

# SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

## NEWSLETTER

President: F. C. Parsons

Editor: G. P. Parsons

22 Ash Grove,  
Staines,  
Middlesex.

December, 1981

Your editor is allowing me this editorial to wish all the best to the club members and friends for the festive season and the coming year and it gives me great pleasure to do so. There are so many in the club doing their corner in one way or another, so good luck to us all. We have dual ed and Editress for the coming year so thanks to Alison for what she has done for the Newsletter.

Also our best wishes to two new future club members, Alex Parsons born on 17th September and Corina Squirrell born on 4th of November, both sets of mums and dads are doing well.

The coming year should see changes in the club's officers as there are now offers for the two main jobs, it just needs an offer for Time trial sec and the move can be made. However, here is to 1982 and I aim to get inside three hours for the Colnbrook Walk next December.

Fred Parsons.

## PLYMOUTH CYCLING WEEK

Although the Plymouth Cycling Week in July has been frequented by the S. V. R. C. every year, 1981 saw a few new faces including our two friends Ed, Pat and their two year old son, Geoff and myself. We arrived at Buckfastleigh on Saturday afternoon for the first of the week's racing - the 25 mile Time Trial. The riders, of course, were only interested in doing fast times but for the majority of the spectators - Bill and Margaret, David and Mary Squirrell, Sally Broad, myself and our two friends - the more pressing matter was who would win the Wimbledon Finals. Times for this event were as follows:- Geoff 1.05.38, Bob Squirrell 1.06.11, John Eccles 1.06.23, Ian Maylin 1.08.00.

In convoy behind Bob and Mary we arrived at the Bovis Lodge Caravan Park and in no time at all the majority of the Club were to be found clustered around Bob's car. He had, apparently, got petrol pump failure. Our clutch had only just been repaired one hour before we were due to leave, our friends exhaust "went" on the way down and Ray Ward's car suffered a slight dent by a falling bike.

On Sunday we all made our way to Plymouth Town Centre for the Road Race Events. Unfortunately we seemed to get caught up with the Salvation Army Parade whose music seemed to vie with the Road Race commentator for most of the afternoon. After the Junior Event in which Ian, John and Martin Shoemith took part, we were waiting to see how Ray would fare in the Senior Event. From the start he left the field and continued that way winning easily. Geoff stayed ahead with the following bunch and sprinted in the final 50 yards to take 6th place.

Early Monday morning we left the site and took the ferry to Antony for the start of the 10 Mile Time Trial. Only after the event finished did I have an idea of what the course was like - driving to the local for a pub lunch I thought it hilly enough. Times

for this event were as follows: - Geoff 26.41, Bob 26.45, Ted Pratt 31.08, Martin 26.47 and John 28.18 (inc. 1.11 late start). That evening the five of us, including Bob and Mary, took advantage of booking a trip up the Tamar by boat. The further we went the more tranquil it became - apart from the wildlife the only other people around were the salmon fishermen. We were to stop at Calstock for a quick drink in the local and retraced the route back to Plymouth.

The next race was held on the Plymouth Hoe Promenade - "Circuit Racing" - on the following, rather windy, afternoon. In the Junior Event, both Martin and John retired after being lapped while Ian stuck close to the leaders and finished in fine style. In the Senior Event, Ray came crashing down on the first bend having "rolled a tub" but quickly rejoined the race finishing in 9th place. He went on to claim 1st place in the second event. Unfortunately, Geoff had to retire from the first of these events with a bad case of cramp.

We were to revisit the Hoe on the following Thursday and were joined by John Eccles' father who was on a business trip in Plymouth at that time. He was to witness (and I believe capture on film) the disastrous start in the Junior Event. Ian determined to do even better than Tuesday's event, was up front when one of the juniors fell in front of him. He was unable to avoid the fallen rider and did an elegant somersault over his bike. Fortunately no bones were broken although his bike, only acquired some weeks beforehand, was, to put it mildly, a "write-off". Both John and Martin retired later in that event but Martin went on, in a further circuit race, to win for himself a case of Empro. In the first of the Senior Events, Ray took 3rd place and 1st place in the second of the Thirds Race.

However, on the Wednesday we made our way into Dartmoor for the Mountain Time Trial. Ray took a late start (27 secs.) but pounded away to record the fastest time of the S.W.R.C. (1.17.55) even though he suffered a tumble in Tavistock when a

pedestrian stepped out in front of him. Martin recorded 1.26.33, Geoff 1.28.07, Bob 1.34.16 and Ted 1.41.14 which, I gather, was better than his one of the year before. That afternoon we all assembled on the beach for a spot of sunbathing and some (Mary and John) were to brave the sea!

Friday saw us back at Antony for the 13½/24½ 2-Up Team Time Trial. In the 13½ mile event, the first off were John and Ian (Ian suffering from his fall the day before and riding Geoff's spare bike) who recorded 35.10. Next off in the same event were Ted and David Squirrell with a 3 minute late start. Unfortunately only a few miles up the road David was to puncture causing a further delay; their time 56.14. In the 24½ mile event Geoff and Bob recorded 1.07.38 and Ray and Martin 1.01.14. During this event, however, Mary and I made a quick visit to the Tamar Potteries which was very interesting. We were to return back to the campsite where Ray and Ted tried their hand at "fairly cakes". From the smells drifting out of their caravan during the week someone must have taken a cordon-bleu cookery course.

