



SWRC



SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

sponsored by

**EVANS**

CYCLES WOKING

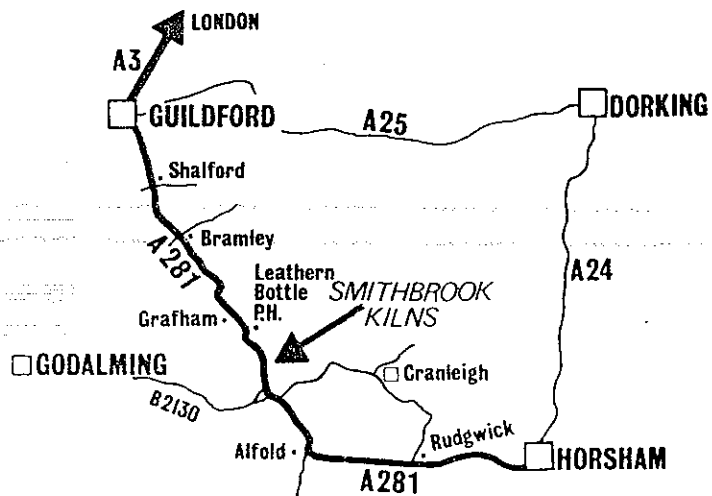
club magazine  
autumn 1992



### XMAS TEA PARTY

This will be held on Sunday 20th December 1992 at Bricks Restaurant, Smithbrook Kilns, Horsham Road, Cranleigh from 4pm to 8pm. The cost is £3.00 per person for tea, cakes, etc, etc. Contact David Wright on 081 398 7717 to book your place.

Bricks restaurant is a small cafe in the refurbished brickworks at Smithbrook Kilns. You will find it located on the side away from the main road near the mountain bike shop.



### CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT THE FARM CAFE

This popular occasion is being held again at the famous farm cafe near Hungry Hill. There will be a Christmas menu and a glass of wine is included in the cost. Start time is 12 O'clock mid-day on Saturday 12th December. Entry fee is £13.50. A £5.00 deposit is required and this should be sent to either Gary Smith at Woodstock, Mole Street, Ockley, RH5 5PB or Bob Maylin at 66 Warene Road, Fetcham, KT22 9TY.

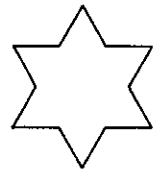
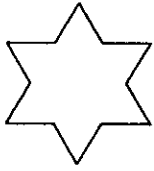
### CHRISTMAS QUIZ

There will be a christmas trivia quiz on Tuesday 15th December at the clubroom. This will be teams of three. Entry fee for each team will be £1.50 (or 50p each!).

Of course, there will be a suitably festive prize for the winning team.

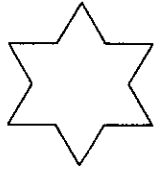
Chairman and question master will be the Hon. Gen. Sec. to whom team entries should be sent or given.

YES FOLKS, IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN -



# CHRISTMAS DINNER & DANCE AND PRIZE PRESENTATION

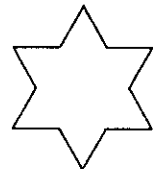
SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 1992  
COLETS, SPEER ROAD, THAMES DITTON  
(SAME VENUE AS LAST YEAR)



£15.00 per head

6.30 for 7.00pm

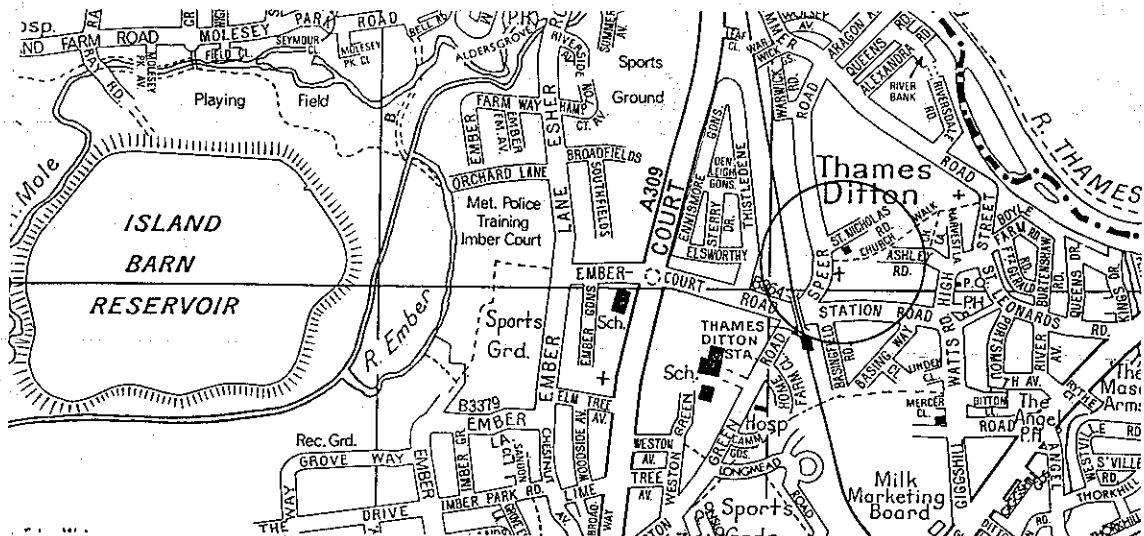
Full Christmas menu



Wine will be sold at £5.00 per bottle (house red or white)  
until end of main course after which this will be at their  
normal price of £6.50 per bottle.

Phone or write to David Wright,  
The Corner House, Weston Green Road,  
Thames Ditton, KT7 0JL. 081 398 7717

Please advise if a vegetarian meal is required.  
There will be a juke box playing - not a disco.  
Your choice of music welcomed, let Dave know before the day.  
A separate room is also available for those wishing to chat!



