

Obituary

Crack Cyclist

DEATH OF MR. "JIMMY" MOREN



Mr. Moren in his racing days.

Mr. James ("Jimmy") Moren, one of Hastings crack cyclists at the end of the last century, died in the Royal East Sussex Hospital on Saturday, at the age of 75.

Brought up in the grocery business, he worked for his father in Bohemia-road after leaving school. He then changed his occupation, and his exceptional interest in cycle racing coincided with his employment with Mr. George Jenkins in his cycle business. Later he returned to his old trade and opened a grocery business in Southwater-road where he remained for very many years.

As a racing cyclist, Mr. Moren made his bow to the public in 1884 at a Bank Holiday athletics meeting at the Central Ground at Hastings, where mounted on a 52in. ordinary he gained first place in an open race. A year later he created something of a sensation locally by initiating the "100 miles road record." He accomplished the 100 miles in the then phenomenal time of 11 hours 47 minutes, and for this feat the Hastings and St. Leonards Bicycle and Tricycle Club, of which he was a member, presented him with a silver medal. The 100 miles record became very popular with local cyclists, but Mr. Moren monopolised the honours until 1892, in which year he covered the distance in 7 hours 3 minutes.

During his career Mr. Moren frequently rode up the Castle Hill, and was the first to attempt the slope from Wellington-square to the West Hill terminus of the lift.

In 1899, when he was honoured with the captaincy of the local Cycling Club, he was described as "the most brilliant handicap rider in Hastings." His speciality was long distance riding, and on several occasions he won the Mastin Challenge Cup—of which he became permanent holder—starting from scratch and conceding starts up to 450 yards.

Up to 1900 Mr. Moren had competed in over 300 races, and won 107 prizes. He was connected with the local Cycling Club for many years, and was one of its oldest members, if not the oldest. He frequently arranged dances in aid of the club, and was himself a keen dancer.

As a member of the local volunteer force of cyclists he rode at the great Military Exhibition held at Chelsea. The race was open to all England and he only missed being first in the final by inches. The 62 competitors included the leading cycling stars of the Kingdom.

In addition to cycling, Mr. Moren was very fond of sea and river fishing, and was also a keen gardener. He was a member of the Bohemia Conservative Club for many years.

On retiring from business, Mr. Moren and his daughter went to live at 97, Battle-road, St. Leonards.

The funeral took place on Thursday at the Borough Cemetery, the Rev. John Daniel, minister of Chapel Park-road Baptist Church, St. Leonards, officiating.

The immediate mourners were Miss W. Moren (daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Hodges, Mrs. Upton, Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Brooker, Miss Wallis, Mrs. Dann, Mrs. Busbridge, Miss Hewlett, Mr. Baker, Mrs. Middleton (friends).

Floral tributes were received as follows:—Wreath, From the daughter; Mr. and Mrs. Berryman and family; Arthur Loynes (Canterbury); Eva Hicks (Tonbridge); Mr. and Mrs. Upton and Kath; Mr. and Mrs. W. Baker; Miss O'Dell and L. N.; All at 95, Battle-road; Battle Road Fire Watchers, Section 4; Miss Hewlett; Mr. and Mrs. S. Watman; From a fellow gardener; Catherine; Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Brooker.

Miss Moren desires to thank all those who sent messages of sympathy and floral tributes in her sad bereavement.

The funeral directors were Douglas C. Mercer and Son, Silverhill, St. Leonards.

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