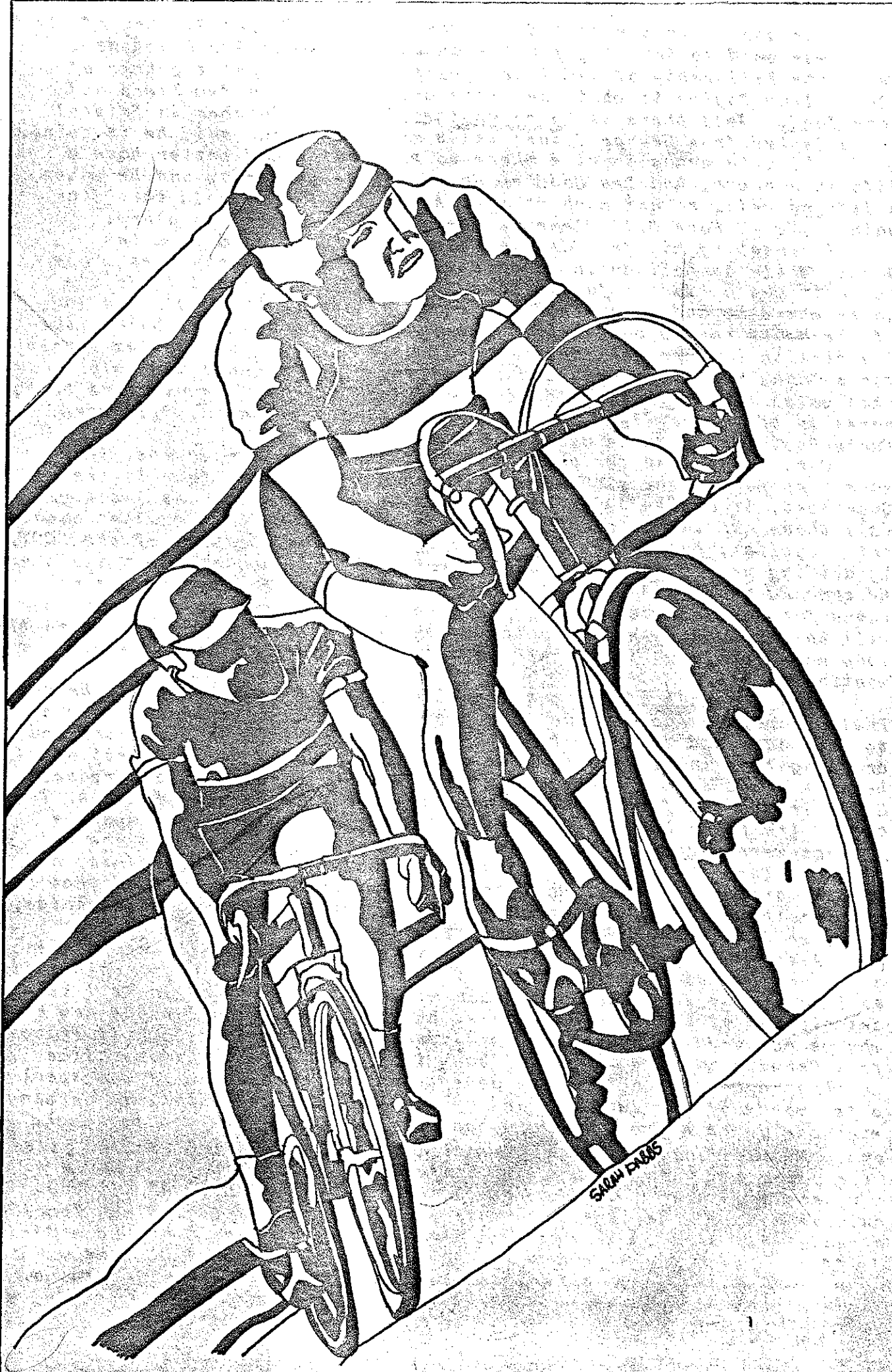


# South Western Road Club

NEWS

LETTER

BOOKS



SAM FRAS

I mentioned in the last NL of the visit I and Les Goodhew of the Belle Vue paid to Coventry for the annual lunch and AGM (such as it is) of the Fellowship of Old Time Cyclists. Just a get together of old cycling fogies to chat over this and that over a few beers and some food. Well there is to be another lunch in October in Bristol and a letter from George Oliver tells me that he has said he is going. Don't think he means to ride there so suppose he had better have a lift in our car, had Les Goodhew on the phone yesterday and he wants a lift as well, so not much choice. After all I have told them I am going D.V. Hope Bill Clements has also put down to go along.

Interesting bit from George Oliver who had a card from Les Warner while on holiday in Devon etc. Les and his party (Les wrote to me it was a Warner family tour) were in Luccombe and found the house where he and George had stayed on a tour in the '50'. The lady of the house now 90 but their names found in the visitors book. Like the digs in Bournemouth where many of us stayed for the Wessex Dinner for so many years. George and I call there for a cuppa and talk when we go to the Wessex and we always look back at the visitors book, names in there from 1960 and on. Bill Clem, Ted Shead, Bill Reed, Curly Robinson Art Smith and I don't know who else.

Card I got from Les shows the Youth Hostel at Crowcombe. Les says they passed the place we stayed on a club Easter tour to the Quantocks. It was in 1958 Les, an amazing 27 years ago. As Les says 'all those men in one room' an expression from one of the other guests not a cyclist, but a nasty motoring type so hated by some of the FCOT. My abiding memory is of the single bathroom and lavatory that was shared by some 20 people. As a then early riser I was alright, but the morning scene for the loo was pitiful for some. And it was cold. I remember Bill Reed returning early to the house because he was frozen. Also the long wait for lunch in Watchet because there were too many people wanting to eat.

Also a couple of letters from Les, full of news as usual. He and Phil apparently had a marvellous cycling holiday in France, crossing to Cherbourg and down and through Normandy to Blois on the Loire and crossing the river. Visited the chateau at Chambord (the best of all he says - not sure I agree) no doubt saw the marvellous staircase. 400 miles in the first week, then stay with friends near Bourges. Then car to the Haute Savoie. Cycled round the mountains, Les says the flowers were marvellous, the meadows one huge carpet of flowers and blossom. They both appear to have thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and Dorothy arrived on time. Phil decided that France was so good that he and Dorothy would stay there and tour by car. I think a good choice, Phil, we like France and are not all that keen on Italy.

Also had a card from Phil, he had ten days on the bike with Les, and then 10 days with Dorothy in the car. I see Ventoux is on his list so I assume he saw the Tom Simpson memorial. His list looks like a description of the Tour de France, but perhaps he and Dorothy now know why we returned to France so many times. We once came back to France from Germany and our Ann said 'back in France, isn't it nice, like putting on an old coat' They accept you in France, and if you speak a few words of the language or try to, they are delighted. In Germany everyone looks at you, and you have to watch the Italians too much.