## SOUTH WESTERN RC

### PROPOSED CLUB SPONSORSHIP FOR 1993

#### Background

The SWRC was initially sponsored in January 1990 by the cycle shop FW Evans (Woking) and has now completed three years of sponsorship with this company. The original sponsorship deal was set up with Mr. John Oakes who was the manager at the Woking shop and also a club member. Basically this deal was for Evans to supply 75 pairs of racing shorts for the membership at no charge during the year. Club racing jerseys would be made available at cost price and Evans (Woking) badges which were to be made available and sewn on existing club jerseys if necessary.

In fact, due to the difficulty of ensuring club members wore a registered club jersey when racing, jerseys were supplied free of charge and racing shorts were sold at a cost of £10 each. Yellow training tops were also supplied at a discounted cost of £10.

John Oakes left Evans Woking at the end of 1990 and the management of the shop was taken over by Mike Smith who is still in charge. Mike continued to sponsor the club in 1991 but due to difficult trading conditions, the clothing made available was reduced to about 25 jerseys (free) while shorts were still provided at £10 each. Mike has since joined the SWRC and ridden a couple of our club time trials. He lives some distance away in Hampshire and this is one reason why he is unable to be more involved with the club on a regular basis.

This year Evans have supplied the club with 65 club jerseys at a total cost to them of £1527 (£23.50 each) and 44 pairs of bib shorts at a cost of £1111 (£25.25 each). As the club intended to purchase some additional jerseys, a charge of £10 was made for the jerseys and shorts supplied by Evans to cover this expenditure. However, this additional clothing was not purchased and money raised remains in club funds (about £500).

Evans supplied 11 skinsuits at cost price (£40.53) which were passed onto our members with a reduction of 25% (£30 each).

Through Gary Smith, who is Managing Director of Evans Cycles and also a club member, Evans have also supplied thermal jerseys (£33 each) and training bottoms (£30 each) at cost price.

Evans Woking have paid the clubs affiliation's to the BCF, RTTC and BCCA for the three year period. This year it cost £126 to affiliate to these national organisations.

Cont/...

## COMMITTEE CLIPPINGS

Monday 18th May.

There was a discussion about Annie Potter's lost skinsuits. Caroline Schouten suggested the club should provide a club jersey for her free of charge as she had now lost two skinsuits through no fault of her own. Although there was little the club could do to recover the skinsuits, it was felt this small measure would go some way to compensating her under the unfortunate circumstances.

The Secretary had received a letter of resignation from Leo Speck, the Hon. Press Secretary. Due to his college commitments he did not feel he was able to carry on in this position but wished to remain on the committee as the under 23 years representative.

A letter had been received from the SCCU concerning President Basil Chilcott who was retiring after having served within it as an official for 40 years. A donation had been requested for a suitable gift and it was agreed to send the sum of £10.00.

Steve Gowar had been invited to ride the Pro-am Tour of Lancs with a Surrey Divisional team over the May bank holiday. He had asked if the club would make a contribution of £50.00 to his expenses in this connection which amounted to about £100.00 in total. It was understood the Surrey Division had also paid a substantial part of the race costs. The sum requested had been paid prior to the race and Steve had forwarded a small note of appreciation. Steve had not finished the event but held about 30th place until the last stage when mechanical trouble had forced him to stop.

Four new members applications had been received as follows:

Bill Mackay of 12 Kings head Lane, Byfleet. Club member.  
Paul Farnfield of 157 Devonshire Ave, Sheerwater. Racing member.  
Jamie Levitt of Creekside, Felix Lane, Shepperton. Junior member.

The Secretary had passed all of the club clothing stock over to Alan Poulton who had agreed to deal with this in future.

Club skinsuits would cost £40.53, considerably more than the £20-25 quoted and it was suggested these could be subsidised in line with other clothing and charged at £30.00 each.

Dave Wright had looked a several venues for the dinner/dance in December. We still had a provisional date booked with Colets on Dec. 6th. A number of cost reducing items were being looked at including hire of a juke box rather than a disco and BYO wine.

Cont/...

Don Archer had drawn up basic rules for the new mountain bike championship and copies of this were distributed. Don felt the system was biased towards the vets category and proposed a slight variation to reduced the points awarded to them. This was agreed and revised copy of rules to be published in club mag./on noticeboard.

33 riders had taken part in the Winchcombe mountain bike ride in the Cotswolds and the club had won a trophy for having the most participants. About 800-1000 riders had taken part.

#### 6th July 1992.

The Secretary had made an application for a grant from Epsom and Ewell Sports Council for £65.00 for the purchase of a comprehensive first aid kit for the club.

The Treasurer reported there was £1036.70 in deposit account and £1554.62 in current account with no outstanding bills which he was aware of.

Phil Parkinson snr had laid down a set of standards for the Bill Reed memorial event based upon VTTA tables. The course had been accurately measured at 14.30 miles for two laps. There was a discussion about moving the existing finish back to the top of the hill and for a number of reasons this was thought to be preferable. It was agreed the resite the finish accordingly and adopt the standards which would require a small amendment.

Steve Gowar had won the Charlottville RR after a run of eight 2nd places including the BCF Surrey Divisional Championship.

Cycling had published a good report and photograph in it's club section recently.

#### 24th August

Four new members applications had been received as follows:

Andrew Gatland of 22 Forge Drive, Claygate. Junior member.  
Mike Hughes of 2 Chilmans Drive, Gt. Bookham. Racing member.  
Graham Davies of 108 Tattenham Grove, Epsom Downs. Racing member.  
Nick Mills of 19 Riverside Close, Kingston. Racing member.

