

1966

The Club's 90th year was celebrated with the annual dinner held at the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, on 29th January. The assembly of 150 included members of many cycling clubs, and national cycling organizations were well represented. Eileen Sheridan, former national champion and record breaker, made the main speech in proposing "The Club", and Lionel Blundell, Q.C., President of the Cyclists' Touring Club, was also a guest speaker. Unfortunately, Freddie March, the Club's oldest member was unable to attend and a few days later members were saddened to learn of his death.

The year seems to have been a good one for social activity if not for actual cycling by members. A New Year party with members of the Rye Club took place at Westfield, and there was a round of club dinners. President Fred Martin was the guest speaker at the San Fairy Ann C.C. dinner at Maidstone, and Mrs Blanche Martin was Guest of Honour at the Kent C.A. dinner at Chatham. A fairly good number turned out for the President's run with lunch at Pope's Farm, Herstmonceux, on 6th March. At the East Sussex C.A. annual party, held at Hellingly in February, Dennis Neeves was inaugurated as President of the Association, an honour in recognition of his many years of service.

Fred Martin had his usual busy year, serving on the R.T.T.C. District Council, attending meetings of the E.S.C.A., K.C.A. and V.T.T.A., besides doing regular marshalling duties throughout the racing season. Club-runs were carried out on most Sundays but on the whole were not very well supported. Wednesday evening "10s" (13) were held at Brenzett as usual, with members of the Rye Club helping to make up the numbers, but the only other club time trial was a 15-mile won by R. Wall (Rye). Esther Carpenter organized an open "25", with a separate event for women, on 5th June, and the open "50" on 3rd July.

The men's "25" was won by Cliff Sharp, Eastbourne Rovers, in 59m 20s. There were 98 entrants, and Folkestone C.C. riders were team winners. Ted Coussens (73 years) was the only Club rider. The women's "25" had 23 riders and the winner was Lorna Partington, Brentwood R.C., in 1h 8m 23s.

K. Corder, C.C. Bexley, won the open "50" in 2h 2m 50s, and Folkestone C.C. had the fastest team. There were 80 entrants. Bob French produced a time of 2h 10m 23s for the occasion, while Ted Coussens, the only other Club rider, finished in 2h 54m 42s.

The annual meeting was again held at the Cambridge Hotel, Hastings, on 15th November when most of the officials were re-elected, one change being M. Carpenter as racing secretary. It was reported that the Club would not hold an open "50" in 1967, but the open "25s" had been booked.