

1969

Sunday runs and Tuesday evenings at the club-room was the order early in the year, with the Club's main social event the annual dinner at the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, on 25th January. A special guest at the dinner was Geoff Wiles, international roadman of the Medway Velo who spoke on "The Sport".

Second-claim members Mike Ashdown, Richard Wall and Tom Wilson rode in some early season events in East Sussex. Mike was 5th and Richard 7th in the "Hardriders" 25 miles; and in the March "25", held in freezing fog, Tom was 5th in 1h 8m 9s, Mike 6th in 1h 8m 57s and Richard 8th in 1h 9m 59s. In October Jack Southerden was 6th in the E.S.C.A. hill climb at Firle.

The open "25" was organized by Dennis Neeves on the Romney Marsh (short) course on 8th June. R. Mellor, C.C. Bexley, was the winner in 58m 8s, J. Plaine, Ashford Wh., won the junior section in 1h 2m 37s, Folkestone C.C. riders were the team winners, and Wilma Webb, Gravesend C.C., won the women's event in 1h 7m 00s. George Fowler - 1-9-50 and Jack Southerden - 1-9-55 were the Club riders. Entries totalled 97.

Two open "10s" for juniors and schoolboys were held on the Camber course. D. Lummes, Ashford Wh., was the winner in 24m 00s on 3rd May, and he also won the second event in 24m 23s on 16th August. In the second "10" the Club had a winner in Steve Holland who was fastest schoolboy in 26m 14s. Other members who rode were Nigel Thwaites - 28-32, Peter Hoath - 30-42, and the event secretary's 10-year old son Steve Carpenter - 41-23.

Graham Wilkes won the first of the Wednesday club "10s"; Steve Holland was fastest on six evenings, and he made a club schoolboy's record in 25m 35s; Nigel Thwaites was fastest on two occasions, and Jack Southerden also won two. Mike Ashdown rode in three of the "10s" and did the three fastest times - 24m 25s, 25m 06s and 25m 21s. Some of the boys rode in the E.S.C.A. "10s" and in a heat of the G.H.S. championship at Farnborough.

At the annual luncheon of the Fellowship of Kent and Sussex Cyclists, held at "The George", Cranbrook, in April, President Fred Martin became the 10th member of the Club to be made a life member of the Fellowship. Another honour for Fred Martin came in December when he was elected President of the Kent Cycling Association.

All Club officials were re-elected at the annual meeting, held at the Cambridge Hotel, Hastings, on 21st November.

The last note of the year to record is a very sad one for at the end of December the Club suffered a great loss when Cecil Blank died at the age of 53 years.