Steve Mitchinson, Henry and Oscar Whicheloe were riding from John O'Groates to Esher on a sponsored ride in late August. At their request, one jersey and one pair of racing shorts had been made available to them each at no cost.

Cont/...

Steve Gowar would be riding the National Road Race Championship at Buxton on Sept. 6th and had asked if the club could help with some of his petrol expenses. £20.00 was suggested, being about 50% of the total cost.

Treasurer had reported there was £1560.89 in the current account and £1043.28 in the deposit account.

Alan Poulton had won a 30 mile time trial event last week-end.

The club team of A. Murray, A. Poulton, L. Fleming and P. Ransom had taken part in the RTTC 4-up TTT coming 25th out of 36 teams.

A roller competition was proposed for late October at the clubroom with some prizes for the winners provided by Ray Robinson.

There had been a good game of rounders at the summer tea with some fine batting by Alan Parkinson, Paul Cannon and Bill Morgan plus a couple of good catches by Ray Robinson.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CLUB SUBS.

1993 club subs are due on November 1st.

Please send your cheque to Clive Walker, 41 Overdale Avenue, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 3UE for the appropriate amount.

Subscription rates are:

- \* Senior racing - £12 per year
- \* Junior racing (under 18) - £7 per year
- \* Juvenile (under 16) - £5 per year
- \* Club member - £7 per year
- \* Family membership - £16 per year (Residing at same address. Includes racing)

#### CLUBROOM SUBS

Please remember to pay your 50p subs when attending the clubroom each Tuesday.

It costs the club £12 per night to hire the hall, or £600 per year!

I'm sure you will agree it is worthwhile and after all is a small amount to pay for all the tea you can drink!!

Thank you.

## ROAD RACING

BY STEVE GOWAR

25th May Belgium

I was invited by the Wembley RC to ride two races in Belgium on one week-end, with a team consisting of Jamie Higgins, Richard Prebble, Rob Kennison and Stuart Blunt.

Our first race on the Saturday was a big classic open to several countries. Due to the speed and distance, none of our riders finished it. I broke a spoke on a cobbled section, never to get on again. Rob Kennison lasted the longest reaching the finishing circuit at Gaardenburg.

Next day we travelled south, close to the French border, to ride a local criterium or kermesse of 75 miles. This race had roughly 50 riders taking part and we had the largest team entered.

Again sheer pace was apparent with riders constantly going out the back. Myself and Jamie Higgins managed to get in a four man break, then the heavens opened with thunder, lightening and hail stones! One rider punctured leaving 2 Brits and 1 Belgie.

Well of course we worked him over with one attacking one waiting for him to chase and then the other trying. It was this constant attacking which had me leading by myself on the last lap. I won by about 1½ minutes with Jamie getting second place by half a wheel. Quite a successful race for all of us and one I won't forget with prize money, trophy, sash and free tea & cakes from the local residents! They were only too eager for us "English" to wash and change in their bathrooms, unlike back home!!

31st May. BCF Surrey Divisional Championships. 100 miles.

1st Mike Coyle Festival RC  
2nd Steve Gowar SWRC  
3rd Peter Horton VC Meudon

The Wembley RC had the strongest team on paper but couldn't quite produce the win they were after reverting to their following me where ever I went policy!

A three man break formed quite early on only to be caught at around 60 miles and breaks were constantly going away after this only to be absorbed by the bunch. Coyle finally managed to break clear from the leading four man break with 12 miles to go and quickly gained time as they hit the finishing circuit over Pitch Hill.

Cont/...

Our own Martin Hulbert was up there amongst the leaders at this time but fell back at the finish. I attacked in a lone pursuit on the last lap but couldn't make it up to Coyle in time. So, at the 4th attempt, I was second again! One day I will will it!!

Tour of Surrey and Sussex borders. 111 miles.

1st Simon Wright Apollo RT  
2nd Steve Gowar SWRC  
3rd Martin Hulbert SWRC  
4th Nigel Brazier VC Elan

A ten man break formed from the start with all the fancied riders in it. Organiser Brian Crawford had used circuits of Kirdford, Alfold and Northchapel for this race. The break slowly whittled down until only the four above plus Bob Anderson and Andy Neale were left. We worked well together, except Wright who needed constant prompting to get to the front. Somehow we did an extra lap increasing the distance to 111 miles. Wright easily won from myself and Martin.

28th June. Dave Cosson Memorial. 95 miles.

1st Richard Hare Southend & County.  
2nd Bob Arnold Twickenham CC  
3rd Russell Fenton Gemini BC  
4th Richard Bruce Wembley RC  
5th Steve Gowar SWRC

Richard Hare followed up his win the the Folkestone - Charing - Folkestone event with a win in this famous race. 95 miles around the tough Bletchingly circuit on a hot and humid day. A five man break dominated the race. Fourth placed Richard Bruce a name to watch at only 19 years of age.

5th July. Charlotteville Summer Road Race. 90 miles

1st Steve Gowar SWRC  
2nd Simon Horton Wembley RC  
3rd Oliver Davis Regent CC  
7th Martin Hulbert SWRC

It's nice to have a win once in a while. I always seem to do it by myself which isn't surprising to those who know my sprinting prowess!

A ten man break dominated this race on the rolling Loxwood circuit which was used just after the Clarencourt 4 up TTT where SWRC fielded several teams of various abilities.

Cont/...

Our break was never caught by the bunch, I made several attempts to break free which resulted in the ten reducing down to six. Then on the last lap, I attacked into the wind up a hill to open up a gap of 45 seconds giving me enough to clinch it from young Simon Horton of the Wembley RC. Martin escaped the bunch to time trial in for 7th place.

