

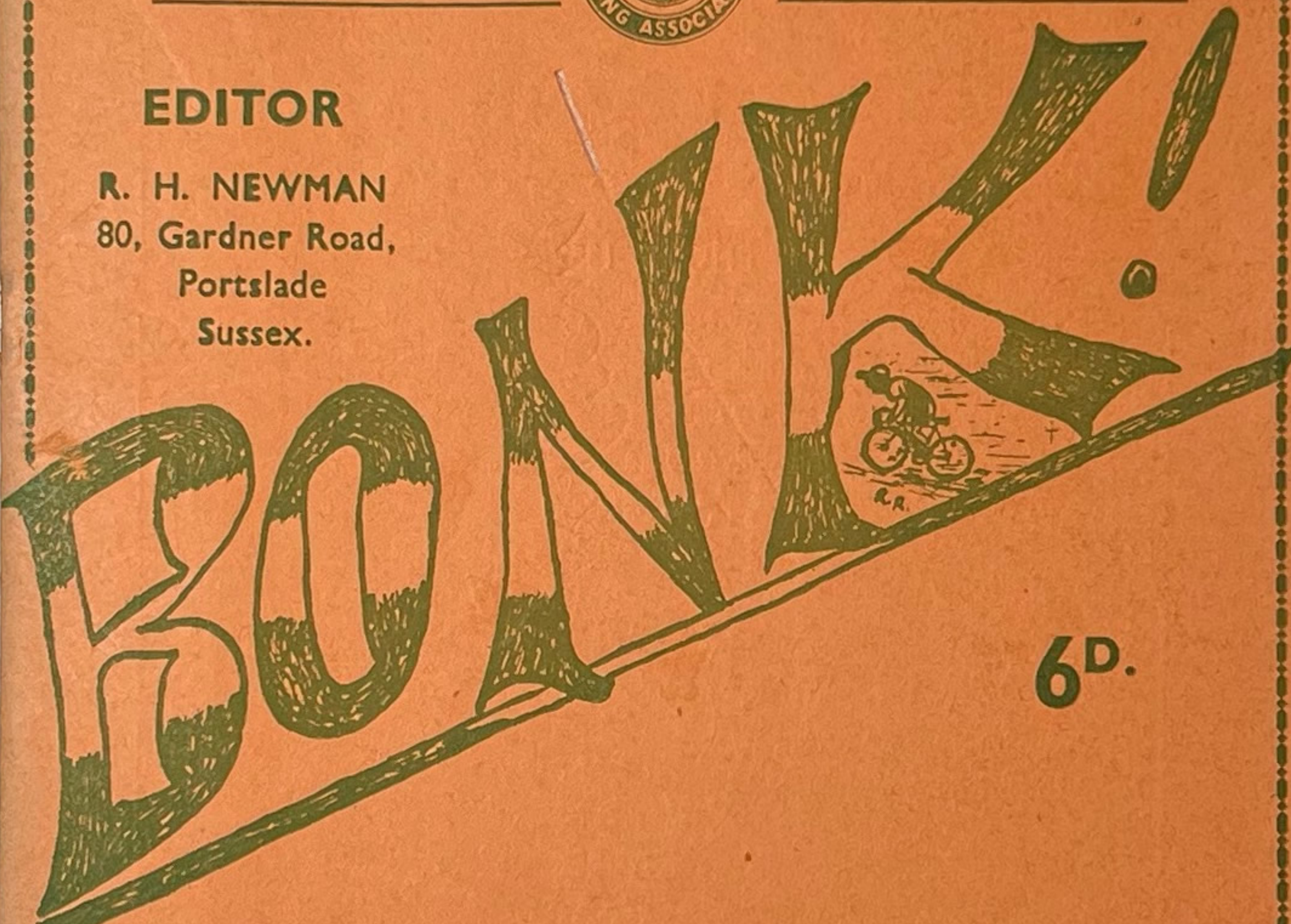
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

# EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



**EDITOR**

R. H. NEWMAN  
80, Gardner Road,  
Portslade  
Sussex.



6<sup>d</sup>.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY



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# EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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NEW SERIES - No. 6.

SUMMER 1954

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

My very humble apologies for this very late edition. The fact is that I have had extreme difficulty in getting suitable adverts and there has been a long wait for the printers.

I hope this new cover is to your liking, because it's here for a year now, at least. The artistic endeavours of some of the members are still coming in and so far there haven't been any actions for slander, so keep it up. I have actually had more items than could be produced this issue, so I will keep them for future use, as they are not strictly topical. My sincere apologies to "Broad Gauge" for not publishing all his articles, but will try next time. Thanks again to all you club secs who kindly let me have their inspirations as they were created, and did not wait for the deadline before letting me have them. It saves a lot of last minute rush that way.

Yours sincerely,

R.N.

EDITOR.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS AUG. 30th.



THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members,

Greetings ! The Open "30". Congratulations to our Secretary for a well-organised and highly successful event. I am sure he would wish to join with me in thanking all concerned for the splendid turn out of marshals and helpers - a grand effort, and judging from the remarks of the riders after the event, one appreciated as much appreciated by them as by we officials. Many thanks, your good work has done as much as anything to put the event permanently on the "Map".

While on the question of congratulations, well done the Uckfield team ! Your retaining of the County Team Championship Shield was really excellent work. Your other team successes have gone to show that this was not just a flash in the pan. Keep it up, lads, and let us see that you can hold your own in the longer distance events also.

As for individual congratulations need we say more than "Well done, DAVE !!" We, as well as your club, are proud to number you among our ranks.

I trust the touring section, too, have been doing their stuff in their own quiet way, and that many happy miles were enjoyed during the Easter holiday, despite wintry temperature. Let's hear from some of you about your wanderings and adventures.

I regret that it should once more be necessary to appeal to some clubs to take steps to ensure that their delegates do attend Committee Meetings, and report to their club secretaries all business transacted. Too often do we hear "I never heard anything about that", and only because a delegate was absent from a meeting, or has failed to report the matter to the person concerned. Please give this matter your attention.

I regret my failure to report to the timekeeper at the "50", but I just did not feel I was fit enough to make a reasonable show, so I went out and got in some pretty solid miles instead, which I am sure did me much more good.

See you all up the road.

MAURICE.

"GEN" from the Secretary

First of all I should like to bring to notice of all Club Secretaries the dates of the Annual Rally, Annual General Meeting and the Annual Luncheon & Prize Presentation. They have been arranged for the following dates : August 29th, November 14th, and November 28th. Full details will be sent to all clubs well before these dates.

Of Ladies' Road Events to date the support has not been very encouraging, but I have been informed on good authority that for the later season events we shall see at least two new names on the Start Sheet for Ladies' events. The Ladies events that have been decided this year have been very keenly contested with only a minute or so separating the placed riders.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Lewes Wanderers C.C. have presented a Shield to the East Sussex C.A. to be awarded annually to the winning Team in the 100 Miles event. This Shield will be known as "The Ted Jenner Shield". We are all indeed very grateful to the Lewes Club for presenting this Shield, and I am sure it will do much to encourage the clubs to make a bigger effort in this event to become the first holders of this very handsome shield.

Whilst on the subject of the 100 miles, the latter part of the course will be slightly altered to avoid having a dead turn at Ringmer at 89 miles. This will entail extending the turn at the foot of Barnhorn Hill on towards Little Common. By doing this we shall be able to use the lane along the Broyle instead of going straight on to turn just beyond the Green Man at Ringmer. In past years by the time riders get to this turn quite a lot of traffic has been using this road.

Entries for events so far this year have been about the same as last year, each event has been very keenly contested and quite a few riders have put up personal best times, especially in the 50 miles on May 23rd. In the team section the winning margin has been very small indeed, and quite a few of the clubs are now challenging Uckfield & District C.C. for team honours. The Open Tandem 30 miles was a very successful promotion with an entry of 25 tandems; it compares very favourably with entries in other Tandem events. Some very good times were recorded in this event and the Kingston Phoenix pair are to be congratulated in their time of 1. 4.53 - a new course and event record. A pleasing thing about this event was the way in which our member clubs turned



"GEN" from the Secretary (continued).

out to marshal the course. Several of the clubs who rode in this event have written to congratulate the Association on the way they marshalled and ran the event.

