

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



6d.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

We have Privilage of Supplying

MEDALS, PLAQUES & CUPS Etc.

To many of the leading Cycling Clubs

May We Quote For Yours?

Special Designs using your Club Badge
submitted

L. REICH & SONS

CLOCKMAKERS & JEWELLERS

**48, Monson Road,
Tunbridge Wells**

Phone 1352

Hill Special ●

Carlton ●

Claud Butler ●

EST. 1920 ●

- ★ Accessories
- ★ Clothing
- ★ Shoes

GEORGE HILL

**18, SPRING STREET,
BRIGHTON, I.**

- ★ Wheel Building
- ★ Frame Repairs
- ★ Gears

Phone 25430 ●

Ephgrave ●

Viking ●

Parkes ●

N.C.U. ●

C.T.C. ●

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Founded
1946

NEW SERIES - No. 13.

SPRING 1956.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR.

Dear Readers,

By the time this issue is being perused the weather will have started to "turn the corner" - we hope ! Coming after such a grand summer this Arctic offering caught us all unawares. With temperatures lower than at any time in living memory it's a wonder that there wasn't a concerted protest from the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Thermometers !

Seriously, though, chums, normal training has been rendered impossible to any but "iron men" (of the Grover calibre ?), yet I'm sure that the opening events of 1956 will find the select few who have proved invulnerable even in these extreme conditions. So to them, and indeed to all cycling colleagues in the Association, I wish another grand summer and a successful season on road and track.

Yours in sport,

G.W.

The closing date for the Summer Number is MAY 22nd.

GEN from the Secretary.

By the time you read these notes the racing season will be well under way and the first "packets" will have been taken by quite a few riders on G.51. As I sit and write these notes the snow is steadily falling outside, and it seems to me that we have returned to the ice age despite the fact that during the past few months quite a few references have been made about the block age.

The Social season which is now drawing to a close has as usual been very hectic, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking those clubs who have invited me to their dinners. This winter has seen one or two clashing of dates, and I would like to see the clubs announce their proposed dates for this year's dinners as soon as possible, so that any clashing can be avoided. Our Editor will be only too pleased to include any dates that are notified to him, in the next issue of "Bonk".

This year it has been found necessary to split up the duties of promoting secretary for our road time-trials, and on another page in this edition details will be found regarding the first four events.

As was decided at the Annual General Meeting your committee have gone into the details of alterations to our courses. Already the 25, 50 and 100 mile courses have been submitted to the R.T.T.C. for their approval, but up to the time of writing these notes the outcome of their deliberations has not been notified. Elsewhere in this issue details will be found of a proposed new 12 hours course, with notes and comments from our Chairman.

Since the last issue appeared we have held our New Year's Party, which was once again a very successful function, and I would like to thank Dennis Neeves, Ron Russell and Geoff Willcocks for all the work they did to make this such a success.

In conclusion, may I appeal to riders and Club Officials to make an extra effort this year to see that all entries for road events are received by the closing date, as due to alterations in the duplicating arrangements Start Sheets will go to press on the day entries close.

R.H.

Individual Event Records as at 1st January, 1956.

12 Miles Hardriders.		H. M. S.	
D.S. Thompsett	Uckfield & District C.C.	34 36	1953
25 Miles 72" Gear			
G.A. King	Hastings & St. Leonards C. & AC	1 5 52	1953
25 Miles			
D.J. Marsh	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	58 49	1955
30 Miles Tandem			
A.W.D. Thorpe &)	Uckfield & District C.C.	1 6 5	1952
C.A. Pearson)			
50 Miles			
D.J. Marsh	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	2 1 4	1955
100 Miles			
D.J. Marsh	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	4 30 39	1953
12 Hours			
D. Stokes	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	244.69 miles	1954
Hill Climb (Wellingford Lane)			
D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells Road Club	1 35 4/5	1955

LADIES

10 Miles			
S.A. White	Central Sussex C.C.	26 5	1952
15 Miles			
P. Novis	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	41 31	1955
25 Miles			
S.A. White	Central Sussex C.C.	1 8 7	1952
50 Miles			
S.A. White	Central Sussex C.C.	2 22 50	1952

Team Records as at 1st January, 1956.

	H.	M.	S.	
12 Miles Hardriders.				
Uckfield & District C.C.	1	46	16	1952
25 Miles 72" Gear				
Uckfield & District C.C.	3	22	44	1955
25 Miles				
Uckfield & District C.C.	3	2	14	1954
30 Miles Tandem				
Uckfield & District C.C.	2	14	17	1954
50 Miles				
Uckfield & District C.C.	6	24	19	1955
100 Miles				
Lewes Wanderers C.C.	14	11	24	1953
12 Hours				
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	700.82	Miles		1954
Hill Climb (Wellingford Lane)				
East Grinstead C.C.	5	25		1952

LADIES

10 Miles				
Central Sussex C.C.	55	39		1952
15 Miles				
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	1	24	10	1955
25 Miles				
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	2	23	49	1955
50 Miles				
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	5	21	11	1952

-----000000000-----

The Clubman's Touring Competition is again being run this year, and the date allocated for this is Sunday, 27th May.

Entry Forms and details for this event will be circulated to all clubs in due course. It is to be hoped that a much larger entry will be received for this event this year, both from the racing and non-racing members of clubs.

UCKFIELD & DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB.

With the present disputes racing in the printing trade and the prospect of further cuts in our reading matter, I can foresee that this issue of "Bonk" will be at a premium. I only hope Arthur Linington doesn't start "working to rule", it's a big enough headache trying to screw out this stuff once a quarter without the ghastly prospect of being pressed into service by the Editor to laboriously copy umpteen numbers out by hand!

Well, from our point of view of course the big night of the past few months was the dinner. "Cycling's" headline read: "More Friends than Members", and that summed the occasion up admirably. We are indeed fortunate to have so many good friends to make the party to go with a swing - in fact I've never known an evening to go so quickly, thanks to an ideal combination - an excellent meal, first-rate organisation and a crowd who meant to enjoy themselves from the start. Highlights - to me - were the presentation of the Farmers' Stirring Spoon to the Vicar, the amazing display of open track trophies, Colin performing with his "thundermug", Dennis Neeves' response to the "Visitors", and the charming and competent way in which Betty Head dealt with the prize presentation. And no doubt all who were there will have their own memories.

To turn back a few weeks to a social event on a less pretentious scale, the Christmas Eve Party. With the "Star" out of commission, Cedric suggested the "Lamb" at Ripe, and an excellent choice it proved. The Vicar was quickly elected unofficial M.C., and a hilarious evening followed, punctuated by shrieks about "fighting like a tiger for 'er 'onner" from the gram in the corner which boasted a somewhat unorthodox volume control. Rob recorded the scene for posterity at severe risk to his camera, John and Reg were home, and we were glad to welcome Reg's Dragon, Mr. and Mrs. "Jack" Boxall and Beryl, and Keith and Helen.

The S.C.A. presentation at Shoreham, a week after the Club dinner, found the boys still in good "training", and your scribe was glad to see that some East Sussex clubs were well represented in spite of the somewhat awkward venue. I sometimes think we are in danger of becoming a bit parochial in our outlook, and it is heartening to see a good response from this part of the county for a Sussex occasion. I hope it may portend increased representation in S.C.A. counsels and more participation in County events.

The dining and wining season was extended a further week beyond the usual period by a visit to the West Sussex Road Club's

dinner at Worthing. We understand that five Farmers were present. We further understand that only one, a gentleman named K. Griffiths, Esq., comported himself with seemly dignity. Over the activities of the rest a decent veil shall be drawn

Well, to read the above, one would hardly think bikes came into the picture, but nevertheless the winter runs programme has gone through in spite of hangovers - and the weather. No need to expand on the latter subject, as I write this there's less than a week to the first event and no sign of a "let-up", I reckon the oft-derided tights will be at a premium!

