

CYCLISTS RECALL THE GREAT TIMES

CLUB cyclists from Surrey, Kent and other parts of Sussex joined members of the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling and Athletic Club—the third oldest of its kind in the country—at their annual dinner, prize presentation and dance at the Castle Hotel.

A company of more than 100 sat down to dinner under the chairmanship of the club president, Mr. Percy Bliss, to celebrate 81 years of continuous activity and a successful 1957 season.

The toast of the club was proposed by Mr. J. Spackman, of Century R.C., who recalled that they held their first dinner exactly 80 years ago. In 1885 Mr. "Tolly" March, father of Mr. Freddie March, who joined the club in 1909, and was still active, led a revival in the club's flagging fortunes.

An athletic section was formed in 1913 and survived until 1951 and it was a tribute to the loyalty of past and present members that the club remained alive through both wars.

Famous names

After recalling some of the names of members, including George Jenkins, who had brought fame to the club, Mr. Spackman paid a special tribute to Mr. Jack Southerden, who was writing the history of the club.

Mr. Southerden, in reply, said 1957 was another year of progress. As the club got older, he said, the past became more interesting and more important and many of them were very proud of the club's history.

In 1957, for the second year in succession, Maurice Carpenter won most of the senior events and the club championship, while Miss Esther Rolleston, of the women's racing section, made a number of new club records, including an outstandingly good 12-hour ride of 211 miles.

P. Adams also made a new club record by riding 392 miles in 24 hours.

More racing

Mr. Southerden added that they hoped soon to get more racing members and more competitions within the club.

The toast of the guests was proposed by Mr. Bliss and Mr. W. T. Collins (Eastbourne Rovers) and Mr. A. E. C. Harrison (Medway R.C.) responded.

The president presented the 1957 awards as follows: Best clubman, M. Lingham; 10 miles, 25 miles, 25 miles (Ron Easter trophy), 30 miles, 100 miles, 12 hours, Rye-Hythe-Rye, Christmas Day 10 miles and B.A.R., F. Marten trophy, M. Carpenter; Junior Powell shield and speed judging, L. Chambers; junior trophy, D. Page; 25 miles, Croft trophy and hill climb, A. Moorhouse; and 24 hours, P. Adams.