On August 29th the South Eastern Tricycle Association will be supporting our 50 mile as they have accepted the invitation which was extended to them to ride in this event in which special awards will be put up for tricycles. Make a note of this date, and let's have a bumper attendance of marshals round the course.

What about that get-together of Club Social Secretaries to try and arrange the dates for next Social Season? Now is the time to have a meeting and so avoid any clashing of dates during next winter's Social Season.

In conclusion, to all the members of the Association, keep up your very fast times in Open Events and before the season is over I am sure that quite a number of members will have made their presence felt in many parts of Southern England and beyond.

R.H.

ROAD EVENT RESULTS

		H.	M.	S.
<u>25 Miles, April 11th, 1954.</u>				
1st:	J.R. Dutson	Uckfield & Dist. C.C.	1	3 8
2nd:	G.A. King	Hastings & St. Leonards	1	4 0
3rd:	G. Borall	Uckfield & Dist. C.C.	1	4 47
<u>Handicap:</u>				
1st:	P. Sharp	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ m	57 15
2nd:	R. Russell	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	59 46
<u>Team:</u>	Uckfield & District C.C.		3	14 5
<u>50 Miles, May 23rd, 1954.</u>				
1st:	G.A. King	Hastings & St. Leonards	2	9 52
2nd:	M. Horner	Eastbourne Rovers C & AC	2	11 20
3rd:	D. Agg	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	2	12 19
<u>Handicap:</u>				
1st:	D. Lock	East Grinstead C.C.	19	1 54 48
2nd:	R. Lunn	East Grinstead C.C.	16	1 59 16
<u>Team:</u>	Lewes Wanderers C.C.		6	44 43

Road Event Results (continued)

		H.	M.	S.
<u>Open Tandem 30 Miles, May 9th, 1954.</u>				
1st:	R.T. & F.L. Powney,	Kingston Phoenix C.C.	1	4 53
(Course & Event Record).				
2nd:	P.J. White & M. Blake,	Addiscombe C.C.	1	5 58
3rd:	N. Strawbridge & P.J. Smith,	Brighton Stanley W.	1	6 30
<u>Team:</u>	Uckfield & District C.C.		2	14 17

		H.	M.	S.
<u>Ladies 10 Miles, April 11th, 1954.</u>				
1st:	J. Farnes	Tunbridge Wells Albion C.C.	29	43
2nd:	P. Novis	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	29	59
<u>Handicap:</u>				
1st:	J. Golds	Heath C.C.	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ mins.	28 30
<u>Team:</u>	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		1	0 13

		H.	M.	S.
<u>Ladies 10 Miles, May 23rd, 1954.</u>				
1st:	P. Elfick	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	28	38
2nd:	J. Cruttenden	Uckfield & Dist. C.C.	28	55
<u>Handicap:</u>				
1st:	P. Elfick	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ m.	27 53
<u>Team:</u>	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		57	40

How a Timekeeper saw the 1954 East Sussex C.A. Open Tandem "30"

My alarm clock brought me to consciousness at 3-45 a.m. on Sunday 9th May and I realised I was due at Magham Down by 6-30 a.m. for the start of the E.S.C.A. Tandem "30". I got my bicycle out of the garage at 4-30 and started on the 20 mile ride to Magham Down. Although it was only just daylight, the wind was blowing very strongly from the North-East, and the flat miles between Newhaven and Seaford seemed hard ones. However, once in the Cuckmere Valley the going became much easier; I learnt later that the wind had suddenly died away at about 5 o'clock. Arriving at "The Rosemary", Magham Down at 6 a.m., to say good morning to Gordon Lamb & Jim Catt who were riding a tandem tricycle in the event. These two bearded gentlemen had spent the night under a haystack a few miles away.

The first pair were sent on their way promptly at 6-31 and all the other starters got away at their appointed time. Mr. Tom Howell of the Brighton Stanley was there to lend an experienced hand as a pusher-off. If the start was like clockwork the finish was equally so, for all the 23 starters finished and the event was



over by 8-30 a.m.

The winners, R.T. & F.L. Downey, with 1 - 4 - 53 beat the previous course record by 1 minute 12 seconds, and have since confirmed their form by winning two more tandem events, the Viking Road Club "50" on Essex roads and the Marlborough A.C. "50" on the classic 50 miles course on the Road Road west of Reading.

The Uckfield & District C.C. again won the team section of the event, but this year it was only by a margin of 15 seconds from the Goodmayes Wheelers, a club from the East side of London. The course was apparently very fully marshalled by members of affiliated Clubs, a very pleasing feature in these days when quite a large number of Club members are prepared to ride in events but do not want to help others when they are not riding themselves.

Our General & Racing Secretary, Roy, had as usual put in a tremendous amount of work in organising the event which included arranging accommodation for most of the visiting riders, and it is to him that most of the credit is due for the successful promotion of the event.

R.J. Eldridge.

#### LEWES WANDERERS CYCLING CLUB

Hello, fanatics, Lewes reporting once again.

In honour of our president, Mr. Jenner, being elected President of the E.S.C.A. and also as a tribute to his lifelong service to cycling, we shall be presenting a perpetual trophy, to be known as the "Ted Jenner Shield", which will be awarded to the fastest team in the E.S.C.A. "100". (Incidentally, there's no point in you other 'erbs trying too hard, 'cause our name's already engraved on it for this year! - signed D. Agg).

So far the Lewes Wanderers have had a very successful season, due to the individual brilliance of Dave Marsh who has, to date, carried all before him in Sussex events. He has also given the Wanderers' fair name a terrific boost in our neighbouring counties and became the third Sussex rider ever to beat the hour when he clocked 59.41 to win the Fountain "25" at Easter. Since then he has won the Fareham Wheelers "50" with a 2.5.51., beating the second man by almost three minutes, and in the De Laune "25" further lowered his personal best to 59.31 for third place. He also broke

#### Lewes Wanderers C.C. (continued)

the G.46 course record in the S.C.A. Team Championship with a 1 - 2 - 15 ride, a great performance on a hard morning. This, together with club events and a S.C.A. "25" win, gives Dave a record of eight rides, seven wins this year.

At the other end of the scale we still have "Tourist" Agg who, for reasons best left unprobed, can't seem to do anything right. He managed 1-6-55 in the Fountain, despite losing all the balls from his freewheel block, and afterwards could be seen scrabbling amongst the grass for survivors whilst muttering: "I can't afford a new set this week" - a sight which prompted a team-mate to remark that it wasn't the first time Derek had been known to lose his bearings! This doubtless referred to an epic club run last year when he led several unsuspecting souls on an alleged "short cut" from Midhurst to Pulborough - via Haslemere !!!

Asked how he contrived to finish 12th out of 12 in the N.C.U. Sussex Centre M/S on the Chailey circuit the "Tourist" made the classic reply: "I bent down to change gear and when I looked up - they'd gone!" However, since then he has done much better with 2-14-4 in the Fareham "50" and a first-class 2-12-19 in the E.S.C.A. "50" which with a 2-15-27 by Peter Sharp and a 2-16-57 by Ron Russell, in his first crack at the distance, was sufficient to give us our first team success this season.

No. 1 "gannet", Russell, did well to take third place in the S.C.A. Longmarkers "25" in some of the worst weather ever known on G.41 - or anywhere else for that matter! He ambled round in 1-8-38 on a morning when only 25 out of 51 finishers in both Long and Shortmarkers events beat 1-10! Young Chris Stone chose the same morning to ride his first "25" and clocked a very creditable 1-15-17.

Recently Agg's role as unintentional club comedian was temporarily usurped by "Lover Boy" Geoff, who deliberately pranged his iron into a wagon in order to claim the insurance money. This personage not only drove the stalwart Seaford constabulary to near suicide with his vehement demands for a high court trial for the innocent motorist but did vilely fall upon and chastise the insurance man when informed he was only insured against theft. My, My, we've certainly got 'em, and no mistake!



Our ex Bath Road rider, Peter Sharp, made a successful return to time-trialling, after some twelve years or so, and recorded a very good 1-7-45 in the E.S.C.A. "25", following which he came within seconds of his best ever "50" time, as already mentioned. Truly a man to watch this year.

