

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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NEW SERIES - No. 20.

XMAS 1957

EDITORIAL

"Humphrey forecasts financial crisis". For years this statement has been guaranteed to raise a laugh among East Sussex clubmen, (and it must be admitted, we have often joined in); but when the A.G.M. report is circulated the laughter will surely fade away. At the meeting your Secretary/Treasurer announced a cash balance of £6. He then reported that the Association's duplicator is worn out and will have to be replaced, and that the type he needs to do the job properly costs £23. What now? It must now be obvious that the long standing policy of "As long as we scrape through we're all right" is the wrong one, and should be replaced by a more business-like outlook. True, the Association does not exist to make money; nevertheless, it should make money in order to build up a cash reserve sufficient to deal with contingencies, foreseen or unforeseen, that may occur in the future. In our opinion a target of thirty pounds in the bank should be the target; and it can be achieved if everyone pulls his weight in the twice-yearly draws. Apart from the fact that £7 profit on a draw is a poor return for the promoter's work; this figure must be at least doubled if the Association is to continue to function with the efficiency for which it has become noted. Every official on your management committee can be relied on to do his job - the necessary financial backing for their efforts must come mainly from you, the individual rider. So when the Grand National draw tickets are distributed, remember, it's up to you - GO TO IT!

D.N.

Once again we are well into the Social Season. Already our own annual function has taken place and no doubt our Social Secretary has had something to say about this very enjoyable function elsewhere in this issue. During the next few weeks the local clubs will be holding their annual dinners, honouring their award winners of the past season, but let us all the club members spare a thought for all the hard-working officials who have made the past year's sport in our clubs and in the Associations possible. Shortly our clubs will be holding their annual general meetings and no doubt quite a few vacancies will appear on club committees which must be filled to ensure that a club runs smoothly, and too much work does not fall upon the shoulders of the ever willing few who are always pressed to continue in office for just another year. I most earnestly appeal to some of the younger members of our clubs to become committee members of their clubs and offer to assist with the everyday jobs that arise during the year in a club. It will only mean an odd hour or two each week, which I can assure you will mean much to the secretary of your club.

Looking back over the past year I think we can safely say that we have had a very successful season both socially and racing. After the decline in entries during the previous two years, entries have been much better, especially in the distance events and in the Hill Climb. Two records have been bettered this year, both by Dave Patten in the first two events of the season. Interest in the B.A.R. Competition was the keenest ever and was won by Dennis Webb by the smallest of margins - .003 m.p.h. - from R. Hayward.

Next year's programme, which has yet to be approved by the A.G.M., is the same as this year, with the exception of an additional event for the Ladies. Regarding the 12 hours, we have to make fresh arrangements for the feeding, as the Brewers Arms is no longer available - any suggestions for this will be welcomed by the committee.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the clubs, and officials, for their co-operation during the past year, and wish one and all the compliments of the season, and may everyone have many pleasant miles awheel in 1958.

R.H.

The ancient one, the wise one, the keeper of the sacred "oil lamp", saw the stars and the Moon stood thus, and he saw the appointed time for council had come; and he spake unto the Beater of the Drum of Council and the Drum was beaten, while the aged one donned his finest karras of "motrist" skins and his plumes of "tuggo's" hair and sat him in the Place of Council. And the people of the Sprocket gathered and made him Sibongo, which is praise, crying: "Oh bewhiskered and rumbustious old billy-goat", and other great names. But he bade them be silent saying give praise instead unto Dean who is a man and hath made great show in the battles of ESCA, and also defeated many of the tribe of Leuge. Moreover did he not overthrow the great one Car-Pen-Ter in the battle of Evening Ten; though some do say that the heart of Car-Pen-Ter was turned to water by a witch named Es-Ther. Also Sibonga unto Roma who hath taken the Ladies Trophy; and unto Page who, but only an Umfana, which is to say a boy, hath done a 1-4-0. And praise French who struggled mightily to win the Free-wheel Contest! And praise was made to these mighty ones after which the aged one spake saying let report be made; and one Nick-Kee the Captain of the Impi spake saying "I swear by the Flame of the Mystic Gas Lamp there are strange doings in the land of the Sprocket. For did not the Impi go forth by night and in the hour when the night turns over a spell was cast on the warrior Robbins so that he strode the land of Wykeham crying "I have lost it". And Hollands the witch doctor made magic and Mervyn found his false toothe in the gutter and straightway clapped it in his jaw and went his way rejoicing. And did not the ancient one say the Impi should go unto Frittenden Treacle Mines on a certain date, and one maiden did bring a gourd, a jam jar to gather to gather a sample as the aged one said! And let it be known that two of the Impi went forth among the huts of Rye crying at the doors of aged ones: "Hast thou a gas lamp for which we will give many rods and much salt", and 'tis said the guard of the city seized them and put them in a Place, as men who have the sickness in the head are put. Then arose another crying: "Let us honour Ha-Zel who went forth with her Day-ton and smote a motor called Austin and did it hurt; and unto Kemp who fell upon a motor called Jaguar and did it great ill; but most unto Robbins of the Tooth who seized his trusty Fordson Major and 'slew' a motor called Vauxhall".

And the people gave praise even while one arose sadly saying:

Rye and District Wheelers - "Drum Beats" (continued).

"Be it known that the great Queen of the land of Eng hath called unto Robbins of the Tooth and to Hollands to leave the Tribe for a time and take charge of the Queens armies on her far borders". And the people were sad and stole away.

