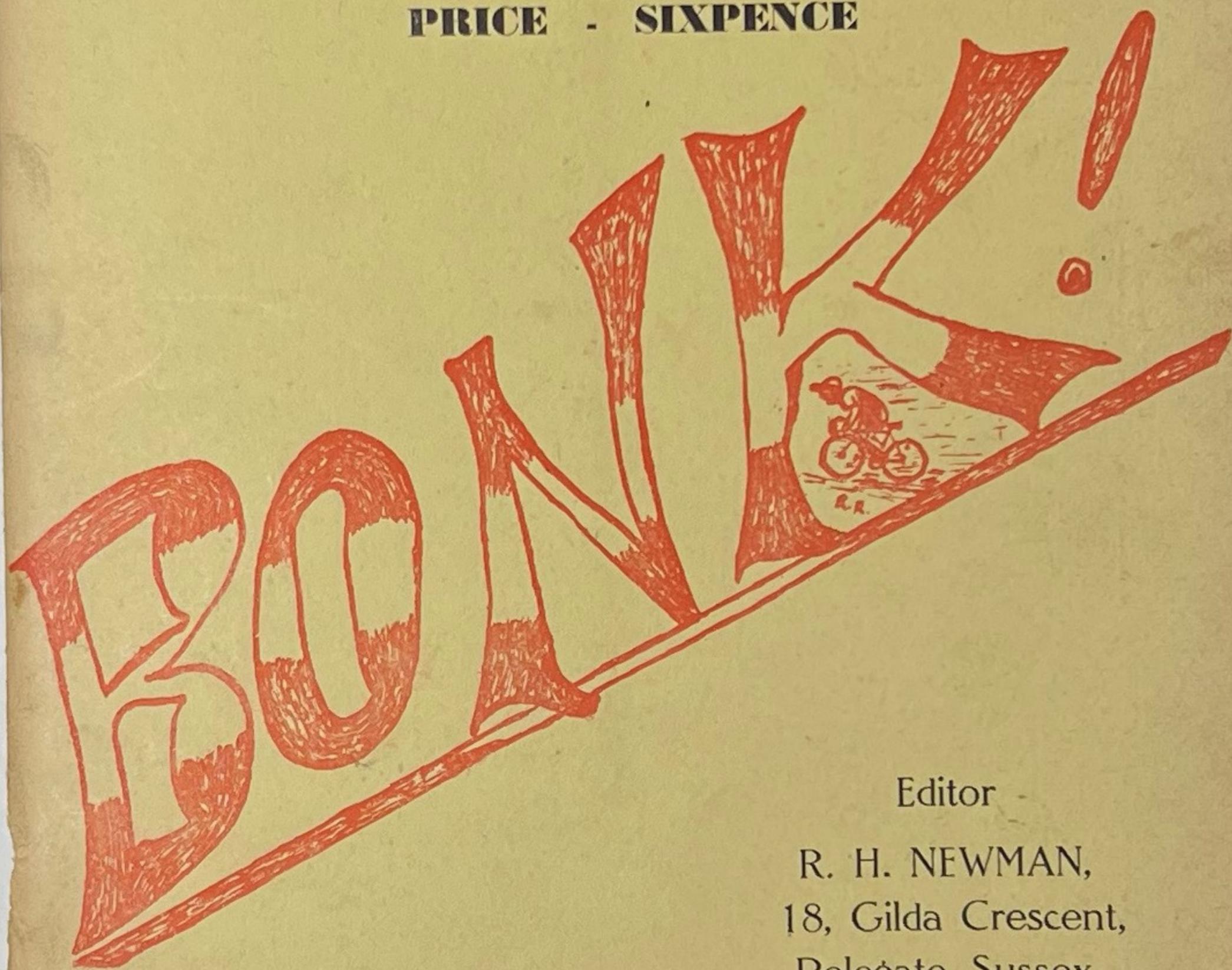


THE - OFFICIAL - ORGAN - OF - THE

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Published Quarterly

PRICE - SIXPENCE



Editor

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NEW SERIES - No. 5.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Folks,

Thank you very much to you readers who kindly sent me their congratulations on the Xmas edition. As you saw, it was bumper size, and it was due to the fine amount of material that you members sent in. It gave me a lot of satisfaction to produce it for you.

This is the first edition of the second year that I have had the honour of being your editor, and the last time it will be produced in this cover. The following editions will have a new one, in what I think is far superior in colour and style. The colour will be green, with dark green printing, and the Association badge reproduced thereon.

There is one point I would like to draw all members' attention to, and that is my address, which is 80 Gardner Road, Portslade, and NOT Gardner Street, as on the Officials List.

Well, I wish you a season of faster times and fine weather, and will be seeing you up The Road some time.

Yours sincerely,

EDITOR.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT "BONK" IS MAY 30th.