Our only "dragon" trouble suffered lately is that we can't seem to get ours on the road, much to the dismay of the runs captain (no names !) who complains that club jaunts are unexciting these days now that we have to stay on the bikes ! Can anyone suggest a (printable) way to get these females thinking along the right lines ?

Our boys in the Forces are still lingering. The end of the season will see the return of Micky Burgess and Johnny Pickett who, we hope will soon pick up their previous form. Tony Cornford is taking life easy at Aldershot, and says that it's a "piece of cake" compared to "100's" and 12-hour slogs !! John Adams, with the R.A.F., has, we hear, been transferred to Scotland.

One notable personality missing from club-life lately has been "Iron Man" Grover. There is no foundation for the rumour that he went off course in the Hardriders '12' and has not yet returned. Actually he is still suffering the indemnity of a 1-6-58 achieved in a moment of unbridled enthusiasm last year, and is disgruntled at being handicapped accordingly. We trust this fit of the sulks will soon wear off before the 1955 season commences.

Our Treasurer, "Chancellor" Eldridge, still contrives to keep the Wanderers' coffers well filled, although one report has it that he was recently noted taking the collection at a Billy Graham revivalist meeting. Evidently a case of "Honi-Soit-Qui-Many-Pence"- or words to that effect.

ALSORAN.

# LEFT OF THE IRON CURTAIN

We were greatly intrigued by the dissertation on the subject of "plagues" in the last issue of BONK, and the disturbing inferences drawn by our learned but anonymous colleague. The article referred to has encouraged us to intensify some researches in which we have been engaged for a considerable period into the possibility and nature of political infiltration into the recently revived activity of road racing.

Our attention was first drawn to the appearance of officials described as "Commissaires". We originally envisaged these gentlemen as gloriously attired in quasi-military uniform complete with epaulettes, gold braid, medals and fearsome moustaches, but on encountering them in the flesh were somewhat taken aback to find them dressed in sober garments and cloaking their mysterious activities in the guise of temporary respectability. Our enquiries at that time failing to elicit any further information as to the duties and purpose of these officials we were forced to shelve our investigations temporarily.

The appearance of the programmes for the recent Sussex Centre massed-start event on the Chailey circuit was eagerly welcomed as an opportunity to re-commence our enquiries. Our vigilance did not go unrewarded - in an unguarded moment our hitherto respected Secretary, who was also responsible for the promotion of this event, described himself as the Promoting Secretar ! This brought the whole matter into focus - at once the dread significance of the "Commissaires" is revealed - they are obviously Commissars but thinly veiled by the addition of a couple of vowels. Their purpose appears to be to compel riders to keep to the left - we repeat, left - of a white line painted in the centre of the road - any deviationist tendency being promptly reported and the unfortunate offender subjected to the most appalling penalties.

Further investigations revealed plans to serve caviar at the feeding stations, while our scouts surprised a couple of collective farmers surreptitiously brewing some nauseous fluid in a samovar concealed behind a gorse bush near Pippingford Park. The final straw was a diabolical scheme to lure two well-known bourgeois riders, Citizens Agg and Funnell, to the rear of the field by the promise of unlimited supplies of vodka, which of course accounts



for their finishing last in the event.

FOOTNOTE. The first indication of the ideological sympathies of our Secretary escaped us all for a considerable time, but students of modern history, having the above information before them, will now have no difficulty in seeing in their true perspective the frequent exhortations of this gentleman to accompany him to Siberia.

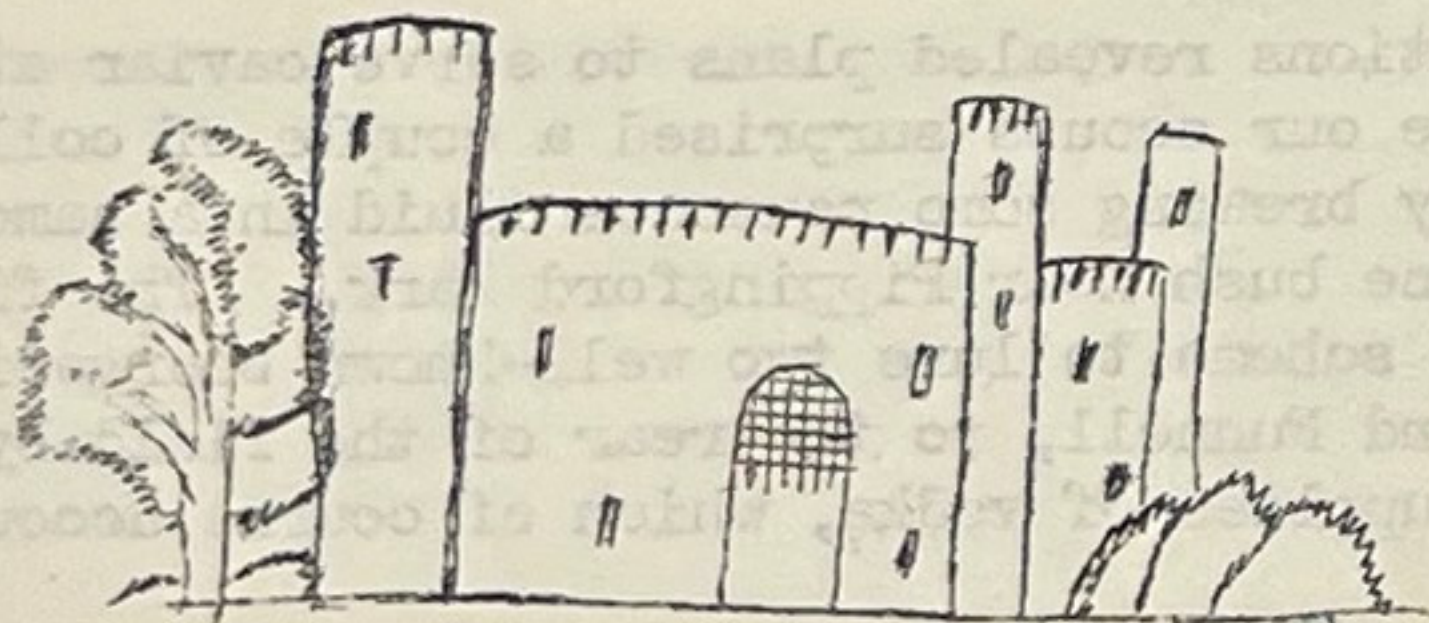
J. McC.

THIS MODERN WORLD OF OURS

When slowly cruising down a lane,  
 'Tis nice to hear the birds again.  
 To see the bluebells peeping through,  
 A magic carpet of scented blue.  
 To hear the bleating of the sheep,  
 To catch the smell of some dung heap.  
 I carry on 'neath towering trees,  
 Ducking to dodge big bumble bees.  
 A pheasant struts across the road;  
 I hear the croaking of a toad;  
 The twitter of a lark on high -  
 THEN A MOTOR-BIKE goes ROARING BY.

WHY is it that things like this  
 Are allowed to spoil the country bliss?  
 To maim, or crush defenceless birds,  
 To startle peaceful dairy herds.  
 Have these people NO pangs of shame  
 When they destroy the peace of a country lane?

"GRANFER".



EASTBOURNE ROVERS C. & A.C.

Good-day, everybody, and greetings from the rain-gauge of the South (just swum in from the Prestonville '25'). Doesn't seem long since the last "Bonk" but I suppose a couple of months have gone by. All the boys (and girls) seem dead keen these days and with the standard of competition this season, on the road especially, they need to be. "Dicky" Horner has been doing some very nice "50s" and Len Novis managed a "13" at his first try at this distance, which was in the "Mitre" 50. At the time of writing he is one of "H.M.F." again, but not for very long - he'll be home in a fortnight!

Unfortunately the track licence regulation has killed any hope of regular grass meetings at Princes Park, and George Henty and Ray Ottley are the only two who have ridden regularly at Preston Park. George was unlucky on Whit Monday when he got through to the final of a handicap event, only to puncture on the line.

After-race runs have been the usual mixture of potters and blinds, according to taste. We recently acquired a new member in the form of an Afghan Hound, which tried to tear us up on Hove front at 6.30 a.m. Nearly did, too! But he chucked it in when he tripped over his hair.

Finally, a personal note. Many thanks to all who helped out, and enquired, after my recent stack-up at Uckfield. Glad to say I'm pretty fit again, and hope to be turning 'em over again in July.

