

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE

# EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



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NEW SERIES - No. 26.

SUMMER 1959

EDITORIAL

The peak of the Season approaches, the controversies and arguments are long since over, and with the pattern set for the season, most riders are busy getting on with it. But, as any scientist will tell you, "Nature abhors a vacuum", which is perhaps why the hoary old 'fixed v. free' controversy reappeared in the weekly cycling press recently. The only thing that surprises us about this is that there is any controversy at all. Experienced riders know that the single fixed gear is very useful in city traffic, is a 'must' for aspiring track-men, and is usually no disadvantage on the average time-trial course; but surely it is stating the obvious to say that using 'fixed' for any other purpose is making hard work of cycling, wasting physical energy stamping up hill and nervous energy twiddling down. The fact that in this age of efficient variable gears so many cyclists still use a fixed gear proves our long-held theory that there is a great deal of 'Happy-in-our-misery' in the English temperament. Various canards are quoted in support of making a virtue out of what was once necessity :- "You can't pedal properly on a freewheel". (Sorry Coppi, Koblet et al). "You can't get fit on a freewheel". (Sorry you fellows in the Tour de France, &c.). "You've got more control on a fixed wheel". (Even when doing 150rpm down the Old London Road ?). And so on ..... We think that all these arguments are inspired by a feeling (largely subconscious) that the fixed wheel is the sine qua non of the cyclist with a capital 'C', while the freewheel - particularly the multiple variety - is associated with 'tuggos' and mass-start men. The "fixed is best" brigade gain many recruits from young riders who join a club, ride for a few Sundays with a gear range of about 65-92 inches, and not surprisingly decide that "gears are no good". However, as we see no point in unnecessary suffering, we shall continue to make the best use of our limited ability with the aid of a quintuple freewheel; and with five nicely spaced ratios at our disposal we will cheerfully risk being dubbed a tuggo, a mass-start man or even a cyclist with a small 'c'.

"Gen" from the Secretary.

Our Editor has just reminded me that it is about time I let him have a few notes for the Magazine. First and foremost we are now nearly halfway through the Racing Season, which means that the Social Season will not be long coming round again when for a few months we can forget about setting the alarm clock at the unearthly hour of 4 a.m. Will all clubs note that the Association Luncheon & Prize Presentation will be held on Sunday, November 29th, with the Annual General Meeting on the following Sunday.

Whilst on the subject of dates, the "Clubman's Touring Competition" will be held on Sunday, September 13th, following the 25 miles.

The date for the Road Race is October 4th subject to confirmation by the Committee, this is the only clear date that is available.

The usual Sports Day is being held at Rye on August Monday, and the events will include the 440 yds. and 1,000 yds. Championships. This year it is hoped that the track will be of 440 yds.

Entries for the time trials have been up to past standards and competition has been very keen, especially for the team awards, Eastbourne Rovers, East Grinstead C.C. and Tunbridge Wells Road Club having been concerned in some very close finishes with only seconds separating them. The response to the Longmarkers events has been far from encouraging, and in the 50 miles only 4 riders completed the distance. In the Ladies events the entries have been at the same level as in the past, awards have been shared by three riders. A surprise winner of the last 10 Miles was Ann Heather of Eastbourne who returned a time of 28.50 for her first ride in an Open event. Once again the time is drawing near for the longer distance events, which means that we shall need many more marshals to make sure that the riders, several of whom have not ridden on G.55 & 56, are not allowed to run off course. Any offers of assistance will be much appreciated.

Regarding courses, the new G.52 appears to meet with approval and to date times have been up to standard on it. Slight adjustments are being made to the 100 miles and 12 hours courses, due to road work in the Newhaven, Denton district, details of which will appear on the Start Sheets.

R.H.

LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

Salutations as usual from the Club With Never a Dull Moment. Pride of place this time goes once again to our old pal 'Tourist' Agg, who has a liking for sprinting across traffic lights in "amber". Some weeks ago he convulsed all present when in the course of a frenzied effort near Lewes prison he barely escaped colliding with a horse standing at the lights. With the animal's hind-quarters rapidly assuming the proportions of Marble Arch as seen from a bubble car, Agg desperately switched out and finished in a heap in the gutter, causing the horse to shy violently. A torrent of abuse from the jockey was met with the usual Agg air of injured innocence followed by a plaintive "Who? Me?" Racing activity so far has been sporadic - in fact Grover, Willcocks and Russell are believed to be still in a semi-comatose state from the Social Season! Certainly 'Tin-Legs' Grover has been shuffling along like a worn-out H-bomb marcher, probably as the aftermath of an early season open '25' in which he and Russell dragged the club's fair name through the mire by clocking 1-13s. Mike has resumed his winning ways in club events with victories in the Lewes-Newhaven and back (in which his 35-43 was the fastest time since the Marsh era); the '30' (1-19-14); and the first evening '10', in which his 25-33 was 15 seconds too good for Agg. However, the 'Tourist' amply squared matters in the '25' with 1-3-33, Mike dumbfounding everybody with 1-17-58, doubtless due to his exertions when he finished in the bunch in the Junior National Championship Road Race over 45 miles of a Coventry circuit. In the S.C.A. Individual Championship he paid the penalty of forgetfulness and lost 3 mins. (and 4th place) while borrowing a bell. Despite his denials of 'big-headedness' he slipped up after the Lewes-Newhaven event when he said that in the circumstances Russell had better do the newspaper write-up; and then ruined the whole effect by adding "would you like a photograph to go with it?" The Team Championship saw four Lewes finishers, of whom Agg was fastest with a '5', Burbery a '6', Mike an '8' (with a puncture), and Burgess a '9', very creditable seeing that he can only ride as duties permit.