Ghamba Kaal

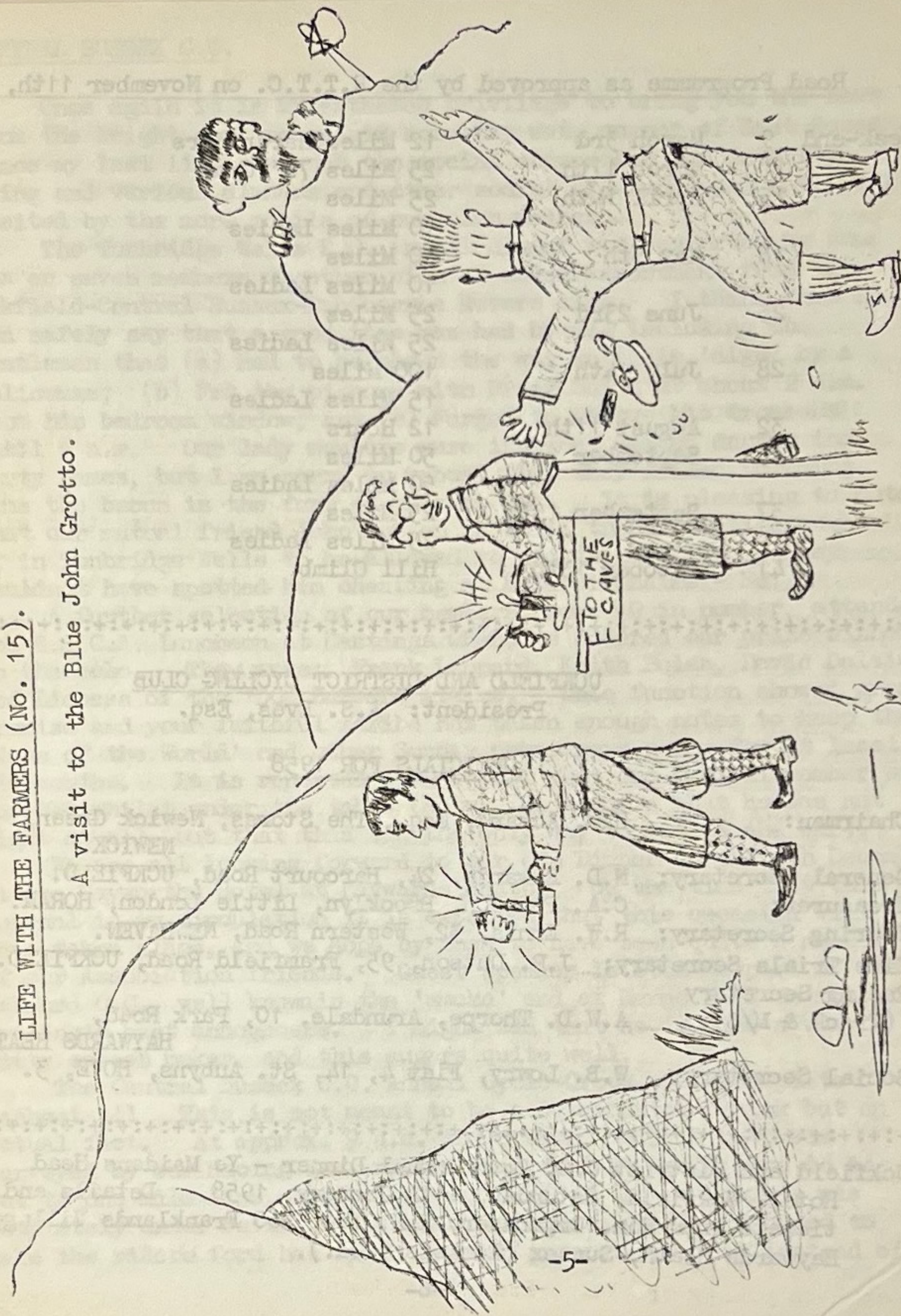
THE DRUM BEATER.

ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS ALBION C.C.

1957 is rapidly drawing to a close. For many of us it has been a good, happy year; for others it has been a sad and disappointing one; but for all of us another year of our life has passed. For some of us it has been our first year of club cycling, and we in the 'Albion' are pleased to have introduced club riding to more than half a dozen youngsters during the past season. We hope that they have enjoyed their first taste of club life, and that they will stay with the sport, because there is nothing our sport needs more than an influx of keen youngsters. Our club's racing season ended as usual with the hill-climb - and also as usual Colin Avis won! This makes the tenth time, and although the youngsters all put up a good show they could not make any impression on the pounding Avis. Like everyone else, we are now getting stuck into the social season. We've attended the Association luncheon and prize presentation; by the time this is in print we shall have had our mince-pie run and free-wheeling contest; and soon we hope to be eating and drinking, and drinking and eating, etc. We have had our surprises during 1957, such as when Brian Rogers, a 13-yr. old schoolboy, won a medium-gear event, bearing the experienced riders including club champion Bob Snee, Jack Rogers and Colin Avis. Another surprise was caused by Jack Rogers turning up at the start of a '25' without his racing shorts. He rode in a pair of short pants (very short!) and due to circumstances these had to be worn back to front. Members of the public thought that Jack had split his shorts up the back. New member 16 yr. old Keith Saxby has in his first year of racing become runner-up in the club's B.A.R. competition. His tussles with 15 yr. old Robin Piper have been a feature of this year's racing programme. It only remains for me to say from all members of the 'Albion' that it has been nice to have your company during 1957, and that we look forward to seeing all you horrible types up the road next year. So for now a very merry Christmas, and may all you 'Beery' types have plenty of ale. P.S. and Esther.

LIFE WITH THE FARMERS (No. 15).

A visit to the Blue John Grotto.



Road Programme as approved by the R.T.T.C. on November 11th, 1957.

Week-end	9	March 3rd	12 Miles Hardriders
	11	March 17th	25 Miles 72" Gear
	15	April 14th	25 Miles
	18	May 5th	10 Miles Ladies
	25	June 23rd	50 Miles
	28	July 14th	10 Miles Ladies
	32	August 11th	25 Miles
	35	September 1st	25 Miles Ladies
	37	September 15th	100 Miles
	41	October 13th	15 Miles Ladies
			12 Hours
			50 Miles
			50 Miles Ladies
			25 Miles
			25 Miles Ladies
			Hill Climb

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UCKFIELD AND DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB

President: A.S. Eves, Esq.

OFFICIALS FOR 1958

- Chairman:.....H.G. Achard, Esq., The Stores, Newick Green,
NEWICK.
- General Secretary:.....N.D. Edwards, 24, Harcourt Road, UCKFIELD.
- Treasurer:.....C.A. Pearson, Brooklyn, Little London, HORAM.
- Touring Secretary:.....R.W. Ennis, 32, Western Road, NEWHAVEN.
- Time Trials Secretary:.....J.R. Dutson, 95, Framfield Road, UCKFIELD.
- Racing Secretary
(Track & M/S):.....A.W.D. Thorpe, Arundale, 10, Park Road,
HAYWARDS HEATH.
- Social Secretary:.....W.B. Lowry, Flat 4, 14, St. Aubyns, HOVE, 3.

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Uckfield and District C.C. 26th Annual Dinner - Ye Maidens Head
Hotel, Uckfield, Saturday, 11th January, 1958. Details and
tickets from Hon. Organiser, R.N. Tew, 360 Franklands Village,
Haywards Heath, Sussex (Tickets 9/6d.).

CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

Once again it is my esteemed privilege to bring you the news from the bright and breezy, if somewhat wet, corner of East Sussex. Since my last little report the social season has got into full swing and various dinners and other social (?) functions have been visited by the more mobile of our club members.

The Tunbridge Wells R.C. annual dinner was supported by some six or seven members together with an added assortment from the Uckfield-Central Sussex-Eastbourne Rovers clan. I think that I can safely say that a good time was had by all including the gentlemen that (a) Had to be shown the way to their 'digs' by a policeman; (b) Fed the pigeons with Fruit Salad at about 2 a.m. from his bedroom window, and (c) Forgot to remove his trousers until 5 a.m. Our lady members were in great demand during the party games, but I am sorry to report that they failed to bring home the bacon in the form of prizes, etc. It is pleasing to note that our mutual friend John Dutson is still thought well enough of in Tunbridge Wells to be allowed to win the raffle. (They couldn't have spotted him cheating at Musical Chairs - Ed.).

