



# Not The Spoken Word

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

## Stanisław Kudliński

Last October my wife and I were cycling in northern Austria. At the town of Mauthausen we turned up the valley and climbed some switchbacks in our lowest gear until the grade eased. Nestled into the broad grassed hill in front of us were the massive walls of the Mauthausen concentration camp, run as a business by the German SS during World War II. They were a very enterprising bunch when it came to forced labour, starvation, death and worse. We spent several hours taking in as much as we could cope with.

In the museum my eye was drawn to this old bicycle. It had been indelicately but lovingly repainted in green and gold, so it was irresistible to an Australian cyclist. Its sweeping handle bar gave it a jaunty look but it had taken a hard hit on the left side. Foot pegs on the front forks suggested it had routinely carried someone on the handlebars. A handsome saddle sat above the simple drive train, which looked like it could go forever. The rear rack had survived somehow.



The bike belonged to Stanisław Kudliński, a Polish survivor of the Mauthausen camp. Probably 120,000 people were murdered in the camp complex (many records were destroyed and estimates range up to 200,000 according to Wikipedia). But Stanisław survived and when he got out he didn't wait for his return home to be arranged. He received this bicycle from nuns in nearby Linz and set off with two other survivors on a long journey through war-torn Europe, home to Poland. He kept the bike throughout his 83 years, a powerful symbol of freedom.

We cleared our heads in the bright sun and climbed back on our own freedom machine. As we rode away from Mauthausen we couldn't feel what Stanisław felt, but we knew it felt good.

*Robert Loughman*

## Vale David Clark

Founding member David Clark was recently admitted to hospital and passed away on Friday July 5<sup>th</sup>. David arrived in Sydney from the UK, with his wife and an E Type Jaguar.

He was a serial entrepreneur; in the UK he had been a Fleet St photographer and had owned and run a haunted pub - the ghosts are reported to have been upset by the renovation work he undertook.

In Perth he opened one of the first video rental stores in Australia, ultimately expanding to three locations.

At various other times he had a large secondhand shop in Midland, a timber flooring showroom and was a chauffeur driving Rolls Royces.

Dave's taste in bicycles was equally exotic; he had an interest in innovative bikes, owning a Sinclair C5, a Flash recumbent prototype, and had recently sold a modern recumbent trike that had allowed him to continue riding despite his balance issues.

With the recent death of his mother it appears that David had no relatives in Australia. The executors of his estate are in touch with the club through Phil Harris and will let us know details of his funeral service.

# Flash Donation

The club was recently given four Flash bikes that had belonged to Fred Tedge, manager of Flash's Midland shop for a number of years. Two of them were Fred's own race bikes, track and road, another was his son Rod's road bike and the last a girl's bike with 24" wheels.

The girl's bike is in relatively poor condition, nonetheless with only 16 bikes on the Flash register it is rare.

The race bikes all sport their original paint and have riders' names on the top tube. It is possible that Fred's track bike is an older frame that was refreshed in the mid 1960's.

The two road bikes date from the mid to late 60's with frame numbers just 6 digits apart. It looks as though both bikes were originally fitted with Campagnolo groupsets however Fred's has been updated with some Shimano 600 components.

These bikes will be auctioned at the club's August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. They are significant bikes in well preserved original condition.

The auction will also feature four vintage cycling jerseys, a collection of cycling related posters donated by Alan Naber and some Chater Lea parts and a book donated by Iain Kenny.

Please check the club website for photographs of all the items.

# Paul Clohessey's Tandem

Working at the Midland Velodrome is a quietly spoken middle-aged man named Paul Clohessey.

The name rang a bell so with the aid of Google and Wikipedia, I looked him up and subsequently sat down with him for a chat last month. I was especially interested to find out if Paul was the young man in a

picture provided by Mavis Jones taking delivery of a rather special racing bike outside the home she shared with her late husband, bike builder Milton Jones.

"Yep. That's me. 1990 or 1991. I had it built for the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona."



The bike is - and I'm pleased to say remains - a rather special fillet-brazed road racing tandem built out of Reynolds 531 tubing. It was originally fitted with a Shimano 600 / Ultegra / DuraAce groupset and triple-spoked carbon fibre wheels and cost \$6000.

Racing in the Vision Impaired classification, the tandem was initially piloted by Peter Stotzer in Barcelona and thereafter Eddy Hollands. The bike would go on to participate in two more Paralympic Games (Atlanta and Sydney) and two World Championships (Belgium and The Netherlands).

"It was an incredible bike. So stiff."

At the 1998 Worlds in The Netherlands, Paul felt he and Eddy were good for a podium finish having surprised the opposition with a tandem track gold and broken the world record in the 4k pursuit the day before. From the outset they were marked men though, and the tactics of opposing teams would see them targeted and kept off the podium, finishing 4th overall.

In 1999 the bike was resprayed for the Sydney Olympics in which Paul and Eddy won gold in Sprint and bronze in the time trial. Paul retired from racing after the 2000 Olympics aged 30 years of age.

Paul won numerous gold, silver and bronze medals, broke numerous world records and was awarded Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). The frame now lives with Paul's brother.