In the recent National Championship 12 hour I did the 150 mile time check and this is just south of the motorway bridge at Newbury. A not very good spot. Geoff checked the numbers and I timed. It was raining most of the time and there was a lot of traffic. Glenn Longland already well ahead. We saw them at Savernake and again at Hungerford. Geoff just back from the Swansea area after a weeks holiday. He saw the Round the Houses race at Cardiff seen on Channel 4 the same evening. Where Sid Barras got away on the last lap. Says the speed is unbelievable and the skill incredible.

SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

ANNUAL A.G.M.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 10TH 1985 AT THE HOOK & SOUTHBOROUGH PARISH HALL AT 7-45 PM PROMPT.

YOUR ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO RULE 10: ANY MOTION ALTERING THE RULES OR THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB MUST BE GIVEN TO THE HON. SECRETARY IN WRITING AT LEAST TEN DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING AND NO SUCH MOTION SHALL BE CONSIDERED UNLESS AT LEAST THREE DAYS NOTICE OF THE MOTION IN WRITING HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ALL MEMBERS

R.E.SQUIRRELL  
GENERAL SECRETARY

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER:

OPEN CYCLOCROSS AT SHIRLEY HILLS, CROYDON FROM 11-00AM - MARSHALS & HELPERS URGENTLY NEEDED -SEE RAY ROBINSON OR JOHN BROMLEY

TUESDAY 12TH NOVEMBER:

SLIDE SHOW BY TONY NIXON & TONY FANTHAM CLUB ROOM, 8-00PM "BRITTANY TOUR"

TUESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER:

BRING & BUY SLAE AT THE CLUB ROOM 8-00PM

SATURDAY/SUNDAY  
23RD/24TH NOVEMBER

Y.H.A.WEEKEND

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER:

SLIDE SHOW BY LES WARNER "FRENCH TOUR" CLUB ROOM: 8-00PM

CLUB RUNS EACH SUNDAY FROM THE SPREAD EAGLE, EPSOM HIGH STREET  
AT 9-00AM.

TAKEN FROM 1973 T.T.REPORT

Two new members ride in first club "10" on the Hampton, Sunday 18th March. Glen Redman 29-23 & Tony Fantham 30-18

Sunday 26th March - West London C.A. "25" - Bath Road course, Ray Robinson records 1-3-43.

Sunday 2nd April, Hampton. Ray Ward returns to racing with 26-48 for club "10". Ray Robinson takes 1st Fastest & Handicap with 24-49.

Sunday April 8th, 34th Nomads 34 mile Hilly Two-up at Green-Street-Green. Bob Squirrell and Brian Morrison record 1-37-30, winning team Robin Buchan & Ray Runham 1-20-14.

Sunday 6th May, Club "25", Staines. Bill Squirrell 1st Fastest and Handicap with 1-8-00, Tony Fantham 1-16-12.

Sunday 27th May - Hounslow & Dist "100", Ray Robinson 4-55-23, Bob Squirrell 5-7-32.

Saturday 2nd June, Bill Squirrell records personal with 2-14-45 in Combine "50" on the Bath Road course.

Saturday 9th June - Bath Road "25", Mike Fantham records 1-2-35

Wednesday 13th June - Bob Simmons records 23-35 for "10" miles on the Bexley Course.

Thursday 14th June Bill Squirrell sets new course record for Chobham "10" - 25-50.

Sunday 1st July, Inter-club "25" against Charlotteville & Westerley 33 riders rode. Ray Robinson was the fastest club rider with 1-1-37. South Western took team award with Ray, Brian Morrison 1-1-38, Mike Fantham 1-3-35. Dave Kewell dusted off his machine and recorded 1-12-01.

Sunday 15th July - Geoff Parsons rides Westerley "100" (same course as to be used by us to promote National "100") in torrential rain with many parts of the course flooded. Three quarters of the field packed. Same morning Brian Morrison rode in V.T.T.A. "12hr" took third place with 222.54 miles.

Wednesday 18th. Bob Squirrell rides Whitewebbs "10" on F4. Records 24-48 personal best.

Saturday 21st Bill Squirrell rides in Vets National Championship "25" - personal beat with 1-3-58

Sunday 22nd July Southern Counties "100" - Mike Fantham rides his first "100" - records 4-47-48 years fastest.

Sunday 28th Mike Fantahm wins Inter-club "50" with 2-12-12.

Sunday 19th - We promote National "100" on the Bath Road course. Ian White wins with 3-59-59, Beryl Burton takes women's title with 4-6-???

Letter from Jack Geale dated 6.6.85:

Dear Fred, Many thanks for the last Newsletter, enclosed is a little more nostalgia. I hope you can read it.

Ted & I have recently been for a few days in France visiting friends in Paris, Rheims and Normandy and had a very good time.

After coming home I went back to France with Mary on a coach tour to the Dordogne, had absolutely perfect weather, I have never been down there in the spring, it's really beautiful.

Perhaps we will be able to come and see you all at the President's run Tea.

Cheerio for now,  
Jack.

Well, as we know now, this was not to be, none of us can take life for granted, it is sadly finite. The article Jack sent is below and is on one of the fabled club stories of the Bournemouth Run. Jack says he hopes I can read it, perhaps this explains the article Ted Shead handed me found on Jack's desk after he died. Precisely the same but the writing much worse, I think Jack decided that I could not read that one and re-wrote it. So a belated thanks for everything.

Bournemouth Run, somewhere between 1935-37

Jack Geale

The leaders of this epic run were George Mordan and Nob Fry, who I see still hold the club 100 mile Tandem record, Bert Collins and I being about 1m 30s slower than them on the same morning. we had 2nd team race with Ted Knowles and Fred Portch who still hold the 12 hours record. These records are over 50 years old, how about it you young ones?

To get back to the run. It was one of the rare occasions when we had booked breakfast lunch and tea, so we should have known all those who were coming. The meeting place was the Railway Hotel at Barnes (now the Red Rover) Time I imagine about 5.30 a.m. Anyway we all arrived plus one stranger, he had sprints and tubs which was really unforgiveable on a club run. We proceeded on our way. Esher Guildford Hogsback Farnham Alton Four Marks, Alresford to Winchester for breakfast. The cafe on the corner of Jewry St and North Walls is still there and every time I pass it I remember this particular day.