Since the last edition Pete Burbery has been married and spent his honeymoon tandem-touring in Wales of all places. The inevitable sequel to this was that he rode in a '25' shortly afterwards and returned a 1-9! Russell's eclipse is due to the

unpalatable fact that this is his last year as a student, with the consequent frightening realisation that he will have to work for a living in the near future ! He can be found at any time surrounded by text-books, his head in cold water bandages and his feet in a mustard bath, "cramming" like mad for the forthcoming 'Finals', although frequently being harangued by Mike to "chuck it and come out training". Lastly we hear that another 'Happy Event', their fifth, is expected in the Sharp household. Whether they have a grudge against the Kingston villagers isn't known, but the latter have good cause for apprehension at the thought of say, another "Ivan the Terrible" in their midst !

And that's the scandal for this time, folks. May good weather and fast times be your lot for the rest of the season.

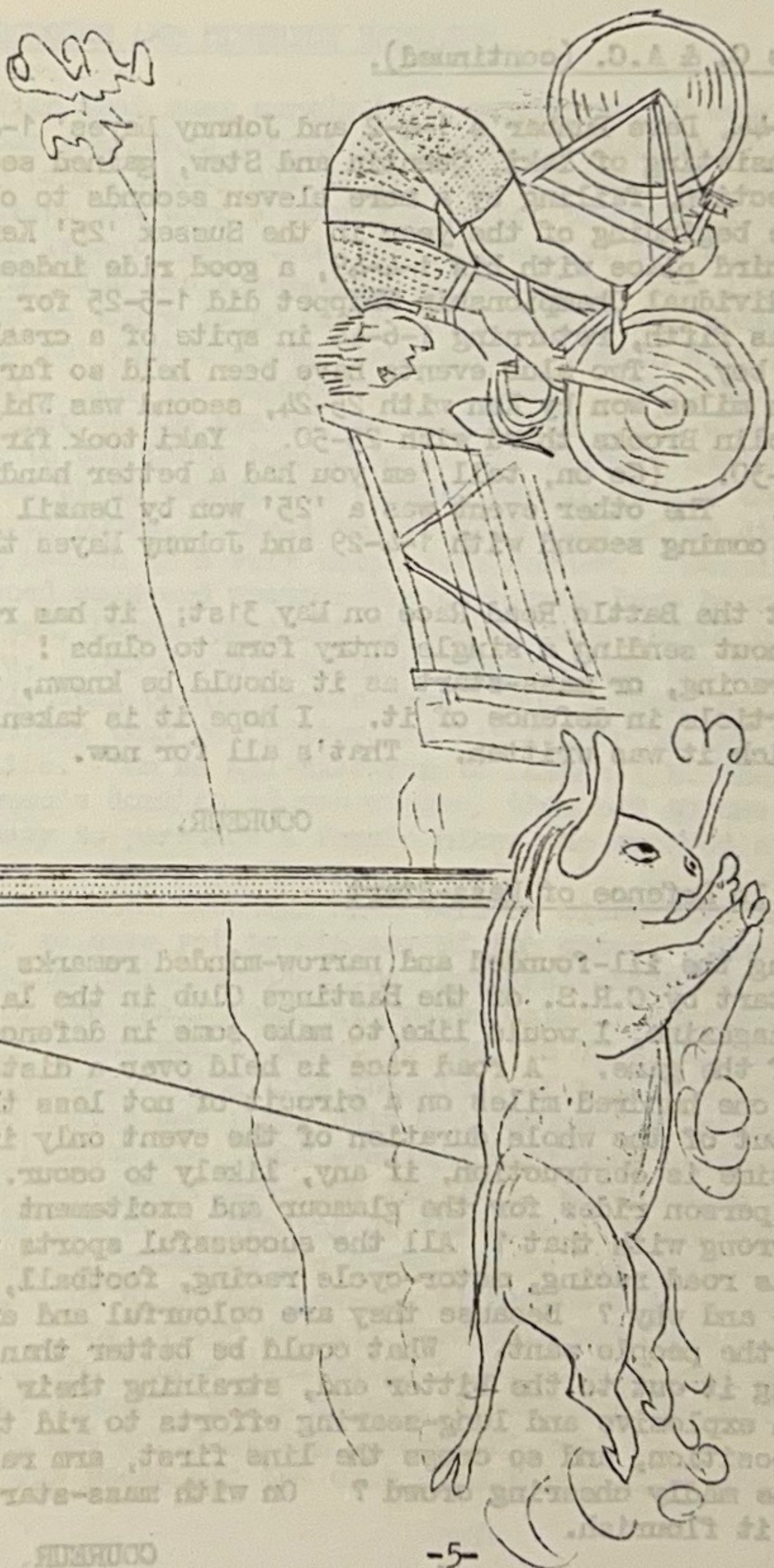
ALSORAN.

EASTBOURNE ROVERS C. & A.C.