A further selection of our members, some 10 in number, attended the E.S.C.A. Luncheon at Hastings where we cheered our prize winners to the echo. They were: Frank Leppard, Keith Bolas, David Dalziel, and Lioness of the 'DO' Barbara Atkins. This function showed great promise and your faithful scribe has taken enough notes to keep the 'News of the World' and other Sunday newspapers going for at least six months. It is reported with regret that one Central member was toasted whilst under the table (Note: He retorts that he was not tight at all, but that this was the only way to get to the bar).

We are all looking forward to our own Dinner on the 8th December at the Hayworthe Hotel at Haywards Heath. By the time that this journal is in circulation it is expected that this occasion will have taken place, and we hope by then to have seen quite a number of our Association friends. Guest speaker is Stan Newport of the Catford C.C., well known in the 'smoke' and at Herne Hill as one of Cycling's best announcers. I might add that he is also a very witty speech maker, and this augers quite well.

The Central Sussex C.C. Annual Cyclo-Cross was a complete washout !!! This is not meant to be a detrimental remark but an actual fact. At approx. 9 a.m. the course, as laid out, was surveyed by our Racing Sec. who decided that it would have to be cut to one mile laps, and by mid-day half of the new course was completely under water. The small stream which it was hoped to make the riders ford had risen in such proportions that instead of

Central Sussex C.C. (continued).

being about 12 inches deep it was about 4 feet. Also under the water were a long drop and a barbed wire fence, so reluctantly the event had to be postponed. It is now scheduled for a re-run early in the new year. All members who entered will be notified in due course of the date, etc.

Whilst on the competition subject it might be well to note the Central Sussex C.C. Hilly '20' for first and second claim members to be held on December 22nd. Entry sheets have been circulated with full details for all who may wish to ride, but I am sure that it will be quite amusing from the spectator angle, so all are welcome !!

That's it, then, by the next issue we shall all be back in training and no more beer (who said 'shame').

Till next time,

HONEST GINGE.

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EASTBOURNE ROVERS CYCLING AND ATHLETIC CLUB

After a hectic year as Rovers press sec., 'Suntrapper' has retired to recuperate at his home in the Premier Resort. Meanwhile, 'Land-rover' has had a rebore and overdrive fitted, and now, with tank brimming and rough-stuff tyres churning up the ground, he roars back into these pages. (Welcome back, Stan. - Ed.).

Ladies and gentlemen, 'Suntrapper' has done the dirty on me; henceforth let him be known as 'Stantrapper'. Within thirty minutes of assisting to elect me Press Secretary, he was blatantly demanding my full report of the Rovers' scandal; about three days before deadline! Still, never let it be said that 'Landrover' broke down, so off with the dustcovers, and let's go.

Racing - perish the memory! All that's happened in recent weeks is the Hill-Climb, in which Ken Miller stamped up to claim equal third behind the two maestros (maestraux?). John Mayes did a best-ever (and first-ever) to beat my best by 7 secs., and Quentin completed the team despite the recent ravages of 'flu. Future plans against the clock? Only the Yuletide '10' in which the clock will undoubtedly win. Weird apparel and weirder machines will once more be the order of the day; so if any of you Escabods happen to be on Pevensey Marsh around 11 a.m. on Christmas Day, don't be surprised at anything. You might even get a ride for a small fee!

News of the boys. Ted Durrant I'm glad to say, is once again on his feet after a very rough passage through Asian Flu and complications. The doctor says "No cycling" at present, but I hope that by the time this is printed Ted will again be half-wheeling us merrily

Eastbourne Rovers Cycling and Athletic Club (continued).

up the hills. Sapper Denzil, the King of Skive, is finding things a little difficult off season; but will probably be able to obtain a suitable period of leave for the Bodle St. Wheelers Middle-markers Cyclo-Cross, or some such event. Next season he hopes to be able to ride locally a bit more, and with the probable support of Mick Horner (now ex-RAF and at London University) our road efforts should be strengthened in the coming year. Who started this racing talk, anyway - back to 'My friends the Stars' - which of course leads me to our two ex-B.A.Rs. Dave Marsh and Pat Novis. Dave, "Sunk without trace" by Suntrapper last issue, has at last surfaced long enough to publish an engagement notice in the local paper; while Pat quietly joined the ranks of the happily espoused late in September. Congratulations and good luck to both of them. In preparation for a strenuous season of winter runs one of our number (an emotion, certainly not modesty, prevents me naming him) had a hard Autumn tour in the South of France. (The rocks were hard but the sand was all right). To summarise: soleil-beaucoup, manger très bon; filles - grrrrr! estimated mileage - 200 (Yes, in 14 days - how shameless can one get?), pocket - empty.

Bruce-type club runs continue, though the cooler weather is sorting out some of the weaker brethren. Could it also be that "Some muck every day keeps the members away?" (Are you there, Yacky). I don't think so, as most of the boys seem to lap it up. (Figuratively, unlike the Southborough Wh., vide the Road Club dinner). Incidentally, we were able to attend the latter function in reasonable force this year, and a good time was had by all. After dancing the Hokey-Cokey with the Uckfield boys (an unforgettable experience), we suspect that this may be one of their cherished training secrets! Whilst on the subject of dinners, our own takes place on Saturday, Jan. 18th, at the Devonshire Lawns Restaurant, and we hope to welcome a goodly crowd of you there.

All that now remains is to welcome the season of festivity, fraternisation, feasting and flatulence; and to wish all East Sussex 'erbs lots of the former and none of the latter. Good eating!

LANDROVER.

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THE CUP THAT CHEERS

A Dissertation by Brian Lowry.

TEA. In this case the black variety which is fermented before roasting and comes from an Indian shrub (there is also Chinese tea and Maté - Paraguayan tea; beef-tea will not be considered in this brief resumé), has been the national beverage of the English since our early traders first returned from their perilous voyages to the Orient, laden with spices and other delicacies new to the native palate.

