

THE HASTINGS LOCOMOTIVE

Jenkins the Master in Catford "50"

Sickness, and then——2·10·21



Drinks were welcome on a wet and windy morning.

"HERE come's the Hastings locomotive," said someone in the small crowd at the finish of the Catford "50."

The phrase was well found. Swinging into the little lane at 24 miles per hour, G. W. Jenkins flashed to the finishing line a winner by nearly six minutes. His 2 hrs. 10 mins. 21 secs. was only a minute slower than course record.

Although the leading times were fast, the conditions of wind and weather cannot truly be described as speed conducive. There was moisture in the air and on the roads, and a steady ground wind offered opposition over most of the S-shaped course. When the first man was sent off there was a faint spray of rain that suggested bucketfuls to come. Fortunately they did not.

The first of the quick men on the starting list was A. West, No. 12, but he struck an "off" day and was behind the leaders from the earliest checks. On turning at 16½ miles he was already half a minute slower than the first man off—F. Churchill—and when Jenkins came along a few minutes later it was seen that the Hastings man had 2 mins. advantage.

S. A. Artaud and A. J. Redmill tied with West at this check, but the big surprise was caused by B. Bevan (No. 70), who went round 15 secs. faster than Jenkins.

All the way round the course to the northern turn members of the promoting club were executing discreet war dances as their fledgling, Churchill, flew by the checking points. This is the youngster who brought off a sensational handicap scoop in the Southern

Roads tandem "50." He remained well in the picture last Sunday as far as 41½ miles, where he clocked 1 hr. 56 mins., and ultimately clocked 2 hrs. 21 mins. 10 secs., bringing the handicap down to 2.7.10.

The battle between the big boys had swung definitely in Jenkins's favour at

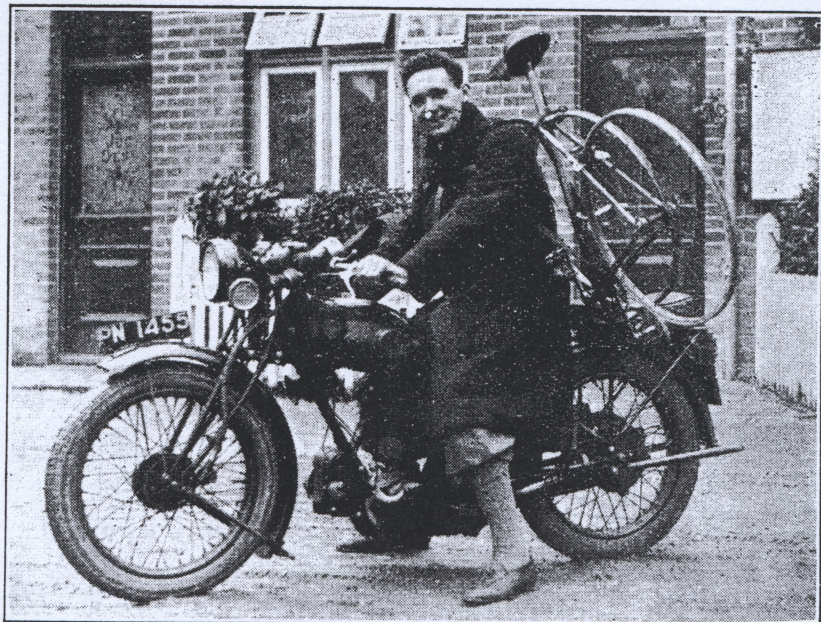
32 miles, where he clocked 1 hr. 22 mins. (for what was virtually an out-and-home ride), compared with 1.23½ by Bevan, 1.26 by Redmill, 1.26½ by Artaud, and 1.27 by Churchill.

As usual in southern races, the most interesting section of last Sunday's event was between the 41½-mile check and the finish. It was on this section that Bevan and Churchill "folded up," although not sufficiently to affect their prize places. The Highgate man had done wonderfully well to keep within 2½ mins. of Jenkins for four-fifths of the distance, and although he yielded nearly 4 mins. to Artaud over this final stretch there were still 15 secs. in his favour at the finish. Jenkins, who had been awake with a touch of sickness all the previous night, was just a shade slower to the finish than Artaud.

Jenkins's magnificent performance took him into the third handicap place some 22 secs. behind that much-improved South-Easterner, F. Slade, but what pleased him infinitely more than his personal successes was the news that the Hastings and St. Leonards C.C. had carried off the team prizes—their first in an important "open." Jenkins, Bliss and Mackie aggregated 6 hrs. 56 mins. 33 secs., and beat the Bath Road Club by 54 secs.

Mr. W. J. Pett returned the following leading times:—

Name and Club.	H'cap. Mins.	h. m. s.
1. G. W. Jenkins, Hastings and St. Leonards ...	scr.	2 10 21
2. B. Bevan, Highgate ...	3	2 16 16
3. S. A. Artaud, North Rd.	3	2 16 39
4. A. J. Redmill, Highgate	3	2 16 39
5. A. Newland, Bath Road	4	2 17 19
6. F. Slade, S.E.R.C. ...	9	2 17 59
7. A. West, Bath Road ...	1	2 18 57
8. E. J. Foot, North Road	6	2 19 0
9. L. Cooper, Kentish Wh.	5	2 19 4
10. F. L. Cleeve, N'w'd. P. ...	6	2 19 59
11. A. E. Humber, Century	5½	2 20 14
12. W. A. Low, Kent Road	2½	2 20 15



—And so home. In the circumstances, Jenkins's mode of transport is forgivable.