



Not the...

Spoke 'n Word

Volume 4 N° 6

NEWSLETTER

March/April 2003

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to Easter Monday clashing with our April meeting, this event has now been changed to MONDAY APRIL 28th

There will be no Guildford Fair this year, but it will take place in 2004.

EDITORIAL

As I mentioned at the January meeting, I want to start a register of all our bikes. You Will find a form in this issue of the newsletter, with enough room for you to give details of twelve machines. If you have more machines, please photocopy more sheets as necessary. What I really need is the year when your bike was made, if possible, because then it gives us a guide to the age of other bikes of the same make.

If you are worried about the security of your collection, you do not need to submit your name or address with details of your bikes – that is entirely up to you. Of course there will be a number of bikes with no means of knowing what make they were, especially since many have been repainted over the years, and unless they are distinctive like Malvern Star, Swansea, or Raleigh, to name a few, just who built them is anyone's guess. So, please do your best for me in this matter, and we should hopefully get a better understanding of the age of more of our bikes. Send completed forms to my address, or see me at a meeting.

Peter Wells

MINUTES OF MEETING 20th JANUARY 2003

Present – 12 members. 1 visitor.

Apologies – Jean Barrett & Denis Gibbs.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved K. Ward, seconded Mal Buckland.

Matters Arising – There was no business arising.

Financial Report – Closing Balance \$2,280.04 Moved P. Wells, seconded D. Clark. Merv Thompson put in an account for stamps and tea money \$20.00

Correspondence In –

- \$300 and a letter of thanks was received for the clubs support at the pageant. Comments – it was suggested that better lighting be provide at the corner of William & Wellington Streets, and that official photos be taken and made available.

- The first issue of the Moulton Bicycle magazine is now available – copies available from Ken Ward.
- Cycle Week – sponsorship is available if we hold an event that week. Phil to look into this

Events

- Feb 2nd – 80 Veteran cars meeting in Perth from 9.30am til 11am and then proceeding to Armadale.
- Feb 23rd – Rockingham ride – maps available. Club to provide cans of drinks and watermelon. Merrill to arrange this.
- June 7th – 14th – Display at Riverton Forum.
- Avon River Show.
- Club agreed to purchase a pergola to the value of \$200. Members to bring information on this to next meeting
- T-Shirts – Peter Shrugg is to obtain prices on embroidered badges.
- Alan Naber and Ken Ward are all attending the Canberra Conference.
- Phil Harris reported on a show called Shark Net, which will be using 2 of his historical bikes.
- Phil Harris showed a water bag from Vic for the bike being prepared for display at the Mint – the club agreed to donate \$15.00 for the purchase of this.

Show & Tell

- The Armstrong Cycle & Motor Agency Catalogue of Accessories 1916.
 - Ken ward showed a tyre tube and wheel, which he had for sale, and also showed an interesting plastic gadget for removing tyres.
 - Merv Thompson showed boxes of odds and ends for sale at \$1.00 each item.
 - Peter Wells showed a Carbide Lamp.
 - Ray Martlew showed an interesting wheel and hub gathered from a verge collection and recommended that others look closely at verge collections. He also showed a PMG bike bearing the number 845, and talked about a delivery bike he had seen.
 - Merv Thompson showed a Kings Butterfly, sealed chain and beautiful badge which he found at Augusta. The bike was in very good condition, and had been made in England.
- The meeting closed at 9pm.

NEXT MEETINGS: 17th March Monday at 7.30pm

28th April Monday 7.30pm

VCC Club Rooms 6B Hickey Street, Ardross

WAHCC Committee - President: Merv Thompson 9450 2579

Treasurer: Don Smith 9573 1081

Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601

Articles for Newsletter: The Editor Peter Wells
25 Constantine Court Thornlie WA 6108 (08) 9459 1750

Vice President: David Clark 6278 1048

Secretary: Merrill Martlew 9451 1186

Post Office Box 516 Bentley 6982

Events Co-Ordination: Phil Harris 9459 7146

Denis Gibbs 9398 2792 David Clarke 6278 1048

MINUTES OF MEETING 17th FEBRUARY 2003

Present – 14 members. .