The time-honoured recipe for the preparation of this drink is for an infusion to be made of it in hot water. The apparatus required need not distress the novice by its complexity, as familiarity with and recognition of each article speedily follows acquisition of the habit of tea-drinking. It is briefly -

- T. Caddy - container for same (not a golfing term).
- T. Cup - contains the prepared brew (cf. coffee cup).
- T. Spoon - used for stirring (ask Phyl).
- T. Pot - in which water and tea are united (not to be confused with P. Pot).
- T. Tray - something which bats resemble when floating in the sky (quotation).
- T. Urn - not of Grecian origin, unless the Army discovered the abomination while fighting in Greece.
- T. Service - the interval in a tennis match.
- T. Set - or set tea - one which is made a meal of by adding such unnecessary articles as table cloths, caucers, plates, etc.
- T. Up - the traditional cry announcing the service of tea.
- T. Things - most of the above when awaiting washing-up.
- T. Cloth - used in washing-up process and 101 other functions.
- T. Chest - instrument used by Skiffle groups.
- Tia Maris - Mary's tea (Spanish).
- Tio Pepe - very hot tea.
- Tegistology - the collecting of beer mats for use in offices to stand T. Cups on.
- T. Party - a gathering of cyclists which fast develops into a joke-telling session.
- T. Deum - monotony experienced when all the good jokes have been told.
- Tectotal - tally of number of cups consumed.
- T.B. - next to best quality tea. T.V. - The lowest quality.
- T.T.F.N. - which means I must be on my way now.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB

With a forceful reminder from our Editor that the scribes must again take parchment and deliver to him by a certain date much news for 'BONK', I have sharpened my quill and set down a small number of items, mostly free of scandal or libel actions. After a successful season socially and in competition, the results were consolidated on November 16th at our club dinner, probably the most sure success of all, ably organised by Sheila and our hard-working committee. May we thank you all from near and far for your support on this evening, and trust you all enjoyed the few hours which sped all too quickly for us. Dennis proposed the toast of "The Club" and got away with some neat cracks in between more serious comments. Les Hayman of Southborough set a fine pace in replying for the Visitors with witty verse well put over! Roy, as usual led the cross-toasting section in a cycle of past mishaps and scandal. I learn more and more each year at these functions of the failings likely to beset man and beast! Our dog was very restless after the 'Farmers' passed by in the early hours of Sunday morning! Thank goodness they were unable to get off their bikes, if you see what I mean?

Well now, what's happened since the Autumn edition? Dave again beat the hour in the Sussex C.A. '25', putting up his best time so far - 59-19. He held his hill-climb championship for the fourth consecutive year, and with Dave Neal and 'Squib' Maryan also cleaned up the team award. Well done, boys, now relax till next season, when we expect further team successes in other events. Two car loads left here for Buxton and the National Hill-Climb on 'Winnat's'. Dave had had to miss the Catford event the previous week, and was still feeling the effects of a touch of 'flu when he attacked this extremely stiff climb on October 27th. However, he made the top, and came 14th out of a large entry. The party had some fun, dropping 'anchors' and clangers all the way! The 'Green Flash' with Ken at the wheel took me to Hastings last Sunday. A very fine turnout and the E.S.C.A. lived up to its high standard of dinners and speeches; a great fraternity these cyclists, never let us down. Our party numbered twelve (sounded like a hundred and twelve to me - Ed.), and included our President, Freddie Figgett and his wife. 1957 is on the way out, A.G.Ms., dinners and prizes will all soon be past. Another season looms ahead, and we of the Road Club send a message of regard to all in the

E.S.C.A. with due thanks to officials who make it all possible; to the racing girls and fellows who gain success, and more especially to those who just keep on trying. In fact, to all club folk, young and not so young. Keep the wheels turning into 1958; you know you can't afford to drop off the pack!

Cheerio.

POP.

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" I SEE GORDON'S GOT HIS NEW CLUB IRON "

Greetings, diehards, from all Wanderers, many of whom are still spluttering from the effects of a sudden onset of social season beer and fags, etc. (Just what is 'etc.'? - Ed.). Recruiting has been in full swing lately, and we have no fewer than eight new members riding with this bastion of E. Sussex cycling aristocracy. Step forward Dave Crouch, Mike Carder and Chris Forshaw, a keen and promising trio, plus Doug, Derek, "Charlie", "Chunkie" and last but definitely not least, the "Burberian", alias Pete Burbery, who has joined us from the Southern Cross. With the consequent influx of subscriptions the Chancellor's face has once again assumed that well-known Cheshire cat look, associated with all favourable monetary dealings! An illustration of the razor-keen attitude in this field is provided by 'Iron-Man' Grover, who was passed near Seaford by an unknown rider, and promptly gave chase. At last he caught his quarry and enquired if he was a clubman, and whether he did much cycling, etc., etc. To all his queries there was just a stony silence, while the pair hammered away like a two-man mass-start break. The climax came when the other bloke shattered all hope by blurting out "I-am-not-Ingleesh"! Russell has come into prominence lately by being the only Wanderer still fit; by virtue of having joined the League and indulged in several midweek and weekend 'blinds' with such people as Ron Beck and Brian Hutton of the Southern Coureurs. At present he is in the throes of learning to ride all day without stopping for food, with what suffering can well be imagined. Our men rode in the S.C.A. and E.S.C.A. '25's' before the season closed, and we also had a couple in the hill climb. Strange to relate, Willcocks was not last this year, one man being slightly slower, probably due to puncturing or falling off his bike! As will be seen elsewhere, Hodgkin's Disease is still with us, no suitable antidote having yet been devised. However, precautions are being taken by the timely indoctrination of new members to prevent a spread of this malady. 'Tourist' Agg we hear has had his tonsils out, but this has not affected his notorious volubility, as he has recently been heard to say how he intends to make a spectacular come-back in 1958. He now tips the scales at some 13 stones, so has got to do something to regain his former youthful vigour. Fair enough, Derek, we're waiting for you! A touch of comedy was present in the last S.C.A. '25' when Willcocks finished (Eh? Finished? - Ed.) with his shorts at 'half

Lewes Wanderers C.C. (continued).

mast' due to broken elastic. Readers will doubtless agree with his comment: "It shouldn't happen to a lady - if she is a lady !"

Well, chums, here's to the rest of the beer, darts, stodge and 'dragon' days; in the words of the song "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think". Merry Xmas and a successful New Year to all readers.

ALSORAN.

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+ H O W S A D +
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Once again we have reached the end of a competitive season, and as I write these words it makes me think: this sport of ours is a sad old affair in some ways. How many of us started the season as our group's number one man; only to find at the end we'd been knocked off our pedestal? How many of the fast men have been caught for the first time? You knew it just could not happen - but it did. And what about that girl? Your girl, or rather she was last Spring. Oh yes, she still rides with the club, and you can see her all day, but she doesn't ride with you or hold your hand on the sea front. It's not you who takes her home on Sunday night; it's that blasted bloke George - and he used to be your best friend, the rotter! How sad it is for the old 'uns who as the season ends know they've ridden in their last event. Our own Reg Harris did not win the World Sprint Championship, nor did British riders gain a single world title - how sad. And the controlling powers of English cycling cannot or will not come to an agreement. Yes, it is all very sad. But wait a moment, are things really so bad? Let's see. What if you were pushed off your perch as "number one". You know now that you're not so good as you thought you were; and how darned nice it will be to climb back to the top next year. As for that girl - well, it was a bit of a bind having to hang back with her; and blimey, didn't she take some shoving up those hills?! As for taking her home, it was a long way and "come to think about it, I'll be able to ride behind her now. Yes, she looks quite well that way". We can't feel too sad for the veteran who's finished racing. He's enjoyed the 'fast' years, and now he'll get pleasure out of showing the youngsters just how to do it properly. And how he's going to like doing that official job. So Reg Harris didn't win this year. It would have been nice, but should we be sad? Ye gods, no! The name of Reg Harris will go down as one of the all-time greats in our sport. Brian

How Sad (continued).