Lunch was booked for Christchurch and after passing through the beautiful New Forest via Lyndhurst and Ringwood we arrived at the lunch place. I thought we would have stopped then, but no, our leaders insisted on going on to Bournemouth and then back to Christchurch. I don't really remember the exact time of the year, but it must have been between the Balham Rough Stuff 25 and Easter, some of us had begun to flag badly during the ride through the Forest and had difficulty nursing each other. After lunch I remember we rode through some beautiful gardens and waste time looking at various things of interest.

Alresford is a long way from Christchurch. For some reason we decided to come back via Southampton. We had to stop on the old bridge at Totton, our friend with the sprints had to change a tyre. Here we saw the new George V Dock which had been opened shortly before.

In Winchester we tried to obtain a drink with no success. In those days there was no direct road from Winchester to Alresford, the route being through Kings Worthy and Itchen Abbas. I believe it was Nob who said he knew of a way over the top of the hill and onwards. This proved to be true, but it was a gravel unmade road (today it is a dual carriageway) We arrived at the teaplace very tired and very late. We had to have tea in the bar and be away before opening time.

We stopped for a cuppa at a cafe by the wooden bridge in Guildford (It's still there now) Eventually we reached home late and extremely tired, but very satisfied, having ridden 210 miles plus in the day.

I can still remember some of those who were with us, of course there was Nob and George Mordan, Gobbler Page, ? Marshall, Bill Clements, George Muncey, (HLS) Mainwaring, Bob Robshaw, Vic Harris, Fred Portch and Tom Burch.

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Ed: I spoke to Nobbie about this run at the recent club tea at Esher. He says he and George did not lead the run and mentioned Reg Spratley. He thinks there were two Bournemouth runs, one in the Intermediate section and one in the Road Club. I think he is right. I know there was a section run on June 3rd 1934 and I think the road club run was before this. The King George V dock was opened in 1933 so this seems to indicate a much earlier date. The first section run I attended was tea at Farnham on 10th June 1934 and I did not go out the week before because it was the Bournemouth run and was worried about keeping up. As it happened I rode 133 miles on that Sunday anyway. The Bournemouth run was also the talk of the section for a long time with mention of Tight cone Hill in the new Forest where Bessie Smith kept complaining that her cones were tight! I am sure Bert and Alice Batchelor were on the section run. Perhaps they can comment and perhaps either or both Bert Collins and/or Bill Clements will ask their memories and drop me a line.

Because of all the talk in the section I did a solo Bournemouth and back ride in August 1935, leaving home in Southfields at 3 a.m. on a Saturday morning, riding to Bournemouth and getting a card stamped in a post office and then riding home to stop in at Cyril Wren's (Uran's shop in Kingston, he then worked for a cycle shop in the London Road. Got home at about 10.30 having clocked 202 miles. Went out on the usual club run next day and did another 86 miles, I remember I could not ride Pebblecombe after tea, had to walk the top bit.

FCP

Again: Jack puts a ? and not an initial for Marshall, I presume he could not remember. also the (HLS) for Henry Mainwaring is for 'Heat Light and Sound' Henry was a science enthusiast and was always rattling on about that subject. Oddly I was in the same form as Henry at the Elliott school in Southfields, he lived then in Replingham Road.

FCP

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### Wiltshire Wanderings

Early in June I was riding home up the West Kennet Avenue. There was a car parked near the top and a lad and a man unloading pigeon baskets, the pigeons were duely released. I stop to chat and find that they come from near Farringdon, the man starts to tell the whereabouts of Farringdon, but I say we used to run a twelve hour cycling time trial that went through Farringdon, coming from Kingston Bagpuze and through Hatford. He said actually he lived in Hatford, in the house next to the village hall and they used to supply water for the event. We chatted about this and I asked about Mrs. Keen, she is now dead and the old house we spent so many week ends in, is now a newspaper shop.

Had a very surprise visit very recently from John and Rosemary Dunkley and the two boys. Spent a couple of hours or so here. John had come from Newbury from an event and was to meet a relative near there later to drop one of the boys for a holiday with relatives. One of these days we shall have to try to return the visit, they live in a house backing a canal not far from the M1 at Junction 15. We really ought to try to find a few spare days to get away, but as John and Rosemary found our calendar is pretty busy.

FCP

I have mentioned as a postscript my solo Bournemouth and back ride in August 1935, the weekend before, four of us in the section had spent the August weekend (then the first weekend in August) in the Cotswolds. Four of us, Archie Way (now in Tasmania) Derek Botting, Alec Tatchell and myself. Derek and Alec just vanished before the war, in the way riders do. Rode continuously with the section, then did not turn up and that was that.

We met at 3 pm on the Saturday afternoon (we worked in the morns then) at Railway Hotel at Barnes and had tea at Stokenchurch. I can remember us catching a lone rider near Beaconsfield, who simply joined our party to make an awkward five. We rode through West Wycombe to the lower slopes of Dashwood Hill and by common unspoken consent we maintained speed up the hill and the lone rider just went back.

Eighty miles to Burford and we stayed at Smiths in the Lower High Street. Round the villages on Sunday and Back home on the Monday doing part of the Ridgeway with tea at Sparrowfield.

On 18th August was the Marlborough night ride, John Dunkley the leader. Met at Richmond Bridge at midnight. It started raining at 2 a.m. and we stopped around five o'clock for tea at Mac's just past Theale. Mac's very well used by cyclists then, with the row of old railway carriages acting as sleeping accommodation for the time trials based on Pangbourne Lane. I reckon we had breakfast at the Green Dragon but it rained all day to 6.30 p.m. We covered 156 miles.

In September was the Woodstock Rally in Blenheim Park. Myself Archie and Derek went on the Saturday afternoon to stay at Watlington Youth Hostel. Went to the little local cinema in the evening. The person taking the money showing us to chairs in the hall, then closing the door at the right time and running the film! In the morning we met the section at Dorchester where they had breakfasted. They having met at Richmond at 4 a.m. under Reg Spratley.

On September 15th was the SWRC Low Gear 25, the gear had to be under 60 inches, and we used to put on 59.8 (46 with 20 cog on the then 26 inch wheels) a few weeks before and twiddle away on our fixed wheels. I rode that year, Alec Stevens was the timekeeper and the event started at 7 a.m. by the green at Esher just past the round about at the end of the Kingston by Pass. Incredible to think of it now. Up the hill through Esher to turn short of the first roundabout at Guildford, greeted by George 'Bumbles' Morden by "you're down on him you lazy young b----" I got a slow puncture at Ripley on the way home and only managed a 1.20.05. Cyril Uren won with 1.14.56 passing me on the way back at Cobham. Bert Batchelor did 1.19.8, Tom Burch did not finish, George Everett 1.15.33. Fred Portch 1.20.7. and Ted Knowles did not start. In the afternoon the Osterley Ghymkhana again with all the South Western D.A. and the Road Club having a high tea and high jinks to follow. At the end of September, our section left Richmond at 4 a.m. to marshall in the SWRC 12 at Maidenhead at 6 a.m. this in the old days of no finishing circuit and running out which could be hard going.