In our last notes we congratulated Reg on his first tape. Before that was in print we heard he was a full corporal, still with not much longer to do I reckon the new rates won't tempt you, Reg! John has filled in another few feet of demob. chart and swapped his old Bedford for a brand-new Land-Rover (he's christened it Stan in compliment to you-know-who). Just the thing to take the boys out to the start in, any chance of "fiddling" it in October, John? Rob sailed for Cyprus in the middle of February, we heard a broadcast of his unit leaving Windsor to catch the banana boat, Rob was all set to say a few words into the mike but the Colonel grabbed it first. Good luck, Rob, and a safe and speedy return. Still no news from Mick so we think the Beefeaters must have had some extra rations for Christmas. Reg, John and Rob all managed leave for Christmas and the Club dinner, we hope that next year you'll all be back in civvy street, with passes a thing of the past.

Prospects for 1956 - our Silver Jubilee Year - are bright, and we extend a hearty welcome to quite a number of new members. Terry Chambers will prove a great asset to the track team, and equally, Horace Achard's long experience of time-trialling should prove invaluable on the road. Horace has moved to Newick, and has also introduced his nephew Kenneth as a member. Peter Brook, from Blackboys, and Colin Westgate, of Rotherfield, both with a background of "solitary" riding before joining the club, have already established themselves, and we also welcome Jock Russell, from Horam, and last, but by no means least, Reg Tew, who has sported five bob to cement still further our ties with our friends at Cuckfield.

So on to the new season, with memories of carols by the Farmers' Male Voice Choir, Dog-house days, Rosemary and the Seventh Veil, Pickled Allards and Toothless Wonders, monkey tricks on the rocks and skating sessions on the roads to cheer us on our way.

Here's to 1956, and the Best of British Luck to One and All, from Farmers everywhere, Sids galore, The Scragly 'Erbs, and

SEE POST-SCRIPT ON PAGE 24.

The Prof.

O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O+:+O

THE ASSOCIATION NEW YEAR PARTY

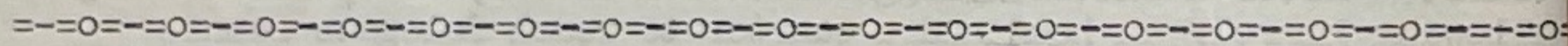
Our special correspondent, HYAM BONKEDUPP, was there and here is his graphic report.

The story really began at a spot some sixteen miles east of Polegate, where the Battle of Hastings, 1956, was being fought. The contestants were the party's master of ceremonies, one Dennis Neeves, and that gentleman's better self; the former pointing out the ease and comfort of a ride to Polegate in Frank Rix's "Velox", while better self insisted that a cyclist's function should be reached by bicycle whatever the cost in blood, toil, sweat and tears. After a bitter struggle better self won, so optimistically allowing himself an hour and a quarter to reach Polegate Dennis set off. Twenty minutes later respectable Bexhillians out for a peaceful stroll were shocked by a stream of blasphemy caused by the sudden deflation of Neevo's front tyre. However, after a quick repair and a ride worthy of Prof. Edwards at his peak, our sweating M.C. stumbled into the Junction Hotel at 4-33, only to find to his chagrin that half the expected company had not yet arrived. Among the late arrivals were Eastbourne Rovers, who had been to Horsham and back to work up an appetite, and Cedric Pearson, who arrived in a state most unbecoming to a reigning B.A.R. Tea commenced at last, and full justice was done to the excellent spread provided. I felt very sorry for the unfortunate ladies waiting on a table which had both Lewes Wanderers AND Tun. Wells Road Club, magnificently led by Russell and Maizie respectively. The after-tea entertainment began in unusual fashion with a Palm Court scene featuring lone diners Ken and Doris Champion, who were fawned on by a head waiter, M. Humphrey, while Tito Scala entertained them with piano-accordion solos. After this interlude things got going in deadly earnest, and soon balloon-bursting, cake-eating, hat-snatching and musical-chairing were in full swing. (For some reason Eastbourne Rovers took little part in these activities). By this time the M.C. was a whirling dervish who shouted, cajoled, moved

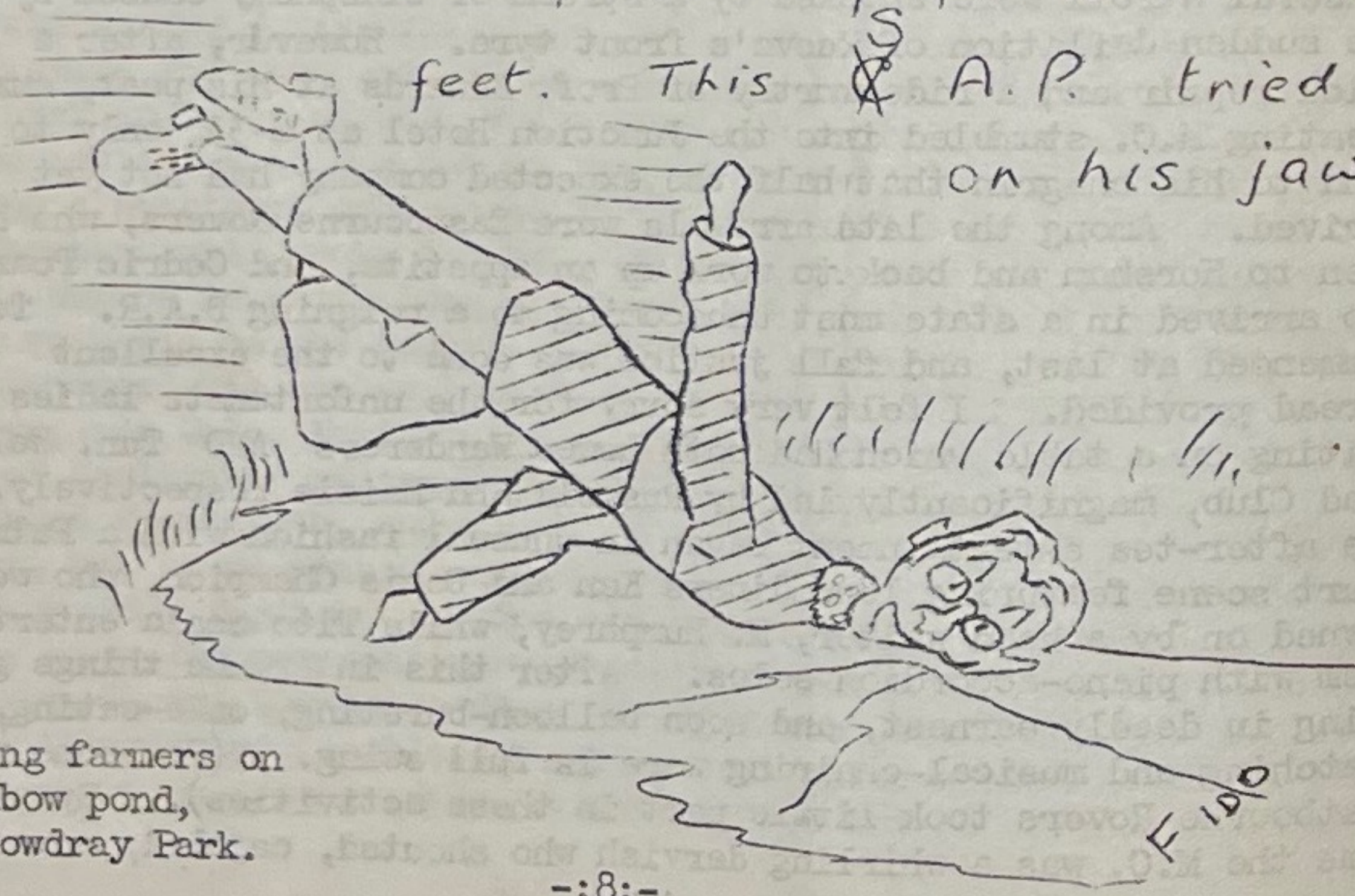
The Association New Year Party (continued).

chairs, hollered at assistants Humph and Jiff, and pounded the piano with hardly a pause for breath. The Association chairman, with his customary sang-froid, presented a well-merited "award" to Reg Tew, the E.S.C.A.'s new champion cross-toaster; and then comparative sanity was restored by George Palmer's film show. With an interesting series of pictures George showed up the touring knowledge (or in some cases lack of it) of member clubs; and also showed Ken Griffiths in a hitherto unsuspected role, that of art connoisseur. The last item was a quiz spotlighting Sheila Adams, who quickly found that it doesn't always pay a girl to know all the answers. Her prize? the position of M.C. at next year's party. Miss Jacqueline Rix drew the raffle tickets, the company joined hands for Auld Lang Syne, and it was all over. Tew led the Horde out into the night, leaving Humph and Jiff totting up the takings; and the M.C. a lonely stricken figure amid the burst balloons and cake crumbs, sobbing quietly to himself. New Year Party 1956 had ended..... peace had returned to Polegate.

