

# SOUTH WESTERN ROAD CLUB

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## ANNUAL REPORT 2001

Attendance at the 2000 AGM was on a par with previous years. There were no great changes and all committee posts were filled without too much arm twisting. Two notable exceptions to this were Ray Watson (General Secretary) and John Harris (Time Trial Secretary), who both agreed to 'stay on' for one more year in order that suitable replacements could be 'groomed' to replace them. Both of these gentlemen stand by their word and are not offering themselves for re-election this year. I would like to take this opportunity, on your behalf, to thank them both for the sterling work they have done in this and previous years in their respective posts - tough acts to follow.

Attendance at the clubroom has increased slightly on the previous year (the lively Turbo Training evenings and the well supported Tuesday night Chain Gang being the main reasons) and we actually managed to show a slight profit on the hall rental front. The early autumn slide show by our very own photographer, Paul Carpenter, also managed to draw quite a crowd. It could be suggested that we are slowly developing into a 'Gourmet Club' rather than a cycling club. Curry Nights (and the occasional Pasta) have been very popular and have become a regular addition to our menu - many thanks to Mandy our Social Secretary. No less than 27 members and wives will be taking Christmas lunch on 9th December in the Duke of Wellington, Ockley - too late to book by the time you read this of course. Just to reduce our feelings of the guilt of over indulgence, Roger and Dawn Jackaman kindly organised a 3 hour morning walk to whet our appetites. The Annual Dinner and Prize Presentation, earlier this year, was again a great success - many thanks to all those involved and not least David and Penny Wright who organised the event. We toned it down a bit from the previous year by having a disco instead of a live band, but nobody seemed to worry - I never thought I would see the day when just a handful of those attending did not get up and join a conga line around the Surrey Hills Hotel. We all went home exhausted. No, it is not too late to get your tickets for this season's event which will be held at Raven's Ait, Surbiton on 23rd February, 2002. Mandy will be more than willing to take your reservations at the AGM.

Our regular club runs continue to be very popular and are one of our main ways of attracting new members. To keep the numbers of riders on the road to a manageable limit and to cater for the different paces of those taking part the recent rides have been split into two groups. To date this appears to be a great success. Another recent development is the advanced posting of a runs list. The annual randonnee went off without a hitch again this year, thanks to the efforts of the regulars. Plans are already in motion for next year's event, but as some of the 'regulars' would like a ride, volunteers are required for the various marshalling duties on the day. If one of these could be you, please pass your name to one of the committee. Unfortunately Geoff Redhead's Training Weekend (this year delayed until May) was still dogged by bad weather, but this did not prevent the participants having a good time.

On the overseas front, members have enjoyed trips to the Tour of Flanders Randonnee, the regular training week in Majorca, watching a few stages of Le Tour, ditto the Giro, a couple of straight forward cycling holidays in France and possibly, most recently, taking part in the Boulogne Randonnee. Please accept my apologies if I have forgotten any.

Participation in time trialing events this year was no improvement on last year's poor showing. We are very much indebted to Epsom CC, who won the inter-club points competition again this year, for time-

keeping all of the interclub events. On a positive note, attendance picked up slightly towards the end of the year and the Open 10, organised by Dudley Samuels, was a complete success. Dudley is arranging two open events for next season; a straight '10' and a 2UP '10'. We managed to enter no less than 6 teams for the Micky Ayliffe open 4UP event this year and the team of David & Keith Bugden, Lindsey Ruocco and Paul Foster came home as fastest vets - Well Done lads. Ken Dolman and Paul Alderson have separately had a go at a '100' this season. We offer our commiserations to Paul who's time was discounted as he had gone off course. As I have said above, we desperately need a replacement Time Trial Secretary to take over from John Harris, so please give it some thought. John has already booked the programme for next season, so you will be able to ease into the job gradually. Senior club champion this year is Paul Alderson who achieved the fastest average in 10, 25 and 50ml events, but David Bugden came out of 'semi-retirement' towards the end of the season to produce the fastest 10 and 25 times earning him the Syd Parkinson and Frank Slinger Trophies. A full list of club award winners will be in the winter edition of Bottom Gear.

Road Racing in the club is still proving more popular than time trialing at the moment with many members competing in Surrey League and LVRC events. Paul Alderson is club champion, Lindsey Ruocco is our 3rd Cat champion and, last but not least, Paul Foster retains the Veterans' Road Race champions cup. Well done one and all and thanks to Mark Packman who stepped into the shoes of Ian Maylin, as Road Race Secretary, during the year. We also wish Ian well for the future in his new home in Ireland. Geoff Redhead once again organised the Follicly Challenged LVRC event at Ellens Green which was a great success and earned Geoff and his 'team' the many complements we received from the participants. Unfortunately the second event of the day (for the A, B and C groups) was marred by a crash resulting in one rider being taken to hospital with a broken collar bone. Geoff's full report on the day will appear in the next newsletter.

Ten new members have been recruited this year and you might be interested to note that our old friend David Jordan who emigrated to Brazil to work for a few years has finally found a club to ride with. I don't know what the kit is like out there, but on a short visit home during the summer David bought a stock of SWRC club kit which he wears with pride in Rio. I understand that David has also taken up racing again and has achieved some reasonable placings in his age group.

I would like to record our thanks to Peter Wright who completed the necessary paperwork and dealt with the follow up calls which resulted in a grant from Kingston Sports Council for the purchase of two club turbo trainers. Peter is also responsible for our monthly (ish) e.mail newsletter of which issue 12 has just appeared on a screen near you. Thanks should also be recorded to David Wright and Paul Foster for purchasing and selling the club kit respectively and to Ray Watson for the manufacture of a pair of superb rooftop race signs, complete with flashing lights, to be used on the lead cars at our road race events.

Club sponsorship remains with Evans Cycles and Tippetts Honda Ltd and the clubs finances remain healthy, ably supervised by Dudley Samuels who has managed well in his first year taking over from Paul Cannon.

On a more sobering theme, it is not very encouraging to note that several members have taken a tumble this year whilst cycling including Tony Sayers, Geoff Redhead, Bob Maylin, Alan Clarke, Wayne Sayers and Lindsey Ruocco. I am sure you will join me in wishing the last two on this list a speedy recovery as both suffered head injuries when they came off in separate incidents just last month.

All in all, not a bad year. I hope you agree.

I would like to finish this report by wishing you all and the club in general every success in the forthcoming season. Go careful, keep both wheels on the ground, and wear that helmet.