

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



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NEW SERIES - No. 17.

SPRING 1957

EDITORIAL

Dear Readers,

Time has really been flying by. We distributed the Christmas edition, mopped the editorial brow, went to a dinner or two and then suddenly it was February, with Press deadline, and worse still the racing season looming ominously close. Our remarks in the last edition re the shortness of the social season were underlined by the unfortunate clash in January when Eastbourne Rovers, the Sussex C.A. and East Grinstead had their functions on the same evening. However, we personally found the past social season, short though it was, a very enjoyable one, and would like to congratulate the dinner organisers concerned on their successful efforts. We are now launching a crusade with the worthy aim of having club dinners once a month instead of once a year. Several prominent East Sussex socialites have promised their support, so rally to the standard, men, you can sell your sprints and tubulars to pay for the tickets.

And now we join "R.H." in welcoming to the Association the Southborough and District Wheelers, who have lost no time in contributing to these pages. With this new blood from the north, Rye Wheelers about to re-affiliate and the Albion pulling through after near oblivion, the Association's affairs and finances should now begin to take the upgrade again. Given a fair ration of sunshine the coming season should be a good one, so ---- here's hoping.

Yours in sport,

D.N.

Gen from the Secretary

First I would like to extend a hearty welcome to the Association to Southborough & District Wheelers, who have recently been admitted to membership. Quite a few of their members are already known to us, and by the time you read these notes I expect we shall have had the pleasure to meet them at the start of our first Time-Trial of the season.

Once again the Social Season has been most enjoyable and as is usually the case far too short. Our own Prize Presentation & Luncheon and the Party held recently at Polegate were first-class successes, with very good attendances at both. Our Social Secretary Dennis Neeves is to be congratulated on the way in which he organised and ran the Party.

At the Annual General Meeting a few changes of Officials took place, Norman Edwards was elected Chairman in place of Maurice Chauncy, Dennis Neeves took over as Social Secretary, and Reg Eldridge was elected Assistant Racing Secretary and will be responsible for promoting the four 25 mile Time-Trials. Our sincere thanks are due to Maurice Chauncy for all the work he has done on our behalf during the past few years, he really has done a great job, many thanks, Maurice.

The position regarding the proposed Road Race is none too certain at the moment due to petrol rationing, as in the promotion of such an event at least one car and a motor-cycle are required for the use of Officials. I have worked out a course with the co-operation of the Police, and this will come before the Committee at the next meeting on March 3rd, when it may be possible to fix a date for the event as by then the position regarding petrol rationing may be clearer.

Prospects for the coming season appear quite good, and once again we look forward to a very successful season. The courses to be used will be the same as last year. G.52 will start and finish east of Magham Down, it has been suggested that efforts be made to omit the Rushlake Green detour from the 12 hours course. If anyone can suggest any additional detour that can be added in place of this I shall be only too pleased to look into any suggestions received.

In conclusion I would appeal to one and all to remember that we shall once again be promoting our Clubman's Touring Competition. This event is open to all members whether racing or touring, and I trust that we shall this year have a much larger entry than during the past two years. Any suggestions regarding the running of the event will be most welcomed by the Committee.

R.H.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS "ALBION" C.C.

How very pleased I am to tell all our friends in the E.S.C.A. that the Albion looks likely to be reprieved. For many years our members completely dominated the Association track events, hill-climbs, and of course the Rally. Then suddenly, like a candle being snuffed out, we sank into oblivion. How this happened it's hard to say. We suffered like many other clubs, worse than most, by members being called up for National Service and not returning to active membership. Club runs and club time-trials became less frequent with fewer members and eventually ceased; no track promotions for the first time since the war, and the final blow - no Dinner! The disbanding of the club seemed merely a matter for the next A.G.M. and was in fact discussed in committee. However, the old saying: "Where's there's life there's hope" once again proved to be right. While helping the Safety-First committee as an examiner, General Sec. Jack Rogers kept his eyes peeled, and invited the few likely looking lads to come out for a short run on Sunday mornings. All the boys taking the Safety-First tests were still at school, and the hope of enough suitable lads to keep the 'Albion' going was remote. We now have six keen new paid-up members, who are active and most capable - and there are others on the way! The "old" man of the new members is a bare fifteen. Two of the others both own to these remarkable facts :- Age, just turned thirteen years; Height, 5ft. 9ins; Weight 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ stones. Club runs now take place every Sunday, and all the new 'Babes' mix well with the old men. They're all keyed up now for their first racing season, and the question is what distances to allow who to ride in! (Rogers for the 12-hrs. for a start - Ed.). The change in the new lads' equipment has been remarkable. 'Armchair' saddles have been replaced by shimmering new ones of the knife-edge variety that have given them soreness under the armpits! Free-wheels were soon replaced by fixed cogs complete with toeclips and straps, mudguards were in the main disposed of, and now on club runs I get covered in rain, mud and --- from their wheels. There is so much to tell you but time and space is short so I'll wrap up till the next edition. One last comment. One of the new lads has been nicknamed "Napoleon", because his rear end is built in a certain peculiar manner which, believe me, really does look like Napoleon's surname!

