



Some of the members and guests at the Hastings Cycling Club's dinner.

CONFIDENCE EXPRESSED IN CYCLING CLUB'S FUTURE

Confidence in the future of the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling Club was expressed at the club's 91st annual dinner-dance held at the Royal Victoria Hotel last Saturday, by Mr. Derek Roberts of the Southern-Veteran Cycling Club.

About 80 members and guests attended.

Mr. Roberts, who was proposing a toast to the Hastings club, had touched on the various historic developments during its 91 years of existence.

Mr. Roberts said that it would be noted that the club's officers consisted of the 'old faithfuls' and thoughts on its future were sometimes tinged with apprehension when one wondered if the club could carry on in the face to today's adulation of speed at any price.

He went on: 'But I think the fears are unjustified. The club nearly died in 1884, but 14 years later, it was claiming to have the largest membership in the country of over 200.'

'In nine years' time you will be celebrating your centenary and with the inspiring leadership and spirit of cycling that is manifest in your gathering tonight, how can you possibly fail?'

SAD NOTE

Replying, Mr. Arthur Coleman touched on a sad note when he referred to the death during the year of Mr. Fred March, doyen of Sussex cyclists for many years and a past-president and life member of the club. Mr. Coleman said the club was represented at his funeral, together with other cycling organisations.

Mr. Coleman revealed that the club would be holding only one open event this year. 'This is not because other events have not been successful; it is mainly due to the fact that we do not have the necessary volunteers who are willing to run the events' he said. It was hoped, however, that the one

open event that was to take place would be well supported.

Mr. Coleman recalled that a few years ago he had stressed the need for more youngsters to come into the club. 'I am in the happy position tonight of being able to say that we now have quite a few who are coming along nicely,' he added.

A toast to the ladies and guests was proposed by Mr. Dennis Neeves who extended a warm welcome to the principal guests and representatives from Southborough Wheelers, Eastbourne Rovers and clubs from Catford, Folkestone, Maidstone, Beckley, Rochester, Woolwich, Goudhurst, Faversham and the Medway towns.

Mrs. 'Dot' Collins of Eastbourne Rovers, responded on behalf of the ladies and Mr. Geoffrey Willcocks (Lewes Wanderers) and this year's president of the East Sussex Cycling Association, replied on behalf of the guests.

The Hastings Club president, Mr. Fred Martin, was toastmaster for the evening.

CLUB RUN PROVED POPULAR

Last Sunday, several Cycling Club members attended the club run to Dungeness, Rye and Brooklands. Tomorrow, members should meet at London Road at 9 a.m. Refreshments will be taken at Magham Down.

Anyone wishing to attend the East Sussex C.A. party on February 12 should contact Maurice Carpenter. As this year sees the 21st birthday of the Association, members are asked to support all its anniversary celebrations.

A meeting has been arranged for February 19 with Catford C.C. at Kippings Cross and Pembury.

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