Robinson didn't do so bad, did he? And for the others, well it's much, much easier to win a title than to defend it. So here's to next time. Yes, we can look on the bright side over these matters, but what of the hundreds of youngsters who will join clubs for the first time next year and fill the gaps left by the old uns. They will want to know about the N.C.U., the B.L.R.C. and the R.T.T.C. Who can tell them what these bodies represent? Who in fact knows what is best to tell a newcomer to cycling? What organisation should he be advised to join? Even the most experienced members of our truly great sport cannot foresee the outcome of all the upheaval and disagreement that has for years made our sport the laughing stock of our contemporaries on the Continent. Laughing Stock -- How sad !!

A.J.R.

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EAST GRINSTEAD C.C.

Hardly had the last 'BONK' report gone to press and the writer was thinking that in a few weeks it would be "all over for a while", than there seemed to be a heap of activity in the racing sphere. It all started when Pete Brooker chalked up his personal best in the Association '50' with 2-16-20. If that's what dragon trouble does to ma bod it can't be the awful fate it's usually held to be. Ray Lunn did a 2-21-55; Little Bill 2-30-55; and Crow well down with 2-41-39. Don and Bill had missed the event to try their luck in the Salisbury 2nd Class '50' which Don won with a great 2-7-22, another personal best. Bill was 4th with 2-10-42, also a P.B. The following week the club '25' record went for a Burton when Mick clocked 1-0-33, with Don not so far behind in 1-1-35. At last an ESCA event was run in decent weather - the '25' on Sept. 15th, when a whole herd - well eight - E. Grinstead riders competed after having driven Mrs. Funnell to distraction and got practically no sleep the previous night. Mick was once again our fastest man with 1-2-13 for third place, followed by Ray, Crow and Pete. Gordon Leney returned from the RAF to make this event his re-entry into competition with an excellent 1-7-54. 'Doughy' Wood craftily gained 1st handicap, and East Grinstead came 2nd behind the 'Farmers' for the Rosemary Shield, so it wasn't a bad day for us. The next event of importance was the Redhill '50', which was run under more normal aquatic conditions, and as no-one carried a shorkel nobody from East Grinstead finished. Meanwhile, Crow, who had been humiliated by his lack of success in

Yogi for Cyclists (continued).

some of the more common faults of racing cyclists, and tell you how they may be overcome by Yogi. Meanwhile, if you have any problems, either I or any of my discredited representatives will be pleased to help you on receipt of the appropriate fee. Letters addressed to my good self, C/o. the Head Llama, Lhasa Penitentiary, will receive my prompt attention.

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UCKFIELD AND DISTRICT CYCLING CLUB

With the last issue bringing us up to the first week in September you'd think there wouldn't be much left to write about in the few weeks remaining in the season, but the boys managed to pack plenty in all the same. The Sussex "50" saw John beat his own club and county figures with 2-1-46, and Webby and Griff also doing "P.Bs." to knock the team record, while Webby took first handicap. The Rosemary Shield came back to the Farmers a week later almost un-noticed in the excitement over the B.A.R., everyone having his watch on Webby and Ron Hayward. John had a beaut. of a burst in this event, but thanks to a sporting gesture by Ken Chantler, finished only 27 secs. outside the hour in second place, and once again Webby and Uncle Ken worked the oracle for a seven-minute lead. Tony took second handicap and Bobs One and Two took an oath to study R.T.T.C. Regs. about notifying improvements. Same day Cedric clinched the Club B.A.R. with his ride in the Middlesex "12" and Arthur and Colin turned in 1-7 in the Epsom Tandem "30".

Spindle put his name on the Barnes Cup the following week, which was the sixth time he'd beaten the handicapper this season (and still there was more to come - fiddle !). Runners-up were Bob Hedger and Os, with Webby doing F.T. The Prof took time off and scrounged a lift to Bognor where John took third place to Scottish Champion Dickson, and Griff did another flyer, down to 1-1-2 this time and in pouring rain. A week later excursions to the Redhill "50" and Solent "100" proved singularly fruitless, only Griff being able to look anyone in the face for a week afterwards, (but that doesn't mean he's allowed to drop baked spuds in other people's char), while Webby led the rest of the rabble down to G.41 for the Counties "25" just to make sure the course was clear for seven days later. It was, and the boys took both short and longmarkers' teams, Spindle had another First Handicap, but even Dave Patten's fine under-the-hour win didn't cause as much excitement as the B.A.R. scrap between the Farmers and Bognor. Although Reg was up to form and

Uckfield & District Cycling Club (continued).

Spin got down to a "2", Bognor clinched the team, but Webby did his stuff and kept the lead in the B.A.R., to become the first Uckfield rider to win the County title, and the first rider ever to win both Sussex and East Sussex. A terrific achievement, especially as there were half as many again finishers in the County table this year as last, by far the biggest field for at least five years. Reg (third), Spindle (eighth), Horace (15th, and the only veteran) and the Vicar all stayed the course.

So the road season closed with all the Club records up to 100 miles broken, four team records, three championships and a fine list of open and association wins. On the track Arthur and Terry, the latter in particular, had an equally imposing list of successes, aided and abetted on the odd occasion by one or two other scraggy 'erbs who collected the Sussex Team Pursuit Championship, the S.C.R.L. Team Championship, the Strudwick Trophy and the F.I.L.O. Bowl, which will mean a lot of polishing for their Mums.

After all that (some people are gluttons for punishment) Colin and Spin had a crack at the East Sussex hill climb but didn't get anywhere near the Master Man. Well, you wouldn't think that lot left time for anything else, but nevertheless the runs programme has been carried through without a hitch, though Colin had to do some fast talking once while the rest sneaked out through the back of the barn (rotten lot). The Vicar's second theatre party was as successful as the first, though the poor chap didn't enjoy it himself as he was sickening for the 'flu, which eventually claimed quite a lot of victims and stopped several people from carousing at Don's wedding - and did Siggy out of his only chance of a "25" this year. Oh yes, he's worked the oracle and now hibernates in a home posting, gets home every week-end, which is known as having jam on it.

Latest news is the A.G.M., which created an all-time record for speed, all the business being concluded by 9.30. Welcome to the new Committee members, Bob Ennis (Touring Sec.), Simon and Pete, and thanks for a good job done to those relinquishing their posts. John takes over time trials from Spin and Brian assumes the mantle of Social Sec., though the Vicar continues as Dinner Organiser. The remainder as before. Other results of the meeting were an increase in subs and the decision to affiliate to the B.L.R.C. So, from the Farmers, a Merry Christmas, Up the League, and the Best of British Luck to One and All.

THE PROF.

P.S. Have been threatened with proceedings if I say anything about the R.C. Dinner, but I expect someone will split.

SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS.