With the racing season once again in full swing, it's "hello" to one and all, with the Rovers meeting with more success this early in the year. In the first event, the E.S.C.A. Hardriders '12', the club's racing men took the team award and second and third places. Ken Stevens clocked 34-7, Dave Dunbar 34-9, and Johnny Mayes was fifth with 35-11. In the E.S.C.A. '25' on April 12th Denzil was in great form with his second place ride of 1-3-9, to Dave Patten's 1-2-30. Whippet Manser, back in form, recorded 1-5-7 and Ken Stevens 1-5-27, these three taking the team award. In the longmarkers event Stew Cole did what everyone thought he would do, namely win the event with his 1-8-3. This lad is only fourteen years old. With supporting rides of 1-10-21 by Terry Parsons and 1-11-0 by Tony Bartlett they well won the team prize. In the E.S.C.A. '50' on May 3rd Brian Cornwell ('Yaki') kept the club in the picture with his 2-14-36 ride, which took a deserved fourth place on a hard morning. He was only forty seconds off second place. Dave Dunbar gained fifth place with 2-15-25, Ken Stevens returned 2-19-50 and Quentin Rance 2-25-50 with a puncture.

Ann Heather, riding in her first event, namely the '10', won the event with 28-50, took first handicap and led the team to victory, Iris doing 29-40. In the Sussex Team Championship we gained first place in the 'A' event with Whippet Manser's 1-3-27,

LIFE WITH THE FARMERS (No. 21).



Well, you'd think a Farmer would be able to deal with a bull, wouldn't you ?

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

Ken Stevens' 1-3-44, Dave Dunbar's 1-4-2 and Johnny Mayes' 1-4-5. The 'B' Team, consisting of Yaki, Quentin and Stew, gained second place in their section, failing by a mere eleven seconds to obtain victory. At the beginning of the year in the Sussex '25' Ken Stevens gained third place with his 1-4-49, a good ride indeed. In the Sussex Individual Championship Whippet did 1-5-25 for third place, and Ken was fifth, returning 1-6-44 in spite of a crash with a newspaper boy. Two club events have been held so far. First was the ten miles won by Ken with 25-24, second was Whippet with 25-33 and Colin Brooks third with 25-50. Yaki took first handicap with 26-30. (Go on, tell 'em you had a better handicap than me! - Ed.). The other event was a '25' won by Denzil with 1-3-37, Ken coming second with 1-4-29 and Johnny Mayes third with 1-6-44.

Don't forget the Battle Road Race on May 31st; it has received a full entry without sending a single entry form to clubs! Talking of road racing, or mass-start as it should be known, there now follows an article in defence of it. I hope it is taken in the spirit in which it was written. That's all for now.

COUREUR.

In Defence of Mass-Start

After reading the ill-founded and narrow-minded remarks regarding mass-start by C.R.S. of the Hastings Club in the last edition of this magazine, I would like to make some in defence of this branch of the game. A road race is held over a distance of from sixty to one hundred miles on a circuit of not less than twenty miles. Out of the whole duration of the event only in ten per cent of the time is obstruction, if any, likely to occur. And of course, a person rides for the glamour and excitement it brings - what's wrong with that? All the successful sports in the world, such as road racing, motor-cycle racing, football, &c., draw big crowds - and why? Because they are colourful and exciting, and that is what the people want. What could be better than fifty young men battling it out to the bitter end, straining their bodies to the limit with explosive and lung-searing efforts to rid themselves of the opposition, and so cross the line first, arm raised in victory, to the madly cheering crowd? On with mass-start, I say - long may it flourish.

SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS.

With what must surely be a record run of wet week-ends and glorious week-days during the Spring, followed by a fortnight of Summer (most likely all of it), before Whitsun, your scribe is now gazing out upon a normal dampened scene seeking inspiration for the latest 'gen' from the hillemen of the North.

The club has a somewhat different fixture list to many, insofar as there is no clearly defined racing season and social season, but rather a year-long social season with racing superimposed. (Up the Southboro'! - Ed.). This was brought home to the writer on the eve of the Hardriders '12', when there was a club outing to see Louis Armstrong at the Kilburn State Theatre, followed by an eating and viewing session round the West End in the early hours. Small wonder that some of us didn't start the racing season in a very auspicious manner. Despite the aforementioned week-end weather the club-runs have been fairly well supported, helped no doubt by the welcome influx of several juniors. Our 20-25 average attendance for tea was boosted by one recently when Dennis Neeves came along to join us at Hawkhurst; nice to see that our Editor has his finger on the pulse of E.S.C.A. club life. On an all-male run to Lasham Y.H. they commandeered the women's dorm' as it was warmer, then had to use all their diplomacy to persuade a female hiker who arrived at 9-30 p.m., to sleep in the male dorm'.

Our social evenings with various clubs have been most enjoyable, even if we have yet to win any of the games. Most recent was a tiddlywinks match against the 'Farmers' which was fought on the lawns of the 'Half Moon' at Friars Gate. Uckfield had a slight edge on us and won by about 70 pts. to 7, although I believe they are still recovering from the sight of the Wheelers arrayed in rhubarb leaves and funny hats and one member (male) wearing a sarong! With the light evenings here once again the club has resumed the summer mid-week fixtures, which means there is an activity for every evening of the week. Rough-stuff, rock climbing and swimming are organised by Les Hayman, whilst evening '10's', club night and evening club-runs fill in any remaining nights. The latter usually terminate with about half the starters reaching the "Three Squirrels" in various stages of collapse, which no doubt accounts for a general demand for the ladies to lead such runs and not our aspiring mass-start men.