H.B.



Most "patineurs" prefer to use their feet. This ~~S~~ A.P. tried it on his jaw!



Playing farmers on Benbow pond, Cowdray Park.

Course alteration Report

Most members will know through their clubs that at the recent A.G.M. the Committee were instructed to look into the alteration of Time-Trial courses and make a report to the R.T.T.C. as to their suggestions.

No doubt the result of this meeting is also already known to the majority of you, but it will do no harm to give details here.

In dealing with the 25, 50 and 100 miles courses, the chief point to be considered was how to get over the obstruction of other road traffic, chiefly at the finish, and also cut out the up hill finish.

In the case of the 25 course, it was decided to try a start and finish at a point on the Dicker. This, however, was vetoed by the R.T.T.C., who would not sanction a main road finish. The result of this is that the matter is still in abeyance until the Committee meeting on March 4th, and the first two 25 events will be run over the former course.

Where the 50 miles and 100 miles courses were concerned the Committee's suggestion was that they should start on the main road at H.lm.. (beats me -Holmes?) Hill & finish on the Laughton Road just short of Bat & Ball Corner. This suggestion has I understand been accepted by the R.T.T.C. and steps to adjust the courses are already far ahead.

In taking these decisions the Committee did, I assure you, discuss the matter very fully and endeavour to view it from all angles. On the whole their decisions are good and I do appeal to you all to support this season's events as well as you have done in the past, and at least give them a fair trial. I write this with a full understanding that for some clubs it is going to be somewhat more inconvenient than in the past, for others it may well be the reverse. For all, riders, officials and helpers alike, the question of meals near the finish is going to be a problem, one to which the Committee are fully alive, yet still convinced they have done their best.

The question of the 12 hour course was left in abeyance to be gone into by the T.T. Secretary and the Promotor who will report back to the Committee with their findings and suggestions on Mar 4th.

In considering this course the main objects were to cut out the detour from Ear Wig Corner to Newhaven and back, because the traffic problem through Lewes, coupled with traffic lights and a halt sign, all of which made passing through the town very undesirable. The second detour to be cut out was the Barcombe - Wivelsfield one, as a

Course Alteration Report (continued).

greatly increased train service on that line is likely to cause much delay to riders.

I do not propose to go into details of my suggestions here, but they will be circulated with approximate distances as soon as possible after the Committee and R.T.T.C. have approved them. This will give prospective riders time to run over any part of the course not well known to them. This I strongly advise, as although every effort will be made to marshal all points at which a rider might divert from the course, it is impossible to cover every cross or junction road and it is up to the rider to see he has a fair knowledge of the route.

Another alteration I should like to make from previous years is one which has been operated with much success by the promoters of several big Association and Open 12 hour events. That is to have no central station for solid feeding, but only to provide ample drinks and sponges round the course. This proposal has been made for several reasons, the main one being that recently, riders have taken much more interest in this question of what is best to eat on the half day event. The result being that each individual rider has come to some conclusion as to what suits him and at what distances he requires his feeds, so as to do his best performance. It will be understood that it is quite impossible to cater for all individual tastes and supply them at the required points, so it is felt feeding by club arrangements will lead to the best results. A study of the proposed course will also show that working from two points as close as 3 miles apart a rider can be contacted no fewer than 11 times between the 3 mile point and 186 miles. So with a little careful thought there is no reason why clubs should not be able to contact their riders and provide ample feeding arrangements without interference with the usual marshalling duties they undertake.

The second reason for this suggestion is one of shelter for riders and helpers at mileage points suitable for a fixed feeding station, since Ringmer can no longer be used. Should the weather be bad it is not so bad for the individual helper to contact a rider at an arranged point knowing the approx. time he will be there, as it is for helpers at a fixed station who have to stand around for hours on end.

I shall be glad to have probable riders' opinions as to this suggestion, but let them be soon, not a week or so before the event when it is too late to make proper arrangements, should the

Course Alteration Report (continued)

majority wish for a central feeding station.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the committee for their co-operation and the thorough way in which they considered all points and suggestions before taking a decision.

MAURICE CHAUNCY,
Chairman.

+++
FOR SALE - 23" Holdsworth, Maroon, 27" steel H.Ps. on small flanged hubs, d.f. rear, B.17N, 18" pump, alloy Tour de France bends on 3" steel extension, G.B. Coureur brakes, Superhood levers, nearly new Michelin 25's.

D.G. Touring Tandem, 21 1/2"/21 1/2", 6 speeds, 26" x 1 3/8" wheels, B.17 and B.15 saddles, good order.

Apply - J.R. Watt, 4 Fairmile Road, Sherwood Estate, Tunbridge Wells.

Will anyone interested in the purchase of a Holdsworth tricycle unriden since its collection after thorough overhaul and re-enamelling, contact me by post or 'on the road', when I shall be glad to supply full particulars, if you don't already know about my Holdsworth.

Maurice Chauncy, The Old Manor House, Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

+++
The Prof. asks (referring to the article on the Block-Age in the last issue): "How did Ron Russell know in December that we should have a candidate for the doghouse in February?"

A disquieting note - a number of caterers will not now accept bookings from cycling clubs owing to hooliganism. We are glad to say that in no case brought to our notice was an E.S.C.A. club involved - but give a dog a bad name

We are indeed sorry to read (in "Cycling") of the virtual demise of Hastings Warrior C.C. as a cycling club. However, we are assured that Neeves and his gallant crew will still be in evidence on the Sussex roads, welcome news indeed.

Our sympathy is extended to our Chairman, who had the misfortune to lose many of his personal possessions in a fire at his flat recently.

E.S.C.A. HORRORSCOPE FOR 1956

MARCH Hail, sleet and snow. "Eskimo" de Grey and dog team win Hardriders' "12". Humphrey forecasts financial crisis. G.52 Course altered.

APRIL Fog, gales and rain. Team from Lewes Wanderers actually entered for "25". Humphrey forecasts serious financial crisis. G.52 Course altered.

MAY. Neeves and Willcocks shatter Association records at 50 miles. Several club secretaries threaten strike for bigger handicaps. Sub-zero temperatures. Humphrey forecasts grave financial crisis. G.52 Course altered.

JUNE. Thunder, lightning and gales. Russell goes on hunger strike (eats normally). Grover searched by time-keeper for hidden bombs after defiant shouts of "Eoka" (union with the League). G.52 Course altered.

JULY. Willcocks stars in Old Crocks race. Rain, gales and flooding. Edwards wins Tour of Wigan Pier. Humphrey forecasts bleak financial outlook.

AUGUST. "Tourist" Agg demobbed. Mass migration of females from Chester to Lewes. "Vicar" signs for Bloodknock Cycles. Ice, sleet and snow. "Windows" D.N.F. in "25" after teeth freeze to whiskers. Humphrey states finances are at a low ebb. G.52 Course altered.

