

SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

Sponsored by Evans Cycles
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Technical Sales (London) Ltd.

ANNUAL REPORT

1998

Yet another year draws to a close and it's not stopped raining yet! Still, It has been a fairly good club year for road racing and randonee but not so good, I'm afraid, for club time trialing. There has been a lack of participation throughout the whole year, especially in Inter-club events. Where have all the time trialists gone? Well, if the road racing turn-out is a guide, it would seem that more than a few have moved in this direction. Club room attendance has been reasonable, by past standards, but not as good as it should be for a club of our size.

Our 1997 Roller Racing final was a very exciting event with Dave Wright riding to his limit (and beyond) to beat Paul Ramsden. Fantastic!!

The, now regular, winter turbo training evenings were very good exercise and most impressive to watch. Why not come down and try for yourself? It's more fun than the garage!

1998 got underway with the club awards dinner and 80+ members and guests were present to applaud our champions for the year. Keith Butler, as guest speaker, entertained us with stories of the past and present and presented the awards. Thanks to Geoff Redhead for his work in organising a most pleasant evening.

March weather was very kind for the P.S. Parkinson 2-up and the event was won by John Harris and Mark Packman. This was a fine start for John who, later, in his 1st year of road racing made 3rd cat. with 13 points and, as a result, club senior road race champion. In recognition of this fine achievement he has also been awarded the Mordan Medal. Whilst on the road race scene, Nick Baker made 3rd cat champion and Robin Chipperfield is the new veteran champion. Scott Bugden easily took the junior road race title as part of a brilliant season which saw him dominate all the club junior events and take the F.W. Robinson Memorial Trophy, Hart Trophy and the Simon Ottolangui Memorial award and he still found time to win the Greater London Junior R.R. Championship by a good margin. Both, the May and October, R.R. events were a success and are planned again in '99.

There was a training camp in Majorca in April and a good number of club members joined Gary Smith for a week in paradise. Another trip is already booked for next year.

L.V.R.C. events are proving very popular and the "VetaRace" series was contested by more members than ever before. We were easily the most noticeable group in the races due, in no small way, to our excellent new club jerseys. Thanks to Dave Wright we now have a complete range of club clothing including matching armwarmers, etc..

Club runs, organised by Bob Maylin, have been taking place throughout the year and have been well supported. "La Fleche Lorraine" in northern France was a 200km ride over 10 major climbs held in the most awful weather, but as usual, all members finished in good spirits. The Mayor of Nancy was kind enough to send us all a medal and the club a trophy for most finishers from a single club. It truly is amazing how cyclists can find enjoyment in these type of conditions, but we did! The September run to Boulogne saw Bill and Margaret Squirrell presented with an award for 18 years participation in the event and to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. I'm sure we all wish them many more.

New membership this year is up to 16, reversing the trend of recent years. Let us hope this continues to improve.

Tony Sayers again provided a newsletter which was both fun and informative and Scott Bugden managed to "spread the word" in the local press with some good articles.

On a sad note, The club lost one of it's founder members this year with the death of former club champion and record holder Bill Clements.

Club sponsors for the past two years Technical Sales (London) Ltd. have regrettably had to withdraw their support. We would like to thank them and wish them well for the future. We do, however, have a new sponsor in Tippetts Honda Ltd. of Tolworth who have been a local main Honda dealer for forty years and eighty years in Tolworth. They will provide the same cash sponsorship plus a 15% discount on all Honda garden equipment and a discount on all other stock to club members.

The Sams Tankard award has been awarded to John Fraser for his work in club timekeeping.

In time trials, Dave Bugden has been quite outstanding with the fastest 10 and 25 this year with times of 21.25 (G10/54) and 56.29 (G25/18). The annual 10 mile time trial with CC Woking, Weybridge Wheelers and Kingston Phoenix saw victory going to CC Woking with SWRC second. In the season long series with the Epsom CC they again took both overall and individual trophies. A small consolation was gained in the hill climb when, whilst Epsom CC provided the fastest rider (2.49), Scott Bugden was 2nd (2.58) and Paul foster top veteran (3.18). For the first time in many years the senior time trial trophy has not been awarded because no rider has completed a fifty mile event. With several local promotions and numerous others on southern courses this distance should be a prime target for riders in 1999. Next year will see a change of Hon. Time Trial Secretary and so to get the season off to a flying start the proposed dates for the P.S. Parkinson Memorial Trophy are the 14th and 28th of March.

Ray Watson

Hon. General Secretary