

1964

Membership was down to about 34 and the reduction was reflected in some events, although the year as a whole was quite a successful one. Ron Powell as vice-chairman was the only change of office. Cecil Blank brought out four more issues of the Club magazine.

The Alexandra Hotel, St. Leonards, was the venue for the annual dinner held on 25th January with 120 diners. W. "Bill" Collins, Eastbourne Rovers, and H. "Bert" Britton, Catford C.C., were guest speakers.

Fred Martin conducted the "opening" run for the fourth time, with 30 for lunch at Chitcombe. Also early in the year was the run to Pembury for lunch with members of the Catford C.C. Other activities included some Y.H.A. tours, Wednesday evening runs to Chitcombe, and a reliability trial in November. Stan Russell was in charge of a photographic competition and film show at the Abbey Hotel, Battle, and about 40 enjoyed the Christmas tea at "White-gates", Westfield.

Bob French achieved an outstanding success when he won the Club's open 50 miles time trial with a club record time of 2h 3m 23s. There were 87 entrants, plus 7 for a ladies' event which was won by Pam Wells, San Fairy Ann C.C., in 2h 24m 47s.

Martin Chambers, Jack Southerden, Peter Miles and Bob French competed in a good number of time trials and road races, including the Sussex championships, throughout the season. Bob, who had gained first-category status, lost little time in getting with some of the top riders in road racing by competing in the Dover-London event in March although, like many others, he failed to finish owing to bad conditions; but he did finish, and in a very fast time, in the Mackeson Premier 50-mile race at Crystal Palace. Bob made a good start to the racing season by winning the E.S.C.A. "Hardriders" 12 miles for the third year in succession in 33m 53s, his fastest time for the event, and by 1m 33s; and he won the Association's March "25" in 1h 7m 8s on a very difficult morning. Bob, Martin and Jack were second this year in the East Sussex 35 $\frac{3}{4}$  miles team time trial, losing by 41 seconds in 1h 35m 23s. In K.C.A. events, most of which were supported, Bob did 2h 10m 53s for third place in the May "50"; and in the 30 miles team time trial Bob, Martin and Jack were fourth fastest in 1h 13m 57s. In the Club's annual Rye-Hythe-Rye event Bob made a new record time of 1h 46m 45s, an improvement of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, and in a club "25" on a quite windy morning he clocked 1h 0m 36s to improve club record by 21 seconds. Bob's other 25-mile times included a 1h 1m 12s third fastest in the Folkestone C.C.'s open, a 1h 0m 59s (4th) in the Eastbourne Rovers open, and a 1h 0m 49s in the Mephisto C.C. event. Bob and Peter also tackled some hill climbs, including the Catford C.C. test in which Bob did his best time of 2m 16.2s for Yorks Hill.

1964 continued:

A successful attempt on the Southern R.R.A. 50 miles tandem tricycle record (out and home) was made by Maurice Carpenter, with John Mansell of the Worthing Club, in April, their time of 2h 0m 52s making an improvement of 38s.

At the Rye Sports Festival on August Bank Holiday Monday Bob French won a place in each of the six cycle races. He was first in the East Sussex C.A. 1,000 yards championship for the Les Martin trophy, and third in the Association's 440 yards championship; three second places came in the 880 yards handicap, the mile open and the "Devil-take-the-hindmost"; and Club members were third in a team pursuit event.

Club time trials:

|  |                                     |   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 10 miles juniors open to members of the Rye Club | M. Ashdown (Rye)                    | 25m 41s                                   |
| 15 " juniors invitation                          | " "                                 | 40m 33s                                   |
| 25 " Opening trophy                              | R. French                           | 1h 5m 17s                                 |
| 25 " Ron Eastes Mem. trophy                      | " "                                 | 1h 0m 36s                                 |
| 25 " Carpenter trophy                            | J. Southerden                       | 1h 10m 20s (P.)                           |
| 50 " Croft trophy                                | R. French                           | 2h 3m 23s                                 |
| 100 " Martin trophy                              | J. Southerden                       | 4h 57m 33s                                |
| 12 hours Bliss trophy                            | " "                                 | 221.31 miles                              |
| Rye-Hythe-Rye Hughes trophy                      | R. French                           | 1h 46m 45s                                |
| Evening competition - 10-mile events             | " "                                 | 5th year                                  |
| Junior "B.A.R.": P. Miles                        | 22.33 m.p.h. for 10, 15 & 25 miles. |   |
| Best All-rounder Martin trophy:                  | J. Southerden                       | 21.156 m.p.h. for 25, 50, 100 & 12 hours. |

At the annual meeting, held at the Cambridge Hotel, Hastings, in November, Ronald and Sydney Powell, members since 1939, were made Life Members for their services to the Club. The post of captaincy was changed to runs secretary and Cecil Blank took the position. J. Southerden as time trials secretary was the only other change to note.