Apologies – Ray Martlew & Saskia Letham.

Minutes of Previous Meeting – Read and accepted. Moved Mal Bell, seconded Ken Ward.

Matters Arising – There was no business arising.

Financial Report – Closing Balance \$2,691.93 Moved Mal Buckland, seconded P. Harris. It was agreed to pay Ken ward the \$9.00 cost of the book he donated to the library.

Correspondence In –

- The Melville Fair will be open for displays to be set up between 7.30am & 9.30am, all vehicles to be moved by 9.30am. The Historic Bikes will be set up with the Historic Cars.
- A form has arrived on public liability.
- Merv Thompson reported on the gathering of the veteran cars which had been a successful day.

Events

- 9th March – Mandurah Antique Fair.
- 14th March – Bike to Breakfast. Meet at Mt Henry Bridge 6am.
- 16th March – Whiteman's
- 23rd March – Melville Fair
- Alan Naber will be doing a presentation at the March meeting.
- Members are reminded that library books are to be returned after 1 month.
- Ken ward is researching bikes and will appreciate any information. He also showed a book on Percy Armstrong.
- A swap meet and barbecue at the clubrooms is proposed.
- Mal Bell advised that a supply of tyres for penny-farthings will be available in March from Fitch the Rubber Man.
- Phil Harris is going to look at cabanas on Saturday.
- Peter Wells is making up a stand for the club sign. Mal Bell is donating the metal for the construction.
- Walter Edom has 2 club bikes which need a new home.

Show & Tell

- Eric Barrett showed a BSA bike, late 50's, 5 speed, rebuilt and repainted, this bike is for sale.
- Peter Wells showed an old BSA frame from the early 1900's.
- Peter Wells made a stand for the campfire with the miner's bike.
- Phil Harris has some new tyres for sale at \$10.00 each.
- Mal Bell showed hollow spokes from a penny-farthing.
- Merv Thompson is investigating the history of licensing bikes in WA.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

TREATING OLD LEATHER

I have a few old leather saddles and tools bags – the type that we once carried everywhere with a couple of tyre levers and patching outfit. I am talking of the days when it was almost impossible to buy new tyres and tubes, and our tubes had begun to look like a bundle of patches held together by an old tube – you know, during WWII, and for a couple of years after hostilities ceased. Some people even resorted to wiring lengths of old rubber garden hose to their rims so that they could continue riding their bikes. All of which has nothing to do with old leather.

Three of the saddles in question must be at least sixty years old and the leather has been neglected and left to weather quit badly. I tried Coachlene on one of them, but had little success in softening the leather, so paid a visit to the local saddlery, asking their advice.

A very helpful young lady didn't even falter when I pro my rather tatty saddle – a far cry from the equestrian type she usually works with. She first tried a paste on the leather, then produced a liquid which she proceeded to paint on the leather. It was so dry that the liquid disappeared as though by magic. After a couple of coats it was possible to see an improvement in the texture of the leather. Needless to say I bought a tin from her, and have now treated all my leather seats. Even a couple of new old stock seats soaked up the softener although not like the old ones.

It took three of four coats, both on top and below the leather before the leather stopped soaking up the softener. I think the seats look much better, and no doubt will last much longer. The product is called Leather Soft, the brand Efflax, a price \$17.95. I only used about 1/3 of a can to treat five seats so the cost per saddle in minimal.

Peter Wells

DISPLAY NOTICES

Would members intending to display any machines at the club and not in possession of our Club approved display sheet, let me have details of these bikes ASAP so that the notices can be produced. The club covers the cost of this service for members, and a sample appears in this newsletter. The notices are A4 size.

Peter Wells

ROCKINGHAM RIDE

Fine weather saw a large turnout for this event, with many interesting machines not seen before by most present. Amongst them was an original, as found, vintage Swift ladies bike, a 30's Gordonson racer, and a special WA made ice cream vending trike.

