

AUTUMN 1955

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



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NEW SERIES - No. 11.

AUTUMN 1955

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.

Well, folks,

When I said in the last issue that the warmer weather was coming along I little dreamt that we would have such a terrific summer.

The resulting opportunities for more and faster training have certainly paid dividends, particularly among our Association "flyers", and I'm glad to see such fine times being recorded.

Also the tourists have had ideal conditions, all of which adds up to making 1955 a year to remember.

Once again "Bonk" makes it appearance and I'd like to thank all contributors for their efforts.

The closing date for the Xmas edition is NOVEMBER 22nd, so for the rest of this grand season may all your miles be happy ones.

G.W.

Handwritten list of names and amounts:

- 12 Miller 60
- 12 Miller 60
- Bonk Howld paid 60
- Brian paid 60
- B. Miller 60
- H. Miller 60

ROAD EVENT RESULTS

H. M. S.

50 Miles.

1st: D. Stokes
Team:

Eastbourne Rovers
Uckfield & District C.C.

2 7 56
6 31 51

25 Miles.

1st: D.J. Marsh
Team:

Eastbourne Rovers
Eastbourne Rovers

1 0 12
3 6 25

100 Miles.

1st: C.A. Pearson
Team:

Uckfield & District C.C.
Hastings & St. Leonards

4 36 14
14 19 38

12 Hours.

1st: C.A. Pearson
Team:

Uckfield & District C.C.
Uckfield & District C.C.

238.74 mls.
685.37 mls.

50 Miles.

1st: D.J. Marsh
Team:

Eastbourne Rovers
(Association and Course Record)
Uckfield & District C.C.
(Association Team Record)

2 1 4
6 24 19

LADIES.

10 Miles.

1st: B. Cullip

Central Sussex C.C.

28 28

25 Miles.

1st: P.A. Novis

Eastbourne Rovers

1 11 28

15 Miles.

1st: P.A. Novis) tie
B. Cullip)

Eastbourne Rovers
Central Sussex C.C.

41 31
41 31

50 Miles.

1st: P.A. Novis

Eastbourne Rovers

2 27 41

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

Sunday, November 27th, 1955. Annual Luncheon & Prize Presentation.
Sunday, December 4th, 1955. Annual General Meeting.
Saturday, January 7th, 1955. Sussex Racing League "Revels" at Hove Town Hall.

1955 Team Pursuit Championship.

Result of Semi-Finals.

Uckfield & District C.C. beat Hastings Warrior C.C.
Eastbourne Rovers C & AC beat Tunbridge Wells Road Club.

Final. Run at Preston Park, Brighton, September 2nd, 1955.

Uckfield & District C.C. 5 mins. 36 4/5 secs. beat
Eastbourne Rovers C & AC 5 mins. 39 secs.

-----ooooOoooo-----

Sunday, October 23rd, 1955.

1st Annual Touring Competition for the "Clubmans Touring Trophy", kindly presented by G. Jenkins, Esq.

This competition is open to all members of affiliated clubs and will be run on much the same lines as the national competition organised by the Cyclists' Touring Club.

The start will be from Chalvington, at 11 a.m., with tea at Ringmer. Entry fee will be 1/6d. and forms will shortly be circulated to all clubs, for which the closing date will be Monday, October 17th. Awards will be in the form of Barts.' Maps to the choice of the winners.

THE HAPPY WANDERERS (from Lewes)

Come, join with me in greeting all the dauntless Wanderers bearing the white man's burden in the most primitive and untamed corners of the earth.

Greetings to Anthony Agg - a brave solitary beacon of hope permeating the stygian desolation known as Chester, to Berserk Burgess, pounding the pebbly beat of residential Kemp Town, Brighton; to Confucius Cornford - shamefully wrenched from the bosom of his loving family to endure the appalling hardships of hostile Aldershot; and finally, greetings to that hard-bitten warrior, Laughing Cavalier Grover, exploiting the simple Egyptian fellahin by flogging them wooden betel nuts and weevily whisky. Yes, truly a fine bunch of red-blooded malingerers whom we are proud to number as US.

Occasionally an intrepid explorer is able to smuggle through tidings of our absent brethren and their doings. Thus it came to pass that Mr. "Tourist" Agg was reported to have actually touched the fabulous Vin Denson - although the sum involved was not stated! Furthermore it is understood that this Wanderer upheld the honour of the club by outsprinting the Raleigh pro. Cyril Bardsley, for eleventh place in an A.C.U. massed-start. Undoubtedly this involved

full use of the tactical brilliance, scintillating speed and grim determination characteristic of the Wanderers.*

On the home front, as well, mighty deeds are regularly performed. For instance, Geoff "Austin 7" Willcocks has purchased what has been magnanimously called, in some half-witted quarters, a car. This thing, although totally incapable of propelling itself, looks very ornamental in the back garden, as well as forming an admirable tool shed and bird bath. Again, our secretary, Peter Sharp, has been performing valiant daily deeds of derring-do keeping his four small children out of mischief during the school holidays. His efforts have, of course, been in vain and you may in fact recollect that Peter has not been seen by civilised man since the E.S.C.A. "100" in early July. The Sharp horde, led by that doughty little fellow, Ivan the Terrible, recently ran amok to such an extent that the village of Kingston has been razed to the ground. In the Sharp residence itself, a trail of devastation marks the horde's progress - ruined tomato plants, curtainless windows (without panes) and shattered nerves, will all ensure that Peter will not be seen again until mid-September at least.

Our gallant racing secretary, Ron Russell, must also have his share of glory. Now locally known as Giles Ruzzell, he has shown amazing dexterity with a pitch-fork, - his tally so far includes one farm labourer (confirmed), two cows (damaged), and one tractor (missing).

I must also mention that our time-keeper, Mr. Reg Eldridge, has not been seen for some time. As he is also our treasurer we are beginning to have unpleasant qualms. The last report we had of him hinted at the possibility of a trip to the Riviera.

Oh! and in case I have neglected to mention it before, we occasionally indulge in some cycle racing. Our best performance to date was the "Tourist's" fine effort in a Services "100". Unfortunately, he went off course at 83 miles and was unable to record a time. Nevertheless, that did not detract any from the merit of the ride.

Geoff has at last commenced serious training for the coming rigorous season and he hopes to be at peak fitness for the E.S.C.A. Luncheon. So as he would desire, may I wish you all "bon fodder".

ALSORAN.

* Commenting on this later the "Tourist" remarked with typical self-effacement: "I boxed him in" - to which an unknown voice growled: "What, all by yourself?"