The Chairman's Letter

Greetings Members All.

First I must apologise for my non attendance at The Party and again for not being about during the "Med. Gear 25". To be quite truthful, my cycling activities are getting so involved that it is impossible to avoid the clashing of many fixtures arranged by the various organisations to which I belong. It is also quite difficult at times to make up ones mind which to attend and which to decline. I try as far as possible to give all a fair turn, so you must please bear with me on this matter of occasional absence.

With the time-trial season once more well in its stride, may I take this opportunity to wish all riders the best of luck. One appreciates that we cannot all be award winners, but let us remember that it is the chap that rides for the love of the game and just to try and better his own time, or to do battle with some pal in his own class, who makes our sport what it is, and puts it so far ahead of other sports.

I would like too to thank in anticipation all the helpers, who I know will willingly turn out in force as they have done in the past. I look forward to seeing you all up the road "so early in the morning!"

Despite statements in an earlier issue of our Mag, don't be surprised to see my name on some of the start sheets. Be less surprised to see me actually 'having a go', however slowly I may proceed. Sorry, chaps, but I can't leave it alone altogether, although I admit to reserving the right to be absent from the starting line if the weather is too bad. I have had my share of being "one of the team". Then nothing would have persuaded me to be a non-starter. Now I like to 'have a go' to please myself and for the fun I still get out of it.

I trust too this season may see many added to the ranks of the touring section. The finest holiday possible and the finest way to see the country. Maximum enjoyment and good weather to all tourists.

See you all 'up the road'.

Maurice

"GEN" from the Secretary.

The 1954 Racing Season is now more than a month old and if the early events are a guide we are in for quite a few fast times this year. The first two events have been won with good times in spite of the unfavourable weather conditions that have prevailed. Here I should like to bring to the notice of all Racing Men the fact that the President of the Hastings & St. Leonards C. & A.C., Percy Bliss, has presented to the Association a Trophy for the Fastest 25 Miles inside the hour on Course G.52. This Trophy is to be awarded annually. It is now up to you 25 milers to prove that our course is one of the fastest in the county. Since my last notes appeared many Social events have taken place notably at our own Party at Polegate in February, when a company of just over 100 spent a very enjoyable time at the Junction Hotel, with our President Mr. Jenner being in attendance. Quite a few of us will treasure memories for a long while of the Dinners that we have attended during the past three months, at which many a story of the past year was told over a glass of ale. I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all those clubs who have been pestered with my company at their Dinners this Winter I can assure them all that I have really enjoyed being present. To all club Social Secretaries I suggest that very shortly you get together and try and arrange your Dinner dates for the next Social Season so that any possibility of clubs holding their functions on succeeding nights does not occur next winter.

Our Open Tandem 30 miles is again being held on May 9th when I trust that we shall have a much more representative entry than last year, as no other Tandem events are arranged for that date. If anyone living within a reasonable distance of the start can accommodate riders for the Saturday night, perhaps they would contact me as good accommodation is very limited in the Magham Down area.

Our first Ladies event should have been decided by the time these notes reach you, and it is to be hoped that more Ladies will be seen racing this year than was the case last season, otherwise I am afraid we shall have no alternative but to abandon the ladies' programme, in spite of the fact that they now have two very handsome trophies.

In conclusion, to all cyclists, whether racing or the tourist, may all your miles during the coming season be pleasant ones.