SEPTEMBER. "Spindle" challenges for B.A.R. but succumbs to Neeves. Continuous rain for three weeks. G.52 Course used by Cross-in-Hand Yacht Club. Chairman paddles punt to Committee meeting. Humphrey forecasts financial shock. Editor of "Bonk" sued for definition of character.

OCTOBER. Willcocks catches Patten in Hill-climb. Fog, snow and hail. Eastbourne Rovers' racing season starts in earnest. Humphrey forecasts dismal balance sheet on post-card from Monte Carlo.

NOVEMBER. Association A.G.M. Humphrey reports sound financial position. Marilyn Monroe elected President by unanimous vote. Bright sunshine and clear skies. Social season opens with mass inebriation. "Vicar" signs pledge after final court warning.

DECEMBER. Heat wave. Uckfield dinner held in open air (95° in the shade). Cases of sunstroke and rabies at Heathfield. Scraggly 'Erbs leave for Tour of Borneo. Female population once more return to Uckfield and district. Severe drought.

Time Trials Event Secretaries

Alterations have had to be made in the promoting secretaries of the early season time trials after the forms had been printed. Riders and Club Officials are asked to take note that entries must be sent to the official named below and not as stated on the entry forms.

25 miles, 72" gear. March 18th, 1956.

R. Humphrey, Clyde Cottage, Marshlands Road, Heathfield, Sussex.

25 miles. April 15th, 1956.

M. Chauncy, The Old Manor House, Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

Ladies 10 miles. April 15th, 1956.

M. Chauncy, The Old Manor House, Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

50 miles. May 6th, 1956.

M. Chauncy, The Old Manor House, Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

Ladies 10 miles. May 6th, 1956.

M. Chauncy, The Old Manor House, Market Street, Hailsham, Sussex.

Open Tandem 30 miles. May 27th, 1956.

R. Humphrey, Clyde Cottage, Marshlands Road, Heathfield, Sussex.

A GENUINE ADVERT.

FOR SALE. 1 pair of Sprint Wheels. Dunlop 27" x 1 1/4".

Powell Hubs. Reconditioned with new cones and balls

last season. Snip for a really keen man. 50/-.

Apply: D. Marsh, 3 Rushy Close, Ringmer, Lewes, Sussex.

PROBLEM PAGE

Your letters answered by EVELYN GRANT.

HAUNTED BY HIS PAST

I am engaged to a lovely club-girl and we plan to marry next year. We are happy together competing in time-trials and riding with the club, but I have a problem which is making me ill with worry. Several years ago (before I met my fiancée) I rode in a mass-start race promoted by the B.L.R.C. I feel that I must confess my past to her, but am afraid that if I do she will leave me. What shall I do. N.C.U. (Ringmer).

For the sake of your health you must confide in your fiancée. I do not condone your League activities, but they are now in the past and no good will be done by useless regrets. If your fiancée truly loves you, and you promise never to stray from the straight R.T.T.C. path, I am sure she will forgive and forget.

HE WORSHIPS FROM AFAR

I am greatly attracted to a lovely girl from a neighbouring town who works in Eastbourne, and long to meet her. I would like to wave to her as she goes by on her motor-scooter, but am too shy to do so; also I am afraid that she might think me fast. How can I get to know this girl and tell her my feelings?

..... S.E.N. (Eastbourne).

Well, S.E.N., faint heart never won fair lady you know; so it's up to you to make the first move. You say that you are a cyclist. Then follow her on your bicycle. Sooner or later her motor-scooter will break down, and that will be your chance to offer help and introduce yourself. Go to it, and good luck.

CANNOT CHOOSE

In my local cycle shop there are two bicycles. One is a sports model with high-pressure tyres; a bright, lively looking machine that I would love to ride. I am also greatly attracted to the other, a black roadster which I know would be safe and dependable. Which should I choose? B.F. (Polegate).

You are young, my dear, and if you are equally attracted to each of these bicycles it is obvious that you do not really want either. Join a club, see plenty of bicycles, and one day you will find the right machine.

-:14:-

PROBLEM PAGE (continued)

SHOULD I JOIN?

I have recently become engaged to a member of the local club. He now wants me to join the Tricycle Association. I do not want to but he says that if I really loved him I would not mind. What shall I do? I don't want to join the T.A., but I'm afraid of losing my fiancé. G.B. (Hastings).

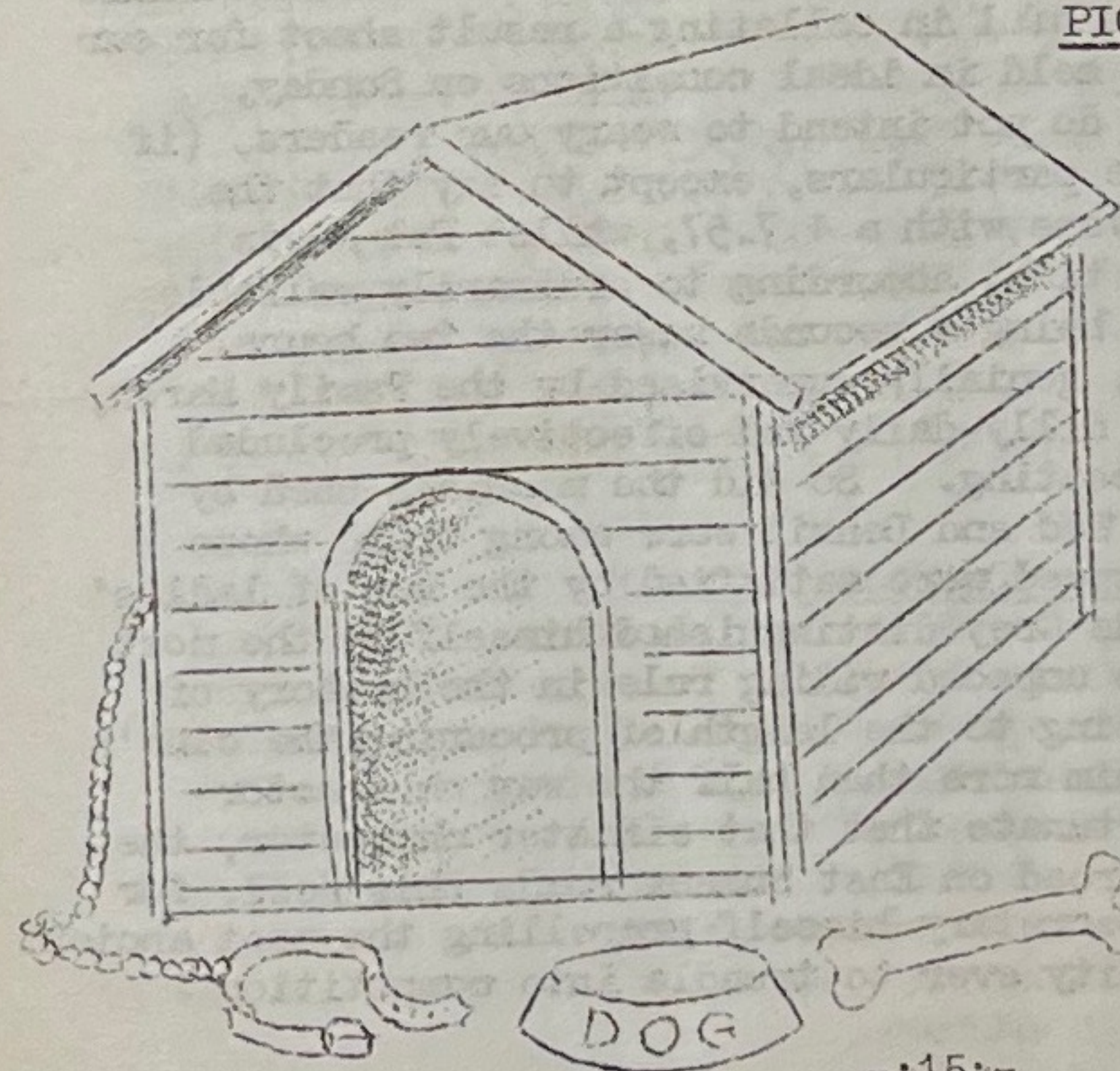
You would be most unwise to do as your fiancé asks. Once you had become a member of the Tricycle Association his interest in you would quickly wane. This young man is obviously no good to you and you would be better off without him. Wait, my dear, and one day you will meet a nice young bicycle rider who will make you happy.