'Bye for now --

BACON BQNCÉ.

Getting the jam off the ceiling after the Dinner.



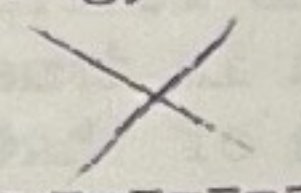
Once again this is the Central Sussex calling from one of the outposts of East Sussex. All the members have been having a most enjoyable social season, but the approach of the racing season has brought forth good resolutions such as giving up smoking and drinking in order 'to get fit'. One can hope that such resolutions will be kept and the right results achieved. Before being drawn away on such matters let's say a few words about the last few months. The club dinner was held at the Hayworth Hotel, Haywards Heath, on Dec. 1st, and was a most successful event, attended by seventy-four members and friends. The club's New Year party was held at the 'Black Horse', Nuthurst this year. Here again the response was good, and forty members sat down to an excellent tea. The remainder of the evening was spent in various ways, such as sampling the landlord's ales, stories from the President and a sing-song with the landlord's wife at the piano and records supplied by members. The records caused a little conflict between the Rock 'n Roll enthusiasts and the lovers of the quieter type of music. Still, a balance was struck in true club fashion, namely by demanding that "We have had enough of that tripe". Club runs are still strongly supported, and the mileages are being kept pretty high. Gone are the days of a lunch break from 12 - 2 p.m. There has not been any roughstuff as the members do not seem keen to get their bikes dirty. It is understandable if one is in the habit of cleaning them. The idea used to be that if you left it long enough it would fall off (the dirt I mean, not the components). The most unusual run of the year was to Petticoat Lane and the museums. The run left Cuckfield at 8 a.m., reaching London at 11.30. It nearly ended there as well, because the whole bunch tried to turn down a street marked: 'NO ENTRY'. An officer of the City Police approached and looked down at us. It was as well that Barbara was with us, as this made him more human towards us, in fact he even smiled. After such an encounter, we left our cycles at Liverpool Street and 'hoofed' it round the market. Lunch was taken at the Strand Corner House, where on leaving the club met a certain E.S.C.A. member. He was 'dressed up' with raincoat on his arm and a more surprised man you never saw. Next it was Trafalgar Square, then Hyde Park Corner, finishing at the Science Museum where the cycles and especially the lamps were admired. I said "admired" as you will notice that no Central Sussex members are using acetylene lamps.

On Sunday 17th February the club held it's annual Tourist Trial. It consisted of two groups, '100 in 8' and '50 in 3½', and altogether 55 riders entered. A greater proportion started, and most finished

Central Sussex C.C. (continued).

in the allotted time. The route was by way of Handcross, Turners Hill, East Cinstead, Tunbridge Wells, Cross-at-Hand, Hawkhurst, Heathfield and finish at the White Hart, Cuckfield. It was a tough course and the wind during the afternoon made it worse. Besides the promoting club, others taking part were Uckfield, Southern Wheelers, Worthing Excelsior, Horsham Unity, Prestonville Nomads and Kingston Wheelers. The realms of racing are at present too far ahead to predict our chances. Most hopes must be pinned on the younger riders; no doubt it will be the same old faces and names at the Association events. The club's officials for 1957 are much the same, the big change being that Frank is now club captain, a most suitable choice as he is a real clubman. Ken is still vice-captain, while Sid is now social sec. Except for a few committee changes the list of officers is the same.

We wish you all the best for the coming season, and hope the weather will be kind, especially on the time-trial mornings. Cheerio and "Bottoms up" (I forgot I should be in training, still it's only orange squash).

HIS MARK 

PEN PORTRAITS No. 6

It is said that bachelors can be detected from their less fortunate brethren by the complete absence of a "hunted" look. With this in mind one could be excused for mistaking the status of our present subject, Reginald Jeremiah Eldridge who, besides being unmarried, is a confirmed woman-hater, holding that: "An essentially manly pursuit such as cycling has no place for the obvious limitations of the female sex". (He presumably confines his remarks to the cycling limitations!). Association timekeeper and ex-racing man, "Chancellor" Eldridge is also the treasurer of Lewes Wanderers, on whose coffers he maintains a grip in comparison to which the Bank of England is an open house. His "finest hour" in this respect was in 1953 when, as cashier at a record-breaking club dance, he was observed caressing a careful of silver, &c., and grinning like a Cheshire cat. As befits an authority on the cultivation of obscure herbs he can be found at week-ends pottering around in his home-made greenhouse, artificially reviving faded sprouts and anaemic cauliflowers for sale to unsuspecting customers at his shop, which is run, as might be expected, with an eye to unlimited profits. When he finally retires from cycling administration the "Chancellor's" austere figure will be sadly missed by those of us who (figuratively) owe him so much.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB.