Cheers,

LAND ROVER.

"Racing",  
 Is a term embracing,  
 Time Trials, Massed Start, Track, Rollers, Circuit, Road Records,  
 Hill Climbing & Motor Pacing.

There is no disgrace in  
 Taking a parcel when racing,  
 But it is better to get a place in  
 The Tour de France.

Training,  
 I, personally, find a pain in  
 The Neck.  
 It is usually raining



On evenings intended for training,  
This is an excellent excuse for stayin' in-  
Doors.

#### Sprints

Are enjoyed by Arthur Wints,

But I would like some hints

On this particular phase of the cycling pastime.

I have never been keen on sprints

since

I was dropped and lapped in an 880 scratch at Preston Park.

#### In Time Trials

One is very much subject to the wiles

Of the Handicapper. One is all smiles

With 4 minutes in a "25", when some wretched chap with 8 minutes  
comes in with a "2".

Those who compete in time trials

Should get in the miles and live on the tiles,

For what's the sense of going to bed if you have to get up  
at 3.00 a.m. ?

#### Touring

Is O.K. if you're in

The C.T.C., as they supply you with routes, &c. and addresses of  
people who're in

A position to put you up. A tour in

Wales is nice, but they're very dour in

Scotland.

"Long Fellow"

#### TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB.

What a sizzling start this season has had ! Not from  
spectacular time trial results, unfortunately, although Dave  
has done well well as usual; I wonder the others don't lose  
heart at his times, but competition gets stronger all the time.  
Sprockett has earned himself the title of D.N.F. this season.  
Easter week-end, the Tandem 30 and the two-county massed-start  
have provided plenty of variety, along with good Club runs and  
"Blob" on Club nights. It's only a game !

However, to commence at the commencement, as they say, a  
large Club-run wound it's merry way to Herne Hill on Good Friday.

#### Tunbridge Wells Road Club (continued).

Personally, I had a very easy ride (pillion!). You can now see the  
mob a mile off on account of the hard work of Sheila and Margaret in  
producing some smashing head-gear. A slightly smaller force turned  
up at Brighton for the Sash meeting to support Dave, who came a very  
good third in the 880 yards Open Handicap Sprint. We met the  
Uckfield Wheelers and East Grinstead there - Crow threatened to  
report in this edition that Sprockett went by train. Well, what  
about it Crow ? !!!

Our second 25 was held in April on the Paddock Wood course.  
Dave won in 1.5.11 and his brother Mike got first handicap.  
Margaret and I valiantly got up at 5.45 a.m. to ride ten miles out  
to marshal - some effort ! Johnny had a blow-out and had to walk  
five miles before getting a lift home. I hope it was comfy on top  
of that lorry, Johnny ! One of the advantages of living on the  
county border is to be able to get to various events in both Kent  
and Sussex without going far afield. We saw the Medway Wheelers  
50 - tricycles and all - and read afterwards that Pete Beardsmore  
won the event. There has also been the two-county massed-start,  
promoted by our local news-rag - we had no official capacity in  
that event as our offers of assistance were not taken up.

The week-end of the Tandem 30 was quite eventful, wasn't it  
Margaret? We entered two pairs, Dave and Eric were placed sixth -  
not bad going. Ken now declares he enjoyed the ride - was that  
because he was steering not stoking? Sheila (a keen new member) and  
Margaret went down to make sure the bods got up in time.

Just to show that we do read the gen from the Secretary, we  
would like to point out to Roy the difficulty of fixing dinner dates.  
We make a point of planning early and always find that there are  
just too many Clubs' dinners to go into separate week-ends.  
However, I guess we will rack our brains again this year for a  
suitable week-end.

Blanche and Sprockett have appeared on T.V. now ! The  
things this Club gets up to - they were Old Tyme dancing at the  
Welcome Home Ball for the Queen. One unkind character said Ron  
looked bald - let me hasten to his defence and say it's not true,  
he's just fair; spare his blushes !



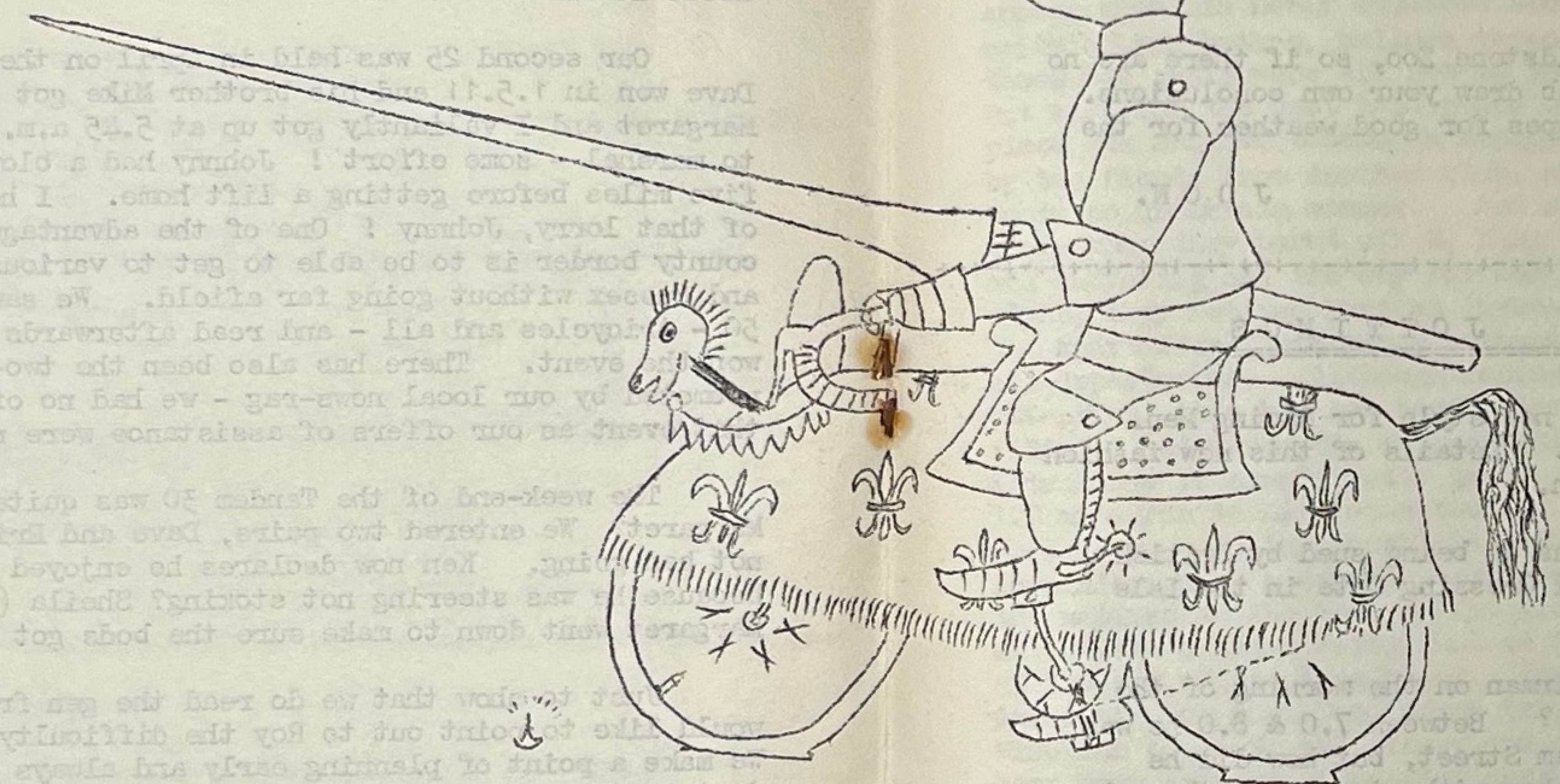
PERSONALITY I had a very early ride (million!). You can now see the  
 work of Sheila and Margaret in a slightly smaller form than  
 to support Dave, who was a very  
 We met the  
 - One threatened to  
 report that it went by train. Well, what  
 about it?