To WORRIED MOTHER (Seaford): If there two young men like that living here I'd be worried, too.

Send your problems to Evelyn Grant, "BONK", Saltwood Road, Seaford, enclosing stamped addressed envelope for reply.

=====

PICTURE WITHOUT A TITLE



TO LET

Apply:
THORPE & CO.
SOLE AGENTS

-:15:-

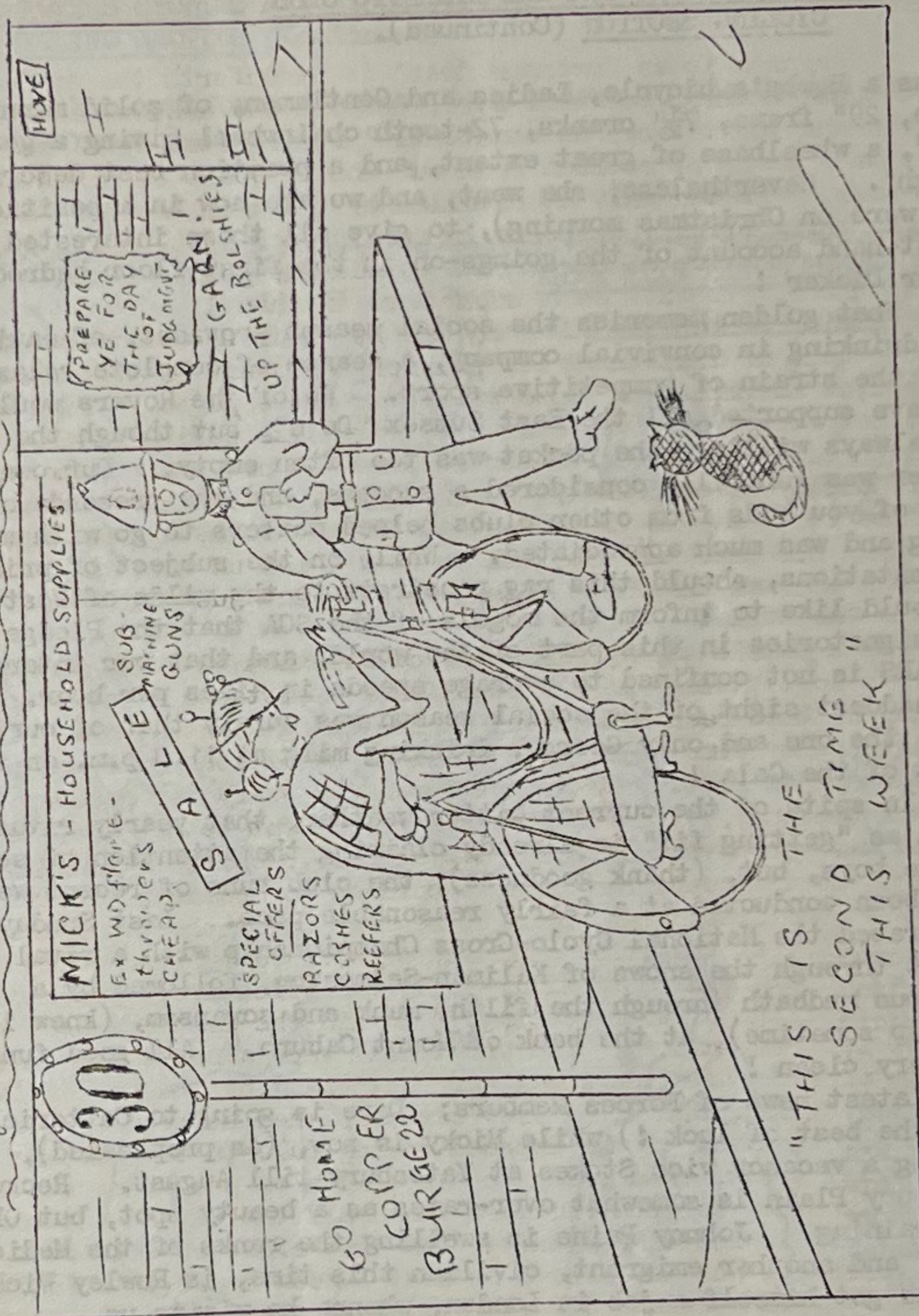
EASTBOURNE ROVERS CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB - CYCLING SECTION.

"Scransom is as Scransom does" is henceforth the motto of the Eastbourne Rovers, for this word, despite the dubiousness of its origin and legitimacy, is constantly proving its usefulness these days as a means of retreat from our too frequent conversational impasses. It can only be rivalled by its twin brother "scunsom", which, being equally catholic in meaning, or lack of it, is also soaring to the top of our verbal popularity poll. Watch out for these words, you will be hearing more of them!

Having broken the literary ice by their use, let us now draw on our well of dictionary English for the usual hotchpotch of slapstick scandal with which we deface these pages. Firstly, we must not forget our New Star. We visualise polite interest registered on the faces of our readers - a new star; who can it be? Curb your curiosity, dear friends, we are not telling - suffice it to say he is content at present to have this legend adorning his head tube for all to see. Let us hope he turns out to be a star of the first magnitude, and not just our old friend Taurus the Bull!

As a result of day and night calculation with the aid of Jim Clark's log. tables and the occasional assistance of an electronic brain, we have been successful in collating a result sheet for our Christmas Day Club "25", held in ideal conditions on Sunday, December 25th last. We do not intend to weary our readers, (if either remains), with the particulars, except to say that the event was won by Ken Stevens with a 1.7.57, whilst Pat Novis brought up the rear, her time, according to ordinarily reliable sources (the Timekeeper) being 8 seconds under the two hours. Wine-bibbing at the Turn, genially supervised by the Family Marsh, encouraged the riders to dilly-dally and effectively precluded any possibility of hour-beating. So did the machines used by a number of the riders; Ted and Denzil were among those whose aspirations to Yuletide speed were satisfied by the use of ladies' roadster cycles, and M. de Grey distinguished himself by the most shameless flouting of the unpaced riding rule in the history of time trial sport, even going to the length of procuring the club's Best Allrounder to pace him more than half the way on a motorcycle! It is indeed fortunate that that sinister character, the RTPC Observer, was not abroad on East Sussex roads this Noël, for was not our Time Trials Secretary himself propelling the most ancient and unroadworthy monstrosity ever to trundle into competition?

Life in the Constabulary



EASTBOURNE ROVERS CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB
CYCLING SECTION (Continued).

'Twas a Bobby's bicycle, Ladies and Gentlemen, of solid manufacture, 29" frame, 7½" cranks, 72-tooth chainwheel giving a gear of 123", a wheelbase of great extent, and a position best described as "high". Nevertheless, she went, and we are now in a position, (or were on Christmas morning), to give all those interested a first-hand account of the goings-on in the first-floor bedrooms of Lower Dicker !