Laugh! They've nearly had it! While I sit here in front of a great fire, they are OUT in a cold N.E. wind trying to undo the effects of what is known as the social season. We are now in 1957, and this is our first chance to send greetings to all E.S.C.A. clubs for a successful New Year. The last few weeks have seen much effort given to "Cannibalisation", and the resulting machines are now out on trial. Why, oh why, do club enthusiasts of this age buy a good mount and immediately start mucking it about. My ears are constantly assailed by chatter re this make and that. At times also, hammer blows on cycle steel make the flesh creep. Have pity on the old 'uns chaps, we used to prize our faithful steeds, not bash 'em! Having got this chiding off my chest, on with the news from north of the border.

Club runs have received the usual early season fillip, and allied to the time of year, petrol shortage has brought back to the fold several members of our power-assisted section. Don and Co. are suckers for punishment; however, it's an ill wind --- John Terry has been conscripted at last, another good lad for the R.A.F., but a serious loss to the road team. Good luck, John, and don't forget we want you back. "Mazzy" has settled a few miles from Adelaide (the Christmas Island trip was cancelled), and secretary Sheila is kept busy with correspondence from Australia. Cyprus claims our Norman, and home service several more of our young 'uns. Quite a contingent made the trip to enjoy the Uckfield C.C. dinner and celebrations, and all enjoyed their night out, safely arriving home next morning, including the stoker of the tandem (gallantly steered by Ken), a lady whose first dual effort was certainly ambitious. The Eastbourne function was also supported by Dave and Sheila. Our new club room is well under way now at St. Lukes Hall on Friday evenings. Give us a visit sometime; games and refreshments, the lot, are well catered for. We have enjoyed two encounters, home and away, with our near rivals, the Southborough and District Wheelers. Each club won the points on it's home ground, after some tough matches at table-tennis, darts and shove-ha'penny. That is about the end of our story of winter activities. We shall soon be on the road again, opening our season in the E.S.C.A. hardriders. So best of cycling luck to all who "Have a go", and to those who just enjoy a ride, sunshine and many care-free hours.

"POP"

Individual Event Records as at 1st January, 1957

		H. M. S.	
<u>12 Miles Hardriders</u>			
D. de Grey	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	33 45	1956
<u>25 Miles 72" Gear</u>			
D. de Grey	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	1 4 45	1956
<u>25 Miles</u>			
D.J. Marsh	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	58 49	1955
<u>30 Miles Tandem</u>			
A.W.D. Thorpe & C.A. Pearson	Uckfield & District C.C.	1 6 5	1952
<u>50 Miles</u>			
D.J. Marsh	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	2 1 4	1955
<u>100 Miles</u>			
D.J. Marsh	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	4 19 31	1956
<u>12 Hours</u>			
D. Stokes	Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	244.69 miles	1954
<u>Hill Climb (Wellingford Lane)</u>			
D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells Road Club	1 min. 32 ⁴ / ₅ secs.	1956

LADIES

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

Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C. Time-Trials Secretary:

J. Mayes, 87 Green Street, Eastbourne.

Team Records as at 1st January, 1957

		H. M. S.	
<u>12 Miles Hardriders.</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		1 43 13	1956
<u>25 Miles 72" Gear</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		3 20 33	1956
<u>25 Miles</u>			
Uckfield & District C.C.		3 2 14	1954
<u>30 Miles Tandem</u>			
Uckfield & District C.C.		2 14 17	1954
<u>50 Miles</u>			
Uckfield & District C.C.		6 24 19	1955
<u>100 Miles</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		13 31 3	1956
<u>12 Hours</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		700.82 Miles	1954
<u>Hill Climb (Wellingham Lane)</u>			
Tunbridge Wells R.C.		5 mins. 16 ² / ₅ secs.	1956

LADIES

<u>10 Miles</u>			
Central Sussex C.C.		55 39	1952
<u>15 Miles</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		1 24 10	1955
<u>25 Miles</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		2 23 49	1955
<u>50 Miles</u>			
Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.		5 10 22	1956

-----ooooOoooo-----

UCKFIELD & DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB.

Well, here we are again, all looking forward (!) to the racing season, with bods trying to work off the waistlines acquired during the last three months. First nail in fitness coffins seems to have been the "Farmers' Do" on Xmas Eve, when a lot of good resolutions went by the board. John and Cedric got black marks for arriving late, some excuse about a training spin which took longer than they expected, though no doubt some of the delay was due to John entertaining the Brighton crowds by perambulating on his lug'ole while Ced. guffawed with laughter from the kerbside. The same pair picked on the only real bit of winter to go exploring the Cotswolds, where Cedric had words with a garage proprietor who didn't believe in sweeping up his broken glass (this time John did the laughing). As for the activities indulged in after the party by certain people on their way home from Ripe, the less said the better, though we have heard that British Railways are suing Opera for damages - something to do with some gates.