R. H.

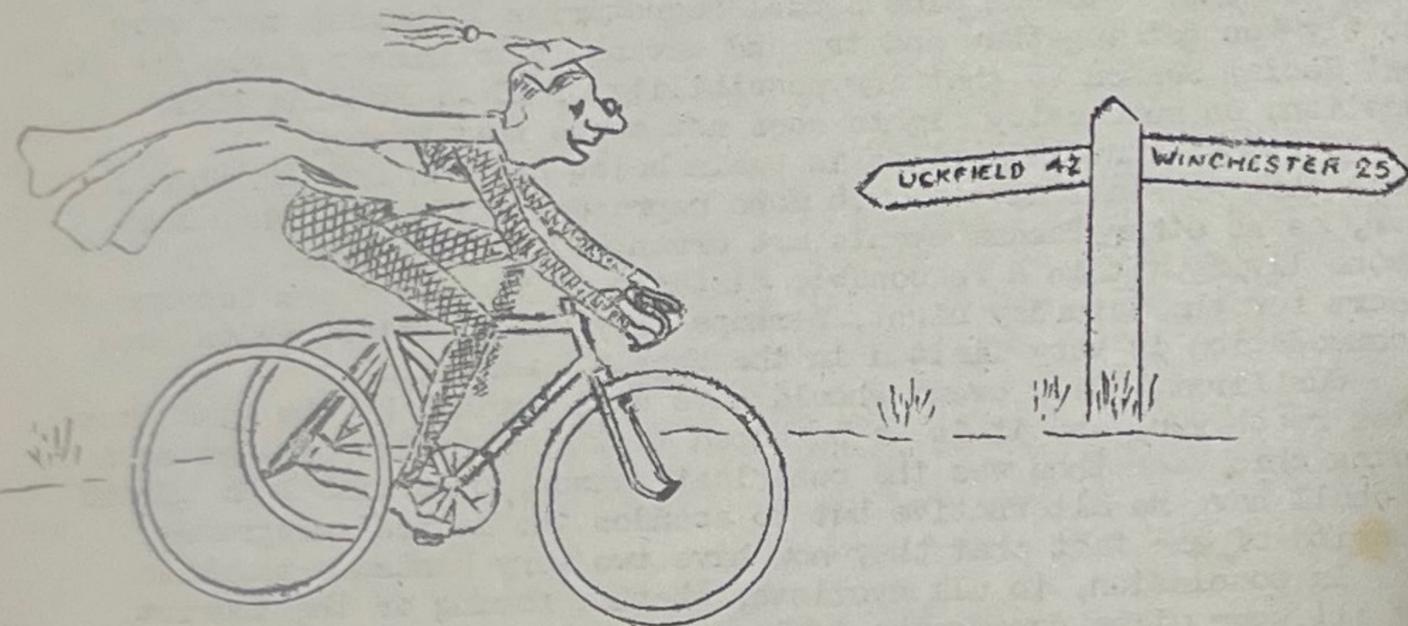
ROAD EVENT RESULTS

12 Miles Hardriders, 28th February, 1954.

		H. M. S.
1st:	D. Patten Tunbridge Wells Road Club	35.23.
2nd:	J.R. Dutson Uckfield & District C.C.	36.12.
3rd:	A.R. Trott Uckfield & District C.C.	36.16.
<u>Team:</u>	Uckfield & District C.C.	1.50.45.
	(J.R. Dutson, A.R. Trott & D. Funnell).	

25 Miles 72" Gear, 14th March, 1954.

1st:	G. King Hastings & St. Leonards C. & A.C.	1. 6.41.
2nd:	G. Boxall Uckfield & District C.C.	1. 7.12.
3rd:	M Horner Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	1. 7.23.
<u>Team:</u>	Uckfield & District C.C.	3.24.29.



We hear that

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB

I hope other Press Secretaries can keep pace with Old Father Time better than I. It seems only yesterday that we rushed the last edition to our hard-working Editor. Congratulations on the Christmas edition - especially to our artistic contributors. I hope we get some more "portraits" soon. In spite of the flight of the aforesaid old man, plans for the new season are well in hand, commencing with the Hardriders on March 7th and including the Inter-Club 25 which we are promoting on July 11th. All Clubs will be welcome and will receive invitations in good time. The course is provisionally set for Paddock Wood.

Our old and new Club Officials are getting into their stride now. Sprockett has been re-elected General Secretary - address 190 Silverdale Road (real name Ron Hackett), Dave Patten is track and mass-start Secretary at 34, Farncombe Road - both of Tunbridge Wells. Ken Chantler is again time trial secretary at 32 Woodside Road, Rusthall, Tunbridge Wells.

We had a Christmas party at the clubroom - the first one ever. Balloons and streamers festooned the place, there were piles of cakes and pies and Fred was tea-maker in chief to give us poor girls a rest! We had records and Mr. Robbins brought his projector, so the "film-stars" could preen themselves. Have you seen Sprockett's white knee-socks? The films included the E.S.C.A. hill-climb; you should have seen the King of the Mountains in perfect timing to "Little Red Monkey"! No comment, but we all hope that Johnny is fit again now and will be on that Gillott again this year.

This fever of engagements is catching; the latest are Margaret and Eric, and also Brenda and Geoff. Good luck all of you. They make a total of five pairs. The others are Molly and Reg, Joy and Fred and Shirley and Ray. I must watch our or I'll be on the shelf!

We heard from Tony Baldwin at Christmas - he's still in Malaya with the West Kents, but should be sailing for Blighty this month. He is in hospital with the local stomach upset and is pretty chuffed, but is hoping to pick up cycling again when he gets home. Alec is also in hospital at East Grinstead, but is nursing on night shift!

I am informed that we have a young casanova in the mob, but he seems to fall for the married girls. Watch out Pat! So if any members of the fair sex (that's us!) hear the cry of a hungry wolf on a Sunday club run, don't look now, it's only Mazey. He's after the club runs cup, I think, as he goes out every week. He gets his energy as do the others, from hot dogs and Oxo on Club nights. Sprockett still can't get up early enough, so he meets the Club for tea each Sunday.