5th July. Streatham Velo Road Race. 75 miles.

1st equal Steve Gowar SWRC  
Mike Coyle Festival RC  
3rd Oliver Davis Regent CC

A six man break went clear this time but after 15 miles we were caught by a second group making 15 leaders in all and after that we were not seen by the bunch again. With 2km to go, I got a prime and kept going only for Mike Coyle (who had a month previously beaten me for the Divisional title) to get up to me. We rode away from the group behind and when it came to the sprint, well, there wasn't a sprint and we dead heated by mutual consent. This gave organiser Tom McCall a headache as he had to re-write his winning prize money cheques!!

19th July. Wembley RC Grand Prix. 90 miles

1st Richard Prebble Wembley RC  
2nd Steve Gowar SWRC  
3rd Glen Holmes Renrad RC

Various breaks going well all day but with 6 laps to go (half way) there was only 10 riders in contention. Prebble attacked with about 40 miles to go and quickly put his TT abilities to the test opening up a 2 minute lead. The rest of us were not making any impression on him so I attacked by myself with 2 laps to go and though I gained 1 minute on him, I couldn't quite bridge that gap. However, the best man won on the day.

**SWRC**

SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

**EVANS**  
CYCLES WOKING

Evans Woking have paid for plastic membership cards for each member. Cost approximately £75.

There is a 15% reduction on purchases of clothing and equipment at the shop (not sale items) and a minimum of 7½% reduction on frames or complete cycles.

Evans Woking have supplied prizes for several of our race promotions including the Invitation Time Trial. This event had a substantial prize list worth in excess of £1000 which was obtained through the shop.

Evans Woking have also loaned a racing cycle to club member Steve Gowar during the season although this arrangement was not part of the club sponsorship deal.

### Summary

Club sponsorship has enabled the club to obtain and keep a stock of racing jerseys, shorts and track tops for our members which we could not fund ourselves.

Our racing members are able to buy good quality clothing and can afford to have several sets of club kit. This is particularly important to junior members.

We also have a discount on equipment purchased at the shop available.

We are seen tied to a local cycle shop which also has a good name.

Evans Woking have advertised the club through it's own advertising in magazines such as Cycling Weekly and this has bought us new members and increased publicity.

There is the access to prizes given by the shop.

There is a certain amount of prestige in being a sponsored club.

Our club sponsors are actively involved ion the club i.e. out on runs/at events etc.

The club is financially better off as a result of sponsorship.

# **South Western Road Club**

Cont/...

*SPONSORED BY EVANS CYCLES WOKING*

The club is intending to continue being sponsored by FW Evans in 1993 along similar lines to this year and details are currently under discussion. Your committee will be considering club sponsorship at it's next meeting on November 11th.

If you have any views on the current sponsorship or suggestions in this respect and would like the committee to hear these, please write, before this date, to Phil Parkinson, Hon. General Secretary, 4 Lonsdale Court, Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey. KT6 6PB.

Alternatively, fill in the following questionnaire:

Questionnaire

How long have you been a member of the SWRC? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a racing or non racing member? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a senior/veteran/junior/juvenile? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you feel sufficiently well informed about our club sponsorship? \_\_\_\_\_

Should there be more opportunities for members to debate the sponsorship details? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think you derive any positive benefit from our current package? \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think our sponsorship compares with that of other clubs? \_\_\_\_\_  
Well  
Comparable  
Poor

Is subsidy of clothing a good way to use club sponsorship? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you purchase any club clothing in 1992? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you utilise the club members discount available in FW Evans at Woking? \_\_\_\_\_

What changes (if any) would you like to see in respect of future club sponsorship? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

THE BILL REED MEMORIAL TIME TRIAL

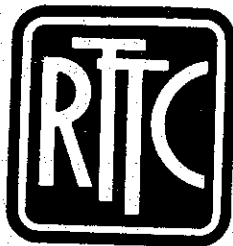
BY PHIL PARKINSON

A couple of days before the Bill Reed event for the vets trophy, I got a call from Les Warner - "could he borrow a club jersey?", as he thought he would ride in the event this year. Well, as I knew he had ridden a CTC birthday ride and then up to Shropshire the week-end before, I suppose I ought to have known what to expect but we all caught a cold and Les put one across us (he's done it before). The only concession he made was to take the mudguards off his bike and make sure his top gear (81) was working.

The result of this event is age standard based on the VTTA 10 miles standards and adjusted to our 14 miles course. For every year over the age of 40 you get an allowance starting at 16 seconds as per the tables shown. If your time is faster than your standard you are a plus by that amount. The winner is the rider with the biggest plus on standard. If you are slower than your age, you are minus by that amount. Our course being harder than the usual 10 miler makes it more difficult to get a plus in any case.

RESULT OF 1992 EVENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Allowance</u>	<u>Standard time</u>
Les Warner	64	41.06	43.18	+2.12
Phil Parkinson	69	43.16	45.03	+1.47
Don Archer	48	36.32	38.11	+1.39
Dave Wright	49	37.32	38.29	+0.57
Barry Packman	46	36.51	37.34	+0.43
Gary Smith	45	38.30	37.18	-1.12
Dennis McKeown	63	44.26	42.56	-1.30
Dick Farman	61	44.28	42.17	-2.11
John Bromley	50	41.12	38.47	-2.25
Graham Jones	56	44.13	40.38	-3.35
Paul Cannon	43	40.57	36.44	-4.13



## Le National 1992

Every Spring when the seed catalogues are dropping through everybody else's letter boxes Dave Lucas gets something that look the same but in fact are the brochures for the new seasons randonees. They are expensively produced on shiny paper with pictures and a route profile showing how long and hard they are. This is the point where my interest usually drops to nil.

