



# Not The Spoken Word

Bi-monthly newsletter of The Western Australian Historical Cycle Club Inc.

## Beverley Heroic

The Beverley Heroic turned six this year. The weekend of events centred on the wheatbelt town celebrate one of Australia's toughest races, The Beverley To Perth Road Race. Cool, sunny weather with light breezes made for blissful riding around the upper Avon valley.

The original incarnation of 'The Beverley' was the Rover Road Race, first run in 1897 and sponsored by Percy Armstrong, a young endurance rider and entrepreneur from Victoria.

Percy was drawn to WA by the Gold Rush and set up a successful cycle courier agency in Coolgardie before going on to become a Rover Cycles agent.

This event is close to my heart; my friend Phil McVey and I rode the original 160 km route one windy, rainy day in May 2014 with Toby Hodgson as support. Toby, now a club member, is a man of action and in October of that year he organised the first Beverley Heroic.

The event has grown and now includes competitive rides; The Beverley Heroic Race - a 114 km road race, The Beverley Heroic Cross - a cyclocross event run in town. There are non competitive participation events like the Night Ride and the all important Heroic Classic with distances of 90 and 150 km over mixed surfaces. These take in the best that WA's inner wheatbelt has to offer in spring; quiet roads, ripening crops and long rolling hills.

I'm delighted to report that 7 club members rode the Classics; Ian Barker ('71 Carlton), Lachlan Steele ('47 Swansea delivery bike), Colin Proctor ('34 Swansea), Collyn Gawned ('80 Shimano), Robert Frith ('47 Malvern Star), Adrian Emilsen (carbon Trek) and Steve Knight ('41 Malvern Star). The last two also rode the gruelling road race and Adrian ('85 Motioncraft) rode the cyclocross too.

For the first time the club had members who drove out just to display bikes in the Retro Bike Show. George Morris took home the people's choice trophy for his 1960 Swansea, just edging out Mal and Myrene Bell's Michaux Velocipede. Alan Naber's early full suspension Rolls Rocket inspired wonder and a degree head scratching among the cyclocross crowd.  
*Robert Frith*



*Above: Sandgate Rd rest stop for Ian Barker's 1971 Carlton Corsa. Photo, Ian Barker*

*Below: Night riders at the aerodrome. photo, Robert Frith*



## Night Ride

A tight knit group of riders left the Beverley Town Hall in the crisp evening of Saturday.

In contrast to the wet evening of the Friday the night was bright, the moon being one night shy of full, and the silent countryside charged with the glow of mystery.

The 16km ride meandered through the streets and countryside to the high point west of the town. Riders regrouped here, although the field was by no means spread out, to look at the night sky and countryside around about.

The brightness of the Moon precluded a clear view of The Milky Way and constellations such as The Pleiades (The Seven Sisters) but the planet Saturn was clearly visible.

Riders were on a variety of bicycles ranging from the beautiful machines of Colin Proctor and Sayed Faiz (from Malaysia, and arguably the first international participant in The Beverley Heroic) to the clanking and grinding RR of Le Lanterne Rouge.

No mechanicals interrupted the ride except for a headlight battery failure on the return journey from the Airfield. This was co-operatively rectified in no time and the group rode triumphant to the Town Hall.

The camaraderie and steady pace, well within the capability of all riders, made for a very pleasant evening ride, avowedly enjoyed by all.  
*Collyn Gawned*

# Stuck in the Shed with Glenn Huffer

## What are you currently working on?

An Ordinary reproduction which is primarily based on the engineering of mid 1880s Singer and Matchless machines

## How many rideable bikes do you have?

Two. Both modern commuters so perhaps they don't rate a mention in this forum

## If push comes to shove what is your favourite bike?

This one is in another members collection. It's an early BSA suspension frame with a rear calliper brake actuated from a back pedal mechanism mounted on the bottom bracket and a head set which can be adjusted on the fly, all BSA components. I love the quality engineering that went into the production of this cycle and the fact that even though it is early 20th century it can be comfortably ridden today.

## What was your first bike?

A Malvern Star Dragstar. Apehanger handle bars, a banana seat with 4 foot sissy bar, 3 speed T bar shifter. I gradually converted it to a flat bar, freewheel hub BMX of sorts over the years.

## Pick a bike any bike.. in your dreams what are you riding?

I am currently putting together the components I need to construct an Eagle which is an 1890s Ordinary. The Eagle has a small steerer wheel at the front and the larger driving wheel at the rear. I'm pretty sure this will be my dream bike to ride. All the elegance and excitement of the Penny Farthing Ordinary without the risk of doing a header over the bars.

## Whistle while you work? Give us a tip on the sounds that fill your workspace.

If I'm content with how a project is going the workshop is pretty quiet. If I've measured three times and cut once and still got it wrong, which happens more times that I'd like to admit, usually lots of loud swearing. Makes me think I should start listening to music for the sake of the neighbours.



# Richard Patenall's Notes From A Big City

In May 2019 I was fortunate to have the opportunity to work for a couple of months in central London. Keen to explore the city in my free time I bought a bike and as those two months grew to over five months so did my trips. Let me share some of them with you over the next few months. Happy cycling!