Ambridge Wells Road Club (Continued)

The Club was very pleased with the result of the Association
Hardriders, which Dave won in very good time. Keep it up, Patten!
We now look forward to the summer with evening runs, Club runs to
Pevensey (?) on Sundays, track events and not forgetting those time
trials at 6 a.m. Pity the poor marshals. Here's luck to you all
for a best-ever season in 1954.

HUMILIATIONS OF A HANDICAPPER

By Broad Gauge.

Here is the tale of Uncle Maurice,
Who with a bike was no raw novice,
But riding out in winter's grip
Oft suffered bruises from side-slip -
So thinking thus to miss the dyke,
He bought himself a natty trike.

But now imagine his dismay -
For when his skill he would display,
He could not steer the d----d thing straight
(not even at a gentle gait),
But in the road could only circle,
Or down the camber madly hurtle.

Now, being a determined type,
He rode it home that very night.
Through trying hard to trace his track
A harmless grass-snake broke it's back,
Though Cedric, hero of the day,
Zig-zagged beside him all the way.

And when he rode his trike to work
He stopped production with a jerk -
The manager, one Mr. Brown,
Looking upon him with a frown,
Displayed complete dissatisfaction,
and cursed him for subversive action.

And thus the long, dark months did pass,
With snow and ice and wintry blast -
And on rode Maurice, tempest-torn

Humiliations of a Handicapper (Continued)

Until at last the spring did dawn.
His skill at trundling seemed to thrive -
So entered for a "25".

O'er the hill came the friendly sun,
And off went Maurice, number one.
Two minutes later Basher Kent
(On catching Maurice all intent)
Try as he would t'was past the turn
Before he left the trike astern.

Now Maurice, taking up the chase
Kept Kent in view, despite the pace -
Iron Peartree Corner came and passed
(Where Maurice, going all too fast
Swung out too wide and blocked the road,
Roy bawling at him 'Selfish Toad !!!!!)

Till down Holmes Hill the tyres did hum,
Passing the corner by Den's Mum,
With Maurice overtaking Kent
As up the little hill they went,
Giving his nose an upward toss
And "pipping" him at Golden Cross.

But now it was brave Eric's turn
To pass again that ample stern
And up the Dicker they did race,
Each trying hard to heat the pace,
Until they reached McDougall's Mill
Where Eric flagged ah, bitter pill !

But then, as Maurice passed the line,
Handicap won by margin fine,
Swift to an end his triumph came -
He hung his head in dreadful shame,
When came a shout of "What's the caper -
AIN'T HE THE BLOOMIN' HANDICAPPER ?"

"A Happy New Year" was what we were wishing each other three months ago; and so far the toast has come true for the Hastings Warrior Cycling & Athletic Club. With new members continuing to come in, all official positions happily filled, and a stronger racing team in the making, things look much better than at this time last year.

Christmas was celebrated in traditional fashion by one and all; wine, women and song taking precedence over cycling, with most members.

When they did eventually return to the saddle, more than one rider who had been happily pushing "72" up to Dec 23rd. found that "62" was now as much as he could handle!

However, the Boys have long since recovered, and now that the mid-week run has switched from "Potter out to Whatlington for wallop" to "Tear up to Boreham for tea and lemonade" we know that things have got going in earnest again.

The racing men have already had a couple of warming up events. The Club Hardriders "12" came first and Ken Miller started his second racing season well by winning it in 37 mins. 35 secs., pipping Doug Floyd 38-29 and Roy Bicknell 39-29. Pete Shaw found "77" fixed and the "Bonk" go hand in glove on this course; while new member Geoff Gladwell took 45 mins. including a tour of some lanes not included in the course!

The following week Ken Miller was the only Warrior to brave the winter sports conditions to ride in the E.S.C.A. "Hardriders" but could not produce the previous week's form.

STOP PRESS. For the Club "10" on March 7th, not ONE of the ~~asses~~'s turned up to avail himself of the timekeeper's watch! Fair Weather riders, that's what I call 'em.

The surprise in January was the Club's A.G.M. Beforehand, practically everyone was going to resign, and no replacements were in sight. However by the end of the Meeting some alchemy had satisfactorily filled all the posts, and left us wondering what we had been worrying about. Our President Mr. Buckland, is now Chairman as well, giving Mr. Colin Mitchell a rest after four years in the "Hot Seat"; Dennis Neeves has taken over as secretary, while Doug Floyd fills the post of Captain. The latter gent has made a good start to his term of office. With new Members continuing to roll in, support for the club runs has lately been better than for several years past, and shows every sign of continuing. G.W.J. has made a welcome return to the club Teas, complete with shining new enamel and "Fast man's" handlebars on his Bike. Neevo on the other hand did not start so well; apparently shocked by his success in collecting three annual subs during his first week of office, he was taken ill, and has had to take things easily ever since.

