

Cycling Club Celebrate Ninety Years Awheel



Cycling Club members and friends at the annual dinner.

Celebrating their 90th annual dinner and dance at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Saturday, 150 members of the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling Club and their friends had only one regret—that the club's best-known member, Mr. Freddie March, could not attend because he was seriously ill in hospital.

But they were cheered by the presence of Mrs. Eileen Sheridan, former national champion at 25-, 30- and 100-mile distances and a member of the Women's Road Record Association. Proposing the toast to the club, Mrs. Sheridan recalled some of the great days since the club was founded at the Swan Inn, High Street. She said that in those far-off days the bicycles, made of iron, weighed up to 70lb.

'In 1893 the club recruited its first lady member and in 1898 it was the biggest club in England,' she declared.

Among the famous names she recalled was George Jenkins, who was once chosen to represent Britain in the world championships, and Freddie March, who although now 76 years, had ridden regularly until very recently.

Mr. Frank Rix, a vice-president, in reply, said how much members regretted that Freddie could not share the celebrations. He had been a member since 1910.

Mr. Maurice Carpenter, husband of the club's secretary, Mrs. Elsie Carpenter, proposed the toast of the guests and Mr. Lionell A. Blundell, Q.C., president of the Cyclists' Touring Club, responded.

Mr. Blundell said that though there were many aspects of cycling, cyclists were indivisible. There was a great friendliness and fellowship between cyclists that one would never find between motorists.

Presentations were made to Mrs. Sheridan and Mrs. Carpenter and to Mr. Blundell for his wife, who was unable to be present through illness. After the presentation of

trophies music for dancing was played by Jeff Pretty and his orchestra.

Mr. Dennis Neeves was M.C. Prizewinners were: 10 miles, David Ashdown; 15 miles, David Ashdown; 25 miles, Bob French (three awards).

50 miles, Bob French; Rye-Hythe-Rye, Bob French; evening events, Bob French.

Junior B.A.R. 10, 15 and 25 miles, David Ashdown.

Open 50-mile time trial certificates, Bob French and Ted Coussens.

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