

300,000-MILE CLUB

'LATE STARTER' SOUTHERDEN WAKES UP FOR LOST TIME

Jack Southerden did not learn to ride until he was 15, but he has made up for lost time, for although he did not start keeping a record of the miles for another 18 years, there is a note of some 455,000 cycled since 1949 - an average of 11,300 a year.

He was born in Hastings, Sussex, and has lived there all his life. Soon after learning to ride, Southerden joined the Hastings Wheelers, transferring a year later (1934) to the Hastings and St Leonards CC, of which he has been a member ever since, holding all offices in the club and now its president.

His competitive career is impressive. Riding all distances up to 100 miles up until 1982, he has many awards earned in East Sussex and Kent events. He has ridden 40 12-hour events, the first in 1936 and the last in 1975. He finished in no fewer than 1,350 time trials, and believes that these account for 44,710 of his miles, but he began in competition in the days when it was the practice to ride to and from events, a practice which he never gave up, so they indirectly account for many more. He has never driven.

War interrupted things with army service causing a six-year gap accounting for the fact that cycling in earnest began after the war. Southerden was among those who landed on the Normandy beaches during the first hour of the D-day action.

In 1950 he was East Sussex CA BAR (with his picture in CYCLING on November 16 of that year) and the next year he won the Association 12-hour with 217½ miles despite a puncture. His best 12-hour was in the same event in 1962 when he covered 288 miles.

"They take it so seriously now," says Jack of the current racing scene. "It was better when the only 10's were club evening ones, and when the fun and friendship of cycling played a larger part in competing."

There has been little touring. In the early fifties there were two nine-day tours in which Southerden visited every English county. Most days he rode over 100 miles and the favourite stops were transport cafes, both for the best food and for overnighting - "you could get away early" - and he has never youth hostelled or camped.

Holidays were fewer and shorter in those days. After an apprenticeship in carpentry and joinery, Southerden spent his career in that and associated trades, after the war helping with running the firm as well as using his practical skills. More recently he was in the office



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full-time and is in fact still the acting secretary of the company for which he last worked.

How many bikes has he worn out? About 30, plus one tandem, one trike and one conversion. Latest acquisition is a new-conditioned Raleigh Dawn Tourer of about 1939 vintage.

The year of highest mileage was 1953, when the figure reached 22,380, but from 1978 to 1980 he rode 19,165; 18,489 and 18,542 respectively, or 50 miles a day for three years.

Riding steadily continues, each week showing about 200 miles - say 25 each weekday and a little further on Sunday, when club events need marshalling or other club affairs need attention. It is intriguing that with the 300,000 mark having been passed in 1975, it took only six years seven months to cover the next 100,000, and that the total is increasing at over 10,000 a year.

The Hastings and St Leonards CC is the second oldest cycling club with an unbroken history, having been formed in 1876 only a few

months after the Speedwell BC.

A history of the club's first 80 years "80 Years Awheel", was written by Southerden in 1956 and published. He produced for the centenary year of 1976, a history of the last 20, but this has not yet been published.

In all the years of his cycling career, Southerden has shown interest in other riders and has encouraged them, not least by example. When asked if he had any other interests the answer was "not though in the early days keen on ballroom dancing. I have been as interested in that as in cycling at one time," he says. A lot of people missed out as a result of the way the decision went, but a lot of people gained - cyclists in general and southern cyclists in particular.

The esteem and even affection in which the Hastings and St Leonards CC president is held is both a measure and a reward of a cycling career of notable service and achievement.

PETER KNOTTLEY

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Woolwich BS UCF 2,3, vets champ, Bangor-PHILIP COCHRANE (Banbridge CC) 57m in 2-17-20; 2, D. Wilson (Cyprus CC); 3, R. McKibbin (VC Bangor); 4, D. McGlade (Harp CC); 5, P. McKeating (Phoenix CC); 6, G. Graham (Iveagh CC); 7, K. Murphy (N. Monaghan CC); 8, N. Somers (Belvoir CC); 9, N. Teggart (Banbridge CC); 10, M. Drain (Newry CC); Juniors - Paul Gillis (Banbridge CC).

Osborne Peugeot League, UCF- MARK SITTLINGTON (Cyprus CC-Top Team) 38 m in 1-34-20; 2, A. McKibbin (Shimna Wh); 3, M. Kennedy (Phoenix CC); 4, G. Gowdy (Phoenix CC) all st; 5, McAuley (Phoenix CC);

Wyre Forest CRC vets and women's rr.-JOHN PATSTON (Southend & County Wh-Vredestein) 45m in 1-46-5; 2, M. Adams (Sollihull CC) at 24sec; 3, G. Walters (Stourbridge CC) at 1:5; 4, J. Kenna (Clayton Vale); 5, L. Ravenhill (Sapphire RC); 6, D. Putten (Rugby RC); 7, T. Taylor (Stourbridge CC); 8, S. McKenzie-Hodge (VC Ajax); 9, R. Gimson (VC Nottingham); 10, I. Edgeworth (Birmingham Mercury).