The Club's Annual Dinner was successful both from a gastronomical and a social point of view, and Ivan who does most of the donkey-work must have been well satisfied at the results of his labours. About sixty sat down to an excellent meal, followed by three hours of Dancing and Games, which made an enjoyable "Swan Song" to the Social season.

And so, with the delightful prospect of six months hard labour before us, we leave you, to rake our racing vest and shorts (Brrrr!) out of mothballs. Till next issue --- Good riding!

WARRIOR.

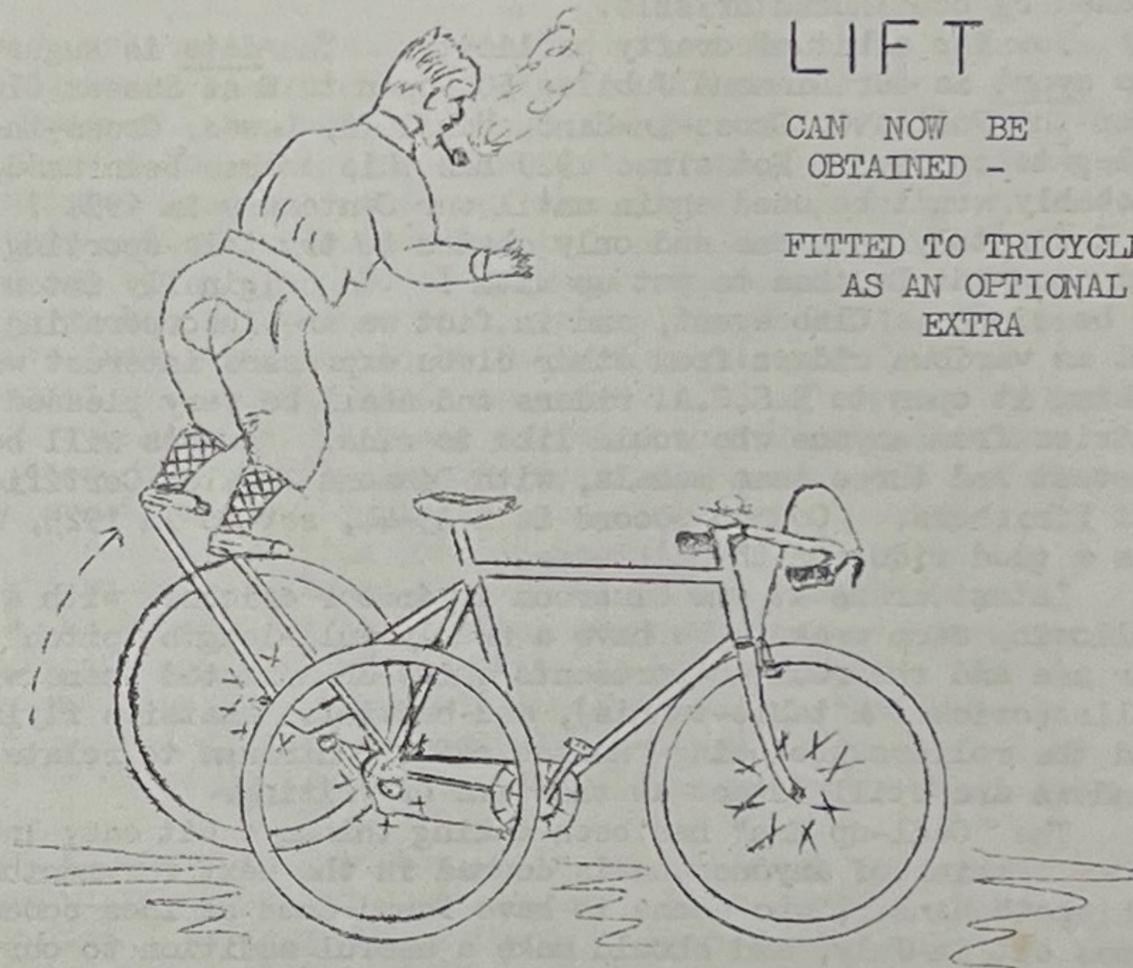
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THE FERGUSON HYDRAULIC

LIFT

CAN NOW BE OBTAINED -

FITTED TO TRICYCLES AS AN OPTIONAL EXTRA



Well, Sumer is icumen in, so greetings, folks, from the Suntrap of the South. Welcome to alarm clocks, cups of tea, blue-nosed time-keepers, big gears and the Dicker Drag, and hurrah for the disappearing minute-man and the rapidly approaching menace from the rear. You, too, can have times like mine - come to think of it you can have mine as a gift! Seriously, though, it's good to hear the old three - two - one and the tubs purring up the road once more.

The boys have been out most Sundays lately, one target being Chislehurst Caves - very interesting and well worth a visit from those who haven't been there. We also entered a party for the Brighton Excelsior "200 in 16", three of us finishing the course. This took us via Winchester to Salisbury and Christchurch and back over the New Forest. Fears that the party might be attacked by wild animals in the latter area proved to be groundless but everyone was pretty well soaked by continuous drizzle.