What golden memories the social season provides, of eating and drinking in convivial company, a season of complete relaxation from the strain of competitive sport. We of the Rovers would like to have supported all the East Sussex "Do's", but though the spirit was always willing, the pocket was too often empty. Our own Dinner was generally considered a success, and the presence of so many of you bods from other clubs helped matters to go with a swing and was much appreciated. While on the subject of prize presentations, should this rag penetrate to the wilds of West Sussex, we would like to inform the moguls of the SCA that the Pledge has few signatories in this part of the world, and that our interest in BARS is not confined to average speeds in miles per hour. The saddest sight of the social season was surely that of our Track Sec., the one and only George, drinking milk at 11.0 p.m. on the night of the Gala !

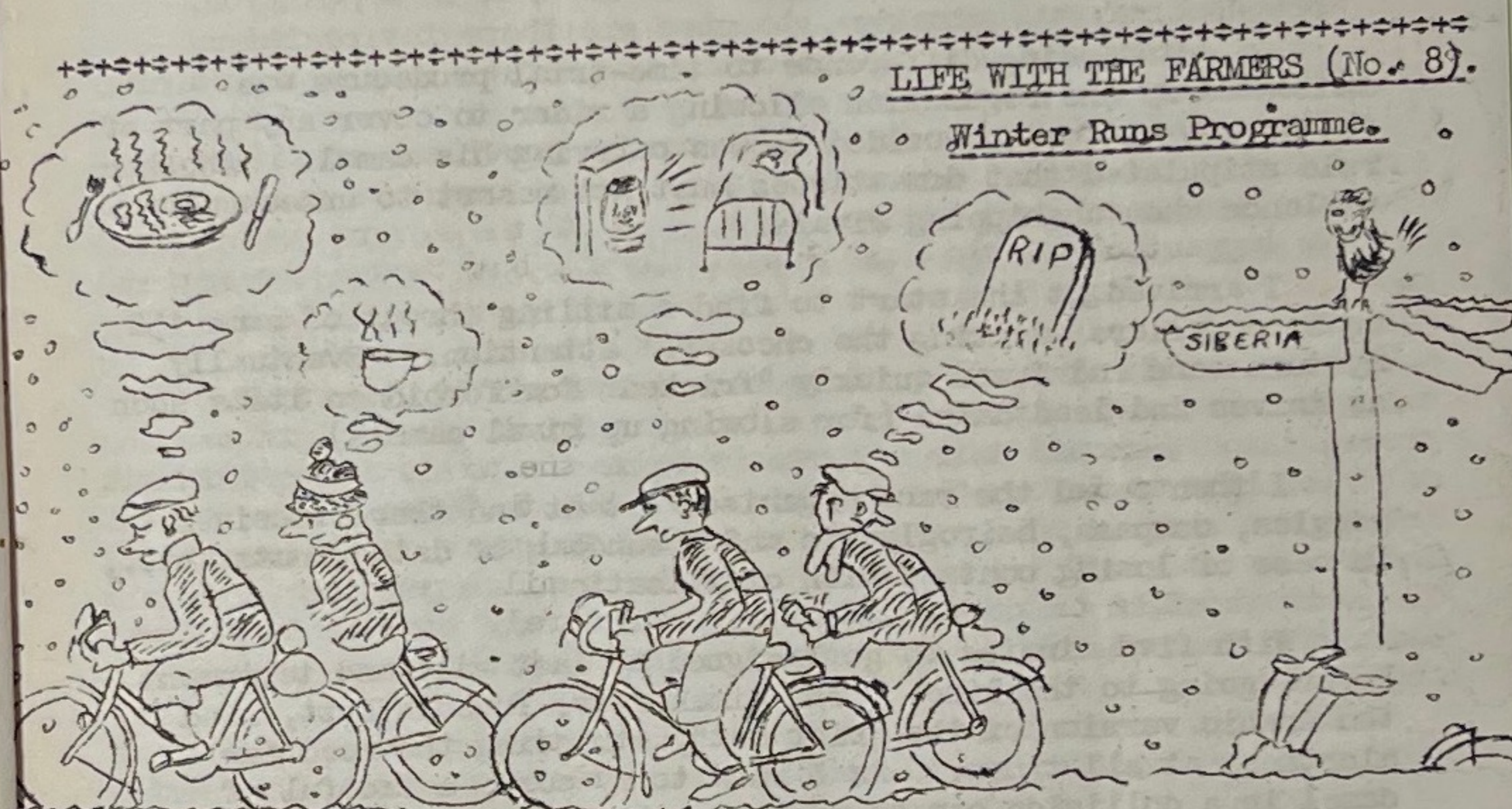
In spite of the current bitter weather, that yearly ritual known as "getting fit" is already claiming the attention of some of the boys, but, (thank goodness), the club runs of recent weeks have been conducted at a fairly reasonable pace. Last Sunday we celebrated the National Cyclo-Cross Championship with a rival effort through the snows of Kiliman-Selmeston, followed by a glorious mudbath through the filth, muck and scransom, (knew it'd turn up sometime), at the back of Mount Caburn. All good fun, if not very clean !

Latest news of Forces Members; Dave is going to Catterick - (and the best of luck !) while Micky is now, (as prophesied), filling a vacancy vice Stokes at Yatesbury till August. Reckons Salisbury Plain is somewhat over-rates as a beauty spot, but OK for training. Johnny Paine is swelling the ranks of the Medical Corps, and another emigrant, civilian this time, is Rowley Wickham, who has got himself a job in London, whence he visits us occasionally.

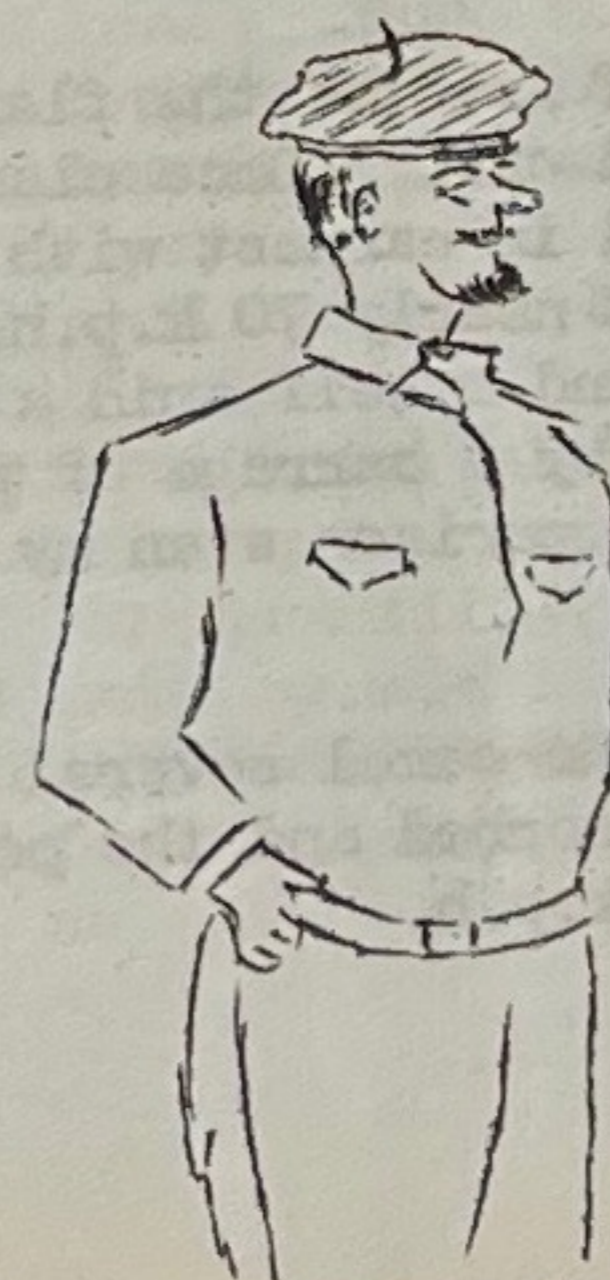
EASTBOURNE ROVERS CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB
CYCLING SECTION (Continued)

Must say bye-bye for now - have to pop down to the Garage for a drop of anti-freeze before they close ! Cheers.