A few weeks ago the club said farewell to one of our keenest

Southborough & District Wheelers (continued).

clubrun members when Mick Clifton emigrated to Australia. At an informal ceremony at the 'Barmaids' Ightham, he was presented with a travelling alarm clock. Easter saw quite a lot of activity with three separate tours, and most of those who stopped at home were racing. Geoff Hayman with Pete, Ann and Barbara, went along the Thames valley in Berkshire, where they watched boating types make a vain attempt to avoid immersing themselves in the river. Twiggy Branch and Johnny Burge went hostelling in Essex, and returned complaining that the roads ran over the top of every hill! Lou, Pam, Mike Daniel and Crow hostelled in Shropshire and came back wildly enthusiastic about the area, with thoughts of forming yet another appreciation society to go along with such other diverse ones as those of Twiggy Branch, Draught Bass, Sibelius and Peggy Lee. The Whitsun tour to the Isle of Wight which I attended, was another great success. The tour round the island was completed and there are tales of a lady member who emerged from the male sleeping quarters about 12-45 a.m. I'll have to be on that tour next year. Holidays are the main thing of importance now. Geoff, Ann and Mike Daniel are down in Devon and Cornwall at the time of writing, but the rest are being taken at the normal time. Arthur will be off again to the Emerald Isle, Phil to Scotland and Lou and Crow to the Dolomites, whilst other plans are in various states of formulation. Among other plans for the future are a week-end devoted to rough-stuff in the Devil's Punch-Bowl, an all-nighter to support our team in the Catford '24', and a tour of the London dockland. The summer also means there will be some club visits to the 'Proms', although there will be no hooters and paper darts as per the B.A.R. Concert.

Our club birthday celebrations are really stop-press news, but can just be squeezed in. (That's very kind of you, Mr. Editor). This year Lou led a mystery run that terminated at the clubroom at Speldhurst, where there was a tea of 'cyclist' proportions, complete with iced cake commemorating the twenty-seventy birthday. After tea we had the auction of equipment conducted by Brian Crouch. Here many dubious and genuine bargains were purchased. Pete Cook paid 5s. for a 'mystery parcel' containing a torn and dirty inner tube. Another member was seen leaving the premises with bike laden with tyres and tubes of which the previous owner had said that any buyer would be robbed of sixpence for the lot. Before finishing I'd like also to mention that of three entries in the local heat of the B.C.T.C. the Hayman brothers got twelfth place and Lou twentieth. Not bad out of 180 starters.

Southborough & District Wheelers (continued).

That's it from the North - here's to good touring and social activities and a better summer than last year.

CROW.

Southborough Racing News.

The headlines are that Tun. Wells Road Club swamped us 1-2-3 in the inter-club '25' on their Mereworth course on May 24th. A successful open promotion. Les Hayman fastest at 50 miles. Two probable starters in the Catford '24'. Brenda Chenery closing in on Dawn. Trike records by Phil Hennessey. The medium gear gave Ron Hayward a win in 1-6-20 by a distance from Brian Leyland (1-11-11). April 5th club '25' saw Brian Leyland (1-7-23) just ahead of Jiggers Goldensmith (1-7-30), with Reg Smith 3rd with 1-8-17. The club '30' late in April went to Ron in 1-18-21 with a photo-finish for second place between Brian Leyland (1-22-34) and Reg Smith (1-22-57). Evening '10's' have gone to Ron Hayward and Brian Leyland. The interclub event with Tun. Wells resulted in a Dave Patten win in 1-2-37. Our best here was 4th, 5th and 6th - Ron 1-5-36, Crow finding form with 1-5-41 and Brian Crouch 1-6-2. It was a win for the Wells by 4 mins. 9 secs. Les Hayman has the season's fastest '50' - 2-14-53 on Q.90 in the 'Fairies' event. Ron has made three consecutive attempts to better this without success, his nearest being a 2-15-5 on Q.3 in the K.C.A. event. Reg Smith has found early form with 2-17-0 in the latter trial with Crow moving up with 2-19-3. At this stage the club B.A.R. appears wide open. There are two starters for the Catford '24', namely Ted Boorman and Pete Cook, who should line up on Sat. June 20th. In Ladies' events newcomer Brenda Chenery is hard on the wheels of Dawn, being less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  min. away at ten miles and 90 secs. at 25 miles on current form. Phil Hennessey on his trike has beaten the 28-0 standard set by 2 secs. and the Tonbridge-Rochester return standard of 1-55-0 by 1 min. 7 secs. The club Hilly '42' Open received enthusiastic support to the tune of 110 entries. On a cool, bright but windy morning, Dave Patten showed the way round for the second year, being the only rider this year inside two hours. His time of 1-59-57 was ahead of M. Baker Cambrian C.C. (2-1-9) and J. Lawrence, Bromley R.C. (2-1-59). Team prize went to Bromley R.C. Altogether there were between 40 and 50 marshals, feeders and helpers. At the finish tea, minerals and a wide variety of refreshments were available from the club tea tent at an otherwise isolated spot. Highlights of the next three months will be an inter-club '25' with the 'Fairies' on June 7th, and the several '100's' and '12's' to be decided in Kent and Sussex. Until the late season, cheerio from .....

BALLYALGOL'S PAL.

PEN PORTRAITS (no. 9).