Now for a bit of crafty publicity. The date is August 15th. The event is our Diamond Jubilee 50, open to East Sussex Clubs, held over the Polegate, Cross-in-Hand, Uckfield, Lewes, Cross-in-Hand, Polegate course. Not since 1929 has this course been used, and it probably won't be used again until our Centenary in 1994! This is definitely your one and only chance to try this sporting course and see what Dad had to put up with! We originally intended this to be simply a Club event, and in fact we are incorporating this, but as various riders from other clubs expressed interest we are making it open to E.S.C.A. riders and shall be very pleased to receive entries from anyone who would like to ride. Awards will be first fastest and three team medals, with Diamond Jubilee Certificates to all finishers. Course record is 2-33-44, set up in 1925, when this was a good ride for the distance.

Latest craze at the Clubroom is indoor cricket, with a bigger following each week. We have a nearly full-length "pitch" available for use and the room now presents quite an animated scene with darts, balls (cricket & table-tennis), and badminton whatsits flying around and the rollers producing "noises off". Strange to relate, all the windows are still intact at the time of writing.

The "Call-up Man" has been taking things a bit easy lately, and I can't think of anyone who is doomed in the next few months. "Whippet" Manser, who seems to have found some stripes somewhere, comes out in July, and should make a useful addition to our short-distance strength. Others still in uniform include "Blondie" Wickham, Brian Kirtland, "Blue" Medhurst - somewhere in the Antipodes -

and Brian Smith, who I'm sorry to say had rather a rough time with illness soon after call-up, but who I believe is mending nicely now.

Finally, have you heard about the club-girl who thought a Separation Allowance was a special handicap for those with well-developed legs? You do meet 'em!

Be seeing you all at dawn,

"LAND ROVER"

+++++

"PLAGUES"

Sir,

Those of us who were foremost in the rush for entry forms for the recent E.S.C.A. Medium Gear 25 and who got as far as perusing the prize values, were not a little concerned to observe the first fastest award. What had a benevolent Association offered us - a cup - a shield - a medal? No, none of these things, but a veritable PLAGUE!

Knowing well the uprightness and integrity of our Committee, we at once dismissed from our minds any thought of complicity on their part, but this left us no option but to conclude that this ghastly inspiration was the brainchild of our hitherto respected Secretary. Reluctant as we are to believe this, we feel it is in the public interest that the matter should be fully investigated.

Our Secretary has many times competed in 25 mile races and it is therefore improbable that he bears a grudge towards the distance. Can it be, then, that he dislike the restriction on gears and proposed to kill the event (and incidentally, at least one competitor), by the imposition of such a shocking penalty for winning? Or is it, perhaps, that he has developed a maniacal phobia for 18-tooth sprockets? Unpleasant as these alternatives appear, we prefer them to another idea - one which we hesitate to put on paper. Is it conceivable that our Secretary had already sized up the probable winner, and descended to this unchivalrous depth to guard against repetitions in subsequent events? Club loyalty can be carried too far!

Another aspect which strikes us is the sinister vagueness with which the award is described. A Plague. What sort of plague? Locusts, or just a touch of Black Death? What deadly cultures are maturing behind the curtains of Clyde Cottage? The winner has a right to know! & will he be allowed to keep it to himself, or

"Plagues" (Continued).

expected to share it with his clubmates? Plagues sometimes get out of hand: is the winner covered against this risk by his Third Party Insurance.

No, we feel that this idea is pregnant with preposterous possibilities which will lead to undesirable publicity for the time-trial game, and, if for this reason alone, we would urge our Secretary to find some other way of rewarding our perspiring pedallers. Only then will we be plaquated!

We are, Sir,
Yours &c.

(Sgd.) M. TAKER
P. RINT (MISS)

UCKFIELD & DISTRICT C.C.

So the social season has come and gone again, with the gannets making the most of their chances by attending every club dinner they could while funds permitted. Apart from the more formal functions the Club Xmas Eve Party provided a lot of fun as usual, though the appearance of a posse armed with water-pistols put paid to the pre-arranged programme. Four Forces members turned up - Arthur, Don, Webby and Tony - it certainly seems that the "Do" is a permanent date in the calendar.

Some of the 'erbs took advantage of the seasonable weather to get a bit of skating in, on Piltdown Pond that is, most of us had enough skating on icy roads without going out to look for it, still, no accounting for tastes!

Almost forgot, last season seems so far away, but Siggy's fine ride in the Central Sussex Cyclo-cross certainly deserves mention. MacH and Webby also performed gallantly, with the menace collecting 17 punctures just to round the day off.