The trouble with this job is knowing how to start - and having at last started, knowing when to stop. Last time we'd just had the first Association 50 of the season, and already the end-of-the-year 25's are on us - and in the time between we shall have been represented in about three dozen events, so anyone who expects a catalogue will be unlucky!

Star performer on the road this year has undoubtedly been Cedric - East Sussex Best All-Rounder in 1952, he is hardly likely to be challenged now in this, his first season since demob., with improvements at every distance, including the disliked half-day ride. Although his wins include the East Sussex and Sussex 100's and the East Sussex 12, the latter a club record, biggest interest has centred round his needle match with John at 50 miles, resulting in club record falling twice.

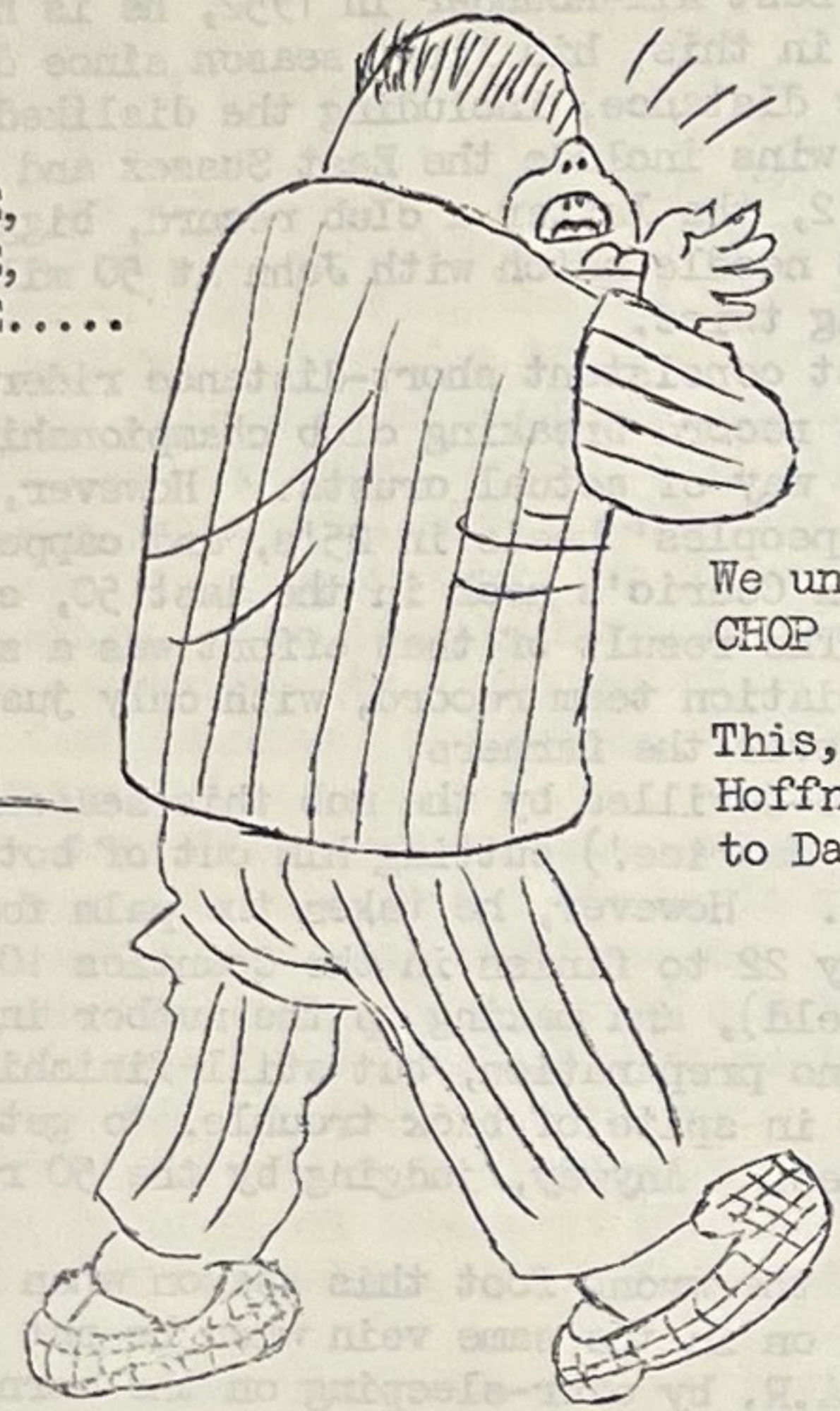
Our best and most consistent short-distance rider has been Roy, though apart from his record-breaking club championship ride he has little to show in the way of actual crusts. However, he has been treading on a lot of peoples' heels in 25's, and capped it by breathing heavily down Cedric's neck in the last 50, closely followed by Geoff. The result of that effort was a smart lowering of club and Association team record, with only just over a minute sufficing to cover the farmers.

Geoff has been be-devilled by the mob this season, T.A. (NOT Tricycle Association, Maurice!) cutting him out of both county and local B.A.R. contests. However, he takes the palm for guts, being 11th out of only 22 to finish in the Counties 100 on Black Sunday (119 in the field), and making up the number in the Sussex 100 with practically no preparation, but still finishing, as he did in the East Sussex 12 in spite of back trouble, to get in the winning team both times. Anyway, judging by the 50 result, he's got over it.

Webby started on the wrong foot this season when he crocked his knee, and carried on in the same vein when he put himself out of the East Sussex B.A.R. by over-sleeping on the morning of the 100. However, he finished in the county contest again, including the "tropical" 12, same placing - fifth - as last year. Together with Ced. and Geoff he has figured in a couple of notable team wins, the Sussex 100 - a club record - and the East Sussex 12.

We're so used to seeing Ken figuring at the top of the field that it comes as a shock to realise how long he's been there, while others come and go - and are forgotten. Still, there he is,

THERE,
THERE,
THERE.....
etc.



CONGRATULATIONS

to Association Press Secretary Eric Kent, on the arrival of a little "BASHER".

We understand he is a real CHOP off the old Block.

This, with apologies to Hoffnung, by way of warning to Dad.

riding as consistently as ever, the only thing that stops him is gremlins in the back wheel, in fact it has now been established that locking the cones solid in Ken's rear hub does actually slow him slightly in a 25.