## Part 1 - Home on Two Wheels

Within 12 hours of arriving in the UK I had left my temporary home near Victoria Station and was deep in suburban London having just bought my 'new' £130 bike "Scarlett" - a low-mileage 1984 Raleigh Clubman Lady mixte looking very stylish in ruby red with gold lug lining, bronze mudguards and a typical mid-80s mix of quality components. (*bottom photo*)

My homeward journey took considerably longer after my phone died but a friendly cyclist directed me to a train station after we'd had a good chat about old bikes.

The following weekend I headed off to take a look at London's famous Tweed Run (*middle photo*). I was welcomed by a glorious sight of bicycles and riders, of all types and ages with a clear emphasis on style. Despite feeling decidedly under-dressed for both the occasion and the bitter wind I joined the 1000+ riders as we snaked our way through quiet London streets.

Morning Tea at the Imperial War Museum offered me a chance to enjoy a coffee, a cake and a Spitfire before we continued through Lambeth and across Westminster Bridge, waving at the tourists enjoying this elegant display of Britishness. As we made our way past Buckingham Palace I raised my cap to Her Majesty and peeled off to head to Greenwich to meet up with John, another vintage bike enthusiast.

John's collection at home included four beautiful bikes that he'd built himself when attending an annual frame building course with famous London builder Geoff Roberts but his main collection was offsite so we cycled off to his shipping container. As the rain drummed on the steel roof

John talked me through his collection of mainly 1970-90s racing bikes with a focus on London builders. Amongst them was a Roy Cottingham that I was keen to see as that had first put me in contact with John through a London bike

forum. Thirsty from all the bike talk we headed to the Trafalgar Tavern by the very impressive Old Royal Naval College for a bite and to re-acquaint myself with proper British beer before I cycled home again. I believe navigating in London gets easier after three pints!

# Club Calendar

**Nov 13th 8am**

## Display - Have A Go Day

Burswood Park, Stall 58. For vehicle access enter Gate 1, vehicles must be out out by 8.30am. If you only have one or two bikes to display use the free parking and walk or ride your bike(s) in. Contact Merv Thompson 9450 2579

**Mon 18th Nov. 19:30**

## Monthly Meeting - speaker Alan Naber

6 Hickey St, Ardross

## Dec 7<sup>th</sup> 7pm Christmas Pageant

Perth. Contact Mal Bell 0428 718073

## Sun 24th Nov. 11:30 Christmas Lunch

6 Hickey St, Ardross

Bring a salad, a drink and your best party hat!

**Mon 20th Jan. 2020 19:30**

## Monthly Meeting & Auction

6 Hickey St, Ardross

**Mon 17th Feb 19:30**

## Monthly Meeting & Auction

6 Hickey St, Ardross



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# Cyclist's Case Raised In Parliament

CANBERRA, Wed.-The case of the West Australian cyclist, Geoff Baker, who has been omitted from the Olympic team, was raised in the House of Representatives tonight.

Mr. Burke (Lab., W.A.) Said that Baker had been selected to go to the Olympic Games and, he believed, had already sailed. His organisation had raised £500, but because he had been unable to raise the requisite £750, he was not to be allowed to join the Games team.

"He is one of the leading sprinters in Australia, I understand, yet he is now to be debarred. This seems to be a very funny state of affairs," he said.

Earlier Mr. Opperman (Lib., Vic.), a world-famous cyclist, said that Russell Mockridge, the Empire's greatest cyclist was being held out of the

Australian Olympic team for Helsinki by an artificial barrier.

He said that he was expressing the bewilderment of the man in the street at Mockridge's "sacking" from the Olympic team. Mockridge was dropped from the team because he would not sign a bond which would prevent him from turning professional for at least two years after Helsinki Games.

Mockridge is now on the Continent and paid his own way there.

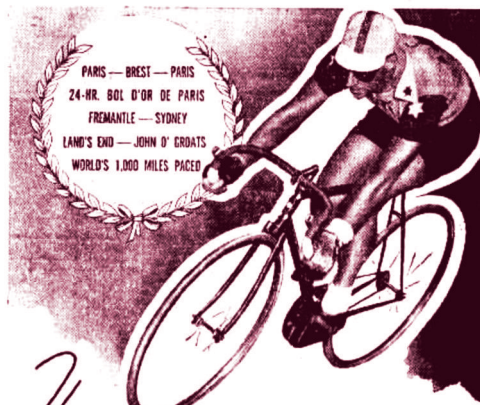
Mr. Opperman said that as Mockridge was already on the Continent he could race for Australia at the Games and the Games fund would have to find only the cost of a guernsey.

He praised Mockridge's ability and character. The bond, which Mockridge had refused to sign was against the spirit of the Olympic Games, Mr. Opperman said. It was not an Olympic regulation but an Australian rule.

As the Government had allotted £8,000 to the Games fund it had an interest in the dropping of Mockridge from the team.

The Games - if Australia could produce winners-would pay in publicity, he said. The Minister for the Army, Mr. Francis, said that he would direct the points raised by members about the composition of Australia's Olympic team to the notice of the Treasurer, Sir Arthur Fadden. (Baker sailed for England last Monday.)

**The West Australian May 22 1952**



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