The Jubilee Dinner proved a memorable occasion, and once again your scribe is happy to report wonderful support from friends of the Farmers from far and wide. With such company things can't help going with a swing, though of course great credit is due to the Vicar who proved such an admirable M.C. Before the festivities, however, and after the speakers who figured on the toast list had done their part, we were privileged to acclaim our President, as Lord Rupert Nevill presented him, on behalf of members past and present, with a table lamp inscribed in commemoration of his 25 years' service to the Club. "Boss", although completely taken aback (as we'd contrived to keep it a complete secret) rose nobly to the occasion in responding, and as he looked round at the tangible result of what he'd started in 1931 you could see he thought it had been well worth while. Lord Rupert took the opportunity to offer a cup in celebration of the Silver Jubilee - an offer which was promptly and gratefully accepted - and this will be awarded annually for the fastest "25" in competition.

Ted Harrison, who proposed "The Club", struck just the right note in stressing the benefits of continuity both in service to the Club and activity in cycling, a pastime for all ages. He came at great personal inconvenience, having a heavy programme next day, and we are much indebted to him for dropping the "cares of state" for an evening and visiting us at Uckfield.

The occasion was only marred by a few unavoidable absences, notably Maurice and John through illness, and Roy Siggs, called up to the R.A.F. only 12 days before. However, in spite of all our

Uckfield & District C.C. (continued)

forebodings Rob made it back from Cyprus in time, and came to the Dinner as a "civvy". Some of us celebrated his homecoming again a few days later, unfortunately in attempting to record the scene for posterity yours truly banged two exposures off on the same film and thus lost a chance of blackmailing the Vicar.

Incidentally the latter hasn't said so much about the Prof falling off his bike since he's had his finger in a sling. And that was one time the Old Master didn't get away with it either, and Griff was able to laugh his head off at his "MATES" strewn all over the deck.

Roy survived his squarebashing and came home on a "48", full of the joys of spring, having wangled a stores-bashers' course. No signing on for Siggy, who's due for a week's leave in March.

Most recent amusements have been reliability trials, in which the more energetic types have taken part, while the rest of the bods have benefited by extra rations at tea. Your scribe was vouchsafed the sight of the Farmers' entry bashing away in line astern in a "100 in 8" and looking remarkably unlike tourists, but to his eternal regret he missed Thorpe falling off his bike at Broad Oak, all bitter and twisted, but anyway we gather that A.W.D. is determined to prove he CAN ride a bike so has entered for the Hardriders (only 12 miles).

Although we are quite accustomed to trikes these days, both single and tandem, I have the privilege of announcing to a startled public that the barrow to end all barrows is about to burst upon their startled gaze. Discovered on a farm about a year ago this amazing machine has now been recovered and after a somewhat hectic journey propelled by Messrs. Whittingham and Boxall is now being renovated. You wait till you see it, children!

Next item on the agenda is the much looked forward to trip to the Big City, organised by the Vicar, and now I must say Best of British to one and all, from the Prof, and hand you over to my reverend colleague.

Wotcher cocks and cockesses; once again I've been approached by Norman to have a few lines in our noted magazine 'BONK'. It seems a long time since the last edition, but I'm personally pleased that the mag is still popular and keeping up with the turn of events - thanks to our much roaring editor.

It seems as if this year was a good year for club dinners, and we at Uckfield can most certainly say that ours went off very well indeed. We catered for ninety-seven persons, which is a pretty good number for any club dinner. I'm sure that those who took part

Uckfield & District C.C. (continued).

in the key game afterwards will appreciate how I came to be presented with a large wooden one by A.W.D. It is now one of my prize possessions and hangs by the back door of "The Bays" - the memories each time I look at it gives me no end of relief. Well, how that the social season is over for this year, all one can do is to bash on regardless during that 'orrible season until one can relax again; although when the racing season is in full swing it's funny you still seem to have your moments (I must watch this bloke - Ed.). No doubt at some time or other somebody will mention the fact that I had a finger in plaster through cracking the bone when falling from my bicycle (drunk again - Ed.). I don't wish to drag my two muckers through the mire, so will say nothing about it except to assure you that it happened before opening time and could not possibly be connected with booze (sorry, I take it all back - Ed.). What's the stuff like, anyway; I've heard mention of it from time to time. However, the finger is now free from plaster and working quite well again. 'Course I've always said that you just can't do Hands, Knees - and Booms-a-Daisy while riding bikes, net result is just 'Booms'. Much amusement has been caused by our cyclist/runner C.D. Whittingham and his latest lighting equipment in this 1957 era. We find ourselves among a fraternity walking backwards to Christmas, and using acetylene lamps, not cycle ones but motor-cycle lamps! Nothing so common as batteries or dynamos, but just what happens when he runs out of water or freezes up ??? The latest news really staggers me, that being that David Dalziel is now riding a tandem; but I'm relieved to hear that David sits on the back while Pete Leppard steers - makes life a lot simpler, don't it?