With the 1957 racing season completed, with all riders wintering well, and with all the facts and figures sorted into neat piles ready to file away into the record archives, the following extracts may be of interest:

SENIOR B.A.R. TABLE			H. M. S.	H. M. S.	Miles	Average M.P.H.
1.	Ron Hayward	1 2 15	2 10 45	4 41 17	230.09	21.886
2.	Les Hayman	1 4 22	2 13 55	4 48 31	236.75	21.557
3.	Arthur Parks	1 4 35	2 16 43	4 55 40	231.46	21.187
4.	Alan Bathurst	1 8 27	2 22 58	5 8 37	222.80	20.231
5.	Peter Cooke	1 7 35	2 26 38	5 12 51	218.81	20.017
6.	Geoff Hayman	1 8 59	2 26 39	5 7 24	219.11	19.994
7.	Geo. Cheesman	1 10 36	2 29 45	5 16 23	216.65	19.547

JUNIOR B.A.R. TABLE			H. M. S.	Miles	Average M.P.H.
1.	Brian Leyland	24 55	1 4 17	23.707	
2.	John Goldersmith	25 18	1 5 52	23.244	
3.	Phil Hennessy	26 1	1 8 3	22.552	
4.	Dave Lambert	27 12	1 12 6	21.431	

LADIES B.A.R.			H. M. S.	Miles	Average M.P.H.
	Dawn Chivers	28 26	1 14 17	1 34 3	20.148

Comparison of completed rides 1953-1957.

Year	10 m.	25 m.	30 m.	50 m.	100 m.	12 hrs.	Total miles
1953	84	125	11	43	9	8	9,445
1954	51	163	8	51	11	10	10,765
1955	47	106	4	31	8	3	6,292
1956	103	168	15	31	6	4	8,752
1957	98	136	17	53	15	12	11,675

This analysis shows a significant tendency towards distance events, the high mileage total for 1957 being reflected by the greatest number of finishers in the club B.A.R. to date.

Now for the weather analysis. Of the thirty week-ends of racing proper (March-September) one can expect ten reasonably good speed mornings or days as the case may be. This year, in spite of the long losing sequence of winning mornings in mid-season, that average was almost maintained. So it's 2-1 against you having an easy, enjoyable ride (smile!), if you ride every Sunday. On the other hand, if you pick your dates you may be able to enhance

Southborough and District Wheelers (continued).

your ratio of good to bad mornings. March shows a poor return (Right, then, let's add March to the social season! - Ed.); so does the last weekend in May (due for a win shortly). The second weekend in June, the last in July and the last in August are inclined to be desperate. September is usually favourable. Bankers are the last weekend in June and the first in July.

The club trophy winners are: '25' Ron Hayward in 1-2-15 (this cup has changed hands every year since it's inception in 1947). '50' Ron Hayward 2-10-45; '100' Ron Hayward 4-41-17; 12 hours Les Hayman 236 miles; Hill-climb Dick Robbins. The ride of the year was Dawn's K.C.A. '12', when she completed 200.5 miles. This was a great effort in view of the fact that she had never raced above 30 miles before. The club is duly proud of her. That about sums up the 'bombing' front. The touring and social side is continuing along happy lines. The Tourist Competition on Sept. 29th saw Geoff Hayman complete a hat-trick of wins in an interesting and exciting event. Second was Pete Crowsley with Phil Hennessy in third place. The day started with speed-judging over 8-10 miles of hilly terrain; a short stretch of rough-stuff followed by map reading and questions on points of interest in the countryside. Lunch at Cranbrook was followed by more map-reading for four checks and tea at the club H.Q. at Speldhurst. On Saturday, October 19th, a large gathering of Wheelers witnessed the marriage of Ron and Dawn at Southborough; the club forming the traditional arch of wheels outside the church. Later at the party many Wheelers and friends were present. The club has been represented at the 'Fairies' dinner at which Les Hayman proposed "The Club" at very short notice, and at the Tunbridge Wells Road Club and K.C.A. dinners, which fell on the same day. About six attended the Maidstone function and ten the Wells celebrations, where Les Hayman was again in full speech. Our own club dinner takes place on Saturday, December 21st, and should again be a big laugh evening. This time the venue is the Social Centre, Tonbridge, where we hope to meet many friends including members of ESCA clubs.

So until the Spring number it's "Cheerio" from the Southboro' guffers, and we return you to square one.

BALLYALGOL'S PAL AGAIN.

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An interesting development of the tricycle, before the more usual modern design was developed, was the Coventry Tricycle. This was first made with a lever drive, then, with the chain mechanism was added, it became known as the Coventry Rotary Tricycle. It was patented in 1876 by James Starley whose nephew, J.K. Starley, introduced the rear-driven "Safety" nine years later. The Coventry Rotary Tricycle was a two track machine, the big wheel on the left being the driver. The two small wheels were steered by the handle which the rider held in his right hand.

The Companion Safety of 1896 was no more than a novelty designed as a single track instrument but on the lines of the Sociable tricles of the early 80's. It was never a practical touring mount like the tandem, which had then developed into a fast and useful bicycle for two. But the middle '90s produced a host of freak machines, including a somewhat similar sociable bicycle but with one pair of handbars only. One rider carried a sporting gun, which he rested across the steersman's shoulders, presumably for the purpose of indulging in a little sharp shooting as both pedalled along!

The tandem of the '90s was very much on the lines of the modern tandem. Some interesting features may be noted, however. It had only one brake of the "spoon" type which pressed on the tyre. This machine was fitted with a Simpson Lever Chain. The transmission was through five chain-wheels and a rear sprocket, and there were three lengths of chain! To allow for the extra bottom bracket, the wheel base of this tandem was very long and it suffered from "drag" on hills. A well-known rider was A. Pellant, who in 1888 rode a solid-tyred Ordinary bicycle 50 miles on the road in a little over 3 hours.

It may be noted how in just over ten years after the Rover rear-driven safety of 1885 had "set the fashion to the world" bicycle design had developed until we see the standardized construction generally as we know it to-day. The frame was bigger than that of the modern lightweight and, in consequence, the long head was a typical feature. Although the freewheel was applied to the bicycle in a practical form in the '90s, many machines had a fixed wheel; when coasting down hill the rider put his feet on the foot-rests fixed in the fork blades. Another unusual feature was the drive on the left-hand side of the machine.

The "Simpson chain versus the plain chain" matches at the old Catford track in 1896 caused a tremendous sensation. The inventor

of the Simpson chain claimed that by a leverage principle in the links the rider's thrust on the pedals was more effectively transmitted into driving the back wheel. He challenged the plain chain interests to a test and thousands of pounds were spent on the pacing arrangements. The results proved nothing, for although two of the three Simpson chain riders won, the truth ultimately had to be acknowledged that energy cannot be created by mechanical means.