However this year my competitive instinct was aroused by an event call Le National to be held at the end of June over a distance of 115 miles around the vineyards south of Rheims. My reasoning was thus: (i) at the end of June I would have had the chance to get a few miles in; (ii) being only three hours from Calais it was not going to be too far south and too hot: (iii) it was fairly flat compared with some of the others.

So it was agreed, Dave L, Dave J, Bert van Bigring, Dick and myself would do it having calculated that on a reasonable day silver medals would be a piece of cake.

Dave L's faithful Scorpio was pressed into service once more and on Friday 26th June four of us caught the 8am ferry from Dover. Dave J and his wife Dee had gone down the day before to recce the route and acclimatise to the area, ie extra days drinking.

It's only three hours down the motorway to Rheims from Calais and during this time Bert took the opportunity to tap out on his lap top computer everybodys schedule based on their weight, the route profile, expected time and birth sign.

The only thing I remember about mine was that for eight hours I would have to produce about 120 watts! This is the amount of energy needed to keep two medium sized light bulbs burning. Dave L pointed out that this was the equivalent of about 5p worth of gas. So I was going to ride myself into the ground for a shilling.

We drove straight to Vertus which was the start village and very quickly realised that this was something slightly more important than your average randonee. For one thing there were 'Road Closed' signs everywhere and directions to big temporary car parks. As we were signing on at the control in a small square we began to get some idea of the magnitude of the event. In fact for three days the whole area was going en fete for cycling, we were part of the French National Roadracing Championships 1992, the mere thought turned my legs to string. Friday was for signing on and generally looking round the course, Saturday Ladies, Amateurs and the Randonee, Sunday the Professionals. The race course was about 15km in length with a big hill winding up through the vineyards, the pros would cover it 16 times. The randonee was 185km roaming the whole area but finishing with a lap of the race circuit. To all intents and purposes the roads would be closed, totally on the circuit and everything giving way to cyclists elsewhere, courtesy of the Gendarmerie.

Having completed the signing on process including giving up any claims on the organiser because we did not have the necessary medical certificate (various documents were proffered and rejected including a BCF membership card, driving licence and a library ticket) we drove back to register at our hotel on the other side of the course. As I booked in and enquired about m'sieu & madame Jordan I discovered that they had caused chaos to the computerised system by arriving early, at one stage their bags had been packed for them, but all was finally sorted out. The hotel was full of bike riders all taking part in one or other event in the Championships with team cars and mechanics much in evidence.

We then went out for a short ride full of enthusiasm as a part of the course passed near to our hotel.

We did about ten miles or so up and down incredibly steep hills through the vineyards heading north towards Rheims. We stopped on a corner to discuss the way back and Bert van Bigring commented that if we went like this tomorrow we should get round in about twelve hours. Any thoughts of silver medals then went right out the window. The temperature in the late afternoon was in the high eighties.

Start time next day was 10.30am so we got there early, parked in Vertus and went for a warm up. I don't know how much warm up you need for 115 miles when the temperature is already 75F but I went along just to pose in the club jersey that all five of us wered wearing and very smart too.

At about 10am we reported to the control in a back street, not many people about but we were early. Signing on consisted of riding under a banner where you were electronically logged on to the computer via the code on your frame number. Still the place looked empty, we went up the road and round a right angled corner to hear a sound like a swarm of bees. It was in fact the sound of 1500 bike riders sitting in a confined space chatting. We were among the last to sign in!

The crowd spread about 300 yards down the street and then round another corner out of sight. We certainly were not going to sit at the back of that lot, we showed a bit of British stiff upper lip by riding down a parallel street and pushing in, shades of lift queues in the Alps. Bert got in very near the front which was yet another 300 yards from the corner and we never saw him again all day. The two Daves moved about a quarter of the way back, Dick and I stood just after the corner in a patch of shade. At 10.30 a loudspeaker van crawled along the parallel road announcing that the start was delayed, it was roundly booed. At 11.00 a helicopter came and hovered right over the top of us about 50' up and passed a message, we were clear to go.

It was a bit like the start of the London Marathon, nothing happened, at least not at first. Gradually we cleared the start line, Dick and I crossing probably five minutes after the leader.

Through the village we went, kerb to kerb, passing people clapping and waving, lining the footways as if it were a race. I was wrong and they were right, it was a race. Immediately we hit a hill rather like Box Hill except it was lined with vineyards. I glanced up to the left and just caught a glimpse of the lead cars and motorbikes going over the rim in front of the first group with the helicopter marshalling the whole lot like a sheep dog.

I got to the top of the first climb without any conscious effort just being swept along by a sea of wheels. Over the top there was no decent but the road ran straight as an arrow north across a plateau.

Groups of about a hundred formed taking up the whole road with about 200 yards between them. Dick and I were in about the 5th group as far as we could see, but it was just a case of leave it on the big ring and following a steady looking wheel and definitely not going any where near the front. The temperature had now reached the eighties but at 25mph it didn't really notice.

After about twenty miles we descended to cross the River Marne and then we were in the area of the steep hills that we had looked at the afternoon before. One thing I noticed about the French was that most of them could not climb a hill to save their lives. At the slightest suggestion of the road going up, it would be sit up and stick it in bottom. This technique lead to some interesting moments at the bottom of unexpected climbs with people riding up the back of others.

Dick and I rode steadily in groups that were now down to about thirty to the first check at Chaumuzy. Bert said his group which was amongst the leaders went through on the rivet and took bottles on the run from their helpers. Bert of course had nobody to help and had to make his single bottle last out. The square at Chamuzy was laid out with boxes (I mean tea chests) of dates, dried bananas, apricots, jelly cubes and various other anti bonk remedies which were stuffed in a sticky mass into the back pockets. Fill up the bottles, look for a decent size group and we were away again, still slightly ahead of Berts schedule for silver.