Our second 25 was held on the Padlock Wood course.  
 Dave won in 1.5.11 and another Mike got first handicap.  
 Margaret and I went up at 5.45 a.m. to ride ten miles out  
 to some effort! Johnny had a blow-out and had to walk  
 the miles before getting a lift home. I hope it was only on top  
 of that Jerry, Johnny! One of the advantages of living on the  
 county border is to be able to get to various events in both lanes  
 and see without going far afield. We saw the Hovey Wheelers  
 and read afterwards that Pete Bestman's  
 event. There has also been the two-county massed-start,  
 by our local news-peg - we had no official capacity in  
 as our officers of assistance were not taken up.

The weekend of the 25 was quite eventful, wasn't it?  
 We entered two pairs, Dave and I and were placed sixth -  
 not bad. Ken now declares he enjoyed the ride - was that  
 was steering not steering? Sheila (a keen new member) and  
 went down to make sure the beds got up in time.  
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 looked bald - let me hasten to his defence and say it's not true,  
 he's just fair; spare his blushes!

YE GALLANTE KNYGHTE  
 SIR ROYE DE HUMPHREYE  
 SETTETH FORTH IN SEARCHE  
 OF YE DRAGONNE



"NEVER WIN"

They now has a washing machine - some people will have to  
 watch out because he will soon learn how to handle it, and we  
 shall be able to recognize the characters, as yet  
 rather murky!

The first evening I saw Sheila having a bath at time  
 of 30 minutes - 4 seconds - my one and only  
 a 30 minutes 7 seconds, but I hasten to add that as it  
 goes now - I don't.

The next Club run is to Halesowen too, so it  
 further reports from the Road Club draw your own conclusions  
 I bid you all adieu, with high hopes for good weather for the  
 mid-season efforts.

DISCONTINUED

Recently seen in Bathmore a  
 White tights and Brown Shorts.  
 will be gladly supplied by  
 Is it a fact that the Girl's  
 Railway for damage to a level  
 of light?

There was the Association Chairman on  
 E.S.O.A. "50" on the 27th May? Between 7.0 & 8.0  
 seen in the vicinity of Rover Street,  
 manage to get there from Halesowen without passing through  
 Lapsley Down?

Congratulations to Dave Marsh on being invited  
 Softmill Golfing Club to compete in their invitation  
 "52" at the Whistam week-end, this being invited to 25 invited  
 riders.



Tunbridge Wells Road Club (continued).

Mazey now has a smashing camera - some people will have to watch out because he will soon learn how to handle it, and we shall be able to recognise the characters, as yet they are rather murky !

The first evening ten saw Sheila having a bash with a time of 30 minutes 4 seconds - pretty good - my one and only ten was a 30 minutes 7 seconds, but I hasten to add that as far as racing goes now - I don't.

The next Club run is to Maidstone Zoo, so if there are no further reports from the Road Club draw your own conclusions. I bid you all adios, with high hopes for good weather for the mid-season efforts.

J O O N.

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DISCONNECTED JOTTINGS  
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Recently seen in Eastbourne a new style for Racing Men. White tights and Brown Shorts. Details of this new fashion will be gladly supplied by Len.

Is it a fact that Ken Griffiths is being sued by British Railways for damage to a Level Crossing Gate in the Isle of Wight ?

Where was the Association Chairman on the morning of the E.S.C.A. "50" on the 23rd May ? Between 7.0 & 8.0 he was seen in the vicinity of Boreham Street, but how did he manage to get there from Hailsham without passing through Magham Down ?

Congratulations to Dave Marsh on being invited by the Solihull Cycling Club to compete in their Invitation Scratch "25" at the Whitsun week-end, this being limited to 25 invited riders.

HASTINGS WARRIOR CYCLING CLUB.

Five - four - three - two - one - OFF we go with the latest adventures and misadventures of the Hastings Warriors. In the misadventure class comes the sad tale of Warrior (glad I write under a Nom de Plume) who stopped at a halt sign one night, overbalanced with one foot still strapped in, and performed the evolution known as Base over Apex. This, in turn, amazed and amused a nearby group of tuggos and tuggoesses but considerably lowered the morale of your scribe (see For Sale column). Another misadventure took place a few Wednesdays ago, when Floyd appeared on his newly acquired tandem, stoked by Neeves. In spite of hub brakes, balloon tyres, and gears of 54, 70 and 85 these two gents were all set to tear the boys off a strip. But alas for the best laid plans of &c. there at the meeting place was another tandem, a stripped-down racing machine ridden by two fiends from Another Club, who proceeded to hot things up in no uncertain manner. And so, after a brief moment of glory when they burnt off G. King at Bulverhythe, it was pain and suffering all the way for our heroes until, after a gallant fight, they retired hurt at Pevensey.

Apart from these minor setbacks, the club is going strong in all departments. Although racing is naturally claiming most attention, this has not been allowed to interfere with club riding; and under the enthusiastic captaincy of Doug Floyd, runs attendance is consistently good. Six riders recently did the 120 mile run to Littlehampton and back, the longest run so far this year. In the foothills near Haywards Heath the lads were alarmed by a strange creature which they found is known to the natives as the Yeti or the Abominable Hurdman. This creature walks like a human being, but at the end of every few yards trips at the end of its long beard. The secretary has authorised the issue of shot-guns for future trips to this area. When the club run heads NE the riders are of course, issued with pewter beer mugs in case of meeting another bearded species, Homo Sapiens Qui Tres Rotas Habet, which exists in large numbers in the wilds of Kent. As a change from ordinary activities there will shortly be a Hare and Hounds. The hare will be that member who was O.C. club dinner last February. The hounds will be committee, who are trying to run him to earth so that they can hear a financial statement on said dinner. And now to racing (Warrior groans). But the "50" is over ! (Warrior brightens). And the next event is on ten miles (Warrior smiles). Yes, we're hard at it, and competition



within the club is keen, no rider having succeeded in monopolising the honours. Only one member braved the arctic conditions in the E.S.C.A. "25", but the club "25" the following Sunday, with slightly better weather, was contested by 8 riders. Perhaps it was the cold or perhaps the boys weren't fit, but 1-8-56 by Peter Shaw was good enough to win, while a brace of 1-10s by Messrs. Bicknell and Floyd gained second and third places. R.A.F. man Nigel Snowden made good use of a 9 min. allowance to bag first handicap. Hon. Sec. Dennis Neeves recovered from indigestion and had a trial run in this event, and hopes to be back among the 1-6s by June. Having collected enough club subs. (or so it seems) Dennis appeared on a brand new gaudy ----- (though not so gaudy as Johnny Coomber's). Like our friends at East Grinstead we are true-blue amateurs and therefore cannot advertise its make, though we believe he bought the frame down Southampton way (Ugh!).

The club "50" was as usual incorporated in the E.S.C.A. event, for which the club had a record entry of five. Doug Floyd shone at what seems to be his best distance and retained the RIX trophy. His 2-18-43 took nearly three minutes off the five year old club record. Ken Miller, riding his first "50" took second prize with a useful 2-22. One gentleman who went round on a B.47 saddle was later seen on the Hastings road alternately honking and riding on the crossbar (see "For Sale" column). Before leaving this event I will hand over to Neevo, who is bursting to have a go at somebody ..... Mr. Neeves. "Ahoy there Uckfield! Where is that denizen of Framfield Road who, under the influence of heady Magham tea, promised to screw me in the "50"? (see result sheet - Warrior). It's no good, Prof, you won't be fast until you get a 50-tooth chainwheel". Well, having got rid of Calvert Neeves and his golden trumpet, we will have a look at one or two Warriors who for two years really are warriors. George Smith (ex Hastings Catering School) is doing nicely in the Army Catering Corps; while ex art student John Bridger is engaged in map tracing, also in the Army. In fact two square pegs neatly fitted into square holes. Last war veterans reading this will no doubt wonder what the service is coming to. Just out of uniform is Mick Walker, who has "had a go" while stationed in Germany and is now keen to get cracking at home. And now (fear not, dear reader, the end is in sight) all that remains is to put in our usual free advert for the Carnival Sports. Thursday, July 8th is the date. Yes, we know it always rains; but what's the good of buying capes if you never use them? Anyway, we've ordered a heat wave for this year's event, so . . . . see you at the Central Ground. WARRIOR

## WHY NOT BE IN THE PICTURE ?

Hello, Folks !!

You will have noticed that in the past, in the cycling Press, the results of Association events have been printed, but not any photos.