#### Twenty Five Years ago 1960

In August rode out to Hampton to time the club 25 with George Gilleland winning with 1.2.28. Earlier that month George Oliver and I had got on the train to Alton and ride to the farm at Bishops Waltham where Lucie's Guide Group were camping, chatted in the farm then lunch with the Guides (me but not George he wasn't chancing the cooking) He did however have tea with them and then back on the bikes to Alton for the run home. On the 25 September the Old Members 25 v the Belle Vue. Start at 6.30 at Hampton on an appallingly cold and dismal morning. We lost the team medals, a was outside evens and can remember that it was some time before I could move my fingers after the event, it was a sort of freezing fog and very unpleasant. Followed by a club tea run to Effingham, where there were 43 of us.

During a recent browse along the shelves of the local library, I came across "The Poetry of Motion" (An Anthology of Sporting Verse), edited by Alan Bold. And, surprise, surprise, the bicycle had not been forgotten.

Although flights of poetic fancy might not be your particular cup-of-tea (at least there ought to be a common factor of good rhythm!), I thought the following might be of interest.....

### *beryl and her bike\**

oooh here comes beryl such a sight  
for sore cyclists' eyes  
trim ankles turning  
blazing thighs burning up the road  
and miles ahead  
she shows a clean pair of wheels  
to all her trailing rivals  
perfect on her perfect bike  
beryl always beats the clock  
pure pleasure unalloyed is beryl  
for beryl is the best yes  
beryl is the best

beryl passes in a flash  
chromey spokes italian alloy gleam  
lovely clean machine flown by  
in a dazzling blink  
yes in the pink is beryl  
for beryl is the best  
and ever more shall  
be so

### *For Fausto Coppi (1916-60)*

When you were king of the mountains  
Fausto  
the kilometers hissed by  
like busy moments  
beneath your tyres  
and the pavé was no more  
than grit on your tongue  
young Italian girls  
threw wayside flowers  
as you ticked past  
spokes flashing in the sun  
and in the Tour de France  
peasants in the Alps  
leaned from windows and shouted  
'Allez Coppi!'  
and forgot their own man

I remember how  
you never seemed to lose  
and how  
you pushed your goggles  
on to the brow of your thin face  
and smiled as you crossed the line  
and how  
the photographers hounded  
your lady in white  
as she waited for her lean brown prince  
to race  
to her embrace

### *The Cyclist*

Every morning I see him pedalling past  
And wonder what the hell he's doing.  
He seems to be getting nowhere fast;  
He's always there, fro-ing and to-ing.

It's not so much an art as a skill;  
This method of using the old wheel.  
The cyclist negotiates a grim hill  
Sitting on a tubular triangle of steel.

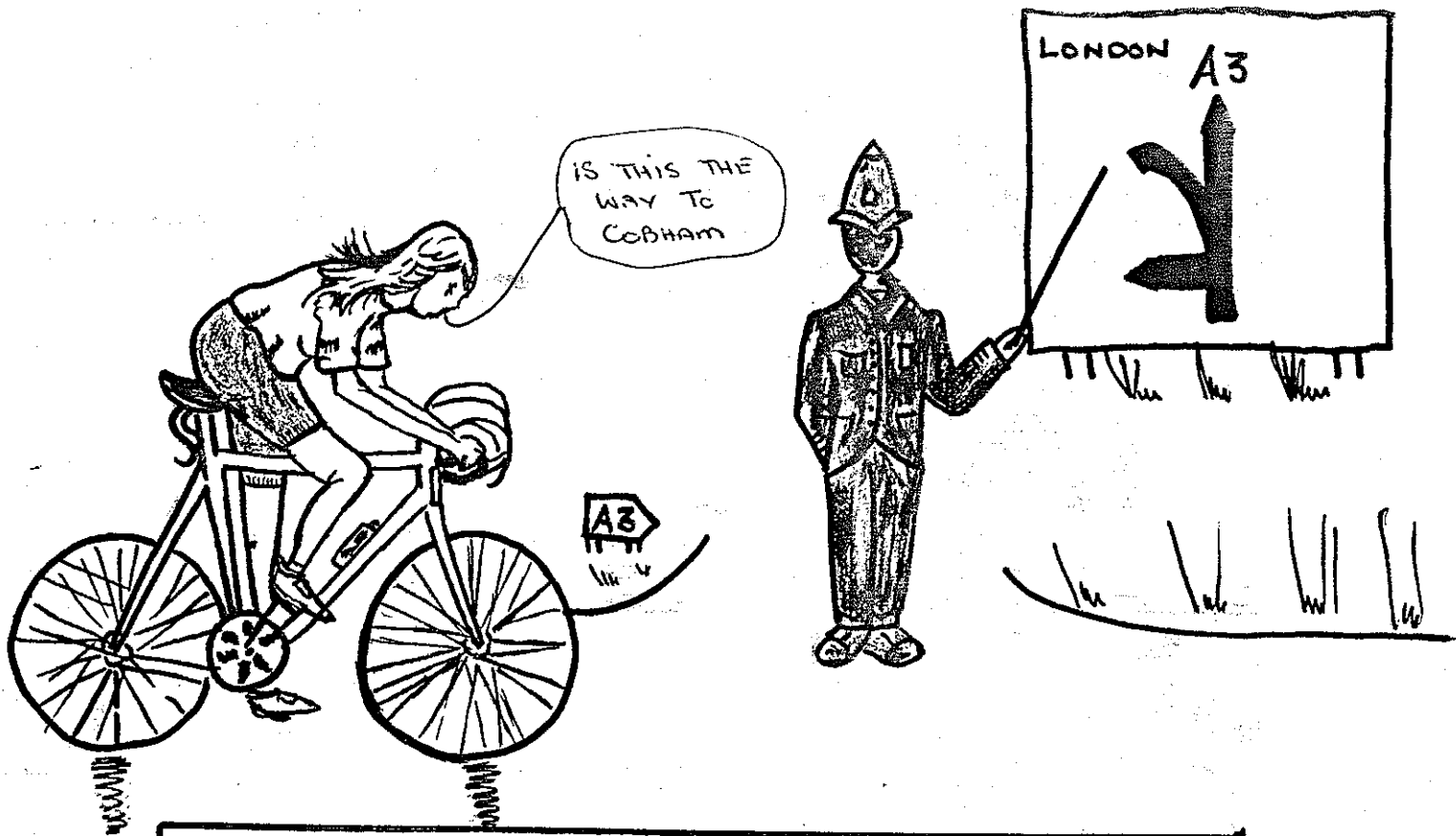
What's the point? Where's he going?  
Just somewhere away from here.  
So he goes through the motions, slowing  
Briefly as he changes gear.