The experiment of dispensing with professional entertainment at the Dinner in favour of a social evening proved a great success, many thanks being due to Roy Humphrey for an excellently devised programme of games, chiefly remarkable for the amount of noise they engendered.

Three brave spirits, including your 'umble, performed under the critical eye of the C.T.C. in the West Sussex D.A. reliability trial, had a most enjoyable time and can certainly recommend the event - a proper pot-pourri of riding and "gen" tests.

A small band of stalwarts kept their wheels turning during the

Uckfield & District C.C. (Continued)

winter, collecting a few wet shirts in the process. No doubt they will have their due reward in the fullness of time - instead of aches and pains in early-season events due to lack of miles they'll have gout and rheumatism in their old age (like I've got anyway).

The racing season has opened well, with club events being brought ever further forward to enable the bods to get a ride in before the Association events start. The "10", on a reasonably good morning, and the "15", in a howling gale, proved once again that Dut takes less notice of adverse weather than most riders. The results of the first two E.S.C.A. events are most encouraging, 3 places and 2 team wins, the latter by hefty margins and with plenty of reserves in hand. Special mention to Geoff for an outstanding performance in the Medium Gear - as a matter of fact most of our chaps did better rides than in the corresponding event last year on a day when many other riders were slower.

Phyl's postbag is pretty full these days, I must say we get some really interesting letters from the Scragly Erbs. We've just heard from Cedric to say that he's moved from the comforts of the Canadian Hospital at Kure, first to a convalescent depot and then to a reinforcement camp at Hiro, preparatory to rejoining his unit. Says working again after a life of leisured ease comes pretty hard, but sends a graphic description of a trip by launch along the Jap coast to Iwekuni - seems the trip out was O.K. but the journey back caused most of the lads to donate to the owners - fortunately Ced., having trained with the Uckfield Gannets, remained master of his fate (and breakfast). (Sir) Don writes from Kota Tinggi to say his jungle training is now completed, and he will shortly be moving up-country (he also sends a few kind words of advice to Webby about this and that, eh, Webby?). The latter, by the way, is now counting the weeks until he comes out - I really believe he thinks he's going to enjoy civvy street! Arthur was to have ridden in the Medium Gear, but the R.A.F. switched his leave at short notice, so he missed that one, anyway he's getting in some miles and apparently has got his feet well in at Innsworth, is now Station Team Manager (with exes - something I've never achieved!).

Turning to higher (?) forms of Service Life, Cpl. Tony Shrapnel (paid) celebrates his 21st this month (I had my 21st in the mob, 'nuff said). Good luck, Tony! L/Cpl. John Pearce, due out this year too, looks like seeing a bit of life in Germany before his number's up, as we gather his battalion's on the move. And a

Some Common Cycling Expletives (Continued).

impenetrable Uckfield & District wilderness. This specimen could only "speak" in signs and a few utterances of irrational gibberish, e.g., "Cor dang oi".

Dragon (Species Caticus) :-

Self-explanatory. Unfortunately no St. George has yet come forward. (For further information on this subject read the admirable treatise by Dr. Agg and Prof. Grover).

Grimpeur :-

A stern faced coureur with no visible means of support (viz: "Anti-gravity" man).

+++++

To the Editor, for publication.

Dear Sir,

May I take advantage of your columns to apologise on behalf of my Club to the riders in the Medium Gear event for the late arrival of our turn marshal, and to thank Mr. Lock, of the East Grinstead C.C. for his timely assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Norman Edwards

Hon. Time Trials Sec.,
Uckfield & District C.C.

+++++

Change of Address of Officials.

Social Secretary, East Sussex Cycling Association:-
F. Sealy, 37 Jubilee Road, Bexhill-on-Sea.

Magazine Editor:-
R. Newman, 80 Gardner Road, Portslade, Sussex.

Congratulations to Percy Bliss on being awarded the "Fellowship" Trophy by The Fellowship of Kent & Sussex Cyclists. Well done, Percy. This is the second year in which a member of our Association has been honoured by the Kent & Sussex Fellowship. In 1953 it was awarded to our Secretary, R. Humphrey, for services rendered to our pastime.

DISCONNECTED JOTTINGS

We were all very sorry to hear that Mike Kenward had had his bike pinched - bet you were glad it wasn't that cap, Mike!

Our readers will join us in congratulating Ken Padgham on his new appointment in Wiltshire. Ken was our first Social Secretary and played an energetic part in our affairs in the early years of the Association.

We hear that the Great White Chief has vowed to get the Prof bottled on March 28th. By the time this is in print we shall know who was under the table first.

Sorry to hear that Johnny Coomber's leg isn't progressing too well - seems it hasn't set correctly and has to be re-set. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Full marks to Pedlar Palmer for his very teasing quiz at the New Year's Party. Judging by the answers given to the last question few of us poor cyclists ever handle a pound note long enough to see what's on it!