Lewes Wanderers evening criterium.- PAUL DELANI (Eastbourne Rovers-Phoenix); 2, K. Savall (Regent RC); 3, M. Davies (Regent RC); 4, S. Taylor (Brighton Excelsior).

Macclesfield Wh J.F. Parkinson memorial, 2,3.- IAN SNOOKS (VC Halton) 67m in 2-45-0; 2, P. Knibb (Liverpool Mercury) at 4:3sec; 3, J. Spencer (Kirkby CC) at 5sec; 4, S. Stoneman (Douglas Valley RC) st; 5, R. Sharrock (Stoke AC) at 8sec; 6, A. Kerrigan (Paramount CRT) at 2-24; 7, J. Giblin (Liverpool Century) at 2-25; 8, R. Hunt (Horvich CC) at 3-27; 9, D. Cockram (Douglas Valley RC) at 3-34.

Huddersfield CA Australian pursuits.- DAMIEN HILL (Halifax Imperial Wh); 2, S. Roberts (Huddersfield RC); 3, A. Gruszka (Huddersfield RC); 4, I. Wylie (Huddersfield Poly CC); eq 5, M. Wilson (Huddersfield Poly CC); B. Sunter (Condor RC); 7, G. Smith (Huddersfield RC); 8, J. Wilson (Huddersfield RC); eq 9, H. Dixon (Mirfield CC); M. Ingham (Condor RC). Team- Huddersfield RC.

Valley of the Cotswolds rr.- JOHN PROSSER (Bristol RC) 46m in 2-5-25; 2, S. Mitchell-Harris (Cleveland & Dist Wh); 3, R. Wooles (Wales); 4, I. Rees (Bristol RC); 5, M. Lippiatt (Wales); 6, J. Evans (CC Abergavenny); 7, R. Clements (Severn Valley CRC); 8, N. Sawyer (Ludlow CC); 9, S. York (Sollihull CC); 10, S. Williams (Evesham Wh). Team- Bristol RC.

Clevedon criteriums.- B. TINSLEY (Tunstall Wh); 2, S. Baker; 3, P. Aldridge; 4, G. Bowditch (VC St Raphael); 5, S. Jones (VC St Raphael); 3,V,W.- G. SANDY (Somerset RC); 2, R. Cook (Coldra RC); 3, L. Heaven (CC Abergavenny); 4, M. Stone (Bristol South CC); 5, P. Davies (Clevedon & Dist RC). Juniors.- S. MITCHELL-HARRIS (Clevedon & Dist RC); 2, M. Lippiatt (CC Abergavenny); 3, M. Pearce (VC Venta); 4, A. Norris (Mendip CC); 5, A. Wiltshire (VC St Raphael). Juveniles.- K. ASHTON (West Riparian BC); 2, K. Stewart (Clevedon & Dist RC); 3, C. Smith (Hemel Hempstead CC); 4, A. Appleby (Corinuh CC); 4, R. Taylor (Crabwood CC).

Black Country RC Clows Top rr.- GARRY CHAPMAN (Sollihull CC) 55m in 2-17-21; 2, M. Norman (Sollihull CC); at 6sec; 3, J. Barnes (Glooucester City CC) at 2-39; 4, P. Wilkes (Elizabethan CC) at 2-44; 5, T. Holmes (Leics RC) at 2-58; 6, A. Harrison (Walsall RCC) at 3-15; 7, R. Langley (Sollihull CC); 8, S. Knight (Halesowen ACC); 9, A. Eagers (Derby Mercury); 10, M. Pavey (Sollihull CC) all st. 3, J.W.- MATTHEW ROGERS (Bristol RC) 39m in 1-41-35 2, A. Booth (Blackheath CC); 3, S. York (Sollihull CC) 50th st; 4, S. Williams (Evesham & Dist Wh) at 15sec; 5, N. Sawyer (Ludlow CC) at 25sec; 6, M.

Harp (VC Sevale); 7, K. Green (Evesham & Dist Wh); 8, C. Jones (Blackheath CC); 9, P. Noakes (Stourbridge CC); 10, J. Mills-Keeking (Wrekinsport CC) all st.

