



Not The Spoken Word

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

Frame Repairs

I recently had to find someone capable of doing some pretty serious repairs to a hundred year old racing frame. It seems that only two people are in business in Perth doing that sort of thing.

I contacted Quantum Bicycles in North Perth and they agreed to at least look at what was needed. I was taken there by one of my lovely daughters.

At first I only saw the tiny entrance to the workshop and wondered if the firm could do the job. Then I was taken to another couple of rooms that were full of shelves and racks of bike parts and tools. Everything was spotless, it was a pleasure to see such a great setup.

I'm happy to recommend Quantum's services to anyone who has frame or paint problems. Aldo will be pleased to show you some of his work; his paint finish is top class.

Quantum Cycles, 64 Farmer St, North Perth, WA 6006. Phone 08 94433407. Email info@quantumbicycles.com

Peter Wells

Notes from Committee

Your committee met recently to discuss concerns over the club's new logo and committee's obligations to members.

The club's constitution defines the composition of the committee. Beyond outlining its responsibilities with regard to managing memberships the constitution places no restraint on the committee.

Some members have suggested that committee have some or all of its decisions ratified by the general membership. This practice is not required by the club constitution.

Disquiet around the club's new identity is sufficiently great that it is interfering with the social nature of the club as well as providing unwanted distraction from our core activities.

Committee resolved to put several questions to the general membership at the January 2016 meeting, including some changes to the constitution.

For the constitutional changes to be effective we must

have a quorum of 60% of members present in person. With 35 financial members on the books we must get at least 21 members to our January meeting for these resolutions to be voted on. Our constitution does not provide for proxy votes.

Constitution Updates Background Committee

The constitution does not currently include any provision to direct the committee, or to make committee answerable to the general membership. Some clubs define their committee's role quite clearly, and will place limits on limits on spending. Your committee feels that such limits will place too great a management burden on the committee members. Committee has resolved to simply add a requirement for committee to communicate its minutes to members.

Quorum

The constitution requires us to have a quorum of 60% of members present in person at a general meetings, including annual general meetings and special general meetings. We had 20 members at our 2014 AGM and just 15 this year - I'll let you to draw your own conclusions! The 60% demanded by our constitution is obviously onerous and unrealistic. It also leaves the club open to accusations of operating illegally. Committee is asking to have the quorum reduced to 20%. This is in line with many other clubs and associations.

Due Date For Membership Renewal

Memberships currently run from May 1st for a year. In practice members typically renew on or around the AGM in late June. This places an unnecessary burden on the treasurer who must accept monies and establish which members are financial on the night of the AGM. Committee has resolved to have the membership year to run from January 1st for a year, allowing a buffer between renewals and the AGM. There is a sweetener; current members will have their membership extended until January 1st 2017.

New Logo

There has been plenty of spirited discussion about the new logo. It is heartening to have members take a strong interest in how we are perceived in the broader community. It is time to put debate behind us and re-focus on what we do best! Committee resolved to ask

two people speak to the members and then to put the matter to a vote.

As it happens neither of the people put forward have been available at the two meetings since committee met. Their arguments are presented below;

The Value Of The Original Logo

The following are some of the reasons that we believe that the Logo should remain as it has been since the clubs inception.

These items are the thoughts of Many and have been presented by David Clark and I am merely the mouth-piece for David and I might or might not agree with them.

It was recently stated by a high profile politician that “Something done in secret is something to be concerned about”.

The process has been undertaken by the Committee with insufficient verification by the membership. And as such has given the impression that it was being foisted on “The Membership” without consultation.

Any significant decisions undertaken by the “Committee” should be verified by the “membership” at the earliest possible time after the decision has been made.

All it takes is a vote at the next meeting, and if the Membership are in agreement then it will be agreed to quickly. Not foisted on us as if the membership did not matter.

The committee are elected by the membership and must work for the membership.

The idea of a logo is to identify the club.

The NEW logo might be that for a motor bike or car and is very similar to those in use by others.

The new logo does not suggest Cycling.

The original logo suggests cycling historically and is instantly identified by the greater majority of people whether they are cyclists or not.

The original logo depicts a “Ordinary or Penny Farthing” and it instantly is synonymous with ancient bicycles. WAHCC is a “Historical Cycle Club as the name suggests and the original logo is something that is instantly identified as a historical type cycle.

We are “West Australian” and the WA should be part of any Logo. I am sure that people look to us for information since the demise of “The Friends Of The Canberra Cycle Museum” closed down some years ago. However we are proud of being a WA club and should promote it in the Logo.

I am sure that some might feel that we are getting bigger than WA but first and foremost we are WA, not

some unknown area.