Saturday saw us back at Buckfastleigh for the 10 mile Time Trial. Times for this event were as follows:- Martin 25.13, Geoff 25.46, Bob 26.28, Ian 26.30. Bob and Mary had elected to return home after the event taking Ian who had decided against the Road Race the following day.

Only John and Martin took part but retired after two laps of what was to prove a gruelling race over part of the Mountain Time Trial course. For the first time during the week rain had fallen resulting in a series of nasty accidents in the Junior Event. Ray decided to opt out of the Senior Event and left for home leaving Keith Stockholm of the Romford C.C. (who had been staying with us for the week). Most of the field retired leaving only two groups of riders (about 15 in all). Keith keeping with the second group finished in 10th place.

We returned back to the Caravan site to start the second week of our holiday. It

of touring round the area. Perhaps our friend, Ed, finally caught the bug as he was persuaded to enter a local Club 10 on the Antony course mid week. He did a very creditable with Geoff recording. We also spent the remainder of the evening with the local Club by the banks of the river enjoying a bar-be-que.

We had hoped to return to Plymouth next year but have recently read that the Plymouth week has had to be cancelled owing to massive road works in the area. Well we made one year thanks to the organisation of Bob Squirrell.

Alison Parsons

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SECRETARIAL NOTES

I see from Cycletouring that Colin Quemby was in joint 10th place in this years BCTC final held in Scotland. A marvellous effort Colin and one that I envy, apart from riding ability a lot of general and not so general knowledge is required.

Again from Cycletouring, an article on a Randonnee event from Boulogne in France. The 80 km. ride covered very similar roads to our recent trip and mentions a very cruel climb to Doudeauville - they're not kidding, we met many similar climbs. I won't say more as no doubt Hon. Runs Secretary will say it better, but it was hard. However if they will put up with me I hope to go next time.

In case you don't know, Vera Reed moved on 29th October and her new address is 'Hope Cottage', 57 Ditton Road, Surbiton, Surrey (Phone 390 1993). She will be nearer many friends and the centre of club activity and I believe there is a nice little garden with resident "foxes".

Phil Parkinson Senior and company have moved to 'Bye The Way', The Rise, Ewell, Surrey KT17 1LY (Phone 393 1048). The Rise is off West Street in Ewell.

Phil says they like the new place - not many left in the Wandsworth area now.

Fred Parsons

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### ROAD RACING - 1981

Away back in May, Tony Fantham surprised himself (and us) with second spot in the Killington 2-day after second place on stage two, a fine performance. Mark Langman scored his first victory of 1981 in the Lytchett R/R in Dorset during the same weekend.

Our own events were well supported and the Junior race was won by my brother Colin with a solo breakaway after most of the opposition had fallen off in the wet conditions.

A man of many talents, Ray Ward won the Strongmans event around hilly Woldingham and sprinted to second spot in the Eastbourne Rovers event at Hellingly a few weeks later.

At Brooklands, Alan Parkinson showed the way home with "hands held high" for a considerable margin of victory, Ian Maylin (8th), Ian Huckle and Martin Shoesmith our other junior riders.

One of the main events of the year, the Surrey Divisional R/R had attracted a good field and nine S.W.R.C. riders. It was a tough 90 mile race based on Smallfields near Redhill. All of the breakaway groups contained at least one of our riders (sometimes two). First Tony with Ray Robinson doing some blocking for him, then Colin tried with Shaun Baker (Ross Wheelers) and later myself and Bob Anderson (Festival R.C.). Finally Steve Gowar eased off the front with two others and made the finish in second spot behind last years junior champion. This was Steves best ever performance to date and promises well for the future.

helping hand from Ray Robinson) and a real stamp of authority win at Beccree.  
After this latest win Steve said "its a great feeling to be able to control a race as well as compete in it".

Meanwhile Tony was still banging 53 x 12 to third place in the Twickenham R/R and 7th spot in the Tour of Surrey (42 x 21) for Hindhead?

The S. C. C. U. championships was won by Mark in late August and signalled the start of a remarkable series of races for him. For a week after he won this prestigious race the Redmon. "Falling leaves" was his too and then he rode a superb race for the Willesden R/R (putting Colin into 3rd spot) after a two-up break at the end of a tough race.

Paul Jones scored third too in the preceding 3rds only event making him a second cat. along with seven others in the club.

The Senior R. R. Champion is Mark Langman with 34 points, second Ray Ward with 23 points, third Colin with 22 points. Alan is the Junior Champion with 15 points.

Phil Parkinson Junior

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## OBITUARY

After a very short illness our old friend Len Harris died on September 10th and as Len was always such a fit person news of his death came as a great shock.

We, his contemporaries, who were able to gather at the ancient and beautiful church of Milborne Port on Wednesday September 16th, along with many friends of Len and Ivy, were, although saddened, able to say as some put it "we've had some great times together."

Len joined us in the very early days of the club and whilst he did not take his time trialling seriously he was such a natural rider that he would turn out the good times every so often and always posed a threat to those who were striving all the time.

In rough stuff events it was great to have Len as a member of your team, although with his irrepressible joy of the challenge and his skill which made it look all too easy, his presence was also a source of frustration.

On winter clubruns his impish good humour was the source of many light hearted pranks and the times when his bike riding skill came to the fore were legion, such as, for example, the tail enders in a narrow lane, suddenly finding Len perched above them astride his bike on a four foot bank having taken evasive action.

We would like to express our sympathies to Ivy, wish her encouragement and good health and thank her for her kindness and hospitality on September 16th.

Len's impish good humour and great bike riding skill was of the stuff that the fabric of our early club days were composed of.

Ted Shead.