For some years now the name of Professor Jonothan Aristotle Grover, I.M. (2nd Class) has been a household word in 'BONK', although even to his close associates the man himself defies adequate explanation. Author, camelteer, Yogi exponent extraordinary and former 'Iron Man' of East Sussex cycling, he nevertheless displays a marked reticence in company and has, in fact, more than once been taken for a statue by the uninformed. What his appearance is deceptive is revealed on those occasions when he plumbs the depths of naivety and staggers even hardened clubmates with such questions as "Who is Jayne Mansfield? What club does she ride for?", indeed, the very name 'Iron Man' was earned, not as many think, by any outstanding cycling feats, but by his unique ability to resist the blandishments and manifold wiles of the celebrated Maggie, who was once such an asset to the Lewes club. Then of course, there was the incident on a Lewes-Seaford train when an attractive 'dragon', evidently impressed by Grover's intellectual bearing, asked him what he was doing that evening! Grover fixed her with a morale-shattering glare, and barked: "My homework, of course". Efforts to enlighten him on certain problems which can't be solved with his favourite weapon - a slide-rule, have foundered on the rock of Philosophical Stoicism, an attitude that has led to his recent decline and nicknames of "Tinlegs" and "Leadbelly". The unkindest cut of all, however, occurred recently when the newspapers gave great prominence to the saga of Grover the Wine Swine, a pig that raided a liquor store and drank itself to death on home-made 'hooch', thereby qualifying for a riotous 'funeral' by Brighton students. Could this be the omen that portends the eventual fate of our subject? Time alone will tell.

A.R.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ALBION C. C.

Well, here we are again, time to write some more stuff for 'Bonk'. It seems only yesterday that I was writing the last lot. By the time you read this Jack Rogers, our past General Sec., will have moved to the Midlands and probably joined a local club. Robin Piper won our 'hardriders' event on a cold wet morning in 38 mins. 47 secs. from Keith Saxby and Jeff Brocklesbury. Unfortunately, two riders coming round a bend suddenly found themselves confronted by closed level-crossing gates with a steep

Tunbridge Wells Albion C.C. (continued).

hill the other side. At that instant the air became thick with words that cannot be found in the dictionary. This win gave Rob his second 'hardriders' victory. Jeff has completed a hat-trick in this year's '10's', result sheets recording (1) .. 1st J. Brocklesbury 27-13. 2nd R. Piper and 3rd B. Rogers. (2) .. 1st J. Brocklesbury 27-23. 2nd R. Piper 27-27 and 3rd B. Rogers 27-41. (3) .. 1st J. Brocklesbury 26-41. 2nd R. Piper 26-46 and 3rd G. Lade 27-20. Alistair Padley, our ten mile course record holder, rode a '10' for the first time in three years, and found the time he did somewhat different to the times he used to do. Several of our riders were tempted to enter a Southborough and District Draught Bass Drinking Club evening '10'. They found the course faster than our own; their times were around the 25-26 minute mark. That's all for now so cheerio .....

HANDLE.

SUSSEX SONNETS No. 1. To the ESCA '100'.

The hundred mile course called G.Fifty-Five Meanders round six turns and by the sea; To Bexhill and along by Pevensey Oft times 'gainst wind and driving rain we strive. When simple souls on bikes like you and me At Bat and Ball, that well-known drain arrive Start fit and fresh and glad to be alive Down Dicker speed with all alacrity. It seems that men like us will never learn And by the layman be thought quite insane; Through Polegate, Wilmington with visage stern We battle on to Denton's cursed turn; But scarce we halt at Whitesmith's welcome drain Decide next year, once more, we'll ride again.

HOS.

EAST GRINSTEAD C.C.

Here is the 'Grinstead contribution to 'Bonk' for the Summer edition; I only hope the Editor will find it legible. (After deciphering Crow's stuff, I can read anything - Ed.). I would like to apologise to all readers for not having mentioned the club in the last issue, although some may think this rather a good idea. Going back to what should have been in the last issue, the club

East Grinstead C.C. (continued).

would like to extend it's thanks to all ESCA riders who attended it's annual dinner at the 'Old Felbridge' Hotel and helped in making it a grand success. During the Social Season we had a one hundred match marathon table-tennis competition with the Tun. Wells Road Club. There was word going about that Jack Kramer was trying to talk Dave Patten and Pete Brooker into playing for his circus, which we later found out was to be held at the centre court of the Dolphin Fair at Haywards Heath. Of course everyone knows that the 'Crow' now rides in Southborough colours. There was some rumour that it might be to help the Southboro' to have a complete team finish in this year's 12 hrs., although for the time he was on the road in the Assn. '50' he might use that ride in the B.A.R. should the day of the '12' be a bad one! The week that Pete left our club, another rider, Jerry Butler, an ex team-mate of Jim Hinds from the Southern Roads Club joined our ranks. Although he has no desire to become a time-triallist, he will be a rider to watch in our road team. Making his debut for the club in the Ashington Circuit Race, he showed an aggressive mood, but had to retire during the second lap due to some mechanical fault with his 'iron'. Also during the event Gordon Leney had some very ill luck when he punctured about two and a half miles from the finish whilst with the leading bunch of nine riders. Although he tried to make a quick tyre change, he found that his air pump wouldn't blow up a faulty spare tubular which he'd had given him at the start of the race. Since the season started we have had a Junior in the club, making it necessary for the other members to use cars and motor-cycles so that they can hold his back wheel. The chap of course is Richard alias 'Doughy' Wood. After a couple of early '25's' he rode in the Clarence Wheelers '25' and earned himself a big black mark in Alan Gordon's book of crimes by winning the first handicap with a total time of 1-3-22, nearly as fast as the Robinson who recorded 1-1-58 on the rather blustery morning, and with Gordon's 1-4-3 wasn't far outside the winning team's time. Anyhow this fellow Wood, not content with that, decided to ride his first 'half-a-ton' in the Southern Counties '50', and with ordinary walking shoes because he'd forgotten his cycling shoes in the mad car ride to the start, plus a delay when he found that it was easier if you have the saddle facing parallel with the top tube when running before the wind, he managed to record a 2-18, even though Aquila Airways had asked Crawley Corporation for permission to land their Sunderlands on the Crawley By-Pass.