After the early-season 25's and a bit of road racing Colin decided to concentrate on the track (as far as I can remember, just about twelve months after he bought a coffee-grinder with the avowed intention of keeping strictly to the road). It's hopeless to try and recount all his successes this season. I've never managed to keep track of them, but mention must be made of his place in the national pursuit championship, and his feat in becoming the first rider to keep the Sussex Daily News trophy in the home county. With Arthur and Cedric he brought the Strudwick Trophy to Uckfield for the first time, while his coaching of the pursuit team brought both Sussex Centre and E.S.C.A. honours. He captained the invincible S.C.R.L. omnium team which beat all comers in three successive matches, but for your scribe the most exciting occasion was when with Alan Gates he lapped the field in the Sussex 10-miles championship and beat Alan, the holder, for the title.

Of our younger riders, Spindle and Terry have been the keenest, with Terry having the rotten luck to crock his ankle just as he was hitting form. Now, shame to relate, he has followed in Beetle-crusher Burgess's footsteps and joined the Force, however, we are assured of his company at week-ends so should be able to keep him comparatively human.

We now have two more ex-Servicemen in our midst, Arthur having stolen quietly away from the R.A.F. while no-one was looking, while Sir Don has returned from driving armoured trucks in Malaya to take on driving lorry-loads of eggs round Sussex. Scrambled eggs for breakfast every day now ! Don was out on his bike pretty quick, mapping out a training run between Piltdown and Hempstead Gardens, soon got fed up with walking home every time he missed the bus.

Although Arthur organised things so well while he was in the mob that we at home hardly realised he was "in" half the time, there's no doubt he's really been on form these last few months since coming out, not only aiding and abetting the "maestro" but putting up plenty of rides which stand on their own merits. With Colin, he was a regular member of the Sussex omnium team, and of course, a star performer for the club in all the track meetings.

Of those still wondering if the Daily Express campaign for a reduction of "sentence" will bear fruit, only John has made the most

Uckfield & District C.C. (continued).

of his opportunities this season, and as he is in a working unit and not a training regiment it's not always easy to carry on. Latest news, result of the I.R.A. flap, is of 24-hour guards every five days - doesn't leave much time for racing and training - however, he has three A.C.U. medals and the club 50 record to his credit, plus a lot of experience on different courses, thanks to the Brentwood boys. Is now driving again, I bet he wants to get rid of that "pneumonia wagon" before the winter's out!

We've seen Reg a couple of times during the year, but most of his energies seem bent on getting to Seaford. Rob is a frequent visitor, but is shortly off with his unit to furrin parts, only for a comparatively brief jaunt, I believe.

Back home again with an honourable mention for my old sparring partner Doug., who has been riding very consistently well in spite of awkward Saturday-evening work, and a brief but heartfelt word of thanks to Jack and Mrs. Boxall and Dick and Mrs. Pearson for all their help and encouragement - and then I must close, with best wishes to all the "bods" from Phyl and Little Dragon, and rush this off before the Editor axes the lot for being late.

Best of British,
THE PROF.

CENTRAL SUSSEX CYCLING CLUB.

Well, once again it's time for another edition. The closing date is drawing nigh and we're slap-bang in the middle of summer and the "good old racing season". Suffering time is here, with the S.C.A. 12 hr. only a few days away, and by the time you are reading this the suffering will be just another memory of the "good old racing season".

Since the last edition many of the events have been ridden and good rides done by several of the "bods". We do congratulate Cedric, of the Uckfield, on his winning the S.C.A. 100 and the E.S.C.A. 12 hrs., really a good ride for what can hardly be called a perfect day for long-distance riding, with that perishing wind. Yours truly had the real BONK in several places, but of course, was not the only one so on that happy note he kept going. With a drop of the "Special" at Ringmer, and certain members of the female section of the club rubbing "Curacho" (no advertising, please) on

Central Sussex Cycling Club (continued).

his back and legs he was able to amble round and finish. Sid Stoner got the same treatment only he had the misfortune to have the bottle of the above mentioned lotion poured down his back and thus ending up in places where you don't usually require it! Poor old Sid - was his face red !!

We told you in our last edition that Brenda Cullip would be doing the honours for our ladies' section. Well, we don't think she's doing too badly. Speaking of the ladies we congratulate the other lady members of Association clubs who are competing this year in the events.

Well, we haven't any one left in the forces now. Colin Isted was demobbed from the R.A.F. a couple of months ago, and so far hasn't come back in the ranks of 'Cycling' - although I'm pleased to say we give a hearty welcome back to clubmate Tony Honess, demobbed from the REME only yesterday, 18/8/55. I spoke to him to-day and the lad was on his way to get a flipping 'aircut (Silly, twisted boy) - but I can say this, he is in training (strictly), so we can be assured he will make a comeback next season. He is taking up short-distance only - 25 and 50 miles road; also track racing. It will be good to hear the club name bawled through the speaker at the 'Park' once again. I think competition in the Club Allrounder competition will be severe next year, and Tony's records, held when he went into the "Kate", have all been broken by Don (Whiskers) Cook. He also has done some good riding in this field, now holding the Brighton - Cuckfield & back, Cuckfield - Crawley & back, Cuckfield - Uckfield & back, Cuckfield - Horsham & back and Cuckfield - Handcross & back. Also broke club course record, 25 miles, 1-3-17, so we are justly proud of our racing activities.

Our popular veteran rider, Frank Leppard, is still having a go. I only hope the likes of myself can still ride a bike when I reach the '40' mark, - it was unfortunate that he 'packed' in the E.S.C.A. 12 hr. after 198 miles owing to mistaking a turning. The marshal not being there, he rode up to Union Point, Uckfield, instead of going left to Laughton. However, the spirit is still there. Don't think we're finding fault with the marshals, we're not. They do a fine job, and the E.S.C.A. still lead 'the lot' as far as organisation and good marshalling goes. The riders definitely salute you all, and this goes for any of the helpers in Assn. events.

Since I began writing this epistle the S.C.A. 12 hrs. has been done, and so were we - good and proper! Several of the 'strong' riders also "took a packet", and some packed altogether, but we're proud the club team all finished. But oh! don't study the mileage

Central Sussex Cycling Club (continued).

too much when you see the result sheets - it's 'orrible !
Well, I will sign off now or I shall be late in getting this to the Editor. Good luck to you all in just those FEW other events, and then to the "GOOD OLD SOCIAL SEASON". Late nights and no early mornings.

Best of British Luck.

Amen.

The Vicar.

P.S. Just been studying the '50' start sheet. It reads like this:

Timekeeper: V. Cusdin.
Ass & recorder: R. Humphrey.

