



Not the ...

Spoke'n Word

Volume 13 No 5

NEWSLETTER

Mar – Apr 2012

MINUTES OF MEETING 20th FEBRUARY 2012

Meeting opened 7.30pm.

Present - 17 members present.

Apologies – Walter Edom

Minutes of Meeting 16th January 2012- Read and accepted. Moved Mal Bell, seconded David Townsend.

Treasurer's Report

Balance B/F	\$4,147.76
Income	\$ 31.00
Expenses	\$ Nil
Balance	<u>\$4,178.76</u>

The Treasurers Report was accepted, moved David Townsend, seconded Toppy Geer.

Correspondence In

- Newsletter of the Penny Farthing Club of South Australia.

Correspondence Out

- Nil.

General Business

- Public Liability Insurance. The President advised that a meeting of COMVAS members is to be held in early March to discuss ongoing problems. He will advise the outcome at the next General Meeting.
- Whiteman Park. Concern was expressed at the difficult attitude of Sue Churn towards parking on site. Mal Bell said that in consequence he would not be attending next time.

Coming Events

- The meeting with Great West Entertainments on 12th February did not eventuate as neither the Club nor GWE seemed to know what was wanted and as a result they cancelled the event.
- 26th February – Maintenance Day with Alan Hind at 4 Koel Street, Langford. Be there for 9.00am to solve your problems and see how it is done by the experts!

- 24th March – Brookton Motor Show. Be there by 9.00am for a good day out!
- 6th May – Moondyne Festival at Toodyay from 9.00am to 3.30pm. Details later.

Show and Tell

- Merv Thompson brought a mystery piece and asked for suggestions as to what it might be for. He suggested it might be a Billy Goat cart harness!
- Ken Ward brought along two articles about cycling activities in WA in 1910.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

MINUTES OF MEETING 19th MARCH 2012

Meeting opened 7.30pm.

Present - 15 members present.

Apologies – Robert Hunt

Minutes of Meeting 20th February 2012- Read and accepted. Moved Mal Bell, seconded Phil Harris.

Treasurer's Report

Balance B/F	\$4,178.76
Income	\$ 69.00
Expenses	\$ 142.40
Balance	<u>\$4,105.36</u>

The Treasurers Report was accepted, moved David Clark, seconded Ken Ward.

Correspondence In

- Nil.

Correspondence Out

- Nil.

General Business

- Peter Wells gave details of the meeting of COMVAS members. There are only four clubs left now. No solution has been found but we are hopeful of a favourable outcome.
- The AGM is due in June and we badly need new blood on the committee so please step forward newer members.

NEXT MEETINGS: Monday 16th April 7:30pm

Monday 21st May 7:30pm

Committee – President: Peter Wells 9459 1750

**Vice President: Merv Thompson
9450 2579**

**Treasurer: Harold Perry 9364 7253
11 Brentwood Ave, Brentwood 6153**

**Secretary: Tony Hall 9446 5738
27 Brentwood Ave, Woodlands 6018**

Articles for Newsletter:

The Editor, Peter Wells 9459 1750
25 Constantine Way, Thornlie 6108

Historian: Ken Ward 9364 3601

Librarian: Harold Perry 9364 7253

Event's Organiser: Phil Harris 9459 7146

**Committee Members: David Clark, Walter Edom,
Alan Hind**

DISCLAIMER The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WA Historical Cycle Club and the accuracy of information published herein is not guaranteed.

- Peter Wells suggested we have car badges made up in plastic using our logo. Merv Thompson will obtain prices etc.
- Mal Bell advised that GWE has made the club a further donation of \$300.00 making a total of \$450.00.
- Alan Hind told of Dismantle in Fremantle. They recondition bikes to send to Africa.

Events

- 18th – 25th March - Bike Week. No one from the club attended the freeway ride on Sunday 18th March and it was suggested by Phil Harris that we should enter as a club next year.
- 24th March - Brookton Old Time Motor show. Be there by 9.00am for a good day out.
- 16th April General Meeting.
- 22nd April – Car Show at Whiteman Park.
- 6th May – Moondyne Festival at Toodyay. Organisers have indicated that they will donate \$100.00 for our attendance.
- 21st May – General Meeting.