If any of you photographic members have any snaps of our leading riders in action, can you please let me have them, so that we can get them in print. It will make a nice change for a rider from down South to be in the picture, as most of those printed are from up North.

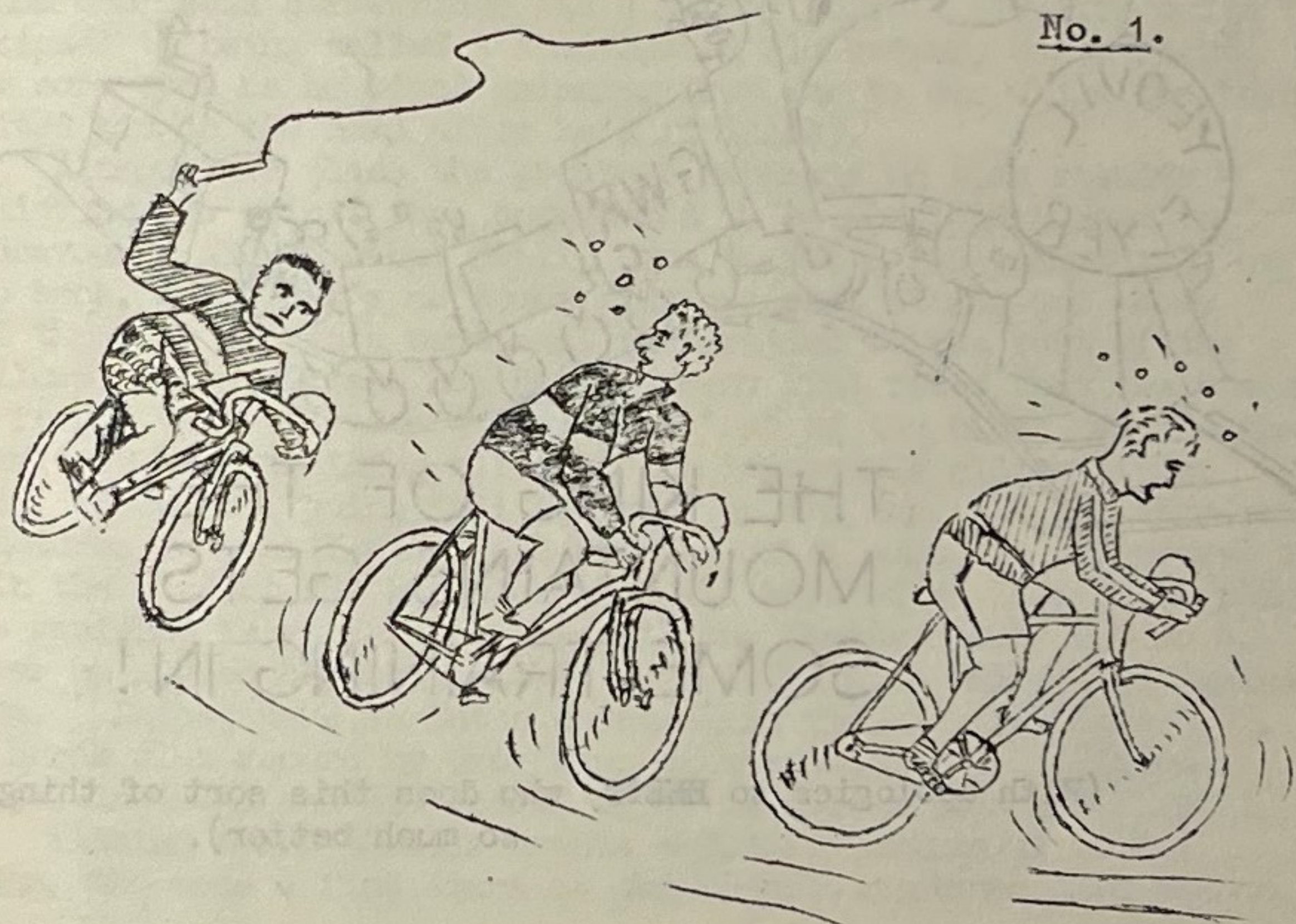
Most papers are willing to "PAY" for any articles they print, so here is a chance to get in the news you fast men, as well as in the "MONEY".

ERIC KENT,  
3 HILLSIDE, HARLEY LANE,  
HEATHFIELD, SX.

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## LIFE WITH THE "FARMERS"

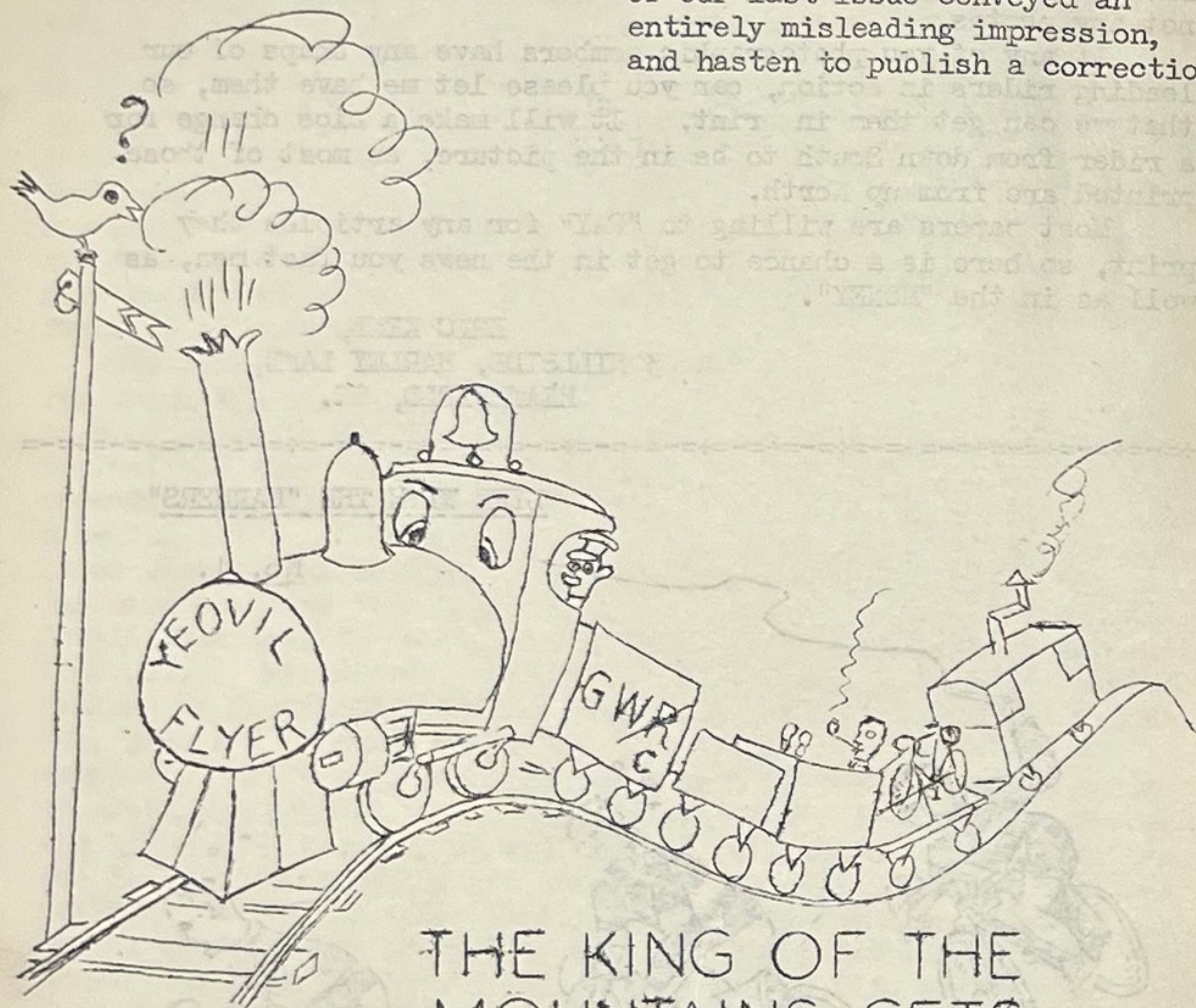
No. 1.



WEBBY TAKES THE BOYS OUT TRAINING.