East Grinstead C.C. (continued).

This year our club strength has greatly increased owing to a large number of Juniors joining, most of them just rarin' to go. In a recent club '10' most of them were hard on Micky's tail, recording 28 and 29 min. rides, although Richard Wood came up with a short 25. If there are any qualified lamp adjusters in the Association would they please contact one William Francis. He still doesn't know how that big black dog got under his front wheel one dark night a month ago - or so he says. The B.C.F. would do well to send an insurance investigator to certain abodes in the East Sussex area and really get to the bottom of all the claims that went in during the winter months for petty things like new frames, wheels and complete renovations. It doesn't seem right that all these things can be blamed on pedestrians in Crawley who make a practice of stepping off the kerb without looking right and left. This year the club has arranged for five or six of it's members to take part in the Isle of Man Cycling Week. There is a team to ride in the Onchan one lap road race, and Micky is having a go on the track.

With the club's first team win, in the Association '50', maybe Mr. Rance of the Eastbourne club would care to recall the conversation he had with Mr. Lock senior earlier in the year. Now what do you think of this for mates, Ed.? Don Lock had found himself in the month of May and without a race to date, so Big Bill badgered him and almost paid his entry fee to ride in the S.C.C.U. '50'. At last Don relented and decided to take the plunge at the 'half-ton' distance, training or no training. On that fateful morning, as I've previously told, up turned Richard, Gordon and Don, but no Bill - where was he? One look out of the window at 5 a.m. and he crept back between the sheets, saying "Blow you, Jack".

Avast there, I do believe Gordon has dropped a very large size parcel. I find myself with two days till deadline - I've had all of six months to find out the Editor's address, but now I can't find the darned thing anywhere. (You could have sent it c/o Seaboard, Hastings - Ed.). Later ..... I've found it and before I post this drivel let me wish our six man team in the Sussex Division Mass-Start Championship on May 24th the "Best of British". As this is on our back-door-step almost, you can watch this column in the next issue for harsh comment if they don't produce some good results .....

MARITIME.



TIME TRIAL RESULTS

12 Miles Hardriders.

H. M. S.

1st:	D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells R.C.	31 45
		(Course & Event Record)	
Team:		Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	1 42 27
		(Team Record).	

25 Miles 72" Gear.

1st:	D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells R.C.	1 4 7
Team:		Tunbridge Wells R.C.	3 24 45

25 Miles.

1st:	D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells R.C.	1 2 30
Team:		Eastbourne Rovers C. & A.C.	3 13 43

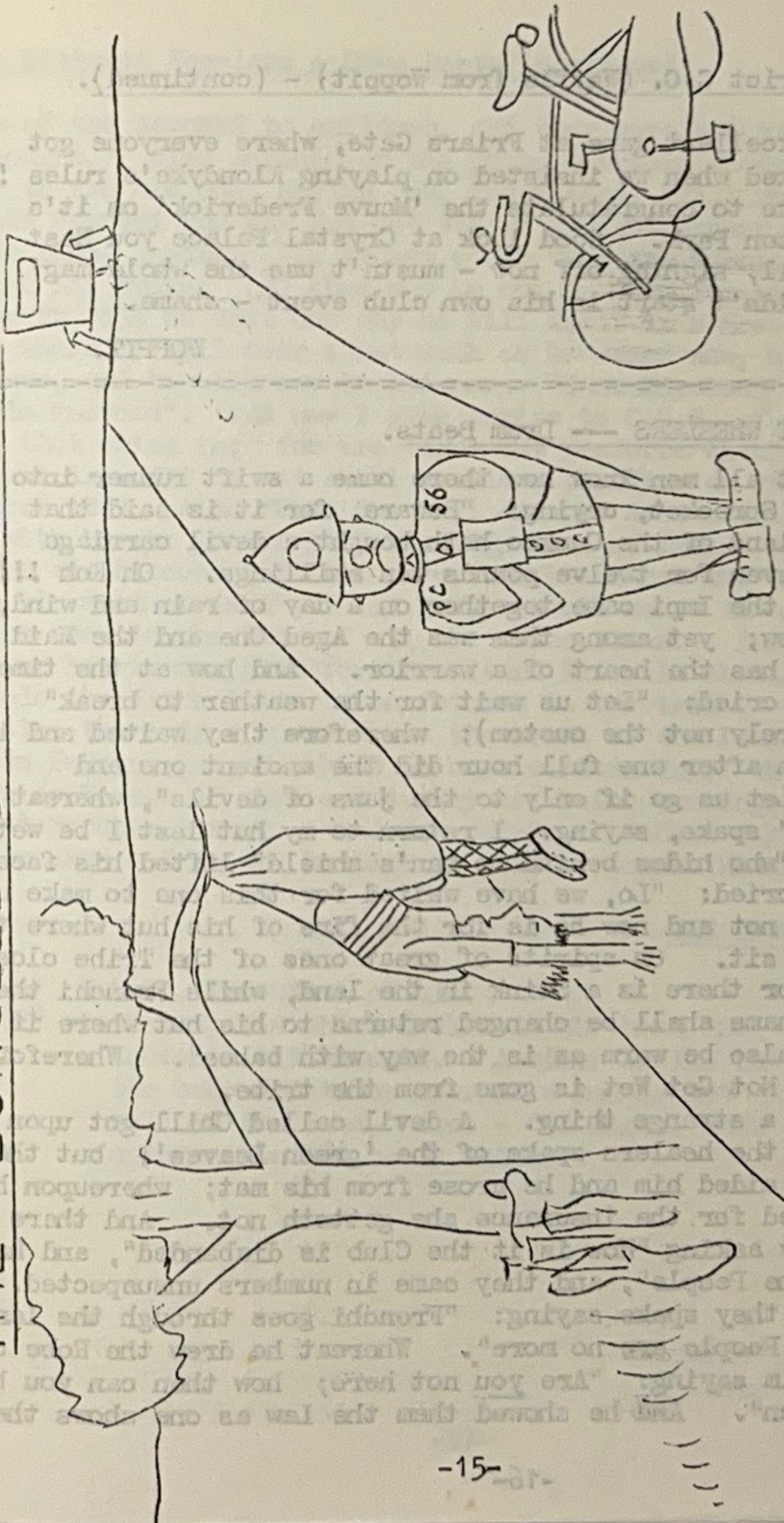
50 Miles.