This leg rang west to east along the plateau with Rheims about 10km away to the north, on our left. At one place we crossed the main Rheims - Eperney road on a dog leg. The police had simply closed the junction to cars and I had a slightly guilty feeling as I looked down the main road to see the sun reflecting off stationary windscreens all the way back to Rheims. After walking up one particularly steep hill, mainly because most other riders were walking, although Dick rode all the way, we came to the second check.

We were amazed to find the two Daves there. Big Dave was obviously taking a packet and had to sit in the road for a while to recover. We left as a group of four and about a mile up the road found Dee Jordan who gave us the glad tidings that Bert was an hour up on us, this was after about 70 miles.

The other three were going better than me so I dropped off to continue alone, I kept getting terrible cramp in the inside of both thighs, something I have never had before and certainly don't want again, it continued until the finish 45 miles away. After walking up a hill at 18% for 1500m with the temperature nudging the nineties I crossed the 50km to go line, 31 miles, I wasn't sure I could do it.

Descending down into the Marne valley, going south once more, I got into a group of about ten and sat there through rolling countryside. I thought that the blokes in front were going well and then discovered that they weren't in the event but just out for an afternoon ride.

I had just passed the 40km to go mark and heard a shout from a cafe. I slowed and retraced to find the two Daves holding court with some locals watching the event go by from inside a bar. A couple of iced coca colas later we left to climb yet another steep hill back onto our original plateau. I trudged up chatting to another rider, basically saying isn't it hot?, isn't it hard?, how far to the finish?. What he did tell me however was that this hill was the last major difficulty. I reflected later that he was probably a stranger to the area. At the top of the hill I found the two Daves sitting down yet again but this time having a massage at one of the many fixed and mobile aid stations. A young lady had appeared to administer to the first one, on seeing that there were two customers she called her companion who looked like Giant Haystacks. I decided to pass on and they once again caught and dropped me about eight miles later.

I descended the initial hill that we had climbed so energetically all those hours before knowing that I only had about fifteen more miles to go to the finish. The locals were still there in Vertus but now sitting at tables under trees clapping and waving. I got into yet another group including a chap with tri-bars who went flat out down each decent with all the others sitting on his wheel only to come to an almost dead stop when the road went up again. We passed the 15km to go sign and started to do one lap of the race circuit, the finale to the event.

The major difficulty was a 2km hill that started off steeply through a village and then continued up through the vineyards onto the plateau yet again. Halfway up the village street an old villager leapt out in front of me waving and shouting Bob, Bob.

I was totally taken aback, what was this, a fan club I didn't know about? He kept on shouting my name and virtually forced me to stop. I looked over to where he was pointing and suddenly realised he was Dave Lucas' runner. Dave was yet again sitting outside a cafe and I hadn't noticed when he tried to attract my attention so the old peasant decided to lend a hand, just what I needed half way up a hill. Dave was totally stuffed and had decided to let Dave J go, and wait for me but I still had a job hanging on up that final hill. The enthusiastic spectators for the championships were camping among the vines and were well into their evening meal as we crept past but they still gave us a clap and a shout.

From the top it was very nearly down hill all the way to the finish at Avize. On to the big ring straight down the wide main street, totally closed to all traffic, gendarmes everywhere, up to a roundabout, turn right and there was the finish 300m away with banner, gantry, grandstands, pits and all the usual fittings of a major continental race. Crossing the line the bar code on the frame number was electronically scanned to give instant overall position and position in age group. What organisation.

As far as we could find out we were the only Brits (Bert was an honorary Brit for the day) out of the 1500+ starters. Bert got a gold finishing 10 minutes outside his very tough time limit (getting completely stuffed with 10km to go and having to stop for 10 minutes) but the organisers deciding that the extreme heat had made the day so hard they relaxed the limits. Dick got a silver, truly an epic ride. The two Daves & I got a bronze. More than 500 didn't finish.

I couldn't praise the event organisation and atmosphere highly enough. The helicopter, ambulances, aid stations, feeding places, pits, photographs and not least the local people made it a truly memorable event. We will definitely be going back.

Bob Maylin



*My one's so sophisticated it even tells me how many times I thought about getting off and walking!*

## CLUB CORNER

Junior **Adrian Cockle** took part in the London Youth Games in July representing The Royal Borough of Kingston in the cycling. Adrian was taking part in the team time trial around a circuit at Crystal Palace. Unfortunately, one of the three man team was taken ill on the day so a replacement had to be found pretty quickly. A member of the badminton squad was seconded but only because he had a bike with him and they finished 10th overall.

The club scored a hit in the four event summer mountain bike series at Aldershot. **Don Archer** took 2nd vet overall, **Steve Wells** took 5th in Sports class and **Henry Whicheloe** 5th in the Junior class. Others taking part included **Carl Cammack**, **Gary Woolf**, **Phil Barker** and **Ken Dolman**. However, although each race was well supported and it cost a staggering £12 to enter (race fields were large too), prizes were punitive suggesting the income went elsewhere.

**Alan Poulton** scored a notable first when he won the Hampshire RC 30 mile time trial in mid August. Cycling carried a good write up (right). Alan felt the 'unexpected winner' tag was a little unfair as he took second spot last year!!