More details and photos can be found in the MHJones Register (Reg #53) at [historicalcycleclub.com.au/mh-jones-register](http://historicalcycleclub.com.au/mh-jones-register)  
*Frank West*



# Fremantle Exhibition

The club's celebration of all things Swansea held on the weekend of May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the Australian Heritage Festival was a great success, with 34 Swanses on show and an estimated 400-500 people attending.

Staging the show brought the club into contact with a surprising number of people who had direct connections to Swansea, including long time manager Harold Durant, and Howard Baldwin's sons, Noel and Chris. Further connections were made over the course of the exhibition weekend.

The club accepted donations of photographs and race programmes, and was also able to scan photographs and documents from a variety of sources. We still have a few hours of interviews that require transcription and a number of people to follow up for further information.

## Next Please

The success of the marque focussed shows is something that club members are keen to build on and it has been decided that next year's efforts will be dedicated to Flash Cycles.

One of the things that came out of the Swansea exhibition debrief was the need to begin the process earlier. To that end I invite anyone who wishes to participate in the Flash show to let me know. We'll get a working party together and determine the direction we're going to take.

*Info.wahcc@gmail.com*

*Below, Track Champion of Champions Bill Gilbride with club member Kim Hill at the Swansea reunion.*



## Wanted

1 front wheel for my Mercier; apart from Lyotard (he dreams!) mid-range quality fine. 1975/80's, 700C 36 hole steel rim with alloy hub in good condition. Quite happy to clean, polish, and strip bearings, etc. Front drop outs are 88mm apart, axle diameter 9mm.  
**Will Riseborough, tel 9271 9419 or 0437 286 086.**

40H coaster brake hub. Must be good mechanically but appearance-wise, in some ways the rougher the better. It's for some Westwood wheels I hope to build for my 1925 West.

**Frank West 0404060289 or fpwest@optusnet.com.au**

# Don Hill's Racer

Don HILL 21.03.1928 - 18.01.2000

My father's cycling career had ended before I was born. He was a hoarder and never threw anything away so stuck up on the wall in the garage was his 8 speed Swansea road bike. It was in very poor condition when I took it down and fully restored it using all original parts other than the seat.

There were wheels hanging from the rafters and hubs, cranks, pedals, headsets and a multitude of other bits and pieces, stored away in army ammunition boxes.

Substantial trophies and prizes aplenty were stashed away out of sight.

He had also collected a plethora of newspaper articles torn from the paper and placed into a cardboard chocolate box.

Photographs from the many races he has have been kept too with the times and positions of each of the riders down to 5th place carefully recorded on the back of each picture.

Dad never spoke about his racing career however his collection told the story without words. The Swansea Shield is part of that record and a 9 ct medal for another race win always formed part of that memory. It wasn't until Mesothelioma took his life in 2000 and the family moved to clean up the hoard of stuff dad had collected that the extent of what he had achieved came to light.

In 1951 he represented Western Australia at the National Road Championship in Queensland and had carefully stored his State Rep Jacket and WA cycling jersey.

Strangely he had also kept cycling jerseys he had worn when he'd come off his bike in track races. Torn and shredded in most cases, oh I wish I had the opportunity to ask "what on earth were you thinking".

*Kim Hill*

*Photographs by Matt Wikstrom aka The Bike Mason. Find more photos on the club website under Members' Bikes*



# Club Calendar

**Mon 15th July 19:30**

**Monthly Meeting**  
6 Hickey St, Ardross

**Sun July 28<sup>th</sup> Tour de Ruste**  
Members only inspection of sheds

**Mon 19th August 19:30**

**Monthly Meeting and Club Auction**  
6 Hickey St, Ardross

**Mon 16th Sept. 19:30**

**Monthly Meeting**  
6 Hickey St, Ardross

**Mon 16th Oct. 21st 19:30**

**Monthly Meeting**  
6 Hickey St, Ardross

**Nov 9th Display - Bonjour Perth**  
Subiaco

**Nov 13th Display - Have A Go Day**  
Burswood



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# Stuck in the Shed with Alan Naber

**What are you currently working on?**

Two Raleigh Superbs, both made in 1948, a ladies and a gents version.

**How many rideable bikes do you have?**

Six: a Birdie, an English "Orbit" (a modern steel tourer), a Dursley Pedersen replica, a German Hercules (my kangaroo bike I ride in the Christmas pageant), the Rolls Rocket, (a sprung front and rear from the 1950s predating modern mountain bikes in design and features!), And lastly my Dayton Roadmaster which I have owned for 50 years.

**If push comes to shove what's your favourite bike?**

My favourite modern bike is the Orbit which I have toured with in many countries. The Dursley is my favourite oldie but I need a decent saddle to make it comfortable.

**What was your first bike?**

As child a nameless rod braked 16 inch wheeled oldie. I loved its wooden handgrips which were beautiful and made it unique and the envy of my friends. As a teenager my Dayton Roadmaster (from London) a classic lightweight from the 1950s.

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

A modern Dutch Gazelle tourer with a 14 speed Rohloff hub, a chain case and enclosed roller brakes. (an almost maintenance free combination). An original Dursley Pedersen would top the oldies.

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

I listen to a local community FM station Capital Radio, or audio books from the library. But often the rotary wire brush or sander are whirring away.