1st:	D.A. Patten	Tunbridge Wells R.C.	2 9 40
Team:		East Grinstead C.C.	6 46 42

UCKFIELD AND DISTRICT C.C. (Waffle from Woppit).

Dear Reader: Greetings from the bed-ridden one ! Following the entry of one 'kerchief into one back 'sprint' and £4 gear one training night, Woppit has had further bad luck in the form of one collapsed front wheel and a jolly cut-up face. But it's only to be in the swim with my fellow Newick car wreckers. Well, ne'mind, eh ? Spring has come and brought us two engagements, Geoff v. Jennifer Dut. and Os v. Auntie Rosemary, with an impending announcement from Griff (So that's where he's been on Wednesday nights - Ed.). Best of British to all. Gerald's life of love is rather base over apex and has made him ill and bed-ridden, but just ask Lewis how Jennifer is (stir !). Escans will be interested to hear that the Farmers have acquired a boffin farmer, stationed at Maresfield, by the name of Dave Allen, B.Sc. Agriculture ! Cedge has succeeded in mauling his little finger and eventually breaking it (in the slot machine at night buying chocolate for 'knock' rations ?); whilst Arthur is seen back out of retirement. I would like to thank the Southborough

THE BURGESS SAGA CONTINUES



P.C. BURGESS: "Did you get his number?"  
 GROVER, coming round: "No, - but I'd know his laugh anywhere."

Uckfield & District C.C. (Waffle from Woppit) - (continued).

mob for their excellent game at Friars Gate, where everyone got tiddled and winked when we insisted on playing Klondyke's rules ! I would also like to congratulate the 'Mauve Frederick' on it's showing at Preston Park. Good luck at Crystal Palace you East Hoathlian. Well, signing off now - mustn't use the whole mag'. N.B. - Neeves didn't start in his own club event - shame.

WOPPIT.

-----  
RYE AND DISTRICT WHEELERS --- Drum Beats.

Koom ! Let all men know how there came a swift runner into the land of the Sprocket, crying: "Beware, for it is said that Edwards of the land of the Cuckoo hath bought a devil carriage called Austin Seven for twelve pounds ten shillings. Oh Koh !!! Also I tell how the Impi came together on a day of rain and wind, and they were few; yet among them was the Aged One and the Maid of the Jam-Jar who has the heart of a warrior. And how at the time of starting one cried: "Let us wait for the weather to break" (and this is surely not the custom); wherefore they waited and it was Cold. Then after one full hour did the ancient one and another say: "Let us go if only to the jaws of devils", whereat he who cried "wait" spake, saying: I return to my hut lest I be wet". And the old one "who hides behind no man's shield" lifted his face to the sky and cried: "Lo, we have waited for this one to make up the mind he has not and now he is for the fire of his hut where the women and babes sit. Oh spirits of great ones of the Tribe close your nostrils for there is a Stink in the land, while Frenchi the Twiddler whose name shall be changed returns to his hut where if he be wet he will also be warm as is the way with babes". Wherefore Frenchi Who May Not Get Wet is gone from the tribe.

And now of a strange thing. A devil called Chill got upon the old one and the healers spake of the 'green Leaves'; but the gods of Cycling aided him and he arose from his mat; whereupon his chief wife wailed for the insurance she getteth not. And there came to him many asking "How is it the Club is disbanded", and he cried: "Call the People", and they came in numbers unsuspected. And at the word they spake saying: "Frenchi goes through the land crying that the People are no more". Whereat he drew the Robe of Council round him saying: "Are you not here; how then can you be dead, oh children". And he showed them the Law as one shows the

Rye & District Wheelers - Drum Beats (continued).

spoor of the leopard to children, and they were sad at their lack of thought. Also certain of the young warriors spoke 'under the hand' to the old one, saying "oh, Indabitana, shall we not speak to this Frenchi who May Not Get Wet in a right manner ?" But he stayed them, saying: "Is it not clear that the Umkulu (1) hath twisted his snake; (2) thus may he not be held for his words and mayhap it will be that one day he will dwell in a Kraal of the Queen where he will wear a hat such as he wears now, also fine garments, and he will say to all men: "I am Napoleon". Let us weep for him instead". And now I give praise to C.R.S. of Hastings who spake that which is; for are there not proverbs which say: "When the meal is unfit to eat shall we blame the King or the cooks who prepared it?" Also "When the bull charges does not the bystander fall with he who goaded it," also "In time of famine beat the fool who let the baboons into the corn, and blame not the hunter who seeks his meat at dawn". And I say to all men - if a man shall do a shame then is the face of all the tribe black. And now I say that our hearts are glad for the wizard Bliss is abroad again also Hollands the Witch Doctor soon returns to the tribe.