P.P.S. Sorry, Roy, I've just seen these " which should go in between the Ass and the recorder !

This space to let.

HASTINGS WARRIOR CYCLING CLUB.

Pride goes before a fall they say, and at the moment the Warriors are a case in point. Even while you were reading in the last edition that our club-runs were going strong they were fading away through lack of support until they have now ceased. Older cyclists often blame racing for lack of interest in club-runs, but this does not seem to be the case here as some of the racing men did most to keep the runs going, and it is the same riders who with one or two younger members still hold the Wednesday evening 'bash' to Pevensey and Boreham Street. The answer, then, seems to be that in a seaside resort during a warm spell, with the beach, the seas and a hundred and one amusements to hand, there is little or no incentive for fellows to get on their bikes and ride away from the town; and we can only hope that with the approach of Autumn a club-run Phoenix will rise from the ashes of the holiday season.

While on this subject that well-known person referred to in the Central Sussex notes, having already apologised privately for his gaffé, would now like to do penance in print. His excuse is that after a rather jolly and well-lubricated dinner on the Saturday night, followed by a day spent vainly trying to keep up with the Half Wheelers (President: B. Moore, Vice-President: D. Floyd), his vision was not exactly 100%, and so the only thing that pierced the haze before his eyes were the brightly coloured sweaters of the "Central Uckfield C.C."

On the racing side a few stalwarts have worn the scarlet and white in time-trials, track events, and a mass-start or two. Brian and Doug have ridden at grass meetings from Faversham to Worthing, while Mick Walker and Emrys Jones, besides doing a bit on grass, have appeared regularly at Preston Park. Their 'bag' so far consists of a few placings and a first-class pile-up by Emrys which completely wrecked his bike and removed large areas of skin from one leg. At Eastbourne, our pursuit team, reduced to three because Doug left his kit at the station, lost by a few yards to the Uckfield trio, albeit Whittingham-led. In the Association '50' Emrys put the club record a little nearer respectability with a 2-16; while in the June '25' Brian did the same with the '25' record, knocking eight seconds off Ivan Buckland's 1-3-19. He pared off another second in winning the President's 25 mile championship cup from a sadly depleted field. Young brother Trevor took third place with 1-7-55, with Dave Turner second in 1-5-44. A puncture robbed Brian of a probable win in the club '30'. Dave took the honours with a 1-22, a good

To the Secretary

Please enter me for the "OBENKIRKEN EGG-SMASHERS 8 3/4" I enclose P.O. 8 3/4^d

	Name of Event	Date	Time or Distance	Course No. or Brief Particulars	Winner and Time	If delayed and amount of time lost
Fastest 25	Schleswig-Holstein Nueburgung	7.6.01	1.52.90	Bremersbung - Reyjavik & retrace	Fritz Bloggstein 2-41-7.	Punctured (snowshoe)
Fastest 30	Blaenau-Ffestiniog Goat-Haters C.C.	7.6.27.	1.52.92	Dinas-mawddwy-Reyjavik & retrace	Dai Bloggans 1-0-4.	Fell down mine shaft.
Fastest 50	Stalinabad & Grand Prix	7.6.76.	1.52.93	Vladivostok - Reyjavik & retrace	Ivanov Bloggski 83-21-7	Detained in salt mines
Fastest 100	Loockungehin E.I., I.P., & C.C.	7.6.7 3/8	1.52.94.	Go-it-stan to Reyjavik & back	Mee tu Bloggs 3.4.5	Shipwrecked
Fastest 12	Elam - sidi el-baba C.C.	7.6.37.	1.52.96	Oopeping to Reyjavik & retrace	Abdul el Bloggs (400 yashmuk)	Passed through Harem
Last two Perfor- mances	Distance 141 Murphy-McPatrik O'Hodey C.C.	7.6.04	1.52.97.	Anne Jostak - Reyjavik & retrace	Danny O'Bloggs 140 miles	Sure now, and didn't oi thake the virry divil of a hiden!
	743 St. Bradenville Turnpike Club	7.6.42.	1.52.98	New Magham Down - Reyjavik & retrace	Clark Bloggs 5-43-21.	Investigated under McCarran immigration Act.
Last performance at distance now entered	Sao Lucia Juanita-Lopez C.C.	7.6.29	1.52.101	Caraniba - Reyjavik & retrace	Pedro Bloggios 1.64.10	Overthrew government
Best performance since Jan 1st last	Edgington-under Edge C.C.	7.6.93	1.52.101	Lower Wellington Bassett Combe Valley Witney Marsh Major to Reyjavik & retrace.	Cholmondeley Bloggs-Bloggs 1-64-10.	watched Test Match.

I agree to abide by the rules and decisions of the Oswestry Woolgatherer's Society and declare that I will not throw sponges or water bottles at marshals, nor expectorate over my shoulder if I am overtaken.

Date 4/6/55

Signature X

NAME Bloggs INITIALS A.B.C.D.E

ADDRESS 209 1/2 RUE GENGHIS KHAN,
CAMBERWELL,
LONDON, N.N.W 7 3/4

CLUB ELEPHANT STUFFERS & TOFFEE
(State if not 1st Claim) APPLE STICK
CHOPPERS R.C.

DISTRICT COUNCIL EAST JAHORE.

ride on a hot, windy morning.

For the first time since way back the Carnival sports was blessed with a perfect evening; but due to competition from the fair, open-air dancing, &c., and trouble on the advertising side, only a moderate crowd watched some excellent sport. This was a poor reward for the hard-working organisers, and so the committee has decided that next year the meeting will be divorced from Carnival Week. At the same time the date of the club dinner was fixed (social types please note) for the last Saturday in January.

Mention of social activities brings us logically to the aforementioned Douglas Floyd, who has recently become engaged to Maureen Speer, club minutes secretary from January to February this year. Although one or two members had noticed suspicious symptoms this tie-up was a well-kept secret for several weeks until Horsebox told the world, or at least that part of it that was within earshot at the Central Ground. Skating on thin ice with great self-assurance is Sapper Ken Miller, who having got himself a nice berth at Gillingham is now seen often in Hastings and even more often in Sidley.

Regular readers may have noticed a lack of references to Mr. Neeves, whose activities are so often a blot on these pages. Here is the reason. A few weeks ago Dennis claimed to have discovered a conspiracy in which the Kent County Council, led by a certain cycling journalist plan to 'liberate' East Guldeford and Camber. Determined to defend Sussex and democracy to the last he has since spent his time patrolling the border armed to the teeth with large scale maps and sheet music copies of 'Sussex by the Sea'.