Show and Tell

- Dave Clark brought a magnificent Swansea road bike rebuilt with Peter's assistance. Peter had some difficulty dealing with the heavy chrome deposit on the cranks.
- Merv Thompson showed a vintage pump, all brass and told how to make leather washers to fit. He also brought along a vintage gramophone and dancers!

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

The Club has had PLI through the COMVAS group of clubs and there has been a change of insurers along the way. This has brought about some problems, but at a recent meeting of COMVAS it was decided to get advice from a lawyer on how to deal with the problem. Luckily, one of the group has a daughter working for a Lawyer, and with her help we may be able to resolve this matter satisfactorily. There will be another meeting of COMVAS in the near future, and hopefully the matter will be resolved.

Peter Wells

THE RESTORATION DAY

A pre-season autumn day saw nine members assemble at Alan Hind's residence for a series of hints on how to make life easier when servicing or restoring bicycles – the older type, before the throw away junk appeared on the scene.

Members were shown how to check frame and forks for truth using readily available items, and how to make sure that a rebuilt wheel had the rim central on the hub using a simple jig. A number of readily available tools for removing or tightening centre brackets, pedals etc were also shown, those of better quality and available through good cycle shops. A spoke threading tool was also on display,

as were a number of tools to remove rear clusters. For any member in the Gosnells area Jet Cycles will get in any special tool for you at a good price, but let them know that you are a member of the club. Destrly Schrock of Guildford Cycles will also look after members, as will Mercer Cycles in Fremantle.

It was pointed out that it pays to buy top quality tools, the cheap items are a waste of money. A rather unusual Sparta (Holland) cycle was also on display. Alan Hind showed his Bianchis, some sporting their new authentic paint job, and a new system of getting special colours in a pressure pack.

The tyre size problem was also aired, the importance of knowing the correct bead diameter being the only way to ensure that the tyre will fit the rim. (A list of tyre size/bead diameter sizes will be included in the booklet about to be produced by the Editor in the near future, which should help in this matter).

There were also a good number of early cycle spanners and special tools for all to see. Cups of tea or coffee, and buns, kept the host busy, and a number of problems were solved along the way. So thanks Alan, it was a very enjoyable morning.

Those present were Mal Bell, Phil Harris, Andrew Blackmore, Harold Perry, Judy Perry, Topyy Geer, Alan Hind, Merv Thompson, and Peter Wells.

Brookton Old Time Motor Show Saturday 24th March 2012

A 6.30am start, after a beautiful sunrise, and Dave and I hit the road on our way to Brookton, passing a lot of old cars and a few army vehicles heading the same way. We had a good trip and arrived around 8.00am with lots of time to set up our display. Already the place was full of overnight campers and a great carnival atmosphere prevailed, with so much to see.

Mal and Myrene, then Harold and Judy soon arrived to help erect our display, some twenty cycles of all ages for all to see. As always we had a good response from the merry onlookers, with the usual comments – I had one of those – great to see – how do you get onto that, and so on.

Harold and I rode in the parade around the oval, which was good fun. I can now say I overtook an E-type Jag on my delivery bike, and did not get a speeding ticket.



This biannual event has to be one of the best we attend, so members, you have two years to think about it, get your old bikes out of the shed for a great day.

Those present were Harold and Judy Perry, Mal and Myrene Bell, Phil Harris and Dave Clark. There was a total of 20 bikes on display, a good turn out for 6 members.

Phil Harris

BILL MANTOVA

West Australian racing men have come to Victoria to race for decades. Bill Mantova is one who began in Perth and who is now riding with the Geelong Veterans Club in the Super Vets category.

Bill was born in Perth in 1924, his father a racing cyclist riding in such classic events as the Beverley to Perth. At age 14 he took part in the School boys Championships in WA in 1938 and won a place in a team to come to Victoria to compete at the national Championships.