Usually the only brake employed was the spoon type, which pressed on the tyre tread. The devotees of the big wheel machine looked down on the Safety pioneers, calling them such names as "Crocodile", "Beetles," etc. During the early 90s, the high machine was referred to as the ordinary bicycle to distinguish it from the new Safety. To-day the adjective "ordinary" has become the name for the old graceful high wheel. In 1885 the "Rover" Safety Bicycle with rear chain drive and direct steering established the design of the bicycle very much as it is to-day. The Tandem Tricycle is by no means a modern arrangement, for in 1890 two famous cyclists, S.F. Edge and J.E.L. Bates, rode this type of machine a distance of 100 miles in 5 1/2 hrs. In the opinion of many knowledgeable cyclists who remember the type, it was the most successful tandem tricycle ever built. Some, indeed, consider that a modern version of this compact short-wheelbase machine would be a speedier instrument than the orthodox design of to-day. It is interesting to note that the rear sprocket was outside the fork ends.

The Cantilever bicycle was ingeniously designed and patented by M. Pedersen, a Dane, in 1893, and made at Dursley, Gloucestershire. The tubes were all in duplicate converging to a point at their upper ends. The triangulation of the frame was such that every tube was subject to compression stress only, and in consequence the tubes needed to be of narrow section only, which resulted in a much lighter construction than the contemporary standard frame. Pedersen also patented a 3-speed hub gear in 1902.

C.R.S.

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

The club held it's 82nd A.G.M. (and we don't have one twice a year) on Friday, 18th Nov. at the Cambridge Hotel. Officers elected for the year are as follows :-

President: P.H. Bliss. Chairman: J.H. Southerden.
Vice-Chairman: A. Coleman. Hon. General Sec.: P.H. Bliss,
253a, Mount Pleasant Road, Hastings. Hon. Treasurer: E. Spray,
119, Parker Road, Hastings. Time-Trial Sec.: M. Carpenter,
52 Eversly Road, St. Leonards. Social Sec. and Cycling
Captain: C.R. Sinden, 33, Western Road, St. Leonards. Vice-
Captains: A. Coleman and L. Chambers.

Now to get down to something less official. Do you realise that there are those amongst us who when it was time to put back the clocks one hour advanced theirs one, and so arrived at the club hill climb two hours early, even perhaps before some of us were out of bed! Well I suppose we have to settle down once again to the social season. Any one who did not know our way of life would rather think that for the rest of the year we were more conservative, of course this is not true, but I do wonder at times if the comradeship known in the past in the sport has somewhat deteriorated. When you read of the controversy among the various cycling organisations, there seems to be some doubt as to who is on the right road. Perhaps a lot of you never read this R.T.T.C. report of the national committee for submission to the special general meeting of the national council that was held last May. Here is something for you to read and digest.

"The statement by the U.C.I. towards the end of last year that international recognition would be withheld from Great Britain if the Union and the League failed to amalgamate by the 1st Feb. 1957, served to intensify the struggle for control of massed-start racing on the public roads in this country, which had been going on since 1952. This threat to the N.C.U.'s status as the controlling body in Gt. Britain for international purposes appeared to many N.C.U. representatives that its continued recognition as such controlling body would not be secure unless the N.C.U. became the sole controlling body, or at least gained control of a much larger proportion of massed-start racing in England and Wales. Efforts have been made, therefore, to persuade N.C.U. clubs promoting massed-start races to promote such events under the jurisdiction of the N.C.U. This is a policy similar to that carried out by the B.L.R.C. for a long time,

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

the B.L.R.C. in many cases having brought pressure on its clubs to promote massed-start races under B.L.R.C. rules".

By this short extract you can see the turbulent conditions that prevail in the cycling world.

Tony Moorhouse recently attended a mid-day function with other members, after the do, tea was had at Boreham Street with the rest of the club. Now I can guarantee that Tony didn't have one over the four, let alone one over the eight, yet the burning question is why when all the club were sitting peacefully in the garden of the Chestnut did he suddenly attack two women members, hitting their sweeds together with such force that it was said the report was heard in the land of Nadger (Ninfield). Our dear friend (the old !!!!!) Percy Bliss had a very narrow escape recently, when on his way to work he came to a sudden conclusion that his machine was uncontrollable. This of course was very unusual for a machine belonging to Percy because the first thing it is taught is to find its own way home, ready for the social season. Percy came to a steady stop and glanced down, only to see that his top tube and down tube had almost parted from the head. Of course, there is a moral to this unfortunate situation - whatever happens, never lose your head. As Percy struggled along Mt. Pleasant Road a friend with good intentions came along, picked him and his machine up and took him home. Now old Percy was so upset by being taken home by van that he naturally cursed the vehicle up hill and down dale, under his breath. Friends, the van was wrapped round a lamp-post by Friday of that week, almost an entire wreck. David Cole also experienced a disintegration of the top tube and head on a recent club-run.

The club dinner will be at the Castle Hotel on Saturday, Jan. 25th. Tickets should be in circulation by the time you get your copy of 'BONK'. All that remains is for me to extend Christmas and New Year greetings from the Hastings C. & A.C., and to give you something to think about here are some extracts from a letter that caught my eye in a cycling publication:-

"What if the Sport was to end, as well it may if the present apathy continues to have the effects it is having.....Talk about it, advertise it, support it; last but not least take an active part in the management.....Start thinking and acting NOW !"