Finally I must tip my hat to Harold Marchant and Trevor Moore, who rode through continuous heavy rain to Brighton handing up food and drink to competitors in the annual Hastings-Brighton walking race and helping their men to fourth and eighth positions.

'bye till next time -----

WARRIOR.

On arrival in the Middle East I wished to carry on with my cycling, but owing to the unfamiliar nature of the terrain, i.e., sand, sand and more sand, I found that the only practicable solution was to learn to ride a camel.

I accordingly contacted one of the local 'fast men', who offered to introduce me to his club, the Els Delite C.C., so I went along to the club oasis and, apart from a few drawn knives and growls, etc., was greeted cordially. Before you can say "Lawrence of Arabia" I had been fixed up with a racing camel and voted in as a second-claim member.

Upon being invited to try the camel for size I was eager to show my new clubmates a thing or two, but a word of warning to those who may land up in the M.E. in future. You simply cannot treat a camel like a bike. He will not stand for being gripped savagely by the ear while the rider heaves himself up with a lunge. The result of such treatment, as I found to my cost, is that the camel immediately straightens up with a pronounced side roll, leaving the rider suspended underneath in a somewhat ludicrous position.

Having thus convulsed my new clubmates I was thrust aside while they demonstrated the correct way. First, you find a suitable vaulting post (an old pyramid will do) then you whisper some unprintable words into the camel's ear, whereupon he commences to grovel in the sand. Immediately you lightly spring up and over, thus accomplishing the feat neatly and quickly. After my initial attempts I graduated from missing the camel (completely) to getting the hump (literally), but after that perseverance, which is second-nature to cyclists, I eventually could complete the manoeuvre in 10 mins. dead.

Camel club runs, or caravan treks, as they are known, are full of interest, and in my next treatise I propose to deal fully with both these and the various forms of competitive riding held under the rules of the Middle East Camel Time Trials Association, and a dissident body, the Sahara League of Racing Camelhandlers.

J.G.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB.

We find the date-line for "BONK" upon us all too soon, this exceptionally good summer!

The season is passing without any very outstanding news from the border club, but must jot down a few items I trust will be of interest. First, racing news outside of Association events, which

Tunbridge Wells Road Club (continued).

most of you know anyhow.

The track meeting we jointly promoted with the "Albion" at Whitsun. Dave pulled off his usual crop of successes, including the 3 mile Festival trophy. 3 years running! Brother Michael won the 1 mile BLOCK handicap, and Pop was adjudged "dead heat" first in the veterans' tear up against Ted Isaac and Ernie Robbins. The first two came down in the back straight while "Robbo" was having a "rocket" fitted under the saddle, having been "dropped", by the pair of sprinters. We beat the Albion in the E.S.C.A. pursuit. This, note, was Albion's first defeat ever on the Nevill. Unfortunately, we could only send three to ride in the next tie, versus Eastbourne, and took a fair hiding. A feature of the Whit-Monday meeting was C.W. Nettleton starting the "vets" race. What a grand old man of cycling he was! First rider to win a race on Herne Hill track, and still holder of the Old Ordinary hour record set up in 1898 on that track. You must ask me about his cigars some time! A remarkable gentleman, in the very best interpretation of this title.

On the road, we beat a strong Southborough & District Wheelers in the Inter-club "25", our second promotion. Dave was fastest, being well supported by John Terry and John Watt, the latter making a welcome return to racing. Southborough filled 2nd and 3rd fastest places, and only a few seconds got us home in the team award. A complete reversal of placings in last year's event.

In open events, Dave is out only placed rider, taking second fastest to Llewellyn in the Eltham Paragon 25 on Aug. 7th.

News and views of club folk. Tony Baldwin has made a come-back effort but we fear his racing days are over. Doctor's orders! Phil Hitchcock has got a Dragon on his track; on his Belgian holiday he crashed two ways at once! Bike and freedom! What a lad for punishment.

The highlight of social events was Sheila's 21st party. A great time was spent in fun, games and dancing, etc., and we offer congratulations to our "new" adult. Pity there are not more like her, and I mean just that.

The editor will cut me up if this rambling does not cease. It is a habit of scribes to just write & write, but trust these few lines will not dismay you Sir! To the "unmentioned" my regrets: to the "unmentionables" fair thee not so well. To all fellow cyclists, the best of luck, and fortune awheel.

STOP PRESS. Annual Dinner & Prize Presentation: POP.
Sat. 19th November, 1955, Phil's Cafe, Tonbridge. Tickets 9/6d.
Further details: Mr. D.A. Patten, 34 Farncombe Road, Tun. Wells.

A Dissertation on Bags, by Dr. M. Anthony-Bignell, M.A.