It was great to see some of our younger members take part in also their growing interest in WA built machines. It augurs well for the future of this club, because a number of organizations catering for older vehicles have difficulty recruiting young members. And it was good to see the ladies taking part in the run. Most riders rode from Rockingham to Point Perrier on a delightful trip with great scenery, especially on such a clear day. Those present were –

Mal Bell – Penny Farthing

Myrene Bell – Rudge Rotary

Phil Harris – Blackbird and Raleigh Superbe

Lyn Harris, with Desiree and Troy

Saskia Lethan – Sunbeam and Austral

Bob Barrow – Ice Cream Trike

Blanche Barrow – Shogun

Ray Martlew and Merrill Martlew – Modern Ice Cream and Recumbent

Merv Thompson – South African Raleigh

Dawn Thompson – Raleigh

Mal Buckland – Penny Farthing

Julie Buckland – Moulton

Gareth Buckland – Gordonson and Recumbent Trike

Scott Anderson – Swift

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And two visitors

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Still more West Australian built bikes keep turning up, some of them by now pretty rare. Among the latest is a Kookaburra racer, still in original paint. The Kookaburra was built by Arthur Grady, in Fremantle, and is probably a pre-war bike. Arthur Grady was the first person to ride a motorcycle around Australia, using a 350cc Douglas in 1924, and beating the little Citroen car to be the first motor vehicle to do the trip. Grady was still building bikes into the seventies.

In the same stable is a very nice Flash racer, also West Australian built, this is much later than the Kookaburra.

Thanks to Mal Bell we now have a stand for our banner, his gift of tubing is greatly appreciated.

MILITARY MUSICAL CYCLISTS

I wonder how many club members watched the Tattoo at Edinburgh Castle to celebrate 50 years of Queen Elizabeth II's reign? It was the best for many years, and not to be missed if you can find a video of it.

One group with a difference was a band of cyclists from the Dutch Army, all riding what appeared to be quite early bikes, specially fitted out so that the various musical instruments could be played on the march – or should that be on the pedal? The Dutch formed cycle troops as early as 1912, and this group is the culmination of a long line of cycling soldiers. An interesting point was that the bikes have fixed gears, and are not normally fitted with brakes, since the Netherlands is flat. However, the parade ground at the Castle is on a slope, so brakes had to be fitted. I must say that they put on a great show, taking everyone by surprise with the novel display. A band of cyclists forming an army band, now that is different, and most of them were around 20 years old.

Peter Wells

HEAD START

The State Government has begun a plan to allocate dedicated stopping bays at traffic lights for cyclists. The bays are painted green, and are in front of the white line motorists must stop at when the lights are red. The idea is that cyclists will be more visible at the front of the vehicles waiting at the lights. Apparently it is quite common overseas, and works well. So keep your eyes open for these green bays.

It is good to see that there is a great cycleway along the new section of Roe Highway between Nicholson Road and Welshpool Road. At last something is being done to promote cycling as an alternative to the motorcar.

MALVERN STAR DATING

I have recently corresponded with Warren Meade, a learned cycle enthusiast in Victoria, and a Malvern Star specialist. He has kindly sent me some hints on how to date that marque, and although this is not foolproof, it will at least be a starting point.

Earliest known frame number 10367 – 1926 (my frame number 17816 – 1930-32)

Block letters on transfers until end 1938

Scroll type transfers 1939 models on

Ozgear fork ends – 1937 till just after WWII

This is how the numbering went –

Pre 1940 – straight numeric sequence

P denotes built in Perth

One number and P – 1940s

“5” plus number followed by P then numeric – 1950's

So, up to 1940 – (example number) 160841

1940's 8P2745 (1948)

1950's 58P7148 (1958)

1960's No known code, but appears to revert to numeric system

Many 5 stars and true racing bikes don't have numbers, or else have short numbers such as T98, possibly referring to the rider or builder.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2003

Mar 8th Sunday – Mandurah Antique Fair

Mar 14th Friday – Bike Week. Ride to Work

Contact Phil Harris 9459 7146

Mar 16th Sunday – Whiteman Park Classic Car Show – Club

Display – Contact Phil Harris 9459 7146

Mar 17th Monday – MONTHLY MEETING

Mar 23rd Sunday – Melville Fair Display and ride

Apr 13th Sunday – Club ride – details later

Apr 25th Friday – Perth Mint – Miners Bike Handover.