He competed as a sprinter in C grade club events in WA until 1942 when he was drafted into the army, the lot of many whose young lives spanned the war. From 1946, back from the war, riding a Flying Arrow from Subiaco as a member of the City of Perth Cycling Club he grew quickly into prominence, when he won the sprint championship of Fremantle in 1947 beating the favourite Norm Burdus. He was deemed 'the most improved rider in the west, thrilling enthusiasts with brilliant sprinting and dazzling track displays'. He was selected in the state team to compete in the national championships in Adelaide that year.

The next year was spent with Alf Norris racing on the board track at North Essendon and in Tasmania. Cycle racing was very popular in those years after the war and the sprinters were blue ribbon men, racing against the best from Europe, Enzo Sacchi, Karl Koblaugh and Australians Sid Patterson and Russell Mockridge.

Bill remained in Victoria, married the daughter of the long term secretary to the Footscray Professional Cycling Club, Fred Jusica and began working seriously.

Family life and work did not prevent him from continuing to be involved in cycling. He continued to be involved in cycling until 1977. This was the period that saw the inauguration of the Geelong District Cycling Club's competitions. Living in Geelong he saw the



famous Warrnambool races come through town and he joined the Geelong West Professional Cycling Club. In 1979 at the age of 56 he finished only 18 minutes behind the winner Don Allen. Not bad for a sprinter.

His record is impressive with continuous wins over the years in the vets and club events. In 1987 he won the Victorian Veteran Championship in the 60 - 64 section. In 1988 he was awarded an Australia Day Medal for achievement for his cycle racing, his high standing amongst his colleagues and for his



participation as a team mechanic in the record breaking 1987 Perth to Sydney Tandem Bike race which broke the record set by Bill Read and Gordon Jones in 1933, halving the time from 22 days to 11.

He continued to race, winning gold medals in the Masters Games in Canberra in the time trial, the criterium and road race in the 85 year category. Bill Mantova, a champion racing cyclist.

These notes have been taken from interviews with Bill by Rod Charles who has been compiling a history of cycling in the Geelong district spanning the years 1869 to the 1980s.

COMING EVENTS

- **Classic Car Show Display Sunday 22nd April**
This popular event is now being held in April and we need to be on site and have our cars and trailers out of the area by 9.00am, and there will be no movement of vehicles before 3.30pm. We will be in our usual shady spot, so do your best to make our show better than before.
- **Moodyne Festival, Toodyay Sunday 6th May**
This is a new event for us, and we need to be set up by 9.00am. Merv Thompson is trying to organise overnight accommodation if some member would like to travel to Toodyay on Saturday, so, if you are interested, phone him on 9450 2579. There is a swap meet on the Saturday.
- **Club Ride Sunday 27th May**
Organiser wanted for this event. Contact Phil *Stu Side* Harris 9450 7146. *UNDER MT HENRY BRIDGE*
- **Speed Dome Display Sunday 24th June**
Come along and display your bikes and see some of Australia's top track riders in action.