"LAND-ROVER"

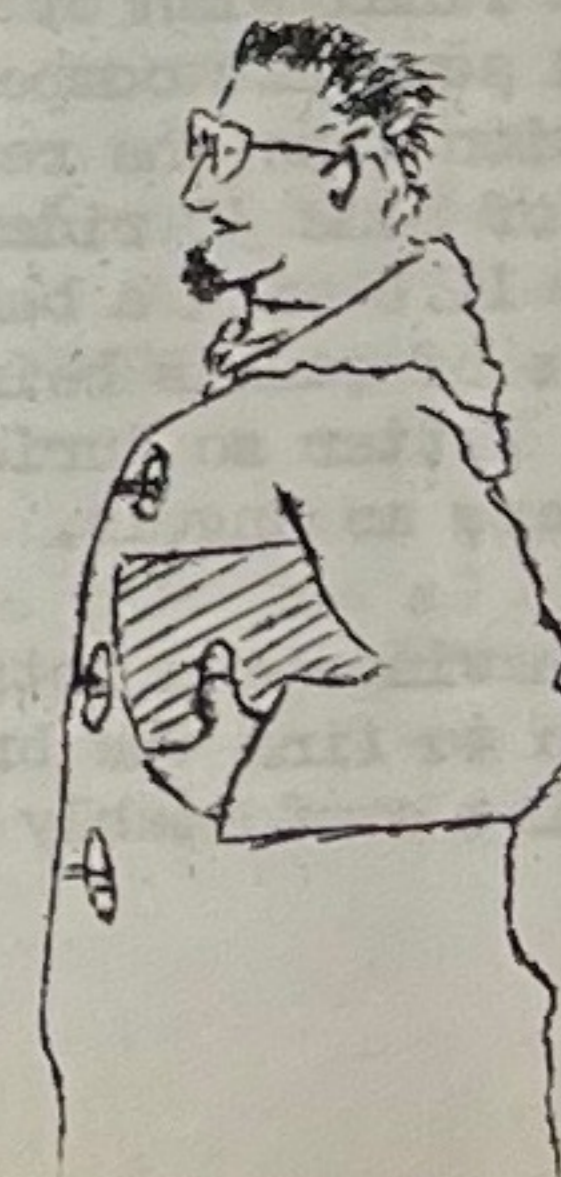


LIFE WITH THE FARMERS (No. 8).
Winter Runs Programme.



BAA !
 BAA !

--:19:--



Seen in the Uckfield Clubroom in this year of Grace 1956. I ask you, what have we done to deserve this ?

CAMEL MASS - STARTS

Professor J. Grover, I.M.

The last of my camel-racing experiences while in the Middle East was undoubtedly the toughest of them all - participation in the 2,000 KM Tour of the Sweet Water Canal, promoted by the Sahara League of Racing Camelhandlers.

An outstanding difference to time-trial procedure was indicated by one regulation allowing a rider to cover any part of the course on foot, provided he was carrying his camel. Another rule stipulated that domestiques must not resort to unnecessary violence when unshipping rivals.

I arrived at the start to find a milling throng of some 150 or so cameliers awaiting the checkers' attention. Eventually my turn came and I was quickly "frisked" for forbidden items such as knives and lead dates (for slowing up rival camels).

I then found the race organiser's tent and there received goggles, compass, hieroglyphic and a sandbag of dates, nuts, etc., in case of losing contact with civilisation.

With five minutes to go I signed my last will and testament before going to the line. The timekeeper, Yuvadia Lott, read the Arabic version of the "riot act", stressing the need for alertness at all times. As I know to my cost, a faceful of camel in a collision can be most upsetting.

With a final wish of "the best of Arabic" the flag was lowered and some 200 competitors moved off. Once clear of the neutralisation zone the racing started in earnest with a break-away group of some 30 riders moving at nearly 70 k.p.h. The peloton came to life with a bang and I found myself amid a seething, surging mass of camels being urged on by a barrage of pleas and curses, the latter so lurid that by comparison even my E.S.C.A. colleagues are as angels.

After having been rotated round the camel several times I at last came-to to find the breakaways absorbed and the peloton once again cruising comfortably at some 55 k.p.h.

CAMEL MASS-STARTS (continued)

Suddenly a huge figure, who towered above his companions, came to the fore with flashing scimitar and bottle of Coca-Cola poised ready to strike. This was Pharoah Phowl, and his electrifying exit from the bunch told me that this was "it".

Immediately the peloton became a screaming, fighting horde intent on catching the fugitive who was gaining steadily. My camel also chose this moment to leave the peloton - in reverse. However, I whispered some choice Arabic phrases into his ear and the result was sensational. In no time we had caught and dropped the peloton and were in hot pursuit of the breakaway. Our speed at this juncture was such as to render Pegasus like an inebriated carthorse by comparison.

8 KM to go and the leader being overhauled rapidly! I could now see him clearly lunging frenziedly at his steed. Palms were flashing past with the continuity of a fence as we drew level and then I sensed trouble as a Coca-Cola bottle hit the sand, just missing my head. Others followed, as well as lead dates and other missiles, but before he could wield his scimitar I was out of range. Shortly afterwards I was once more among the Wogs and dogs, etc., and crossed the line to a thunderous ovation from the packed crowds.

Later I was presented with a gilt-framed picture of the Sweet Water Canal and told that I had also won a week's sightseeing tour by desert caravan.

On that happy note I'll close, as shortly afterwards I was posted to Cyprus where, alas, camels are unknown.

I trust that readers' knowledge has been enriched by my humble efforts to publicise a little-known aspect of competitive sport as practised on the other side of the Sand Curtain.

J.G.

CENTRAL SUSSEX CYCLING CLUB

Hello, once again, from the Central. Last time we wrote we were wishing you all a Merry Xmas and saying: "See you at the so-and-so dinner"; now it's "fill in this entry form, see you at the start". In a couple of weeks time the Hardriders' 12 will have been ridden and forgotten, but if this freezing weather keeps up I wonder how many will brave the start. I hope to be there WATCHING (no, not as a timekeeper!)

Before I get too deep into racing matters I would like to say that we had a very successful social season. Our club dinner went off very well and featured a Fancy Dress parade which was won by Sid Stoner and brother John dressed in a complete contrast of cycling wear over the past 25 years. Sid was covered in black from neck to feet, i.e., tights, etc., and looked very dismal as a time-trialist. John was the complete reverse, being attired in black shorts, gaily-coloured club jersey and white racing cap with white socks, and carrying numbers, a "tub" round his shoulders and feeding bottles, apparel unimaginable in bygone days.

The second prize went to Don Cook who appeared as a tramp complete with pram and paraffin lamps blazing. The part looked so realistic that he was passed unnoticed on his way to the hotel, apart from being asked by two other "Knights of the Road" if they could join him on his travels!

