham Road Club ran their annual reliability trial. Seven members from the club entered but only three started due to the weather (Bill & Bob Squirrel and Dave Kewell). On starting from Hampton Court Station the wind was blowing against us to Handcross, plus the rain started just before the first check point. By the time we had left the check point the rain was coming down in torrents. The rain continued for the rest of the ride to Horsham and onto the finish in Weybridge. All three of us finished with 20 minutes to spare.

You will have seen in the last news letter a provisional list of club events. As well as running the club events, I am also promoting two road races on June 16th, round the Chobham circuit. These two events consist of a 3rds/Juniors race, over 40 miles and a 1st/2nd/3rd event over 65 miles, plus on September 7th, I am running the "Open 25" again being run on the revised Bath Road course.

Your support, plus any donation (small or large) will be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget the first club "10" is on March 31st, run as usual on the Hampton course. All entries to me at the club room or by phone on Walton 40819.

(NOTE: This is not the date given in the January issue.)

Sunday, 24th February, the North Road C.C. ran their annual "Hardriders 25". Though it is called Hardriders "25" the course is 27 miles long. Starting and finishing on the Cuffley Ridgeway, just north of Potters Bar. The event attracted 117 riders including Alf Engers, Max Pendleton, Tim Dobson, Doug Sheehy, milk race organiser Phill Ligget, Ray Gosman and John Pritchard, who won our own Open "25" last year. The morning was cold, but dry and sunny. I recorded 1-28-14. The event was won by Doug Sheehy with 1-9-39 and Tim Dobson 1-9-40., Alf Engers recorded 1-13-52.

Club Dates:-

Sunday	March	31st	"10"	c.c. 75	(Hampton)
Sunday	April	28th	"10"	c.c. 75	(Hampton)
Sunday	May	5th	"25"	c.c.107	(Staines)
Sunday	May	19th	"10"	c.c. 75	
Sunday	June	9th	"25"	c.c.107	
Sunday	June	16th			Road Race(Chobham)
Sunday	July	7th	"25"	c.c.107	
Sunday	July	21st	"Open 100"		Bath Road
Sunday	August	11th	Inter-Club "50"		Farnham/Aton
Saturday	September	7th	"Open 25"		Bath Road 3.00 p.m.
Sunday	October	6th	"25"	c.c.107	
Sunday	October	13th	"10"	c.c. 75	

DON'T FORGET THE MORE ENTRIES THE BETTER SO HAVE A GO IN THE CLUB EVENTS.

R.E. Squirrell.  
Time Trial Sec.

Brake Cables

We were very sad to hear of the death in hospital of our old friend Reg Edwards. His life since the death of his mother some years ago had been a lonely and unhappy one and because none of us knew he was ill and dying, he must have suffered a lonely end. He was so much a part of Club life in the years after the war. On club runs he was the supreme "half wheeler" he seemed to have an unquenched thirst for miles and the "bundles" they gave him. On the committee and D.G.M.'s much midnight oil was burned in debate because he disagreed with the lot of us. The last time we saw him across the saddle was a social run to Godstone, but many of us will always remember the man "who rode side saddle".

We were also very sorry to hear of John Dunkleys recent heart attack. It occurred just before he was setting off to work in his car and fortunately it was only a mild one. We hate to think what would have happened had it occurred when he was driving. He is now much recovered though still weak and it will be some weeks before Hawkers have the benefit of his services.

Jim and Yordis Dabbs were for the first time that we can remember not at the dinner, it's half term and they and the boys are off to the beautiful West Country cottage they own, there to spend a few days with Mrs. Dabbs, who lives there permanently. They are always up to something - they recently returned from a winter sport holiday in the mountains of Bulgaria, it appears that some of these Iron Curtain countries are not averse to "putting on the style" for their visitors.

One more very successful Reunion has passed. Everything seemed to combine to make it a happy evening. Candlelight was once more the order of the day, but this time at our choice, many felt that the resultant atmosphere encouraged the "cross toasters" for the fun and tributes were fast and furious. Ted greeted the guests in his usual sincere way and many must have felt a rosy glow at his words of welcome and thanks. Alec Wingrave of the Redman told us a lot about being a submariner and managed to get in a few things about the club. Fred Parsons in a good speech tried to tell us what we and all cycling clubs are up against and with some optimism tried to point the way.

Gertie Kemp, who is now 78 and the star guest of the evening presented the prizes and glowed with pride all through especially when she received a bouquet from Ruth Parsons, looking quite grown up and rather splendid in her first long dress. This year we once more had a disco, but this time with a difference, no flashing lights and plenty of variety in the dances. And what dances some of them were, this ultra modern stuff left me exhausted even to watch. It was a wonder one young lady didn't take off, her arms flashed up and down so fast. All in all despite a few heart cries from a couple of old 'uns about the days of the band, it was, I feel, a complete success, anyway at the end it was going at such a rate that it was well after 12.30 a.m. before the momentum lessened. Our thanks to Bill and Margaret for a very happy event.

We hear that Easter time and April 13th precisely, is to be the day for Alison Thorpe, when she joins Geoff Parsons at the altar, no doubt the club will be well represented on this happy day.

The "Wessex", that dinner of the year, will once more see a pilgrimage of the S.W.R.C. ancients to this now hallowed corner of Hardy's country. The Farm, with chauffeur Ted Shead will approach from the East as well, surprise, surprise, Len and Art Harris; the London contingent crammed into Bill Clements mini bus will travel South and no doubt join up with our portly friend from Leckhampstead, now masquerading as a Kentish Wheeler, before the fire at the Stephenson establishment - there to quaff tea and biscuits and to dwell on the pleasures of the evening in company with a hoot of some years standing George Oliver.

We hear that Robert Squirrel, so lately the "lion" of the evening at the Reunion has shaken the dust of Hawkers at Kingston from his feet and defected to the Mercedes Group, we hear that he blamed sheer boredom and repetition of work as his prime reason for leaving.

From time to time we have reported a globe trotter in our midst. On some cold and rainy day we have said Gordon Simpson is in the West Indies or Canada or even some romantic spot like Tokio. Well here is the itinerary for this year. Only up to June of course, early April, Tokio, early May, Delhi and Bombay, June, Bangkok and to make you mad he was supposed to go to Kinston, Jamaica this weekend, but would you believe it "got out of it". However, I suppose you can have too much of a good thing.

Having written the item about the "Wessex" a couple of days ago, we now learn that sadly there will be no Len, for he has had to go into hospital for a hernia operation, hope all goes well Len, however, as a decorative bonus Vera Harris is using the ticket and so for the first time the ladies have broken in to a former male preserve at last, as far as our club is concerned.

We have just heard the very happy news that Maureen Bertrand has married a school teacher - who else, we wish her every happiness.

Jack Bertrand recently bumped into Bob Smith, sometimes known as Smithy at Hyde Park Corner and who asked to be remembered to his erstwhile colleagues. Jack also saw Ron and Alice Parker, who still lives at Shepherds Bush.

Well fellow club members, that's it for now. Please don't forget to let Bill Reed or me know what's going on, so that all the club can know - we are noy aren't we? but we are discreet about it.

Yours sincerely,

Bill.

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