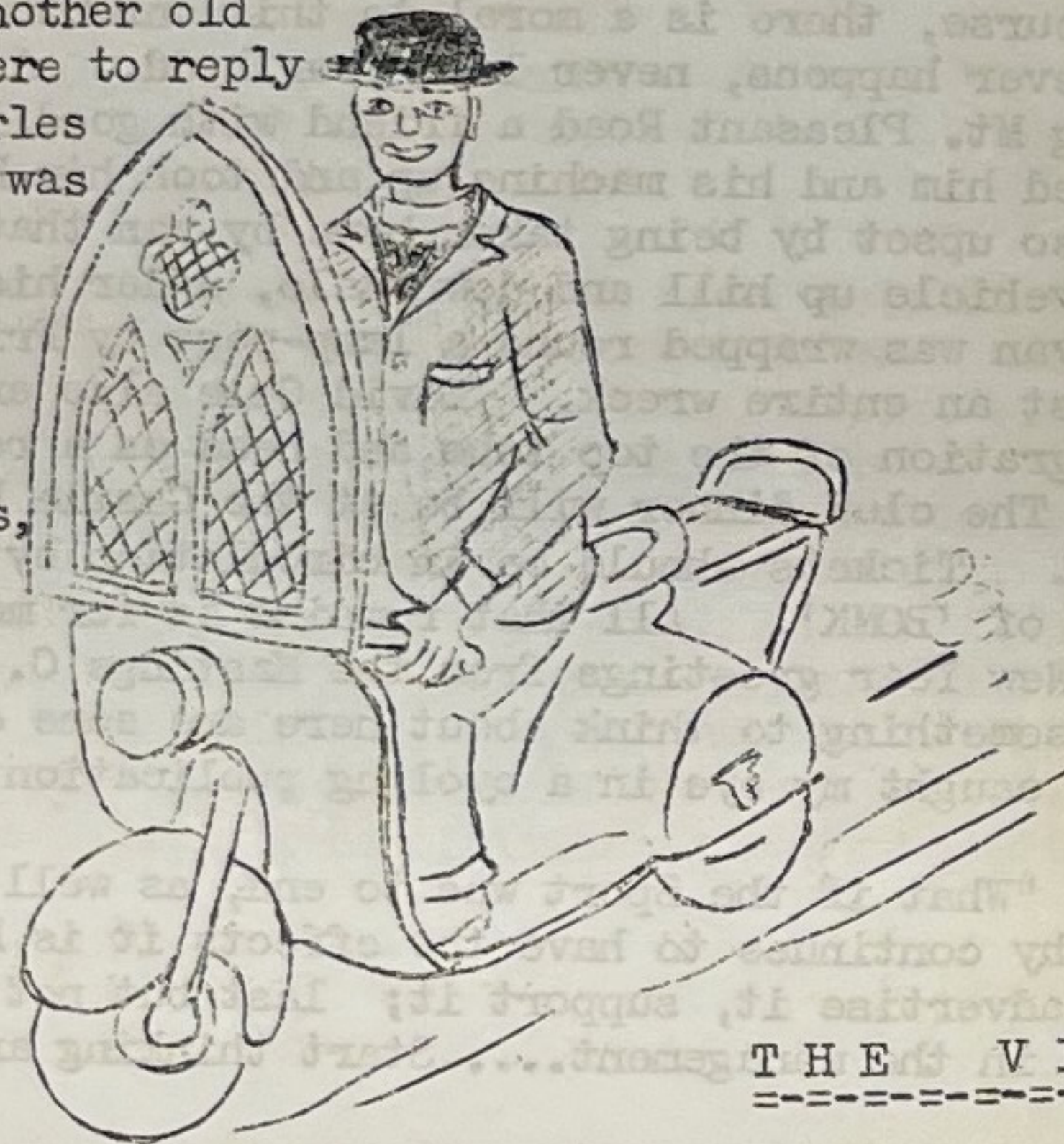
C.R.S.

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STOP PRESS A.G.M. REPORT

Treasurer reported cash balance of £6, but as he urgently needs a new duplicator the position is far from healthy. Mr. Neeves spoke strongly about poor support for last two draws. Track Championships for 1958 - again 440 and 1,000 yds. and 5 mls. Road trials as for 1957 plus extra ladies '25'. Entry fees raised to 3s. up to 50 mls., 5s. for 100 mls. and 8/6d. for 12 hrs. Uckfield motion to delete '25' from Assn. B.A.R. defeated. Road awards as for 1957 except medals for winning B.A.R. team, in place of certificates. Road race to be promoted, min. entry 24. Officials for 1958:- President Mr. J.H. Southerden (Hastings C&AC), Chairman Mr. J.H. Southerden; Vice-Chairman Mr. A. Coleman; Sec./Treas./Racing Sec. Mr. R. Humphrey; Asst. Racing Sec. Mr. R. Eldridge; Social Sec./Mag. Editor/Press Sec. Mr. D. Neeves; V.Ps. re-elected en bloc plus Mr. W.T. Collins (retiring President), minus Mr. M. Chauncy (who did not seek re-election).

Just over a hundred people attended the Annual Luncheon held at the Chatsworth Hotel, Hastings. Mr. W.T. Collins presided over the gathering, with Mr. W. Baker as toastmaster, and Mrs. Collins ("Dot") presented the awards. Old friend Ted Harrison was unable to be present this year, but another old friend Jack Davis was there to reply for the Press. Mr. Charles Turner of Brighton Mitre was the chief speaker, while Arthur Parks, one of the 'new boys' from Southborough toasted the Ladies and Visitors. The atmosphere was, as always, a happy one, with plenty of cross-toasting led by Roy Humphrey, and though the spirits were high it never degenerated to rowdyism.



THE VICAR

HERE and THERE

Flash! Arthur Coleman takes up hiking! Yes, he had to walk most of the way from Cranbrook to Hawkhurst after a recent T.A. function. Attempts to ride his bicycle were not very successful - he fell off seven times!

And then there was the young lady member of the Hastings club who walked into the wrong bedroom early one Sunday morning.

Mystery Corner. The place - Northiam; the time - the wee small hours. A pig-swill lorry draws up outside a house and out climbs the Captain of Rye Wheelers, complete with bicycle????

The sight of Pearson and Dutson riding a tricycle brings back memories: 1953 - the Uckfield Dinner - a certain cross-toast. Ah yes.

The following 'epitaph' will be engraved on a memorial to be erected in Lewes:

TO THE MEMORY OF MICK BURGESS
Lost to cycling after a long and painful courtship - 23.11.1957.

"His legs are still; no more his tubs
Whirr over hill and dales.
Such is the fate of racing men
When heart not head prevails".

Conversation piece during the last waltz at the Road Club dinner :-
LADY: "Has that young man over there got to cycle home?"
GENT.: (after looking at prostrate young man): "I hope not; he lives near Lewes".
Good job you had 'digs', Opera!

Students of hieroglyphics and primitive writings are welcome to visit the Editorial Office of 'BONK', where the original manuscript of the East Grinstead club notes is on view. The writings, which came from the Edenbridge area, were apparently done with a sharpened stone implement, using a green coloured substance as ink.

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FOR SALE

CHRISTMAS DINNERS. You can buy English turkeys at a certain price, and you can buy foreign turkeys at a cheaper price; but you won't beat my price for 'Bellhurst Broad' turkeys. A fine bird delivered to your door ready for the oven by 'Curly' Price of Rye Wheelers. Enquiries to :-

Mr. F. Austin-Price,
Great Bellhurst Farm,
Beckley, Sussex.

FOR SALE. Strudwick junior-back Tandem, 22"-18", 8-speed, Boaloy's, Airlite, Cantilevers, Brooks, 4 sets of rear cranks.
E. Godden, 76 Latimer Road, Eastbourne.

FOR SALE. 4-in. steel extension 10s. pair Weinmann q/r brakes 15s. 18-in. steel Bailey bars 10s. Benelux front changed 15s. Brand new unused Solite hubs 25s. Neeves, 19 East Parade, Hastings.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR, 'BONK'

340, Seaside Road (top flat),
EASTBOURNE.

Dear Dennis,

Could you spare a little space in the Christmas edition to allow me to thank all ESCA members who so very kindly contributed to my wonderful wedding present. It was an electric lamp, shaped like a spinning wheel which really works on a treadle, and I was very surprised and excited when I received it. By the way, anyone passing through is welcome to come up and see us, though you'll need mountaineering boots !

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. P. Pearson (Pat Novis).

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Well, readers, we're nearly at the end of the line; so what better way of using the last couple of inches of space than to send this well loved greeting to all readers and contributors.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR everybody

Yours in Sport,
DENNIS NEEVES.

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