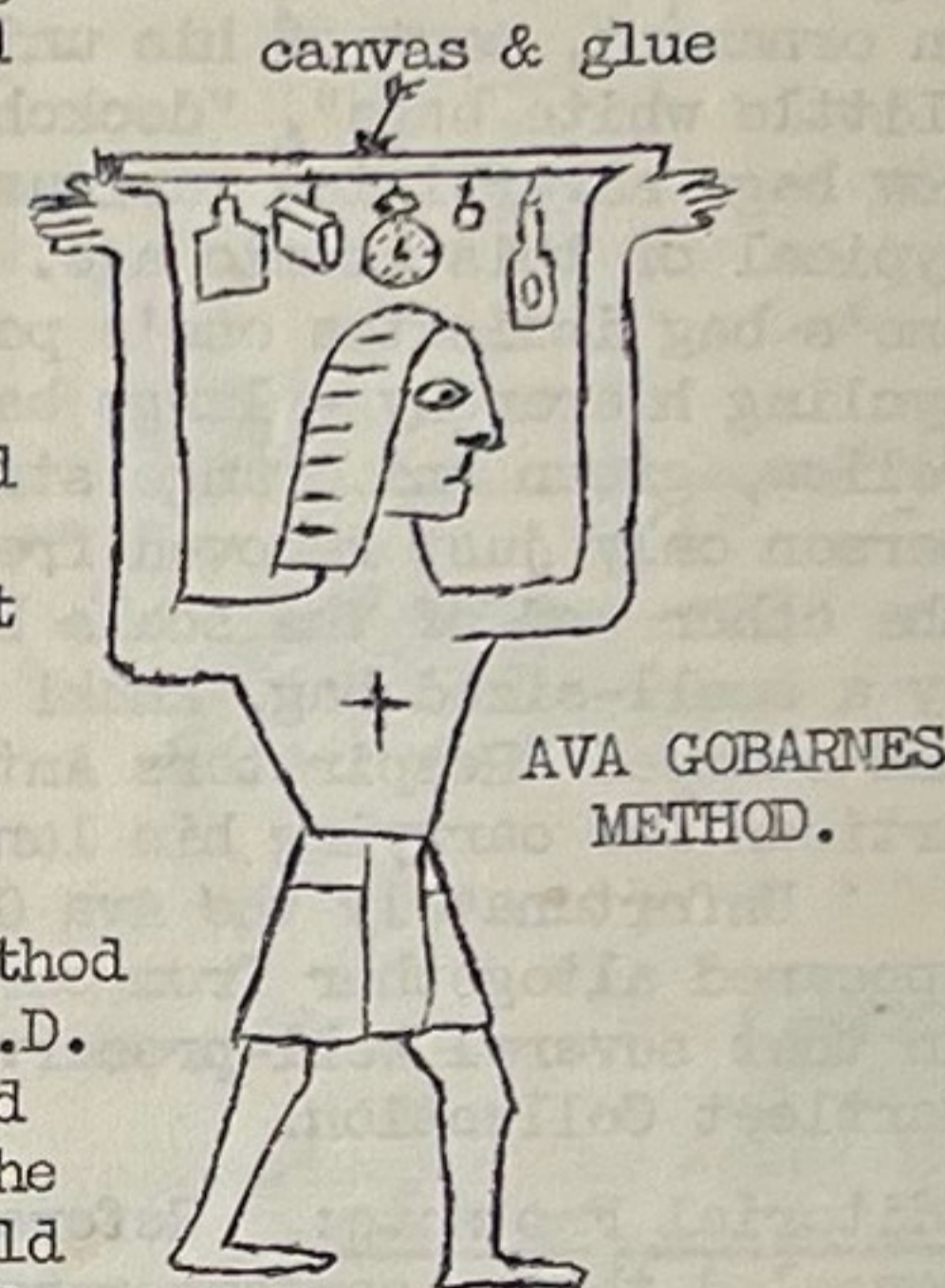
The definition of a bag is a "pouch, small sack or other flexible receptacle, for carrying small objects" (New English Dictionary, 1932). An analogy may be drawn between the development of the bag and the bicycle, although the former had a near-5,000 years' start.

Bags began their existence as purely functional objects, and indeed were used specifically for carrying articles in the first instance. The first bag appears to have been invented by one Ebenezer Ava Gobarnes in B.C. 3,000. He made the important discovery that his various bottles of beer, packets of cigarettes and what-have-you could be glued to a piece of canvas and held upside down over his head more easily than being carried under his arm. This idea was widely copied and practised for many thousands of years, and led to an acute shortage of glue and canvas. It became a common sight to see hordes of people, particularly in the market squares, all with their hands high above their heads, carrying assorted oddments. This practice survives to this day in a modified form in the quaint custom known as square-dancing, though in this effeminate age it is no longer the custom to actually carry anything in the hands.

It was found, however, that this method was rather tiring for the arms, and in A.D. 1129 Sir Geoffrey de Wylcockes, then Lord Mayor of Seaforde, a rotten borough on the South Coast, discovered that objects could best be carried by dispensing with the glue and hanging the canvas in the now-familiar position. He called this pouch, small sack or other flexible receptacle a "bag" (after his aunt's milkman's grandmother).

It is at this point that the first connection appears between the bag and the bicycle, for Sir Geoffrey's boon companion, one Wat Horussel, in addition to acquiring by dubious means the necessary materials for the manufacture of vast quantities of the new style of bag, was the principal agent in inspiring the cycling fraternity to use these in place of string.

Meanwhile the bag increased enormously in popularity, the Ava Gobarnes style, now being completely outmoded by the Wylcockes vogue,



A Dissertation on Bags (continued).

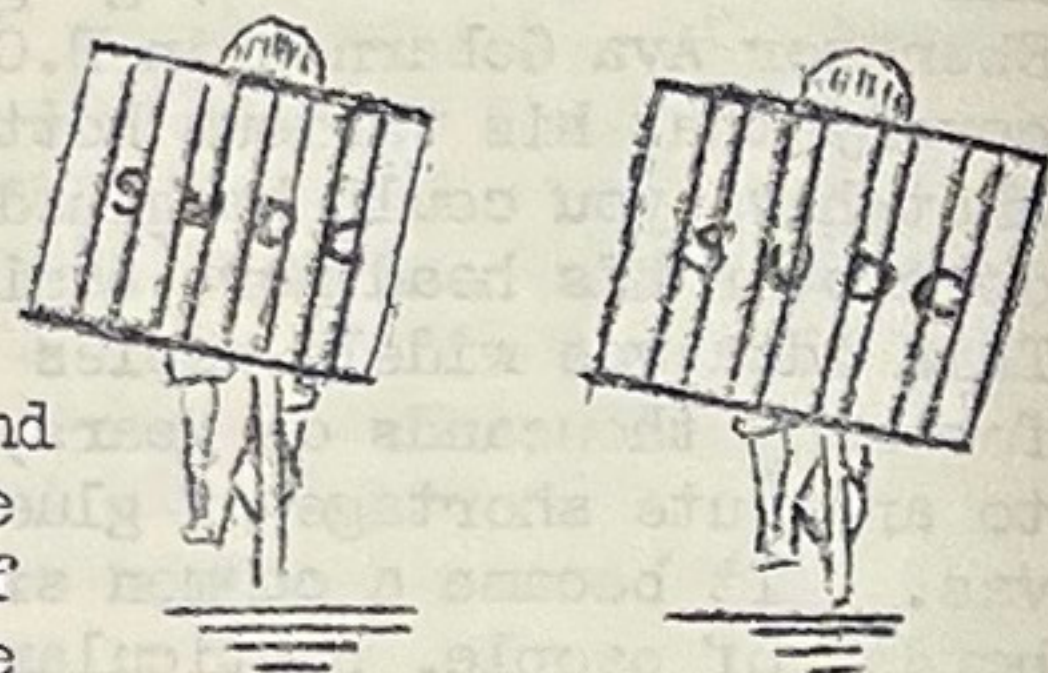
particularly in North-east Uckfield, where the denizens of the suburb of Hempstead are noted for their outside bags.

Cycling also became very popular, although receiving fierce competition from railway engines, cars, aeroplanes, pedestrians, cats &c. (see Webb). The huge death roll caused by bags being caught in front wheels led to the discovery in 1928 of the advantages to be derived from having a large handle affixed to the bag, and passing this round one's body.