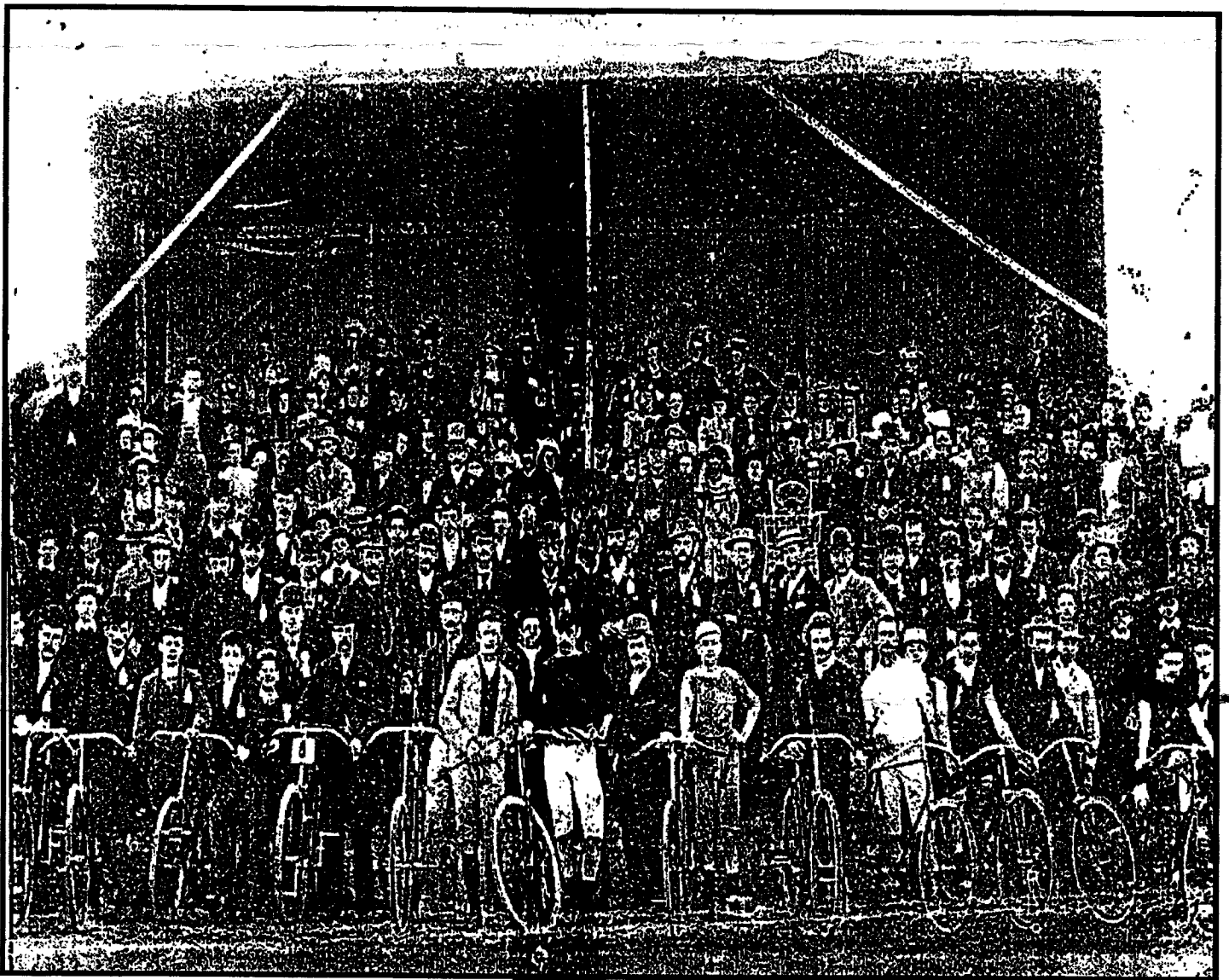
THE SAFETY BICYCLE

The Safety bicycle came on the scene in Australia in the very early 1890s, and almost overnight put paid to the Penny farthings, especially when the Pneumatic tyre came on the scene.

You will note that every machine shown in this photograph has flat or slightly turned down handlebars. I wonder why those early machines are so scarce while there are quite a few original PFs still in existence. These are probably no more than a dozen or so pre 1910 safety bicycles that I know of in Perth today.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2012

- Monday 16th April – General Meeting
- Sunday 22nd April - Classic Car Show
Whiteman Park
- Sunday 6th May – Moondyne Festival
Toodyay
- Monday 21st May - General Meeting
- Sunday 27th May – Ride TBA
- *➤ Monday 18th June – Annual General Meeting
- Sunday 24th June – Speed Dome Display
- Monday 16th July – General Meeting
- Sunday 22nd July – Tour De ruste



FIRST CYCLING CLUB MEETING IN PERTH, JANUARY, 1893.