Den Funnell had a spill on a training spin. Now Stephanie's fractured her arm - hard luck, Steph! But perhaps old Den's got the worst of it after all as we gather he's now doing all the housework!

We understand that after the episode in the Hardriders Gordon King is using Chater cranks. Has anyone told him what Eric Kent did to one at Preston Park?

Dear Fellow Cyclists,

Once again we are nearing the time of year when all pedal pushers start creeping out of their plusses and windcheaters and head for the country. The racing men begin creeping around at unearthly hours on a Sunday morning. Why do they always make the start of a course a position where there is no shelter from the elements?

We of the Heath are also beginning to sit up and take notice, some of the boys have already been burning up a few miles. Times have not been as good as they should be but then neither has the weather (it's a good excuse anyway).

As I expect you already know, we no longer have the services of Jill (Half Pint) Cruttenden as secretary. This year I think she intends riding with our Uckfield friends. We thank her for her past services and wish her luck in the future.

During our social season attendances at our Franklands Village headquarters have been fairly good. Janet Golds is still in charge of the tea urn, and we have had plenty of elbow bending practice. We have also been pleased to welcome some of the Southern Wheelers and Central Sussex members who have just dropped in for the evening. We are always glad to see anybody at any time.

Club runs during the winter have been kept going under the able management of our Captain Reg Tew, and have had fairly good support. On a recent run to Leatherhead there was some talk about two members (one male, one female) who explored some shrubbery, but I think that subject is best left alone or my life will be in some danger from a certain lady.

It is with some regret that I have to announce that our Captain Reg Tew has decided to resign from his position. We are sorry he has decided to take this step as we have been very happy under his leadership. Our present Vice-Captain Clive (Gabby) Fry will, we hope, take over the position, with a little gentle persuasion.

In conclusion, may we of the Heath Cycling Club wish all the readers of "Bonk" a very successful and happy season.

Till the next issue,

Yours in Sport,

-:22:-

Frizzle

EAST GRINSTEAD C. C.

Ah! 'tis Spring, when a young man's fancy gently turns to thoughts of hardriders & medium gear events. That's what the poet said, wasn't it? I thought I would just like to put that in to remind readers that it is Spring. Seems quite a change from when the last 'Bonk' came out, there we were basking in glorious November sunshine, still in shorts and summer garb - & now this! (Having written that what's the betting that there's good weather by the time you read this?) However, enough metriological observations & down to the adventures & misadventures of the 'Grinstead crew over the last few months.

First in chronological order (I will now put back the dictionary) was the Association dinner & prize giving which was attended in force by our club. I think everyone in the Association who attended agreed it was an excellent do at the right time of day and at an almost unique price! We certainly came home a lot wiser about the happenings of the S.E. Tricycle Association.

The Christmas Day Club Run was a success if not so numerically strong, but to shame it all the Treasurer, Press Secretary and Chairman of the Committee turned up - by car. (We are made of stronger stuff, of course). To follow this a few of us went on a 'day after Boxing Day' tour of East Sussex. We now consider that one of the objects of the E. S. C. A. should be "to give guidance to cyclists who get themselves lost round unsignposted East Sussex lanes"! We also called in at that famous East Sussex establishment known as "Den's Mum's", and heard all the latest gen on the winter activities of various Association personalities.

On January 23rd we held our annual dinner & prizegiving at the Whitehall, East Grinstead. Unfortunately, we got practically no support from Association clubs, rather a let down in view of the fact that some of our club members attended the dinners of nearly all of our neighbouring clubs. However, the do itself was a great success. Pete Brooker collected a goodly lot of silverware while Johnny Coomber went up to collect the magnificent "Courier Cup" on his crutches. Cross-toasting was introduced for the first time at our dinners, which proved to be very hilarious, even if disconcerting to various individuals who thought that their various misadventures had been forgotten in the depths of time! I won't bother with what was said by who etc. as the details appeared in the 'Cycling' & 'Bicycle',

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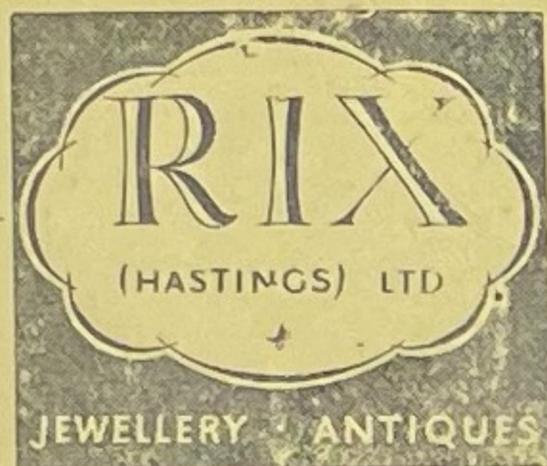
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