We have been given to understand that the picture on the last page of our last issue conveyed an entirely misleading impression, and hasten to publish a correction.



## THE KING OF THE MOUNTAINS GETS SOME TRAINING IN!

(With apologies to EMETT, who does this sort of thing so much better).

At this time of the year events roll on so fast that it's a job to keep up with the calendar. Biggest single item of news, of course, is the retaining of the County Team Championship for 1954 (the sequence is now two years as runners-up and two years as Champions) by a whacking margin, four minutes over the formidable opposition from Southern Wheelers and Bognor Regis. Must say I really never doubted the outcome, being as it was the culmination of an unbroken series of 25-mile team victories. (As a longmarker I can boast with impunity as I never get mixed up with these terrific leaps - more's the pity!). The winning combination - as last year - was Dut., Griff, Reg and Arthur, with Windows making a most welcome reappearance and Geoff completing the nominated team, all of whom finished - and mention must be made of the keen support from the boys on the starting line, it's impossible to over-estimate the value of backing of that sort. For the record, John was second and Griff fourth in the individual placing with 1-3-34 and 1-5-6- respectively, the winner being that very fine rider Dave Marsh of Lewes Wanderers, who brought course record down to 1-2-15 on a cruel day. Brighton Stanley Wanderers' Neil Strawbridge was a worthy third. (Griff, quite resigned to being called a bald-headed old badger, was a sight for sore eyes as he stood grinning from ear to ear while the boys patted him on the head after he'd finished).

Although we place the greatest emphasis on team results - believing the spirit thus engendered to be the finest spur to endeavour - the time has really come to pat a few individuals on the back, and there's no doubt that one chap stands out above all the rest and is a continual inspiration to the rest of the fellows. John Dutson has done so many fine rides that one tends to forget that they don't just come "out of the blue" but are the result of hard training allied to an impeccable riding style, plus, of course, going "all the way" on the day, and the chap who punctures in a hail-storm and carries on to complete the course and gain the verdict for his club when all hope of an individual place has vanished is worth more than all the "butterflies" who do a flyer on a good day but quickly turn it in when things are against them. Latest news is Dut's outstanding ride in the Mitre "50", to break club record by over four minutes with 2-5-2 (Findon Bostel included and his second 25 miles faster than his first!)

Talking about 50-mile events naturally brings us to Roy Siggs, who made a fine start at the 25-mile distance last season



but seemed to strike a bad patch this year. Anyway, his first two "50s", a 2-12 and 2-10 respectively, have shot a lot of people down in flames, including your 'umble, and we're looking forward to a lot more from "Siggo". His chief rival, "Creep" Bignell, after proving his calibre by an outstanding win in the Sussex Longmarkers, has had a lay-off owing to studies for an important exam, but is now getting out again and should soon be in the thick of the fray. The personal struggle between Mick and Roy should provide plenty of excitement this season !

Den Funnell has a new training method - before riding in a "50" you spend the previous week doing overtime digging house foundations. You then do your best "50" for a couple of years ! Though come to think of it, Griff does much the same thing, only he digs whacking great trenches across a field. Anyone like to improve his time by having a go at my garden?

Well, I could write for hours about the goings-on - I often think that a club should keep a record in the same way that an Army unit keeps a regimental diary - but failing that, these notes in "BQNK" and cuttings from the local Press will provide something to look back on in future years - a framework on which to rebuild memories of the past.

Once one starts mentioning names it's difficult to leave off without doing an injustice, for each in his own way and to the best of his ability contributes to success. A most welcome sight in the ESCA "50" was Cyril twiddling around and not looking in the least as if eight months had elapsed since he last faced the timekeeper. Of the younger brigade, a special word for "leo" Lee, Mike (rear-light) and Terry Siggs, and the one-and-only Spindle, all of whom show great promise - and a word of thanks from a harassed T.T. Sec. for all the help with marshalling.

Well, I must get on, or the Editor will be slashing this to ribbons with his blue pencil - if he hasn't done so already - so let's dig in Phyl's post-bag. Sir Don, still not getting any cycling in Malaya, is making do with a mixture of football and bandits, his outfit tops the bandit-bagging league but he doesn't say how they make out with the football. Cedric, on light duties after being R.T.U'd from hospital, has landed a cushy job in the officers' mess. Tony Shrapnel dropped in while on leave, was expecting a move to Northumberland but haven't heard from him lately. A long letter from Tony Hayward with a graphic description of time-traialling in Ireland, all done on Saturday afternoons, with the courses taking in the

shopping centres and market squares. Bet that makes the boys keep their heads up ! The MacHarrison sends greetings from the north and tells of the desperate hazards which confront the Guardsman in training - if you can stick that lot, Rob, a 24-hour will be child's play. Webby is counting the days till demob, poor old chap, he's forgotten how tough civvy street is ! Latest recruit is Reg, who joins R.E.M.E. after waiting for his papers since Christmas. Good luck, Reg ! No recent news from Ivor, who is probably incarcerated in his own glass-house, and a sprprise visit from Johnny Pearce, whom we thought was in Germany with his battalion - but no, he'd fiddled a job on the rear party - talking about fiddlers, no-one can hold a candle to our one-and-only A.W.D., who has just scrounged another nine days, apart from all the rides he wangles. Congrats on being in the R.A.F.C.A. Championship team as well as the Sussex, Arthur ! Two cheery letters from Gunner Griff in Wales, and just to wind up with, a hearty welcome to Brian Lowry (I Corps) who has joined us from Maresfield.

Best of British Luck to One and All,

THE PROF.

.....  
EAST GRINSTEAD F. & C.C.

Good morrow you lot, this being the summer number I hang up my dripping cape, peel off my 3 sweaters and now get down to giving the latest gen.

First on the list comes the Isle of Wight rally that we attended in force, about the only Association club that did. We all had an excellent time there, as well as watching the many cycling events we indulged in some nautical frolics on Ryde boating pool, touring the island and various ball games; while some of the 'tough' types went on the roller skating rink at Ventnor (they've still got the scars). It was a pity that some elements down there could not enjoy themselves without causing great inconvenience to the public. I think it would be true to say that we all had a good time without annoying anyone else. Of course it was quite usual to find banana skins in your shoes when you got up in the morning or find spare tub's pumped up and put in your bed while bikes had a queer way of ending down the other end of the street.



As the racing season is well under way it seems that there has been a general shuffle up of the racing talent this year. Don Lock and Ray Lunn coming very much to the fore while Micky Robinson, who thrives on shorter distances has won every club event.

The weather has played a big part in events this year, and it's been by no means favourable, though it helped Don in the San Fairy Ann 50 to get an excellent handicap for the Association 50 which he used to no mean effect. The aforementioned 50 brought good results to our club with 1st and 2nd handicap, 5th and 7th places and third team. Gordon Leaney rode his first 50 with a 2-18-46, although rather overshadowed by Siggy of Uckfield. The Club 50 record that Reggy Meeks has held for a couple of years went for a Burton in this event, first to Ray with a 2-15-16, and then to Don with 2-13-48.

In the Brighton Mitre 50 on May 31st, Ray led our team with a 2-15. Don did a 2-16 & Pete a 2-18 & Gordon a 2-21.

Down at the Park Mick and Ray, aided and abetted by Pete, have been keeping the 'Grinstead flag flying. Although no major honours have come their way there's quite a bit of the season still to go.

Eric Gibbs is out of H.M.F. now and has joined us again; he sports a most un-Army length haircut which, I believe, will not be cut until sometime in June, as part of a wager. He will be most likely to take over his old job of club captain from Keith Diplock who the R.A.F. had at the end of May. What price those curly locks still being there, Keith? Eric will doubtless get into the usual captain's dilemma like I had, of saying "Sorry, boys, seems like we're on the wrong road", while the helpfully sympathetic clubmates say "a b.....y fine captain we've got, &c."

Reggy Meeks is still in Egypt with 12 weeks to go at the end of May, and trying to kill those 12 weeks by every known method. Lu Roberts is still at Blackpool but should shortly be returning to R.A.F. Tangmere which means home most week-ends.

Lynx-eyed readers (of which there may be several specimens) will notice a change in the title of our club, completely unofficial of course, the "F" stands for "football". We very seldom end a clubrun now without a game somewhere, (Pete prefers to play in the sea off Hastings), then spend all Monday nursing bruised shins. The ball, incidentally, was purchased by a communal effort of 6½d. a head down at the I.O.W.