There's pain in his face as he accelerates,  
Relief as he slowly slows down,  
Impatience as he stops and waits  
While the traffic lights conduct the town.

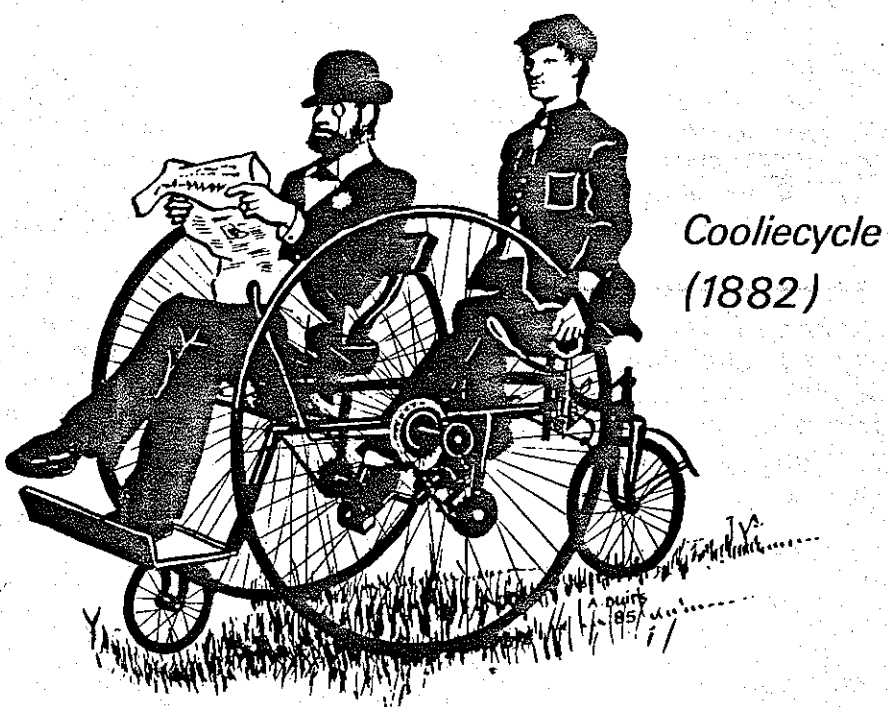
Still, he's out and about out there:  
That's his religious function.  
Bless him with a blue gust of warm air,  
Not mincing piety, not extreme unction.

And when that dread disease  
did for you  
as for any mortal  
I thought again of the pain  
that might have been  
behind the goggles and the tight grin  
behind the private smile  
for the waiting lady  
the quiet lady in white  
who waited at the line to give  
the greatest prize  
of all

But it's long gone now  
Fausto  
the flash pop picture press  
the gossip column glare  
has switched to another scene  
you can relax  
it's time to sit up in the saddle  
ride on the tops  
freewheel a little  
you're out in front  
and they'll never catch you  
now



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Winterbourne Monkton  
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September, 1985

As you will read in this issue, and as many of you will know already, we have lost another two of our founder members. Ted Shead tells me, that at the funeral of Jack Geale in July there were four founder members present. They would, I believe, have been Ted himself together with Ted Knowles, Bert Richards and Art Smith. Of the thirty original founders only Alf Cox, Art Harris, Gertie Kemp and Cyril Wren are around, plus the above four, to carry us on to our sixtieth birthday in 1990. This is not so far ahead and time has a habit of slipping away while we are not looking.

Everything and everybody has a beginning and an end, none of us is immortal, although in our youth we tend to think so. Throughout our life we begin various activities and end them, seldom realising that it is the first or the last time, and so it has been down the ages.

Do you remember the first time you rode a bike? as it happens I do, the bike wasn't mine and had a fixed wheel so I fell off, luckily without damage to myself or the bike! I did not get a bike of my own until July 1930 in the month of the founding of the club. Then it was second hand, it was to prove however, a magic carpet that has influenced my life ever since.

This July saw me join the ranks of the 'Super Vets', that is those that have had their allotted span of seventy years, and I have decided that the time has come to step down from the Presidency of the Club and hand over to presumably a younger person, be they male or female. We now have a very strong club with many able people to choose from. I will not be at the AGM in December and I wish whoever takes over well.

Further, I think it better that someone more in touch run the Newsletter. I am too far away and cannot exercise the control I would like. This is a very worthwhile job, we have a lot of distant members who like to know what is going on, as the list of members indicates. I shall be happy to contribute if so desired, with the 50 years ago items, probably someone else could do a good job of 25 years ago (if anyone has any records!) Also with Wiltshire Wanderings if any come along.

I was out on the bike this morning, round the local lanes riding through the almost never changing landscape with its' reminders of the long distant past, the long and round barrows (they didn't have three wheeled ones then) the ancient stones that mark the cradle of English Civilisation that is the Avebury area.

Fred Parsons.

PONDER ON THE PRESIDENT

As this issue of the NewsLetter will probably be the last before this year's Annual General Meeting in December, it might be opportune now to put forward as "food for thought" an idea that I have been mulling-over for some time on the subject of the position of President of the Club.

I have the impression, both from what I have heard in general conversation and on the evidence of what happened at the 1983 and 1984 AGMs, that we have at the moment in Fred Parsons a President of some reluctance. He made it clear on the occasion of his last election that he was not particularly keen to continue, but that he would do so if it was the wish of those members attending the general meeting - and if nobody else wanted to "take it on". It seemed that nobody did want Fred to be replaced, nor personally to replace him, although there is of course always bound to be a measure of embarrassment in electing somebody new to a position of this kind when the present incumbent doesn't actually resign. You don't like to "hurt his feelings".

As far as Fred is concerned, he must obviously find himself at some disadvantage nowadays in that he lives quite some distance away from the centre of Road Club activities: he is thus rarely able to attend a clubroom evening, or even to take the Chair at Committee meetings, so cannot have his finger on the pulse of SWRC life. It is probably only his position as Editor of the NewsLetter, and possibly his time-keeper activity, that keeps him in sort sort of touch with what is going on. I know that it is not essential (though in the past it has been regarded as the norm) for the President also to be Chairman of Committee meetings, but the Club does not make any provision for the election of a Chairman other than within the Committee itself - which seems to me to lack the benefit of continuity and thus be rather "hit and miss".