Shibden Park juvenile races.-SCOTT BENNETT (Barnsley RC); 2, A. Sedgewick (Rutland CC); 3, S. Drake (Halifax Imp Wh); 4, P. Atkinson (Calder Cl); 5, N. Fox (Bronte Wh); 6, D. Macklethwaite (Ravensthorpe CC); 7, G. Ure (Wakefield CC); 8, A. Hall (Barnsley RC); 9, S. Small (East Lincs RC); 10, P. Hayes (Barnsley RC).

Cleveland Elite short course triathlon.-MIKE HARRIS (Tyne TC) 1-41-34; 2, M. Connaughton, at 4-18; 3, D. Stitt (Tyne TC) at 4-25; 4, T. Lee, at 5-24 5, S. Collins, at 6-39; 6, J. Walton (Cleveland TC) at 6-45; 7, D. Hanlon (Tyne TC) at 7-11; 8, S. Frazer, at 10-51; 9, P. Berkhold, at 11-49; 10, N. Kalita, at 12-13.

Newquay triathlon.-DAVE CULLINGFORD; 2, D. Pine; 3, M. Holroyd; 4, P. Nash; 5, G. Cruickshank; 6, G. Wraith; 7, D. Lowe; 8, J. Penecost; 9, K. Porter; 10, R. Horton.

Surrey League.-NICK JAMES (VC Etoile); 2, D. Manning (Old Portlins CC); 3, S. Hammond (Hounslow & Dist Wh); 4, B. Merricks (Brighton Excelsior); 5, A. Poulton (South Western RC); 6, R. Puttick (Norwood Paragon); 7, D. Rosbotham (Festival RC); 8, A. Garner (Norwood Paragon); 9, A. Gommorz (Norwood Paragon); 10, P. Barrowclough (Morden CRC). 2nd, 3rd cats.-A. MEICAK (Vulcan CRC-Phillips); 2, A. Green (Brighton Mitre); 3, S. Tulley (Brighton Mitre); 4, S. Watkins (Southern Velo); 5, S. Wilson (Hounslow & Dist); 6, C. Walker (South Western RC); 7, A. Deacon (Regent RC).

Manchester vets rr champs.-B.SAMUELS (Hyde Oly) 55m in 2-20-10; 2, D. Riley (Manchester Velo); 3, H. Hall (Tame Valley RC); 4, B. Sedley (Tame Valley RC); 5, J. Williams (Wigan Wh); 6, C. Norton (Stockton Cl); 7, B. Hyde (Stockton Cl); 8, R. Johnson (Tame Valley RC); 9, N. Ashman (Tame Valley RC); 10,

H. Bolt (Manchester Wh) all st.

Kent League.-P. DELANI (Eastbourne Rovers) 52m in 2-29-0; 2, J. Le Sage (Gemini BC); 3, S. Hook (GS Invicta); 4, I. Harris (VC Elan); 5, C. Gough (VC Elan); 6, A. Naylor (San Fairy Ann CC); 7, L. Leone (VC Elan); 8, M. Fitzgerald (Ashford Wh); 9, M. Ballard (Eastbourne Rovers); 10, P. Barrington-King (Old Portlins CC).

ESCA West Mids Champs.-under-13s: M. COLLIF (Arthur Terry); 2, M. Bishton (Perryville); M. Jauncey (Mcatfield); 4, A. Cartwright Terry; 5, D. Goode (Banners Gate); 6 (Stockland); 7, C. White (Turves); 8, L. Hir mund); 9, J. Catheral (St Edmunds); 1 (Colwich). Under-15s.-T. BANKS (Kinn D. Carrigan (Light Hall); 3, S. Whit (Langley); 9, S. Barnes (Castle) (Turves). Over-15s.-M. PHILLIPS (leg); 2, M. Churm (New College) (Burton Technical College); 4, Hall); 5, P. Barnes (Castle); 6, S 7, P. Jauncey (Arrow Vale); 8, leg); 9, J. Hayward (King Edw

Wombwell Sporting Ass under-14s: ANTONY BAI. M. Cuntain (Wakefield CC Wh); 4, J. Wakelin (Kivett (Thurcroft CC); 6, L. C. A. Weaver (Rotherham HARDY (Barnsley RC CC); 3, S. Green (Barn RC); 5, D. Brown (She (Rutland CC); 7, M. H (Scala Wh). H'cap.-I A. Hall (Barnsley RC) 4, P. Hayes (Barnsley RC); 5, D. Downing (Thurham Wh); 8, I. Moun

CEL sex S.W. Willis; lap; L. thing E. Pool Arrow; Bourne; CHARLE CHASMC RT. Radri Wh) Juve Notting RC-Ideal; Eaton CC; Newark CC; RC) Juveni nior 10-lap; J. MATTHEW MARK DAVE JONES (Leics