

SWRC / F.W Evans Cycles (Woking)

ANNUAL REPORT 1990

The club entered 1990 on a slightly different basis to its previous 59 years having taken on a sponsorship from John Oakes of FW Evans Cycles in Woking. New jerseys, shorts and other clothing arrived as we geared up for our Diamond anniversary year.

In January, Ray Robinson and Brian Wareham promoted the annual cyclo cross at Shirley Hills in Croydon. It was a well attended event and many club members were out on the day to help. Shimano again put up a good prize list and as a result of this excellent race (and those that have gone before) we were invited to tender and will now be running The National Veterans cross championships in January 1991.

Bill & Margaret Squirrell organised a cycle jumble in late January which proved very popular and seems also to have become an annual event for the club. Bill & Margaret also looked after the 59th annual reunion in February at the Surrey Hills Hotel where members gathered for a Sunday lunch and prize presentation.

The clubs training weekend to Bournemouth had 23 members participating staying overnight with an 85 mile ride each day in glorious spring sunshine. This was sandwiched between the opening race of the year; our two-up series which had 11 teams of two competing and saw Phil Parkinson (junior) and Steve Gowar win.

In two seperate evenings members at the clubroom enjoyed Barry Hoban speaking about his racing career and Tony Doyle and Russell Williams, the two Ever Ready professionals, talking about their racing, training and bicycles.

Ray and Brian promoted a Surrey League event on behalf of the club in April and our open road race sponsored once again by Shimano, both around the Ewhurst circuit. These were very successful races with good fields and plenty of spectators at the finish outside the Parrot pub in Forest Green.

Charlie Bayliss had a few problems in June in organising the Open 10 at Dorking. These were overcome although the smallish field was a disappointment.

The clubs randonnee from Esher to Portsmouth and back in conjunction with the UBI had a reasonable entry with many club members competing. It was a wet day though and rained for several hours. This was followed by a weekend in France for 11 clubmen and 2 women on the Paris to Rouboix randonnee. Special mention should be made of Dave Wright in his comeback year, Leo Speck, Ken Dolman and both Annie Potter and Caroline Schouten who all got round. Dave Lucas went to France to ride in the Tom Simpson randonnee over the famous Ventoux climb.

In a similar mode, those with lesser ambition but equal determination attacked the London to Brighton ride for the British Heart Foundation.

On the time trial front, John Oakes rode consistently well and broke the club 25 record with 54-57. John won the club BAR championship in addition to fastest rides at 10, 25 and 50 miles. Leo Speck took the Screwed Down trophy but walked away with the Junior BAR after a year interrupted by exams. Leo also broke the club junior 25 record with 57-12. Duncan Wright rode a few time trials in his first year and was rewarded with the Schools Championship. Several open events were won by club members during the year. Phil Parkinson (Senior) won the Vets trophy

by a good margin and took the Bill Reed Memorial trophy for good measure. There was a good sprinkling of personal bests throughout the year and several standard medals were won. The club events programme was well supported with Paul Cannon winning the Points trophy and Charlie Bayliss the Handicap award.

Road racing activity was consistent throughout the year if not spectacular. Steve Gowar had a difficult season with illness but rode well enough most of the time to win the Senior road race title. Lee Fleming won the 3rd cat road race trophy after several placings. Mark Langham, Brian Wareham, Tony Fantham and Ray Robinson were amongst those who rode the Surrey League whilst Dave Wright, Dave Jordan, Robert Squirrell and Barry Packman rode the Age related veterans series. The club assisted Barry on one event with his initial promotion which proved a great success to those riding in the Surrey area. Regretfully neither the schoolboy or junior championships was awarded.

Track racing suffered during the year with the loss of Paddington and although the club had offered to promote a meeting at Herne Hill, organisation problems at the track end caused this to be abandoned.

In July the club had a birthday tea party in the garden of Phil Parkinson at Ewell. It was a pleasant day with good weather and 70 people helped celebrate 60 years.

In the autumn, a number of club members went to Boulogne for a randonnee weekend: a "family" weekend on a relaxed non-competitive circuit enjoyed by all.

Our invitation Hilly time trial exceeded all expectations in October and gave the club (and its sponsor) great publicity. A quality field with most of the countries well-known names including Chris Boardman and Graeme Obree faced an undulating 50km course. Boardman came out on top over Obree and Simon Lillestone. John Oakes must take credit for putting the field together and providing a tremendous prize list (over £1500). Bob Squirrell ensured plenty of marshalls were out. We hope that the event will grow in the years to come and already bigger and better proposals are in the pipeline for 1991.

In September Steve Douce and Barry Clark, cyclo cross experts and national champions, along with Bob Arnold their mechanic spent an evening talking at the clubroom giving advice on Cyclo cross and its facets.

Steve Gowar came home first in the club hill climb championship over West Hanger Hill near East Clandon while Duncan Wright beat his elders in the speed judging contest. Club runs continue to be well supported and mountain-bike rides are flourishing as this new side of the sport develops very rapidly.

Tony Fantham triumphed in a roller racing competition held at the club room as the social season set in. Caroline and Phil put together 3 club magazines with contributions from many different sources during the year.

At the close of the year, the club celebrated its 60th annual reunion returning to a Saturday night dinner dance which was well received in particular by the younger members and Dennis McKeown! Mick Aycliff spoke and Les Wareham replied for the club in a memorable evening. Bill and Margaret stepped down from their position as social events organisers and were awarded The Most Meritorious Performance award for their support within the club over a number of years.

11.12.90

Philip Parkinson Hon. General Secretary