Assuming (or presuming!) that we have no "involved" members wishing to take on the role of President, which does seem to be the case, would it not be better if we were to provide in our Rules for the election at the AGM of both a President and a

Chairman, just as a number of similar organisations do? It should not really be difficult to find (persuade?) a more active, perhaps younger, member to accept the position of Chairman for the purpose of Committee meetings, thus ensuring that the person in that position is au fait with the everyday running of the Club and its racing/touring/social activities. The Presidency could then be regarded simply as a position of honour to be conferred on any member, old or young - male or female, whom the Club wished so to honour, perhaps for either previous service or years of membership. It should be restricted to a specified period (I suggest not more than three years), and would entitle the person concerned to preside at the Annual Luncheon/Dinner if he or she so wished. Whether the President or the Chairman should take the Chair at the AGM is open to debate, but is not particularly important here.

I do not think it will be very satisfactory if we find ourselves at the next AGM in the same sort of position regarding the President's election as we were at the last one - and, I believe (I was not there) at the one before that. Having been away from the centre of activities for a few years, and not being very much involved even now, I hesitate to presume to put an appropriate motion about this matter on the agenda for the next AGM. I might be prompted to do so, however, if I had some indication that members generally feel it merits further serious thought and discussion.

For or against, why don't you drop me a line and let me know how you feel about it?

Les Warner  
The Stiles  
22 Marshall Road  
Godalming Surrey GU7 3AS

23/9/85

## TIME TRIAL PROMOTION

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to drop our "10" and "25" mile promotions. This step was taken after long discussions on courses - their safety aspect and the distance members had to travel to help.

It had been suggested over the past couple of years that we should try and promote nearer London, it was also suggested that it should be a non-distance hilly event over 30/35 miles with possibly Dorking being the H.Q.

With this all in mind I contacted Rod Starmer of London South (we are a London West Club). This suggestion was welcomed, but the last London South committee meeting which would be able to approve a course was due to meet on the following Tuesday, therefore I 'phoned him on Wednesday evening, after our meeting.

So it was out with the Surrey map with pen and paper. The result you will see following the letter. On the 8th October, Rod 'phoned me to say our event had been approved but, what date did we want. Taking in mind the established events already promoted in the area and events which had already been booked, I settled for Easter Sunday, 30th March (put this in your new diary that you get at Christmas!) with a 9.00am start. Our promoter will be Charlie Bayliss who again, has offered his help. There is to be a special prize for the fastest climb of Coldharbour Hill which has been donated by Mac MacDonald.

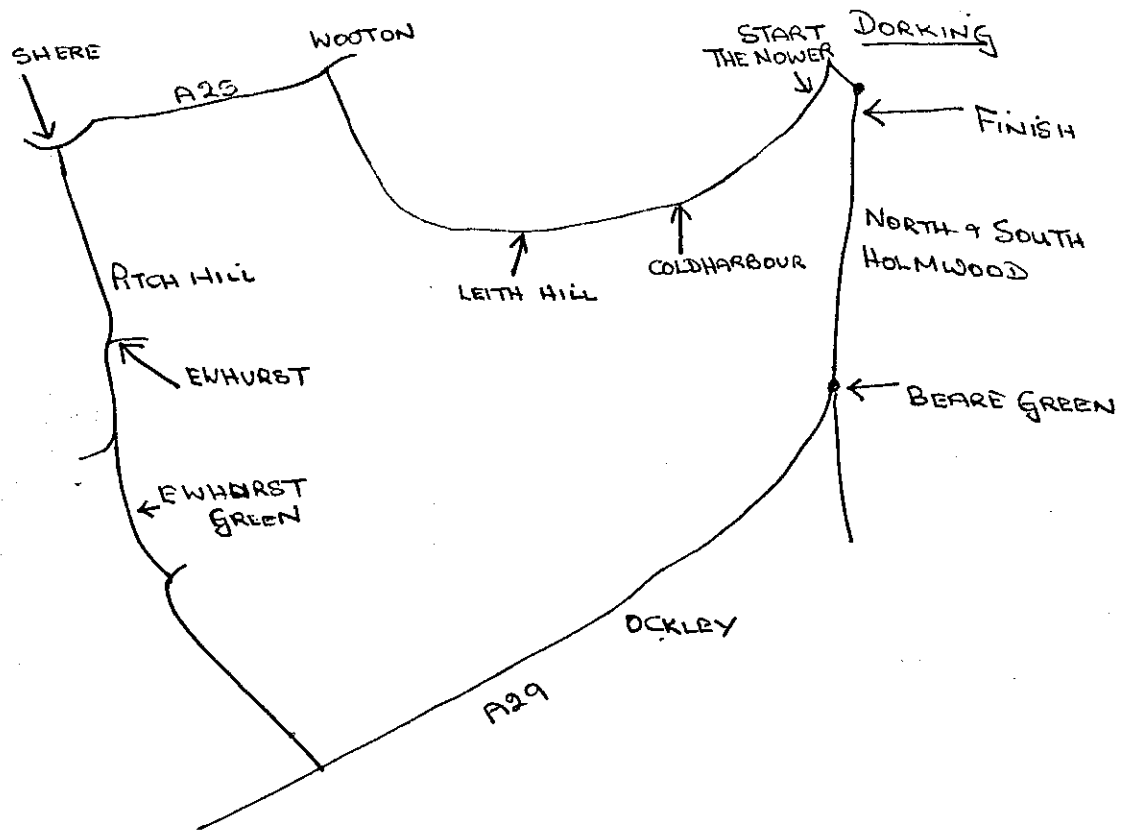
Going on from the above promotion, it has been the wish of a few members that we take the step and run an Audex type event but, under U.B.I. rules (you don't have to have mudguards or saddlebags). Many members have over the past years ridden in these type of events. With Bill Squirrell willing to act as event secretary it was put to the committee, who gave a very big "YES".

So, on July 6th we are promoting a U.B.I. event from Hersham to Portsmouth and back - a distance of 193km.

Bob Squirrell

General Secretary

# OPEN 35 mile HILLY TIME TRIAL COURSE



DON'T FORGET THE DATE - SUNDAY / 30TH MARCH

Louis MacNeice

1907-63

### *The Cyclist*

Freewheeling down the escarpment past the unpassing horse  
Blazoned in chalk the wind he causes in passing  
Cools the sweat of his neck, making him one with the sky,  
In the heat of the handlebars he grasps the summer  
Being a boy and to-day a parenthesis  
Between the horizon's brackets; the main sentence  
Is to be picked up later but these five minutes  
Are all to-day and summer. The dragonfly  
Rises without take-off, horizontal,  
Underlining itself in a sliver of peacock light.