On a personal note it has been suggested that I am in favour of the original logo because I have a “Ordinary”

I take offence at this suggestion because as any of you that know me will know that I have a significant number of “Moultons” and also I have been a fervent member of the HPV groups both here in WA and overseas, having built several.

If the idea that I would like a logo that was of personal interest then perhaps I should hope to see a Moulton type logo. This would be wrong of me because most people do not even know what a moulton is or the fact that they were responsible for the arrest in decline in British cycling in the 60’s. They do know that a “Ordinary” was a historic type of cycle and that is what we want to indicate in our logo.

However WAHCC is a “Historical Cycle Club and the original logo is something that is instantly identified as a historical type cycle.

The new logo (which has not been verified by the members) looks like it has been an attempt to re invent the wheel. If anything was to happen with the logo then the existing logo should be modified slightly. Not a reinvention of the wheel.

David Clark and Mal Buckland



The Case for Change

I've been asked to offer a “new logo” perspective for discussion amongst the membership on the issue of the club logo. This arose after a new logo design was commissioned. Originally there was discussion regarding the new logo design and then went to the fundamental issue of whether we

need a new logo or not. It is on this latter point alone that I am offering a perspective as I believe a decision on this point is required before any further action is warranted.

My experience with logos and branding goes back more than 20 years although to be clear, I am not a graphic designer. My role in design is principally in managing designers. My insights come more from overseeing the process between client and designer.

The case for a new logo

We use logos to capture the attention of, and connect with, a target audience; regardless of whether it's a product, service, organisation or even just a one off event.

I've often heard conversation around the desire to build membership and bring in 'some new blood'. I think this makes good sense. It speaks of a club that aspires to prosper in perpetuity. Do we imagine the club still being alive and relevant in 10 or 20 years? Relevance speaks of the present and looks forward; reverence

speaks of the past. My argument does not disrespect the past but rather brings what we deeply respect to a new audience.

In the lifetime of the club the popularity of cycling and with it, a keen interest in vintage bikes, has skyrocketed. It is now recognised as a shift in lifestyle interests (globally) and not just a market trend. The WAHCC is in a unique position to leverage off this phenomenon. Public interest roused through the website in the short time it has been running supports this.

So the question arises, is the original logo all that it should be, to take advantage of the new era in cycling popularity and our new potential members who will be the lifeblood of the club in the decades to come? In short, I don't think so. It has served the club well in its formative years but if growing the club is seen as part of our future vision then a new logo would be the head-lamp lighting the path.

A good logo should be simple, versatile, relevant, distinctive and memorable. And the best logos are also timeless. Corporations spend vast amounts of money to get all this in one. While there is no such thing as a perfect logo, we can work toward a logo that will work well for us into the future.

I offer my own opinion here of the original logo, if for no other reason than to bring on a discussion about what the club represents now and into the future.

- The original logo is probably too complicated and therefore does not capture attention. For example, in using the words WAHCC and also having a map of WA included is effectively saying the same thing twice Our WA-ness is not really our key message as we're not competing with anyone.

- The penny farthing, being a quite literal depiction of a type of antique bike is too specific to accurately describe what we do – it only represents a very small part of our collective. Something less specific could be more relevant.

- With the value of hindsight, the logo now appears dated, in a style sense. Visual literacy rates amongst younger people and to some extent amongst anyone who uses digital media frequently is very high compared to pre digital era. This means clean simple concepts are read and recognised much more easily than, in the case of logos, those with more elements. I think the original logo has too many elements.

I'm offering one perspective for your consideration. There will be other perspectives too, each is also worthy of consideration. Then we need to decide whether we want a new logo or not before proceeding to use our resources (time and money) to develop a new logo.

Tim Eastwood.

Special General Meeting January 18 2016

Members will be asked to vote on 5 questions;

1. Amendment to section 11 of the constitution.

from

11. Quorum at general meetings,

(1) The quorum for a general meeting is 60% of the member present in person.

to

11. Quorum at general meetings,

(1) The quorum for a general meeting is 20% of the member present in person.

2. Amend sections 3 and 4 of the constitution

From

3. Membership, (4) A person ceases to be a member if he or she -

(b) fails to pay the annual membership from 1 June in any year;

To

3. Membership, (4) A person ceases to be a member if he or she -

(b) fails to pay the annual membership from 1 February in any year;

From

4. Membership fees,

(2) The annual membership fee is payable 1 May each year

To

4. Membership fees,

(2) The annual membership fee is payable 1 January

3. Amend section 8 of the constitution

addition of the following text to section 8

(6) Communication of Committee meetings minutes to the general membership to be performed in a timely manner.