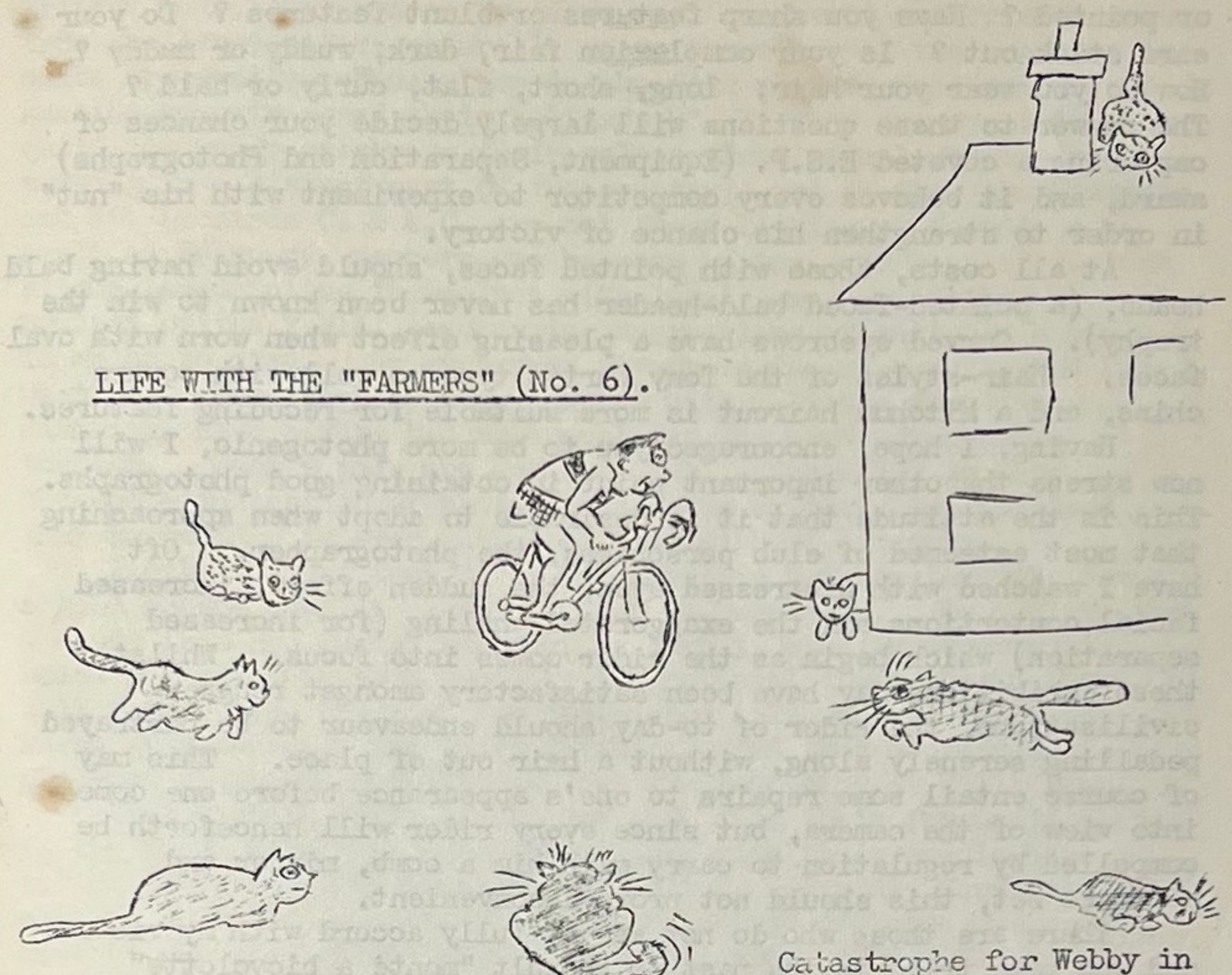
Thus we see how the bag and the cycle are naturally brought together down the ages. To-day the cyclist's bag is no longer functional, but is an ornament, part of his uniform indeed. "Little white bags", "deckchair bags", and now bags advertising various products are typical of this atomic age. The size of one's bag indicates one's position in the cycling hierarchy - large bags with blue, yellow, green and orange stripes denote a person only just removed from Royalty, the other end of the scale being denoted by a small-sized bag, khaki in colour, and stamped "Respirators Anti-gas Mk V" as used by the common artisan for carrying his lunch.

Unfortunately the Ava Gobarnes bag now seems to have disappeared altogether from our public roads, but we are fortunate in that several well-preserved specimens may be seen in the Bartleet Collection.

Editorial Footnote: Reference to the relevant archives has revealed that a contemporary of Ava Gobarnes, one Wayefarer Agge, persevered, in the face of bitter resentment and deep-rooted hostility, and finally succeeded in establishing the "deckchair" bag as an essential item of medieval cycling kit.



WYLCOCKES METHOD



Catastrophe for Webby in the "12".

"WATCH THE BIRDY"

How is your face? Is it oval, long, round, pear-shaped, square or pointed? Have you sharp features or blunt features? Do your ears stick out? Is your complexion fair, dark, ruddy or muddy? How do you wear your hair; long, short, flat, curly or bald? The answer to these questions will largely decide your chances of capturing a coveted E.S.P. (Equipment, Separation and Photographs) award, and it behoves every competitor to experiment with his "nut" in order to strengthen his chance of victory.

At all costs, those with pointed faces, should avoid having bald heads, (a pointed-faced bald-header has never been known to win the trophy). Curved eyebrows have a pleasing effect when worn with oval faces. Hair-styles of the Tony Curtis type go well with square chins, and a Mitchum haircut is more suitable for receding features.

Having, I hope, encouraged you to be more photogenic, I will now stress the other important point in obtaining good photographs. This is the attitude that it is desirable to adopt when approaching that most esteemed of club personages, the photographer. Oft have I watched with distressed eyes, the sudden effort, increased facial contortions and the exaggerated ankling (for increased separation) which begin as the rider comes into focus. Whilst these exhibitions may have been satisfactory amongst rougher civilisations, the rider of to-day should endeavour to be portrayed pedalling serenely along, without a hair out of place. This may of course entail some repairs to one's appearance before one comes into view of the camera, but since every rider will henceforth be compelled by regulation to carry with him a comb, mirror and manicure set, this should not prove inconvenient.