And glaring, glaring white  
The horse on the down moves within his brackets,  
The grass boils with grasshoppers, a pebble  
Scutters from under the wheel and all this country  
Is spattered white with boys riding their heat-wave,  
Feet on a narrow plank and hair thrown back

And a surf of dust beneath them. Summer, summer -  
They chase it with butterfly nets or strike it into the deep  
In a little red ball or gulp it lathered with cream  
Or drink it through closed eyelids; until the bell  
Left-right-left gives his forgotten sentence  
And reaching the valley the boy must pedal again  
Left-right-left but meanwhile  
For ten seconds more can move as the horse in the chalk  
Moves unbeginningly calmly  
Calmly regardless of tenses and final clauses  
Calmly unendingly moves.

It is sad to realise that our old friend and clubmate Jack Geale is no longer with us. He was one of my contemporary racing men in the 30's. A very strong rider who figured well in the many events in which he rode, notably the Balham Rough Stuff '25' which he won in February 1933 with the excellent time of 1.48.11, in conditions of snow, slush and rain, backed up by Art Harris (3rd) Harry Ferrris (8th) and Len Harris (9th), the South Western Road Club won the team with 5.30.26. Cycling of this date shows a picture of him with Art Harris taken after the event.

Cycling of September 1933 also shows a picture of him after riding well in the Westerley 100 when he was placed 3rd fastest in 4.45.24 and gained 1st handicap from a very fast field. Brumell won in 4.41.9.

An incident is recalled when Jack and I had entered the Anerley 12 hours in this year, but it was not our day and having packed at Arundel, the far turn, we retraced our route and having reached Cowfold we dined in the transport cafe there on the half crown (12½p) that I carried tied up in a handkerchief and pinned to my alpaca jacket, staving off the hunger knock until we reached our 'digs' in the Crawley area. Long runs were a feature of club life, all on fixed wheels then, and Jack & I suffered horribly when we elected to ride singles on a tandem run to Bath one Sunday, tea at Theale on the way back.

I joined in one or two runs to Upham in Hampshire where there was a very good CTC appointment, and it was here that Jack and Ted Knowles with their wives became aware of the attractions of farming life, so forsaking town, set up from scratch their own farm, to move later to Brooklands Farm, now one of the foremost dairy farms in Hampshire.

Came the war and I found myself working in Brighton, so holidays being restricted in those troublous times I used to ride over and give a hand to them in haymaking and harvesting, hard work, but the stoked sheaves were a gratifying spectacle, and afterwards sharing their extra war time cheese ration and the culinary delights served by Jack's Sylvia and Ted's Hilda.

Jack was always a good clubman and helped in the Wessex 24 hours when called upon and enjoyed with Ted the cycling atmosphere, and the conversation with some of his contemporaries who attend the Wessex Dinner each year. We shall miss his jovial presence too, at our own functions, but he will always be remembered as a founder member of our club.

SGO

Ed: Thanks George, we older members all have our memories of the farm and those who lived there. The camping holidays of the 50's and the get togethers. Also the CTC house at Upham, the section also used this and a fine one it was. First time I was there was October 1935 on a week end. I know on one occasion we visited Sciviers Lane, but not sure when. Ted Knowles may like to comment on the days he spent at Upham. Jack and Sylvia went later, I have the start sheet for the Westerley 100 of August 1936 where Jack Geale was one of the SWRC team, the others were Vic Harris and Bumbles Mordan (he gave me the start sheet) That was the occasion Bumbles set club record with 4.37.25. A point of interest from the start sheet is that Will Townsend was shown as President of the Westerley even then. He told me earlier this year that he took over the presidency in 1928 and still holds the office to this day. The winner of the event was Frank Eipscombe with 4.29.6, I believe only the second or third ride inside 4.30. But they were different days and road conditions.

F.C.P.

## Obituary:

Jack Geale, one of our founder members died on July 3rd, 1985. During the 55 years, since 1930, Jack retained his interest in the club and its' affairs, and as you know has recently written articles for the Newsletter, revealing his knowledge and memory of past events.

Right from the onset of the club's life Jack was a prominent figure; his great physical strength and determination caused him to excel in many open events, setting standards for many of us, and his wish to do things the right way caused him to play an active part in the Club's organisation.

Early in the war, Jack and Sylvia joined Ted and Hilda in their family venture at Upham, later, the farm at Bishops Waltham was acquired, and Brooklands Farm became part of the SWRC's way of life, as many of us know.

With Jack's passing we have lost a good clubman, but we thank him for all he helped to build. Our sympathy is extended to Mary, Ted, John, Pam, Sylvia and Michael, and our thanks to them for the many happy times he, and they, have given so many of us over the years.

Ted Shead.

Tom McCall Senior, another of our founder members also died recently in the middle of June. Tom was not a racing man, but one of those who helped the club in it's formative years. He was essentially a tourist and club run man and I first met him in June 1934 with the Intermediate section of the CTC. In those years he was on many section runs and I with others also spent several Youth Hostel week ends, generally cooking our own meals, along the south coast. Nobbie Fry tells me that Tom only cycled in the summer and that in the winter he played football. Tom also was one of those who kept in touch over the years and was generally at our Annual Reunions. I wrote to young Tom on behalf of the club to express our sympathy, as he says 'Dad always had a great feeling for the SWRC although he only kept in distant touch'.

FCP

## ----- Wiltshire Wanderings

Letter from Rita Robinson following the last NL. Says it reminds her of the old days when she was a member of the Southern Ladies. She has a photo of a group of them taken after a '25' and wonders where the rest are now. She also rode in the Rosslyn Ladies 12 hours doing 177 miles plus 4 yards and has a medal to prove it. She asked about Vera Reed's new address and it is 15 Thornhill Road, Surbiton, Surrey (phone the same). I expect Vera will be down here again some time, Rita, have to get together again.

That defatigable letter writer George Oliver has had a letter from Rene Cox at Ashford, couple of months old now. They don't like the time of the year for the club re-union, too much risk of ice, and they were right this year. John doing the heavy work down there now. They are always glad to get news of the reducing number of old 'uns,

Had a note from Elsie Buckoke recently, together with a Cycling book she found in a local stall, near 30 year old book on Road Racing, which I remember at the time. Says she recently found two £1 notes in Balham High Road, and reckons that George Oliver is falling down on the job these days!

George has heard from Ron Gould, who is rather poorly and has been in hospital for an operation, all sounds unpleasant. Letter written mid May so hopefully he is back home again and improving. Jacqueline and family doing well. We ought to try to meet somewhere Ron, but I guess it is not so easy. Note to S.G.O I will post the Belle Vue mags on to Ron with this NL.

