

Cycling Club's 95th anniversary



A section of the company at the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling Club's 95th dinner-dance held at the Victoria Hotel on Saturday.

Although communication difficulties caused by the postal strike meant a smaller attendance than usual, the Hastings and St. Leonards Cycling Club's 95th annual dinner-dance went off as successfully as ever at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Saturday.

The one shadow over the proceedings was the rare absence of president Fred Collins owing to illness. His place in the chair was taken by Mr George Page who extended a warm welcome to the company and said that Mr Collins was making a good recovery.

A toast to the sport of cycling was proposed by Eastbourne Rovers president Bill Collins who recalled in humorous vein the early days of cycling back to 1876 when the Hastings and St. Leonards Club was formed.

He appealed to younger and older members of 'this great old club' to keep things going because, he said, 'there are many veterans like myself who very much want to come to your centenary. I know it will be an uphill task at times, but do try and keep things going.'

Replying, Mr Ernie Spray welcomed the guests, who included contingents from Faversham C.C., Catford, Woolwich C.C., Southborough Wheelers and Eastbourne Rovers.

He said the club had enjoyed an active year with club runs every Sunday, often led by Dave and Audrey Morris. Dave was now Runs Captain and Audrey had had great success in raising funds for the club.

The club's open 25 on the Romney Marsh new course had attracted 70 riders, but they

would have preferred to have seen more juniors riding. 'There were also not enough youngsters at either the schoolboys or junior 10-mile events,' said Mr Spray.

The evenings '10s,' organised by Graham Wilks, had proved popular and had tempted several older and heavier members to try their speed on the Broad Oak course. This had proved a good training ground for Dennis Neeves to overcome his old rivals on the Pevensy Marsh.

Mr Spray said that chairman Arthur Coleman was now much better after a spell of hospital treatment. Arthur served on the K.C.A. Committee and this year was awarded the trophy of the Fellowship of Kent and Sussex Cyclists.

Ron Powell has been in demand for timekeeping at

events in Kent and Sussex and other members had been active in various forms Mr Spray told the company.

He paid tribute to the work done by Social Secretary Mrs Barbara Powell who had organised the night's event in the face of many difficulties created by the GPO strike.

Mr Spray concluded by mentioning the absence of president Fred Martin who was missing his first dinner since becoming interested in the club. He said that Mr Martin had travelled many miles last year in the interests of cycling serving on the R.T.T.C. Council and the K.C.A. of which he was president and chairman.

Afterwards there was dancing to the Hastonians with toastmaster Dennis Neeves acting as M.C.