We now have two veterans (V.T.T.A.) in the club, as on Feb. 16th young Ken Griffiths became of age, and together with our other veteran H.G. Achard we hope they do us good honours. No reason why Ken shouldn't be the second man to beat the hour at over forty, and we wish him luck should he try. Have a go Ken, you know you're as old as you feel (Think I'll retire). Latest craze with the boys is Reliability trials, and my spies were in action last Sunday. I myself not being present, my agents inform me that in last week's Central Sussex trial only four - repeat four persons are entitled to certificates as only J. Dutson, F. Leppard, Horace Achard and one odd bod not known by name kept to the proper course which went down the A264 through Hartfield, the rest taking B2110 and omitting about three miles of the course, only completing 97 miles in 8 hours and not 100 in 8. This I am told was investigated by A.W.D. and C.A.P. However, they had many followers. Perhaps somebody can throw some light

on this; after all, 100 in 8 is 100 in 8.

Well, I'm sorry I haven't got anything on the Editor in this issue (Pheew! - Ed.). Perhaps I may have something for the Stop Press. However, I'm glad to hear that the Association party was a success although by reports at hand the boys couldn't manage all the food - poor show. Anyway, good show Dennis. Now folks I must sign off, as I'm at the Prof's house writing this and it's his electric light I'm burning. Oh yes, he is here together with his wife and Geoff. I'm not one of those people who only visit 24, Harcourt Road when Norman is out - leaving his better half indoors (Stir)..... There has been quite a lot of controversy over who sent Mrs. Edwards the Valentine card - they've certainly got a fast moving postman in the Uckfield area.

Well, cheerio for now - see you on the road 'orrible thought.

Amen.

THE VICAR.

1984 (PART 2)

With lunch over, and the last of the stragglers having been frog-marched back to their places by the Peoples Police, the officers resumed their places, only to jump back in alarm when a figure was seen crouching under the table. In a trice he was pounced on and hauled to his feet, to be revealed as Chancellor Eldridge, who had been searching all through the lunch break for a lost halfpenny. This scare over, the meeting then recommenced with the racing secretary coming under heavy fire after he had disclosed that during the past season G.52 had been altered fourteen times, the '50' course six times, and the '100' course twice. A minor snag had occurred here due to a number of riders arriving at the wrong start after the course had been altered on Saturday nights. Uproar then ensued, particularly when A. Coleman sarcastically reminded the racing secretary of the necessity of keeping the Association's courses in Sussex so as to avoid having to travel to the start by train. The chairman then intervened by brandishing an anti-tank mine, saying that it was very evident that far too many members were indulging in the treasonable habit of thinking for themselves. In a democratic organisation like the E.S.C.A. this could only be interpreted as a slur on the officers who had been chosen by the people to think for them, and such conduct would no longer be tolerated. The secretary next reported that the New Year party had been a great success, and that all those injured in the games were now out of

1984 (continued)

hospital. In passing he mentioned that the prominent Eastbourne member who put the time-bomb under the officials' table at the Luncheon had been sentenced by the committee to participate in the 55 stage, 5,000 Tour of Murmansk. The sale of tickets for the thirty-five draws promoted had been encouraging, and it was proposed to increase the number to fifty-two so that members could "Eat, sleep and think" draw tickets while benefiting Association funds and also ensuring a bumper honorarium for the secretary.

The question of promoting several road races next year was then broached, and immediately some skirmishes broke out. When these had been silenced the matter was put to the vote, resulting in a win for those in favour by 295-5. P. Bliss promptly leapt to his feet and demanded a recount, saying: "If such a step is taken, the E.S.C.A. will engender the concerted disapprobation of all time-trialling organisations". R. Russell supported this view and added: "Yes, and furthermore, a lot of people will take a dim view of us, too". All protests having been over-ruled, it was decided to review the awards for next season. The Chairman said that it gave him great pleasure to announce that in future winners of E.S.C.A. events would in addition to normal awards, receive signed photos of himself and the racing secretary - a gesture which he felt sure would meet with the reception it warranted. The racing secretary then asked for prizes for the opening 150 mile road race, which would be held in the Dallington-Robertsbridge area in mid-February. N. Edwards set the ball rolling with a donation of two pairs of tyre-savers. C. Pearson promised a carbide lamp, but P. Bliss's offer of a loaded revolver was politely declined amid much merriment.

The chairman then announced that as there was no other business, the usual policy of allowing the officers an hour's start on the multitude would be followed, with suitable co-operation from the Peoples' Police. He would therefore close the meeting with a vote of thanks to all those who ensured the continuance of the free and democratic policy of the East Sussex Cycling Association.

EAST GRINSTEAD C.C.

