

Hastings Cycling Club Dinner and Prize Distribution



WITH representatives present from many other clubs, members and guests of the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling and Athletic Club spent an enjoyable time at their annual dinner, prize presentation and dance at the Castle Hotel on Saturday.

The president, Mr. P. H. Bliss, presided and presented the awards, Mr. M. Carpenter was toastmaster, and Mr. A. Oliver M.C. Clubs represented included Eastbourne Rovers, Sittingbourne, Faversham, Medway Road Club, Medway Wheelers, Southborough, Catford, Woolwich, Canterbury and Surrey Bicycle Club.

Mr. W. Underhill, (Medway Road Club), proposed the toast to the Hastings club which, he said, had had a long life and was now well into its 81st year. He referred to the unique association of the March family with

the club, which had extended over 72 years and said that the mantle of the late Mr. Tolly March had fallen on the shoulders of his son, Fred, who, in his racing days, was known as the "scourge of the Sussex tracks." Fred was now within striking distance of his 70th year and had made the club "his one and only love."

Mr. Underhill said the club had separate sections for "trikes" and for the ladies, with their own skippers and, expressing the wish that the club would still be going strong when it reached 100, he said they need not fear the future when it was bound up in men like M. Carpenter.

Mr. J. H. Southerden, the club historian, who responded said that 1956 would go down as another successful year. Club runs had been well attended. Their racing strength had not been what it might have been

and, while some club trials had been well supported, in others the entry had been disappointing. They had no team successes to boast of, but they had one or two good racing men, and M. Carpenter had won prizes in East Sussex and Kent cycling associations' events. He had also set up a number of tricycle records. Peter Adams had made a successful come-back after his R.A.F. service, and Tony Moorhouse had won a number of events in very good time.

Mr. Southerden also referred to Miss Esther Rolleston, who was the "best clubman" for the third year in succession. He said he was sure they could look forward with confidence to the coming year, with a band of enthusiasts headed by Mr. Bliss, and their supporters and vice-presidents.

Mr. M. Chauncy proposed the toast to the guests and Mr. A. E. Harrison, (Medway Road

Club), and Mr. Bob Webster, (Cambrian Wheelers), responded in amusing speeches.

The 1956 awards presented by the president were as follows:—

Best clubman: Miss E. Rolleston; 10 miles, gears under 63in.: I. May, 27min. 9sec.; 25 miles: April, M. Carpenter, 1hr. 5min. 54sec.; Rye-Hythe-Rye: J. Southerden, 1hr. 58min. 45sec.; junior 15 miles: M. Robbins, 42min. 57sec.; 25 miles (Ron Eastes Trophy): A. Moorhouse, 1hr. 4min. 40sec.; 50 miles (Croft Trophy): M. Carpenter, 2hr. 19min. 44sec.

100 miles trophy: M. Carpenter, 4hr. 41min. 31sec. (trike); 12 hours (P. Bliss Trophy): M. Carpenter, 223.886 miles; 30 miles: A. Moorhouse, 1hr. 19min. 53sec.; junior 10 miles (Powell Shield): J. Hollands, 26min. 57sec.; 25 miles, September: J. Southerden, 1hr. 7min. 53sec.

Hill climb: J. Southerden; 10 miles, gears under 63in. (Christmas Trophy): M. Carpenter, 28min. 37sec.; Evening events competition: M. Carpenter; best all-rounder (F. Martin Trophy): M. Carpenter, 21,451 m.p.h.