Johnny Coomber is gradually recovering from his accident last November. He has got his plaster off and it's now just a matter of time although it seems that there will be no racing for Johnny this

season.

Club runs are getting better support lately, which is all to the good. Bill Francis, who joined only a few months ago is a true stalwart, and never misses a run.

Among places visited are Kew Gardens (& most of west London due to an oversight in route-finding by the captain), and Littlehampton. After sampling most of the amusements there Chris King had several dishes of whelks, went on the big dipper, and finished off with some candy floss - but he's all right now.

Well, that's the lot for now so here's to a warm autumn and a scorching hot Xmas. By the way, who said they are going to use paddle boats in the 12-hour?

CROW.

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#### HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS C. & A.C.

Once again the racing season is upon us and the brothers and sisters of the wheel are performing on home and distant roads, and as their performances are by this time known to most I am trying something different in my notes this time and shall endeavour to describe one event only. In this I offer no apologies and claim as my defence the feeling that in so doing I shall be giving an insight into that paramount of all road events, the Club Road Time Trial. The one which I propose to dissect for you this time is the annual Rye - Hythe - Rye, a gruelling event of 42 miles, but covering one of the few places of mystery still remaining in South-East England, namely, the famous Romney Marshes. It is also my purpose to try to describe the event as seen through the eyes of one of the riders, so to battle.

The Rye - Hythe - Rye. The Rye - Hythe - Rye does not in effect commence at Rye at all, but at a small place in Kent called Brenzett. This hamlet being famous for a pub and a corner, where cyclists are wont to congregate for the purpose of marshalling K.C.A. events. There is, I should add, a halt sign, erected at the aforesaid corner, beneath which, on a fine day, sits Percy Bliss, watch in hand, and an expression on visage which forbids the snatching of crafty seconds by failure to halt.

Recently eight riders assembled at the same sign at a very early hour, and Mr. Bliss, after fixing up his camp stool and unearthing his watch from the pocket of his capacious pair of bags, proceeded to despatch the eight to a distant destination at two-minute intervals.



There are few things more tranquil than riding a cycle; it gives the impression of floating on air. This impression lasts for exactly  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, at which point we come to one of those trials of the modern civilised world - the Level Crossing. These cause little inconvenience if they are as the name suggests, level. The one over which we are now passing appears to be a good substitute for the Big Dipper at Littlehampton, and whilst recovering our equilibrium only to find that our saddle has dropped 4 inches, and our cycle has commenced rattling in a dozen unexpected places, we find ourselves passing through the pleasant marsh village of Brookland, where to our surprise we find the church steeple has descended from its perch to get a closer view of the sufferings of man.

With Brookland a mile behind a whine of tyres announces that we are about to be passed, a quick glance to the right tells us it is Jack Southerden.

Here we let our thoughts wander to the changes of dress in this event, for we can remember the first time Jack passed us many years ago he was wearing black tights and an alpaca jacket, in fact it is on record that one good soul seeing a rider similarly clad coming out of the mist early one Sunday morning, ran home screaming loudly that she had met the ghost of Dr. Syn, and resolving to take more water with it next time.

By now we are travelling at a fair pace, helped by a following wind. On either side stretches the wide expanse of the marshes and we think of the times Dr. Syn must have travelled along the fore-runner of this road on his way to Rye, often pursued by Revenue officers. A hurried glance behind tells us that we also are being chased, not by the customs and excise, but by Mike Kenward. It is therefore with a sigh of relief that the turn at Rye appears, and after calling our number to veteran Freddie March we head towards Hythe.

Soon after the turn we are caught, as we expected we would be, by Mike, and realise that he has got fit early in the season and means to reverse the tables on last year, when he was beaten by Gordon King. We now find that we are aching in unexpected joints and realise that we have achieved no fitness at all. To take our minds off this dilemma we fall to studying our fellow competitors as they pass on their way to Rye. Here comes Ted Coussens, the only competitor who rode in the first Rye - Hythe - Rye, and who still finds plenty to smile about in this one. Ron Longley flashes past, tongue hanging out, and travelling at a speed which suggests that the next

time we meet we shall only be seeing the back view of him. We again pass through Brookland, notice that the spire is still in the same position, endure once again the shocks bestowed on an innocent world by British Railways, are passed by R. Longley, with a faint suspicion that R. Dicks is not far behind, and arrive at the halt sign with P. Bliss still sitting underneath, and whilst arresting our progress in accordance with R.T.T.C. Regulations, we reflect that he is now 45 minutes older than when we saw him last.

On paper, the road between Brenzett and Hythe should be an easier proposition than its counterpart from Brenzett to Rye, but in fact -- ! As we surmised, R. Dicks was not very far behind, and before New Romney is reached we see his red and white jersey vanishing in the distance, and as we are congratulating ourselves that Gordon King has not yet caught us a blue vest and yellow cycle dispel any illusions we had in that direction.

New Romney is an interesting town and for those with the time to spare a visit to the church is not wasted, for besides being of great architectural beauty it also possesses a very fine organ, something which is sadly lacking in many of our old churches to-day. The town, in common with the rest of the marshes, was closely associated with Dr. Syn.

But to return to the grind upon which we have embarked. We notice that the surface of the road has rapidly deteriorated, and at one part is so bad that D. Floyd is forced to stop to tighten his front wheel which has shaken loose.

Next we pass through Dymchurch and realise that in a month or two this quiet town will be transformed into a bustling holiday resort. As we ride through we see on our left the church in which Dr. Syn preached, and although the violin which in his day accompanied the service has been replaced by an organ, the church remains much the same as when he was the vicar.

Nearing Hythe we begin to meet riders returning on the last leg of the journey, and are able to get a little idea as to the ultimate result. We feel that at this point Gordon was a little ahead of Mike Hayward, with R. Longley & T. Dicks as close contenders for third position.

At the Hythe turn we are surprised to see Walt Jameson, who has in the past ridden and won this event, but who was now covering the course in a motor van.

The journey back to Brenzett was uneventful, and as all who had left after had caught us, it only remained to get back to



Hastings & St. Leonards C. & A.C. (continued).

Brookland before they had made snort work of the breakfast, and to resolve that the next event we should enter, in fact the only event, would be the Hastings - St. Leonards - Hastings. The result was :- 1st Michael Kenward. 2nd Gordon King.

W.B.

+++++

DISCONNECTED JOTTINGS

Congratulations are extended to Derek ("Tourist") Agg upon his fine ride of 2 - 12 - 19 in the E.S.C.A. "50", which secured for him 3rd place in the event, and first place in the winning team. His club-mates are mystified as to how he managed to evade his usual packet of troubles which usually beset him.

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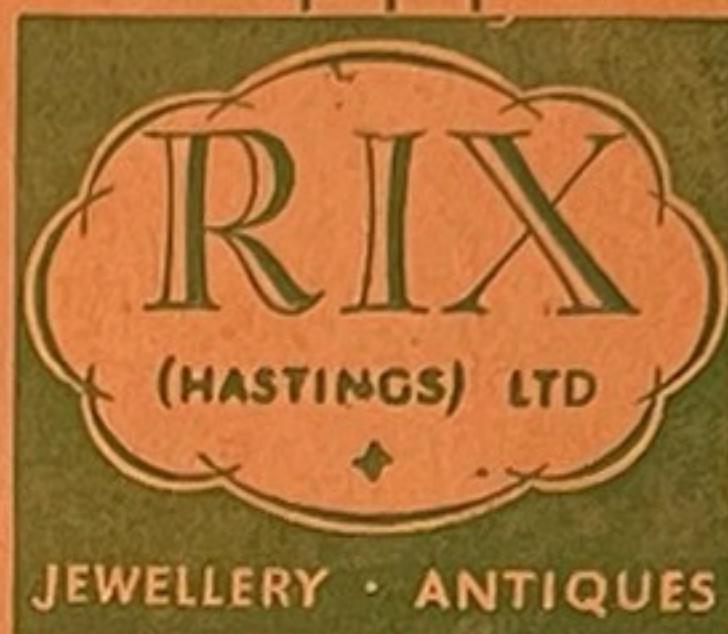


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