FCP

## DAY TRIP TO SEE TOUR - 3RD JULY

After Tony Fantham and Simon Broad had loaded up the mini-bus that we had hired we were off in the direction of Newhaven to catch the 11-30pm boat to Dieppe. With twelve bikes on the roof and 3 inside it was a bit cramped but, we got by with the help of the jokers in the group.

Soon we arrived at Newhaven, collected our tickets and proceeded to wait for the ferry. While waiting several other bikies booked in including the Redhill C.C. being lead by John Eglinton. With about ½hr to go two motorbikes roared into the car park with Mike Bishop and Bill Roulston on one and Bill Beagle with his son on the other. They too off to see the tour.

Most of the party got their heads down for a few hours while some held up the bar. All too soon we were leaving the boat for our ride to Neufchâtel about 30miles inland, to see the start of the days stage. Although it was roundabout 7-00am it was becoming very warm, so it was a quick stop to discard track tops ect. Now we were off the main road it was time to find a bar for morning coffee. Using our beat French, or should I say " Our Worst", we managed to buy our coffee with French Bread and jam

With time pressing on it was back in the saddle to Neufchâtel. Here we were greeted by a carnival atmosphere with all the towns roads closed. After watching the various team cars arrive with riders we made our way to the signing on area. It was here one could rub shoulders with all the big names of tour, this included not only the stars of today but those of years gone by who have now become managers etc. We looked out for our own Ray Robinson who was the mechanic for the womans G B team but he was already making his way up the road. Tony Fantham and Wendy disappeared off to get photos and autographs including one on her tee-shirt, I believe it was Kim Andersons.

It was now coming up to 11-00am and the riders started to line up for the short ride up the main street. Now all the horns, rattles and whistles were going and the riders were away for yet another day in the saddle. It didn't take long for the town to get back to normal. Children make their way back to school, shops re-opened and the cavalcade made its way along to yet another town

For us it was back to Dieppe in the sunshine. All too soon we were back on the boat and docking at Newhaven.

Bob Squirrell.

### Late News

A full time trail and road race report we be printed in our next issue.

Congratulations to Dave Smith who during September road John o Groats to Lands End for charity. He has been awarded by the committee the Most Meritorious Trophy for 1985.

Well done to Terry Bayliss on his 4-34-00 for his first "100", also to Andy Murrey for his 57-06 for a "25", fastest in the club this year

1. How many times did Merckx win Liege-Bastogne-Liege? \_\_\_\_\_
2. In what year was Tom Simpson 2nd in Paris-Brussels? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which British rider won Grand Prix de Frankfurt and what year. A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Two riders have won the Tour of Italy 5 times - who are they? A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many times did Gino Bartali win Milan-San-Temo 2,4,5 \_\_\_\_\_
6. In 1949 a rider won Fleche Wallone, nine years later he won again, who was he? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Which British Professional recorded 4 hrs 18 mins for the London to Brighton and Back record? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In which year was the Inaugural Paris-Roubaix 1882-1896-1898 and who won it? A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. \_\_\_\_\_
9. A Belgium rider by the name of de Vlaeminck won the professional cyclo-cross championships five times up to 1972. Which deVlaeminck was it A. \_\_\_\_\_  
What years. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Who won the King of the Mountains in the 1959 Tour of Italy and what was his nickname. A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
11. How many times did Hugh Porter win the World Professional Pursuit up to 1972? \_\_\_\_\_
12. He won the Dauphine-Libéré and Tour de France in 1975 - who was he? \_\_\_\_\_

## Head and shoulders above opposition

NATIONAL champion Steve Douce (T-Shirts Sales-Dauphin Sport) completed a weekend double when he won the South Western RC, WF Holdsworth Cycles (Putney) sponsored cyclo-cross at Shirley Hills, Croydon, on Sunday.

Douce was head and shoulders above the other 57 riders in what was the first race in the London League series. The only opposition he faced came from his former Wembley RC teammate Dave McMullen and professional Peter Sanders (Polar Pools) but even though the pair were second and third respectively Douce was in a class of his own.

Dry conditions made for a fast race and roadman Sanders was in second place as soon as

the flag dropped just behind Barry Clark (Surrey RCC) who led for the first 100 yards.

As soon as the race hit the wooded section Douce took the lead followed by Sanders. He began to pull away, his experience more than cancelling Sanders' fitness from a long road season.

After two laps Douce led by 12 seconds, then it was 25 seconds, and two laps later it had gone out to over one minute.

If the race for first place was virtually over the battle for second place provided the day's excitement. For a while it looked as though Sanders was going to take it, but that was before McMullen took the bit between his teeth. He had a bad start when another rider rode into his back wheel, and was in 20th spot on the opening

lap. A determined effort saw him riding through the field and with four laps of the 11-lap race gone he was into fourth place behind Douce, Sanders and Graham Douce (Wembley RCC). It took McMullen four more laps to pass Graham Douce and then he set about catching Sanders to relegate him to third place.

Steve Douce was hardly out of breath when he finished. "I just rode around today," he said. "I was a bit tired after yesterday but I didn't find it too bad". He even admitted to having been out training earlier in the day.

Bus driver McMullen was happy to have overcome his bad start. "I thought it was going to be one of those weekends," he said. "I fell off on Saturday at Nottingham after only three laps and today I had

that bad start. I was upset after driving all that way yesterday and not finishing."

Professional Sanders is riding 'cross "to keep fit." "Cyclo-cross is probably the best way of keeping fit during the winter," he said.

He had lost his second place in the closing miles. "I fell and McMullen took his chance and got by me," he said.

STEVE DOUCE (T-Shirt Sales-Dauphin Sport) 11 laps in 1-9-42; 2, D McMullen (Wembley RC) at 2-2; 3, P. Sanders (Polar Pools) at 3-55; 4, G. Douce (Wembley RC); 5, B. Clark (Surrey RCC); 6, M. Bell (London Fire Brigade); 7, D. Rosbotham (Festival RC); at 1 lap: 8, B. Coomber (Regent CC); 9, G. Pearson (Surrey RCC); 10, N. Luxton (VC Elan). Vets. - A. Ellis (VC Elan). Team. - Surrey RCC.

Juveniles. - MATTHEW STAREY (Clarencourt CC); 2, P. Hanson (VC Elan); 3, M. Briggs (Clarencourt CC).

Under-12s. - BRIAN CURTIS (South Western RC); 2, L. Kemp (Regent CC); 3, A. Pollard (Regent CC).

DAVID TAYLOR

ANSWERS: (1) 3 (2) 1963 (3) Barry Hoban, 1966 (4) Binda, Coppi (5) 4 (6) Van Steenbergen (7) Les West (8) 1896, Josef Fischer (9) Eric 68,69,70,71,72, (10) Charlie Gaul, Angel (11) 3 (12) Bernard Thevenet