Contact Dave Clark 6278 1048

Apr 28th Monday – MONTHLY MEETING

May 18th Sunday – Swap Meet at Clubrooms

May 19th Monday – AGM

Jun 7th – 14th – Riverton Forum Club Display (One week)

Jun 16th Monday – MONTHLY MEETING

FOR SALE-SWAP-WANTED

For Sale

BSA lightweight Sports 5 speed Sturmey-Archer hub gears. Top condition. Eric Barrett 9257 2474

For Sale

Powell & Hanmer Acetylene cycle headlamp \$150.00 Peter Wells 9459 1750

For Sale

Malvern Star ladies roadster. 1930/32. BSA cranks etc. Complete with guards \$20.00 Peter Wells 9459 1750

WANTED WANTED WANTED

Volunteers to man our display at Riverton Forum, June 7/14. This is our BIG fund raising event, as well as a great way to promote the club, give serious thought to helping out during this eight day display. Contact Merv, Phil or Peter.

1934

'SPEEDWELL' Cycles

As used by DUNCAN GRAY

Australia's Successful Representative at the

1934 British Empire Games

Twice DUNCAN GRAY on his truly "SPEEDWELL" has represented Australia at THE OLYMPIC Games where he won and made a World Record in the 1000-Metre Championship. GRAY on his "SPEEDWELL" has won more Championships than any other Amateur Rider.

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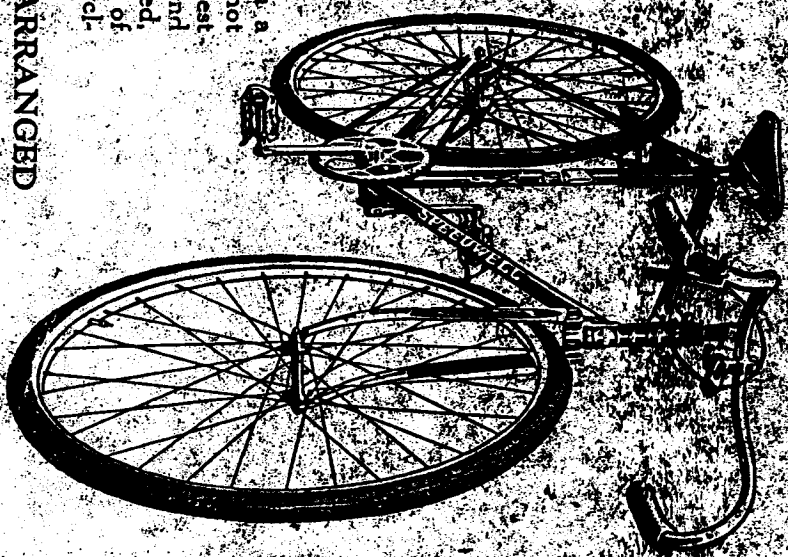
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671-3 Hay Street

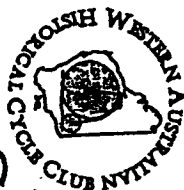
PERTH

A better machine than a "SPEEDWELL" cannot be built. Only the finest quality materials and components are used and the big range of models cover every cycling need.

EASY TERMS ARRANGED



Standard design of identification of cycles (size A4). Sample Only.



C. 1951
SWANSEA
~ SEMI-RACER ~

MAKER SWANSEA CYCLE CO
FREMANTLE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

FRAME SIZE 23 INCHES
WHEELS & TYRES 27 x 1 1/4 BOX RIMS
3 SPEED DERAILLEUR GEARS

EXTRAS -

ALLOY MUDGUARDS
REAR PROP STAND
CHROME PLATED WHEEL RIMS

COST WHEN NEW \$50.00