**Ray Robinson** and **Brian Wareham** rode the 200km Bahamontes Randonnee in the French Pyrennees during early August. The event is named after the famous Spanish rider Fredrico Bahamontes who won the Tour de France in 1959 and takes in the climbs of the Tourmalet and Peysourd before topping another severe climb at the finish. In fact, so difficult was the final ascent, 907 of the 1800 starters did not even bother to attempt it and climbed off at the start/finish village nearby through which the route came in it's latter stages. Our boys didn't flinch though and Brian came home just 4 minutes within the permitted time limit for a gold medal. Ray claimed a bronze after 13 hours and 6 mins in the saddle and was placed 901st finisher. However, the effort obviously took it's toll and Ray suffered from a bad back for some considerable time.

## **Punctures rule out favourites**

UNSEEDED Alan Poulton (South Western RC) was an unexpected winner of the Hampshire RC '30' after other more fancied riders, including last year's winner Tom Cox (Polytechnic CC), failed to finish when punctures proved a problem following a night of storms.

Alan Poulton (S Western RC) .....	1	13	06
C. Dyason (Viking RC) .....	1	13	40
R. Parker (E Grinstead CC) .....	1	14	28
E. Bonner (Central Sussex CC) .....	1	14	38
R. Allen (Portsmouth North End CC) .....	1	14	58
D. Ludford (Portsmouth North End CC) .....	1	15	15
F. Shepherd (Bognor Regis CC) .....	1	16	32
S. Sexton (Portsmouth North End CC) .....	1	16	45
A. Major (Alton CC) .....	1	17	04
R. Redrup (Fareham Wh) .....	1	17	05
Team- Portsmouth North End CC (Rob Allen, Derek Ludford, Steve Sexton) 3-46-58. Vet- Parker. Vet on std- Fred Shepherd +16-05. Jun- David Barton (N Hamps RC) 1-19-49. Juv- Nicky Palmer (Bognor Regis CC) 1-22-38. Trike- Mick Marchant (GS Stella) 1-20-35. Women- Anne Wallace (Crabwood CC) 1-25-55. Tandem- S. Blimsting-J. Stewart-Long (Brighton Excelsior CC) 1-08-32.			

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The Presidents Run on August bank Holiday Sunday was a mountain bike ride along the Downs Link. Unfortunately, it turned out to be a wet and extremely windy day making the track very difficult to ride. A good crowd of about 15-20, including Club President **John Bromley**, started from Newlands Corner at around 9.30am. After a spate of punctures and a stop at the half way mark near Southwater, it was decided to return by road in order to expedite matters but even so, some did not get back until gone six in the evening!!!

**Steve Mitchinson, Henry and Oscar Whicheloe** completed their John O' Groates to Esher sponsored ride and managed to raise about £5,000 in the process. With an almost constant headwind and many rainy days the route was not easy but the boys came through with flying colours to receive a wonderful reception at the new surgery in Esher where Steve works as a GP. The surgery is located in a new building near Sandown Park and the money raised will go towards buying equipment for it. The three lads covered a total of 731 miles in all and a small contingent from the South Western joined in for the last stretch from Bishops Stortford.

**Steve Gowar** rode the National Road Race Championship held in the Buxton area during early September, the first rider from the club to do so for many years and finished a creditable 44th. It could have been better if it were not for a puncture with 5 miles to go when in contention for 15th spot. A very hilly circuit proved a tough test for the field with the winning breakaway going clear in the first 5 miles. Steve found Winnats Pass particularly difficult and was shattered at the end of the race but is pleased to have finished and enjoyed the experience.

**Martin Russell** and **Kerian Cooke** win this years award for best dressed tea makers at the clubroom when they did their duty one Tuesday in September. A tremendous selection of cakes and biscuits were available, all served on a sideplate with serviette. Both lads sported a well ironed pinny too; what a lovely pair!

One of the club's latest 'new members' is in fact very much an 'old member'. **Graham Davis** has found his way back to the Road Club after a 15 year break and we are pleased to have him with us again. He joined for the first time in February 1966 as a 16 year old and raced for several seasons. Resident at that time in Chursdon Drive, Morden, he now lives in Epsom Downs. For those who might find it of interest, Graham's first application was proposed by Graham Holmes and seconded by Paul Grammer. This time, Graham Bromley and Tony Fantham had the pleasure. I think these Graham people must be sticking together!!

Are there any ladies out there who would like to join the Ladies club runs now leaving Cobham car park, Sunday mornings at 10.00am? **Lyn Pethbridge, Jill Maylin, Penny Wright, Ros Parkinson** and **Judith Gibson** would be glad to see you at future runs after their ride to the farm cafe recently. Call Lyn to find out when the next one will be, she will be pleased to hear from you.

Cont/...

Ex-President **Fred Parsons** and wife **Lucy** had a gathering of cycling friends at their home on the Marlborough Downs in September. Pre-war touring mates included **Nobby and Seate Fry, Alf and Eve Fincham and Bill Clements** along with more recent companions (40 years) in the life of the SWRC, **Bill and Margaret Squirrell** and **Phil and Dorothy Parkinson**. Together with their children (and grandchildren), members of the Belle Vue and Swindon clubs, an enjoyable day was had by all in a lovely part of the country. Plenty of good food as usual and the opportunity for a chat in comfort to fellow enthusiasts. Nice one Fred!

**Dave Wright** took three weeks holiday touring in "the promised land" of California with his family before promptly returning to the UK and producing a personal best "25" after more than 23 years!! His 56.32 on the Didcot course was 2 seconds better than his previous PB recorded back in 1969.

Still on the TT scene, not content with striking at the very heart of the Road Club time trial veterans by winning the Bill Reed Memorial Event, **Les Warner** followed it up with his first ever ten mile TT recording a very credible 25.58 in a WLCA event on the first week-end of October. Where better than on the Bath Road too! Les used a lightweight Roberts racing cycle borrowed off Phil Parkinson for the test. Phil, who also had something to do with cajoling LW into the race, had two minutes put into him by Les who left his fellow club members wondering how well he would do with a low profile machine, disc wheels, tri-bars, etc, etc.