There are those who do not as yet fully accord with my views and who have tried in the past to assault "monté a bicyclette" your esteemed photographer. To them, I would say, that the system is here to stay, and that the large photograph of a bottom bracket and the sole of a rider's shoe, which usually results from these murderous attempts, is unlikely to cause the laurel wreath of the victor to be hanged around their various necks; besides which I object to wheels running over my face.

"Pseudonym"

P.S. All cosmetics may be purchased from the above signed.
(Glass eyes and false ears a speciality).

THE HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS C. & A.C.

Between the months of June and September the population of Britain take their annual holidays, and as a vast number of people from the large cities naturally go to the seaside, the question is quite frequently asked: "How do the folk who are resident in our seaside resorts spend their holidays?" If they are cyclists they quite naturally celebrate their release from normal routine by touring in a distant part of the country; and in this the Hastings and St. Leonards C. & A.C. are not found lacking. Indeed, as early as February, members can be seen poring over maps of distant places, acquainting themselves with local lore, or if they be members of the Y.H.A., exchanging suggestions of suitable hostels in which to stay. An evergreen favourite is, of course, the Lake District, where high passes, coupled with a little mountain climbing, have always had an appeal for the more adventurous tourist. Such a pair are Ron and Hugh. Recently, looking through a collection of photographs taken by them, one realised that no holiday is ever quite complete without a camera.

Another ardent tourist is Vice-Captain Ron Longley, who for a good reason usually plans his tour in September. To qualify for a visit from Ron during his tour, a town is usually expected to boast not a beauty spot owned by the national trust, but a football team, first division for preference (although he has been known to descend to the third division), and thus Ron finds his pleasure climbing, not Skiddaw, but the terracing at Villa Park.

Club Captain Colin Sinden and wife find their favourite spots in the West Country, and usually return with their saddle-bags filled with photographs of places visited. Freddie Marsh can usually be found in the more remote districts of Wales, where they brew atomic ale, whilst Jack Southerden, when asked after a tour of Yorkshire a few years ago if he got many miles in, replied "a few". On closer investigation it was found that his total mileage for ten days totalled just over a thousand!

As a forerunner this year, a number of members led by Colin decided to hold an all-night run during the Whitsun holidays to Winchester, whilst Bob Downey, deciding that Winchester was too close to Hastings, travelled down to Honiton.

The racing activities in the club have likewise not been neglected, and as the results of Association events are generally well known, I shall confine my notes to club events, which for obvious reasons are not quite so widely publicised. The series of evening events have now concluded, and Ian May has emerged as the

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

overall winner, although his average times are not yet to hand.

Gordon King is also having a successful season and is again winner of the Croft 50-mile Trophy. A very creditable performance was given here by Esther Rolleston riding her first 50.

Generally, entries in club events have been high, and an encouraging factor is the high rate of improvement among the younger members.

HASTONIAN.

EASTBOURNE ROVERS CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB (CYCLING SECTION).

Sorry, Folks, but owing to Land Rover's imminent departure for foreign strands, only a few scribbled thoughts this time. We seem to have had quite a season this year so far. Club records have gone at 10, 25, 50 and 100 miles - mostly several times. Most sensational perhaps was the "10" record which went five times in two successive evening events. Standing originally to Barry Penfold with 24-21, it fell first to Dave Dunbar with a 24-18, then Bob Crouch wandered in six seconds faster, and finally Micky Horner finished it for that week with a 24-3. Len Novis' 24-4 later on the card was almost an anti-climax! Next week the boys started again, Mickey knocking another second off to 24-2 and Bob finally clinching matters with a 23-50. Bob flew again in the Lancing Longmarkers when he obeyed instructions by bagging first fastest and handicap with a shortish "3".

Dave and Dennis have been moving well at 50 miles, and currently Dennis is heading club record at this distance with a "4-4.5" in a R.A.F. event. At 100 miles too he has been flying, particularly in the "Wessex" when he got down to a 4-24 on a hard day, taking second place. Len rode his first century in this event and has since improved with increased experience of the distance. He and Mickey have done some good "50's" and in this connection a youthful discovery is Denzil de Grey, who screwed them both with a 2-12 in the Sussex 50 and got himself in the winning team thereby.

The fair sex is well represented by Pat Novis, whose "10's" and "11's" for 25 miles are increasing the palpitations in the hearts of the male members of the club, particularly the more sedate ones! She has also done a short "27" for 10 miles and averaged "evens" for the Worthing and Back record - nice going, Pat!

After the grim business of the weekly battle "contre la montre" the usual drill is social activity - often on, (and occasionally "in" - eh, Len?), the river at Barcombe - or on the "Club Beach" at

Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C. (continued).

Langney Point. Trouble is no one seems to realise that this is our beach, and we have frequent intruders. Still, there is room to move, if and when one feels like so doing.

Dave Dunbar, Stew and Gooser are still active in the M/S sphere and the two last-named have just returned from a holiday in France where they saw quite a lot of the "Tour". Nothing like first-hand information! Other "tourists" of note are Ted Durrent and Denzil de Grey, who have been spending the last fortnight priming the hills in the vicinity of Gloucester. Understand Ted was allowed to win some of the primes by judicious use of bribes in the form of Silmos Lollies!

On the track "Whippet" has been among the awards of late and so has George - (in the intervals between experiments on Dressing-Room Corner). Dave Marsh has been prominent in pursuit activities, his speciality, as well as taking part in the club pursuit team. We are of course meeting our agricultural rivals from the shires in two finals later this month. Most notable features of Wednesday nights, however, have been the burn-ups among the "non-racing" members going home afterwards. (George says the only reason he races on the track is to have a good excuse for returning by train and avoiding these).

The next few weeks see the departure - temporary, we hope - of some very deserving members in Ray, who is off to Edinburgh for three years to improve the breed of Scotch thistles or something, and Mickey Horner and Dave Marsh, who are already hearing the tramp of marching feet permeating their dreams. We wish them good luck and may all their 252's be minor ones!

Weel, ah maun sneak awa' on ma wee bike - auf wiedersehn all!

"LAND ROVER".

Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.

In view of his departure from the district, the Hon. General Secretary of this Club, Mr. R.T. Ottley, wishes to inform all Club Officials that communications intended for his office should be addressed to: Mr. K. Champion, 2 Woodgate Road, Eastbourne. This is to take effect from 1st September until further notice. Communications addressed to Mr. Ottley after this date may experience 4 to 5 days' delay. It is hoped to publish a complete list of 1956 E.R. C. & A.C. officials in Winter's "Bonk".

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