Ideas are often inspired in strange places. Prof. Joad used to say that his best ideas came on the upper decks of London buses, while Archimedes was reputed to have thought up his Principle in his bath. However, it is not because I want to emulate the great that this is being written in the middle of the North Sea (on a ship, of course). The reason for this strange state of affairs is that my training for the racing season includes a fortnight's ski-ing holiday in Norway between my demob from the R.A.F. and having to face the terrible ordeal of working for a living. As I haven't seen much of the club lately my 'gen' is a bit sparse but here's what I've managed to piece together. The club is on the upgrade once again after it's bad spell due to several members being in the forces. Don, Pete and Crow are now 'out', which leaves only Gordon Leaney, who was last heard of in the R.A.F. at Catterick, and should be out in August. Everybody seems to be raring to go with an eye on team places during '57. Some types even envisage getting yours truly to ride in the 12 hours, to make up the team. Well, I can tell them that red hot irons wouldn't make me - unless they hurt! One interesting aspect of our club life seems to be the training runs. The old idea of cycling out to a country pub or cafe seems to have been replaced by club runs to cinemas in neighbouring towns, the Horley branch being the reigning favourite. Two members have been terminating their training runs at various London jazz clubs, and returning in the early hours, while one member, it was revealed at the club dinner, rolled up to a symphony concert at the Royal Festival Hall in shorts and a sweater bearing the club badge. His excuse was that he thought it was a 'beat evens' lecture, but when he got inside it turned out to be a Beethoven evening!

Our club dinner on the 19th January was a great success and attracted the same number as last year despite petrol rationing. Although Bill Francis was East Sussex B.A.R. champion, the club B.A.R. was won by Don Lock. Our B.A.R. includes a '25' but not a '12 hours', which may have something to do with it. Micky Robinson collected the hill-climb championship for the umpteenth time as well as the 25 mile championship, and the rest of the prizes for various club events worked out very evenly. The evening was rounded off by some very good entertainment. By the time this gets into print - assuming the Editor can read it, the Hardriders will have been run and speculation will be rife as to the result of the Medium Gear '25'. Yes, how that racing season creeps up on us when it only seemed yesterday that we had our Christmas day club run to Godstone.

EASTBOURNE ROVERS C. & A.C.

Well, friends, it's Hardriders time again and we from the Suntrap are saying "Hurrah" or "Woe" according to taste. Actually opinion seems to veer towards the latter sentiment. The Rovers, once feared as a crowd of hard-riding 'bashers', are fast succumbing to the insidious influence of two gentlemen from Hastings who joined us last year. The term "Training" is becoming more and more associated with a comfortable trip by British Railways, so don't be surprised to see a big crowd from Eastbourne on the Cheltenham excursion. Our esteemed President, "Bill" Collins, just about wound up the social season when, in company with Roy Humphrey and Association V.P. Maurice Chauncy, he attended a Kent and Sussex Fellowship luncheon at Cranbrook. Here he was presented with a Fellowship trophy awarded "For services to cycling", a well deserved honour. Bill of course presided at the club dinner on Jan. 19th, while the charming Mrs. C., "Dot" to all clubfolk, presented the awards. Among the visitors were Maurice Chauncy, Dave Patten and Sheila Adams (who rode down from the Wells) and members of Eastbourne and Lewes C.T.C. sections, not forgetting past member D. Dengate, who proposed the toast to "The Club". Ace cameraman Len Price was on the qui vive, and got pictures of practically everybody, including one of the E.S.C.A. social secretary really entering into the spirit of his job (I was framed! - Ed.). Finally, a pat on the back for Horace Heath who organised and M.C'd. this very enjoyable evening. The club also supported the E.S.C.A. party to the tune of twenty-five members, headed by Bill, as Association President.

Looking further back we remember the hilarious Christmas morning '10', which was great fun in spite of the cold wind. Practically every R.T.T.C. regulation from 1 to 100 was flouted, especially those dealing with dress and unpaced riding. Motorists were agog at the sight of bicycles ridden by a Viking warrior, a scare-crow, a circus clown, and a 17th century nobleman, and other oddly dressed persons. George Henty and his partner, in immaculate top hats, rode one tandem, and Pat and Iris, in flapper-style silk pyjamas, the other. After the event riders and officials were right royally entertained by past member Arthur Cheshire (who signed on again at the dinner) at his Pevensey Bridge home; prizes were presented, and 'Whiffet' Manser, winner in 31-8, was booed for Trying. However, helped by the sequence of fine Sundays, enough serious riding has been done to keep everyone fairly fit. The runs have been well supported, despite Stan Nash's dreaded 'rough-stuff' sections. Stan and Co. have reached such distant spots as Arundel and Crawley, and with the racing season here will no doubt soon be really getting

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

down to it. Yes, there are signs of life. Brian Moore has deserted Service 52 in favour of his 'iron' for his trips to Northbourne Road, while even the Editor arrived at a recent club night by bicycle. News from our members in the Forces is that Dave Marsh has volunteered for service on the rocket range in Australia, Dave Turner is now in Germany with a Pay Corps unit, and Denzil de Grey is still at Devizes. Space and time are getting short, so cheers, see you up the road.

"SUNTRAPPER".

SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS.