A contingent of more than 20 club members crossed the channel for the week-end in mid September for the Boulogne Randonnee, now becoming a regular event in the calendar. Those feeling fit took on the 150km ride over a tough, hilly circuit out into the countryside of northern France and this included **John Bromley, Ray Robinson, Alan Parkinson, Dennis McKeown, Dave Wright, David and Stephen Lucas** amongst others. **Bob Squirrell** and **David Naughton** had just spent a week touring the area and finished this off with the event too. In fact, the club won a trophy for having the most finishers (or so it is believed, nobody seem to know quite why). Some of the ladies in the club also took to their bikes (on a shorter route) including **Jenny Bromley, Penny Wright, Judith Gibson** and **Margaret Squirrell** who also won herself an award.

# EVANS

CYCLES WOKING

## INVITATION TIME TRIAL

### Simon's fast finish

SIMON Lillistone (Team Haverhill-Taylor's Foundry) fought from behind to score a decisive victory in the Evans Cycles Invitation TT over a 50km course at Cranleigh, Surrey, on Sunday.

Gethin Butler (Norwood Paragon), who chose to ride the South Western RC event rather than put in a last-ditch bid for BBAR honours, was lying only tenth at the 20km time check and eventually retired, reportedly suffering from back trouble.

Lillistone pulled up from fourth place at that point to finish the full distance in 1-16-28, giving the Olympic track rider a winning margin of 51 seconds over Matthew Postle (Delta RT) on an undulating course taking in an anti-clockwise loop through Shalford, Bucks Green, Oakwoodhill, Ockley and Ewhurst.

Conditions were good for the 32 starters, with virtually no wind and a mild, sunny day.

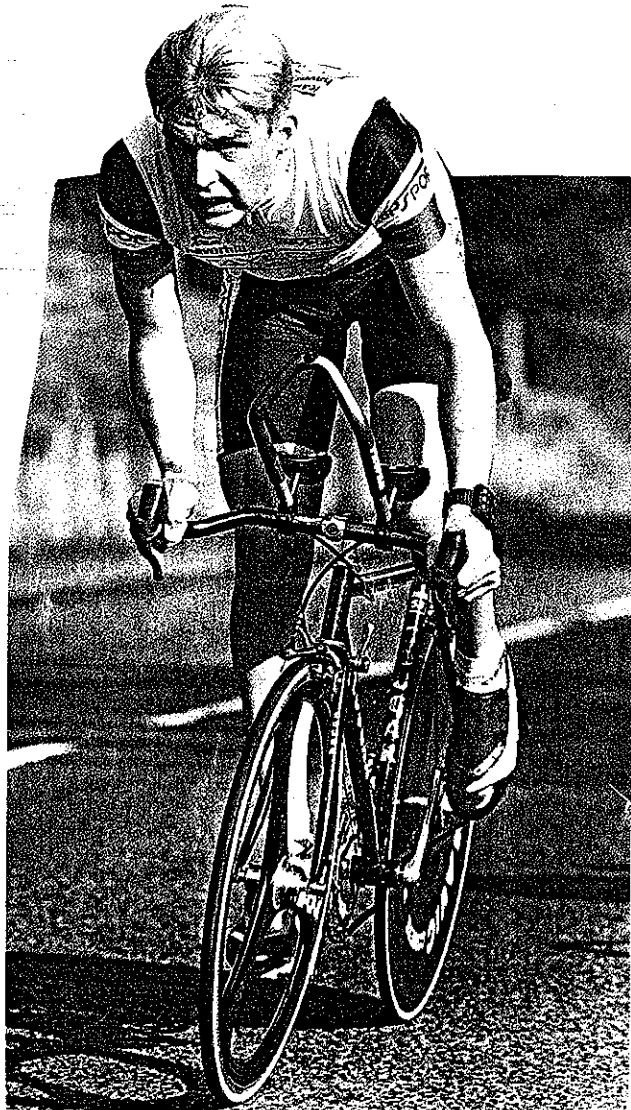
Postle clawed his way back from eighth place at the intermediate check.

Gary Thomas (Leek CC), one of the country's most improved roadmen this season, was only 11 seconds behind Postle in third place at the finish, and half a minute ahead of Richard Prebble (Wembley RC).

Chris Ball (Antelope RT), the national junior 25-mile champion, had been fastest to 20km, his 25-24 giving him a lead of 26 seconds over Prebble, with Thomas a further ten seconds back and Lillistone on 26-02.

Tour Feminin rider Clare Greenwood (Byways RCC) won the women's prize with 1-28-05.

Among those missing the end-of-season clash were third-placed BBAR rider Colin Roshier (Hounslow and District Wheelers), out with a knee injury, as well as Nick Gardiner (Oxford Polytechnic CC) and road international John Charlesworth (Ace RT).



Simon Lillistone (Team Haverhil) winner of the SWRC Evans Invitation time trial 1992.

Simon Lillistone (Team Haverhill-Taylor's Foundry) .....	1	16	28
M. Postle (Delta RT) .....	1	17	19
G. Thomas (Leek CC) .....	1	17	30
R. Prebble (Wembley RC) .....	1	18	00
T. Stevens (34 Nomads) .....	1	18	14
C. Ball (Antelope RT) .....	1	19	27
G. Longland (Antelope RT) .....	1	19	31
P. Rogers (VC St Raphael) .....	1	19	34
C. Allcock (Delta RT) .....	1	19	54
B. Drew (Wembley RC) .....	1	20	18
Women - Clare Greenwood (Byways RCC) 1-28-			05.