President Frank Leppard carried about a dozen cardboard boxes front and back entitled "Bonk packets I carry throughout the season". Mrs. Leppard (Frank's squaw) was dressed as a Red Indian so by now he's probably been scalped (perhaps I shouldn't have said that). We also visited our usual friends at their club dinners, inc. the Heath CC, Uckfield, E. Grinstead, also Southern Whs. Alas, the gay nights are now over, the strains of "knees up Mother Brown", "Nellie Dean" &c are fading in the breeze till next year. We are looking forward to our racing season and give a hearty welcome to Ken & Barbara Atkins (ex Kingston Phoenix). They are both good riders and we are extremely pleased to have company in racing for our Brenda, who no doubt will do the club justice again this year. By the way, Brenda hasn't felt lonely exactly during the social season, she has been well looked after by Tony (Heart-throb) Honess, who we are glad to say is back & will be riding for the club again. Another new member we are pleased to say had joined 1st claim is Miss Kathy Thorpe (sister to Arthur). She comes out on the club runs. The first she attended caused quite a stir (more on that later) - as she was missed by Mum and Dad. This caused the whole of the E.Sx. Police to be alerted by a "999" call, as "missing from home". Squad cars toured

Central Sussex C.C. (continued).

the county while all the time Kathy was enjoying a pineapple juice, and sitting with Ken Griffiths on the settee at the Gardeners' Arms, singing "My Boss-eyed Nellie", with the "Vicar" accompanying them on the piano. (The classis song of Boss-eyed Nellie is copyright as sung at the CSCC Annual New Year's Party held at Brewery Arms, Ockley). As far as I'm concerned the least said about that night the better. No doubt someone will have something to say about it later on. Back to the "stirring". The spoon I have presented to me at the Uckfield dinner has been well and truly christened, and has managed to put poor old A.W.D. in the "Dog House" for a fortnight, not only him, but also me as I was only able to come out last Sunday at tea time. Latest development is that Geoff Boxall and I are having to "take the can back" for certain Black edged cards being delivered to the Thorpe residence (SHAME). Our club runs are still very strong and well-attended. Last Sunday, after the snow-storm, while taking a bend at Cowfold, one rider skidded and 14 out of 15 following crashed to the deck. What a shambles! Just one mass of bodies & piled up machines - a complete convoy of cars was forced to stop. The club had an enjoyable run to Midhurst last week, also enjoying skating on the ice on the "Benbow Pond" at Cowdray Park. Yours truly also had the misfortune to collide with a strange damsel who was using the same slide, only in the opposite direction. The job of Hon.Gen.Sec. is still being carried on by Don Goodfellow, Racing by S.L. Hobden, with yours truly as Hon Social Sec. We have now introduced a special cup for our Junior section as the "Junior B.A.R." - 10, 15 & 25 miles.

Well I shall have to come to a close, so I will do what was said by Colin Whittingham when we attended the West Sx. R.C. dinner, i.e.: "Put my fist in my cake 'ole & clip up my clap-trap". All the Best in the Season to you all - see you at the Start. BRRR - Amen ...The Vicar.
P.S. No nasty cracks about us coming off our bikes in the snow - at least we were riding them!

+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+=o=o=o=o=o=o=o=o=+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+:+

HASTINGS & St. LEONARDS C. & A.C.

1. Dinner Report. Our 80th Annual Dinner was held at the Castle Hotel on the 28th January, 1956. 125 members and guests were in attendance. The toast to the club was proposed by Mr.H.H. England, President of the North Road C.C., who sketched the history of the club over the last 80 years. He was aided in his task by Mr. J. Southerden who had spent considerable energy delving into old minute books. Thank-you Jack. Mr. Chauncy, in responding to Mr. England's speech, remarked "that after such an experienced speaker it was rather like the case of following up the Lord Mayor's Show". Nevertheless Mr. Chauncy made a polished speech. Many, like myself, will best remember our 80th anniversary by Mr. Ted Harrison's nostalgic speech. He told of his ride to Hastings that day to attend the dinner. Overtaken by mist on Ebdens Hill, Mr. Harrison suddenly found himself riding in strange company: "out of the gloom appeared two cyclists riding upright machines. We hailed each other and found we were all bound for the same destination ... As we rode I overheard them addressing each other as Tolly and Dan. There seemed to be others, many others, in their company, names I could not catch. Now it may have been the mist or a trick of the light, I don't know, but as we came out of mist our companions of the road disappeared with it. But, gentlemen, I can assure you they are all with us to-night. The awards were presented by Mrs. England. Then followed a convivial evening's entertainment and dancing, with Mr. Oliver as a competent M.C. A memorable dinner came to an end at 11.45 p.m. with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Thank you all for a wonderful evening.

2. Club Notes.

50 years ago (1906 to you) the club's Good Friday run was to Battle, meeting the Eastbourne Rovers at the Chequers for a hot lunch. These hot lunches were an annual feature in bygone days and it seems quite possible that the club's first such run was on Good Friday 1876. Our captain, Maurice Carpenter, called upon a certain household in ye olde Cinque Port of Hastings on the last day of 1955. After a few glasses of home-made wine he tried to make his way home. On the following day, Sunday, he feebly attempted to convince us that he had found it necessary to push his machine home the previous night because of the strong wind.

Our Xmas tea, held at the Royal Oak, Watlington, was once again a great success. A free tea was raffled, or rather, a refund was given to the lucky person drawing the winning ticket - 144 farthings to be exact, wasn't it, Ron? Games followed for all except those members who were still striving to drink the Royal Oak dry. These same members had a return onslaught on the Oak's cellars at Percy's New Year's supper. 11 members attended this function and whilst doing themselves justice to the liquid amenities of the Oak a solid meal was masticated. At first the general discussion centred on last year's exploits but as the evening wore on, events, past and present, became decidedly vague. Arthur, in particular, suffered an acute bout of amnesia - he left both his jumper and pot behind and had to be taken home by Percy. Even so, how did it occur that whilst Percy reached home at 2.30 a.m. Arthur did not reach his house until 3.30 a.m. ? - it must be those long garden paths. On the same evening Mr. & Mrs. King's residence at Boreham Street was inflicted with other club members congregating to greet the New Year.

On the first day of January, 1956, the club narrowly missed disaster when an elm tree fell across the road near Paines Corner. Soon after this Ian nearly sent an old lady into hysterics by ringing his bell as she was searching for some money she had dropped. On the same day Maurice was obviously feeling merry having sampled the first real Weald cider he had tasted since his homecoming.

We now have 5 tricyclists in the club who claim complete immunity in icy conditions. But they don't say how they ride uphill - as one member can tell you who had to push his trike up a certain hill in St. Leonards. Mind you, this weather is ideal for a club that is used to cold storage!

I have been informed that Bob Downey's nuptials are likely to take place earlier than was published in the last issue of "Bonk". In the crystal I see another matrimonial event in the offing - all the best G.K.

Up to the time of this going to press the weather has not been very kind. Early season training rides in preparation for the coming season have suffered accordingly. Social runs, however, have not been damped. For instance, yesterday, that is the 19th of February, despite a heavy fall of snow 6 members were out all day, with lunch at Wittersham and tea at Brookland where 3 other members arrived.

In conclusion, we would like to wish all our fellow clubs the very best for the coming racing and touring season. C.R.S.

+++++
Ref - Uckfield & Dist. C.C. Notes on pages 5 to 7 - late postscript:-

STOP PRESS - (by Tin Can Mail to Gib., thence to Uckfield by pigeon Post). Picture postcard of troopship "Devonshire", with "X" marking the spot where Rob was "standing on his nose in the Bay of Biscay". ("A" Deck? - You're slipping, Rob!). Not sea-sick (so far), so, as there are 120 on his troop-deck, is getting 119 extra extra rations. Finds he can just manage with two hammocks joined lengthwise.

For all your

Racing and Touring Equipment

WRITE OR CALL

Strudwick's

Oxford - Street, Brighton

Tel Brighton 21461

Carlton

Rotrax

Claud Butler

F. R. LEPPARD

British and
Continental
Lightweight
Accessories

Clock Cycle Stores Wheel Building
Cookfield A
Sussex. Speciality

Hill Special

Holdsworth

Ellis-Briggs

—THE HOUSE OF RIX—

*Members of the National
Association of Goldsmiths*

*Established in Hastings
in 1865*

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| * Sports Trophies | | * Silverware |
| * Shields | | * Jewellery |
| * Watches & Clocks | | * Glass & China etc. |

*Specialists
in
Waterproof
Watches*

RIX

*Old Gold etc.
bought for
Cash - highest
prices paid*

(HASTINGS) LTD.

5 & 6 Albert Road - Hastings - Telephone 3455

G. BENNETT

Sports Printer

19, Cliftonville Road,
St. Leonards-on-Sea

printer of this Cover