Hello, members of the E.S.C.A. ! We have met some of you here and there at various times such as club dinners, but we hope to make a better acquaintance during the coming year. We have learnt a lot about your Association through 'BONK' (which we understand is a serious rival to the 'News of the World' for the scandal it reveals), and from our good friends and rivals of the Tun. Wells Road Club. Our Club captain is Warwick Dunford, whom everyone knows as "Spicer", and who has been described as "The Long Man of Heverham". Although living some fourteen miles from Southborough it is very seldom that he misses a club function of any description, and unlike most of us is always punctual. He is not exactly a teetotaler, and at a recent committee meeting was censured for being unable to tell the time without recourse to the words "Opening time", and "Before they close". His predecessor was Alan Bathurst, nicknamed Lou, and perhaps the most easily recognisable of our shower in that Nature has left him thin on top. He is now racing secretary and a great worker for the club, representing the club on various committees. Arthur Parks is often referred to as "The little chap who rides with his brake cables round his ears"; but Arthur is a statistician by trade and when it comes to filling in entry forms he can recite performances, dates and winners from memory.

Ron Hayward and Les Hayman, the secretary, are our distance men, and last year they had a splendid tussle, Les finishing with the club '50' record, and Ron coming out on top at 100 miles and 12 hours. No doubt you will meet some of our other characters engaged in the sporting and social sides of our pastime, and so I'll finish by wishing you all "Good Cycling", and a darned sight better summer in 1957.

ALGOL.

With most of the social events behind us it feels as though we have got through the winter so far, as far as the weather goes, very lucky. In spite of these wonderful conditions up to date, we have managed to find a little mud on a number of mystery runs. We felt that the 81st Annual Dinner was a great success. There was an attendance of 121 at the function, which was held at the Castle Hotel, Hastings. There was a wonderful atmosphere that night, no doubt ensured by the hard-working committee, but I think greatly boosted by the sociability of our guests. At this point I should like to thank all those who purchased raffle tickets which turned out a record success.

I know this is rather early in the year for this but I would like to remind club members that there is for the third year running a photographic competition sponsored by our good friend Maurice (Chauncy). There are two prizes, first and second, which will be presented at the club dinner. Will all those interested please contact M. Chauncy, Esq., 'By The Way', Laughton, Lewes, Sussex, or the club social secretary. The competition is open between 1st April and 31st October of this year.

So much for that, but do you realise that before the next edition of Bonk we shall be half way through the year and therefore will have the all-night run on top of us? The destination has not yet been decided, but I can tell you that it will be in the region of Chertsey. The run will last for twenty-four hours with intervals for meals, and it is hoped that about 200 miles will be covered. The run will be conducted by Tony Moorhouse, from whom you can get further information. Let's make it a record social event this year, shall we?

By the way, what do you think of a person who takes on a new job and has to catch a west bound train. After riding on the train for a time they find it is north-bound. Arriving at the new job an hour late with a taxi bill for them to pay, and saying: "Well better late than never".

I suggest that before another mystery run all machines should be spotlessly clean, as it looks so bad if you are taken anywheres. All mudguards also should be secured.

A certain member who's going to have 28" wheels will be better off. On some mystery runs it might be worth bringing a 1d. $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

It was agreed I think that the E.S.C.A. tea party was quite a successful occasion. I know that all members who attended were quite amused by the success of the M.C.

It was reported that a certain member when travelling through Lunsford Cross late one night was confronted by the nader sitting on top of a chimney at Thorne Farm, so bring in a bit of a state as to know what to do he went up to the farmer to let him know. The farmer seemed not to be surprised, but said it had been there for some time, and if it did not remove itself soon he would have to do so. Arthur now only seeing the nader dimly left the farmer to it.

It seems to me that these railway excursions are a wonderful idea if you have plenty of money. But those of us that have two fares to pay for make it no laughing matter just for one day's pleasure travelling on a train for many hours at the time, as some will recall during wartime. You people of Sussex have the most wonderful county in the country at your door-step, and are always looking for some means by which you can get away from it. It's the county that authors, playwrights, artists, poets, anglers, archaeologists, historians, holidaymakers and even cyclists flock to, and then you want to go to Cheltenham !!!

Sorry for you people that have cars, but you cyclists must admit that it is nice on the roads now without our week-end motorists, not only that you may get the A.A. to do a bit of marshalling for you this season!

The photos of the 1957 club dinner will by the time this issue is in circulation be available, half-plate 2s. 6d.

Now I think there's been enough writing, so it's time for me to wish all you racing men a fast road and you tourists many miles.

Yours truly,

C.R.S.

S T O P P R E S S

Dave Patten of Tunbridge Wells Road Club broke the Hardriders 12 record by nearly $\frac{1}{2}$ mins. and won the event by 2 mins. Result: D. Patten(T) 32-22(1); C.A. Pearson(U)34-21(2); J.R. Dutson(U)34-25(3); Team: Uckfield & District C.C. (Pearson, Dutson & R. Adams) 1-44-8. Rye and District Wheelers re-affiliate to the E.S.C.A. after four years in the doldrums. Welcome back, Archie & Co.