4. Amendment to section 12

of the constitution

From

(3) At a general meeting

(a) each member present has one vote; and

(b) subject to the Associations Incorporation Act 1987, a question is passed if more than 50% of the votes cast are in favour.

To;

(3) At a general meeting

(a) each member present has one vote; and

(b) a member (in this rule called "the appointing member") may appoint in writing another member who is a natural person to be the proxy of the appointing member and to attend, and vote on behalf of the appointing member at, any general meeting; and

(c) subject to the Associations Incorporation Act 1987, a question is passed if more than 50% of the votes cast are in favour.

5. Club logo

a three way vote;

1. Retain old logo

2. Adopt new logo

3. Revisit logo again



Club Calendar

Christmas Pageant Dec 5th

St Georges Terrace - ride organiser Mal Bell.

Meeting - Monday Dec 7th

Phil's Shed in Denmark - contact Murray Gomm

Meeting - Monday Jan 18th 7.30pm

Ardross clubroom. This a special general meeting to consider changes to the club constitution and logo. It is vital that we have at least 24 members in attendance.

Meeting - Monday Feb 15th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Meeting - Monday Mar 21th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Meeting - Monday Apr 18th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Meeting - Monday May 16th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Arthur Grady Day Display - Saturday May 28th

Fremantle

AGM - Monday Jun 20th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Meeting - Monday Jul 18th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Meeting - Monday Aug 15th 7.30pm

Ardross Clubroom

Wanted

26x1 3/8 Westwood Rims 1 or 2

Alternatively to sell 1927 Swift Ladies Bike complete dismantled. Rod brakes, 2 x rusty 26x 1 3/8 rims. Reasonable offers considered.

Mal Buckland 95279427

Both Murray Gomm and Phil Jagger are chasing pre WW1 bikes Murray 0431846412, Phil 0420224795

For Sale

Great Southern has two bikes left over from auction; Mens Sprint Roadster 1960's
Mens Roadster approx 1960's
Murray 0431846412

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Vice President: Merv Thompson
Treasurer: Malcolm Bell
Secretary: Kym Murray
Committee Members: Alan Hind, Malcolm Buckland, Murray Gomm

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.

From The Murrumbidgee Irrigator

Friday 7 August 1931

H. OPPERMAN'S GALLANT EFFORT

Whilst Australian sportsmen were disappointed that Hubert Opperman — Australia's greatest cyclist — failed to finish closer than 12th in the classic Tour de France 3123 mile race, everyone who closely followed the cabled details of the titanic contest over 24 stages, must concede the fact that Opperman and his coworker R. W. Lamb put up a very gallant effort in face of well nigh insurmountable disabilities.

Despite several falls, and a broken wheel, Opperman, at the 14th stage, held 6th position in the general classification.

Subsequently he lost much time and his chance of ultimate success by illness during the 17th stage; even then his total time for the race would have won many of the previous Tour de France contests.

A. Magne (France), this year's winner, averaged 17.63 m.p.h. for the full distance. Opperman averaged 17.47 m.p.h., which would have won 9 but of the last 10 races — the only occasion since 1921 that Opperman's average speed was bettered being Nicholas Franz's 17.50 m.p.h. in the 1928 race. It is worthy of note that the 1930 winner, A. Leducq, who was favorite for this year's contest, and had the assistance of a formidable team, only put up 6 minutes better time for the 24 stages, than Opperman.

A review of this year's contest discloses, says the Dunlop Perdriau Co., some interesting facts relative to the minor influence, the winning of stages en route has on the ultimate result of contest, which is decided on best aggregate time for full distance of race, Magne, the winner only won one stage, J. Demuyser (Belgium) who was second, two, and A. Pesenti (Italy) third, none.

Two riders in C. Pelissier (France) and R. di Pacco (Italy) each won 5 stages, yet Pelissier (one of France's greatest riders) and di Pacco both finished behind Opperman, who did not succeed in winning one stage.

M. Bulla (Austria) an independent rider, won three stages and also finished up behind the Australian on time. On 10 out of the 24 stages Opperman was timed in with the respective winners at the finish of the days run and the fact that he did not win one of these stages indicates that he was either finessed out of position, or lacked the ability to sprint with the best of the Continental cracks, when it came to the final dash at finish.

In filling 12th position in final classification, Opperman, whose total time was 178 hrs. 46 mins. 46 secs., as against the winners 177 hrs. 10 mins. 3 secs., recorded the best performance yet put up by an Australian in this great contest, which was first run in 1903. No British rider has ever been placed in this classic.

A. Magne, the 1931 winner is 27 years of age and has had considerable experience in previous Tour de France contests. He finished fifth in 1927.