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FILMS & MUSIC PAGE

E.S.C.A. filmgoers should on no account miss the new film "THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN NOSE". Tense and dramatic, with background music to match, it stars Frank Collins in his greatest 'straight' role since "From Beer to Fraternity". He plays the part of a snuff addict who struggles to conquer his craving in order to live a decent life as a cyclist, but falls foul of old associates, who tempt him to "Have a pinch", with terrible results. This film is far from being light entertainment, but should be seen by all Collins fans, and also by anyone thinking of getting 'Kicks' the snuff-box way.

A very different proposition is the new 'musical with a message' - "DON'T KNOCK THE ROCK", starring the famous Dennis Haley and his Rock-ettes, plus many other well-known purveyors of rock. Clergy, women's clubs and watch committees have all condemned the habit of eating seaside rock, and have even accused Dennis of starting riots by selling Bognor and Hassocks rock at Hastings. "DON'T KNOCK THE ROCK" sets out to show that the selling and eating of rock, far from causing juvenile delinquency, is a healthy, happy pastime, beneficial to young and old.

It is well known that many cyclists are fond of music, with tastes varying between Handel and Haley. Some cyclists are in the habit of singing as they ride along. (The author does this when the road is downhill and/or the wind is behind him). Here, then are the favourite tunes of some well-known E.S.C.A. personalities :-

Roy Humphrey	I Left my Heart in an English Garden.
Stan Nash	Keep Right on to the End of the Road.
George Palmer	Come Landlord Fill the Flowing Bowl.
The Vicar	Knees up Mother Brown.
Arthur Thorpe	Concerto for Doghouse.
Patten & Co. at the Uckfield dinner	Nice Work if you can get it.
Dave Marsh	The Green Door (or Two Lovely Black Eyes).

J.N.

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

An Association committee meeting was held at the "Ash Tree Inn", Ashburnham, on Sunday, March 3rd, with Mr. N.D. Edwards in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting held in Sept. 1956 were read and passed, with one correction. Most of the matters arising had been covered by the report on the A.G.M. Rye and District Wheelers applied for affiliation, verbally, because having only recently re-started, their secretarial side was not yet fully organised. Their application, prop. Mr. A. Colman and sec. Mr. A.J. Rogers, was passed unanimously. The Chairman read the letter of application which had been received from Southborough and District Wheelers, and the result of the postal ballot was formally ratified. Among the correspondence were letters of acceptance from several V.Ps., and one from Mr. P. Bliss saying that he did not wish to continue as an E.S.C.A. timekeeper because he personally disagreed with the Association's policy re the promotion of a road race. The committee regretted that Mr. Bliss should feel compelled to take such a step. There were also three letters from Mr. M. Chauncy raising various issues. They were all discussed, and the committee's decisions were that (a) procedure at the last A.G.M. was quite in order; (b) the question of fancy dress at Association functions could safely be left to the good taste of members; (c) Cross-toasting should end at the Loyal Toast, and any point of order should be dealt with by the Toastmaster; (d) Comments and criticisms in the Association magazine should not be included in factual reports of events or functions.

Mr. D. Neeves (Mag. Editor and Social Sec.) then presented two brief reports. The Racing Sec. said that the police had no objection to a Hellingly-Horsebridge-Boship-Horam circuit for the road race. The date was fixed at Aug. 18th, and the minimum entry at 25. The date for the Touring Comp. was fixed at June 23rd. Mr. Edwards agreed to act as organiser on the day as Mr. Humphrey would be away. D. Patten's new Hardriders 12 course record was ratified. The Secretary was authorised to have a reprint of the Association rules for circulation to clubs. Finally, Mr. R. Tew raised the question of club voting strength at the A.G.M. if one club had several members on the committee. The general opinion was that officials simply had to be trusted to put the interests of the Association as a whole before those of their respective clubs.

D.N.

HERE & THERE -

Black mark to Brian Moore, who borrowed a pair of knickers from a lady last November, and has not yet returned them.

When 'Evelyn Grant' was mentioned at the 'Chestnut Tree' the other Wednesday night, Ken Griffiths declared: "I haven't got any Problems". What's he been doing all the social season - sleeping ?

Griff is responsible for starting the latest food fad - coffee and blackjacks. This menu sounds like a real knockout !

The above mentioned establishment also has a terrific line in quick-action indigestion cure. Testimonials can be obtained from a certain very high E.S.C.A. official.

Quote from Colin Whittingham: "Brighton's a good place to live in; only cycling scandal leaks out into E. Sussex, not ordinary scandal". Windows, old boy, while Humphrey draws breath, no-one is safe ANYWHERE !

Latest thing in reliability trials, according to Johnny Dutson, is the '113 in 8'. See also the Uckfield notes for another version.

Congratulations and best of luck to well-known Central Sussex members Tony Honess and Brenda Cullip, who will be married by the time most of you read these notes.

The date of this year's Association luncheon has been fixed at Sunday, November 24th; the venue has not yet been definitely decided.

More good wishes, this time for Rovers general sec. Jim Clark, who also chooses March for his wedding.

Department of cruelty to fellow men. Four Verulam C.C. boys asked Stan Nash the way to Forest Row. Stan took them ---- via Crowborough.

No applications for 2nd claim membership have yet been received !

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