Also there is a guard about the kraal of the Drum Beater for Certain Persons passed behind it on a certain day; wherefore he sends out spies to see if eggs and turkey are being exchanged for rods and salt at Boreham Street. And now people of ESCA I say: "May your knees weaken not in the battles to come". Gnamba Khaal.

THE DRUM BEATER.

- (1) Umkulu, The Giver of all.
- (2) Snake, Spirit which dwells in the head and controls all thought. Another dwells in the body and takes over if a man is not well in the head, hence - "Oh Bantu, thou speakest as the belly thinks".

YE GRANDE CHALLENGE

HEAR YE, HEAR YE, HEAR YE, Be it knowne to all persons in ye Countie of Easte Sussex that SIR JASPER IRONBIKE, of Ye Hille of Burgesse doth hereby challenge ye infamous DENNIS NEEVES to ye Joust in "Ye Tilt Yard of Ye Pevensey Castle" on ye Mid-Summer's Eve. Sir Jasper, having taken due note of ye base and blackguardly newes scribed in ye Broadsheete "Bonke" under ye title "I was Dennis Neeve's Double", by Alex McKnitt, and after ye mighty brainthought hath decided that this be ye onlie coarse left open to "Ye Honourable Gentleman (??)".

WEPPONS :- Ye Stiks of HASTINGS (famous, of course) ROCK.  
Toffee Tinne Lids (Sharps, of course !).

SPEEDES :- Ye Austins of SEVERN HORSES POWER (Originne dubious).

SQUIRE DUTSON, having, after ye careful considerations, acquiesced to act as ye Challenger's Sekonde, will call at ye cave called 19, Easte Parade, Hastings, to obtaine ye Acceptance.

SEALED in ye Merrie Monthe of May, 'neath ye signe of "Ye Licorice Tubular".

SIGNED : SIR JASPER IRONBIKE.

-----  
STOP PRESS from Eastbourne. On May 31st Eastbourne Rovers' annual Battle Road Race over 68 miles was held in perfect conditions. As in other years the event was a great success, there being an excess of entries. There were a number of breaks during the course of the event, but none was successful, being caught by the hard-working bunch, aided and abetted by the fact that there were ten-shilling primes on each lap. In the last lap there was a successful break consisting of D. Wright (Croydon RC), W. Lievesley (S. Coureurs), J. Elvy (Croydon RC), and D. Dunbar (Lancing RC). Those named finished in that order, followed by the bunch headed by P. Deniss of

Stop Press from Eastbourne (continued).

the Croydon R.C. for fifth place, with the latter club taking the team award. A Rovers team entered but none finished the course due to punctures and other troubles.

COUREUR.

-----  
CENTRAL SUSSEX CYCLING CLUB NOTES (written on the Firm's Paper, in the Firm's Time, on the Firm's Typewriter).

After a lapse of some time here is your aged scribe bringing you the news and views from the farthest flung corner of East Sussex.

Since last we had a contribution to this most esteemed (?) magazine our last correspondent has suffered from a heavy dose of Rock, Roll & Coffee Bar, and has sunk into obscure distance.

Let's start at the beginning then. At our Annual General Meeting earlier this year there was very little alteration to rules, the main difference being the dropping of the 25 mile time from our Club B.A.R. championship, thus bringing things in line with the current national trend. Jobs changed hands here and there, the important ones being :- Secretary - D. Goodfellow. Social Sec. - Miss K. Thorpe. Racing Sec. - Mrs. B.E. Atkins.

At Easter 'Our Gang' emigrated "overseas" and had a week-end away with the 'Farmers' on the Isle of Wight. A very good time was had by all I gather; a couple of our lads returning with rather red legs. It was quite amusing to note the report of one John Galls-worthy asking a young lady in an underwear shop how high the red stockings went! The evidence is now on view on all Central Sussex Club Runs.

We have had a couple of Dart matches this Spring with the local British Legion Ladies teams, just keeping our unbeaten record in both cases. Also on the books is a trip to the Victoria Palace to see the latest Crazy Gang show. This augurs to be quite good and should give a little more to write about in the next edition of this magazine (?).

Our racing started a little more slowly this year, members getting a little more sense at last, perhaps !! We have had one keenly contested Club event, a few entries in the local events, and the Atkins family hurtling all over the place in the "Devil-machine" with a certain blue-eyed blonde from an obscure rural club. I am also very pleased to report that the Club managed to its best team time in the Sussex Team Championship 25, placing 4th this year once again. Times returned in this event being R. Byrnes 1-4-42,

Central Sussex C.C. (continued).

D. Dalziel 1-5-4, K. Atkins 1-5-18, and a personal best from R. Amey 1-6-6. David knocked out a 1-4-57 in the Farnham event on Whit Sunday whilst Ken recorded a P.B. 2-11-34 in the Bon Amis 50, also producing a 2-13-16 in the Marlboro A.C. event. The club event was won by David in 1-7-34, and with another one in the very near future he will be all out to increase his hold on the club 25 cup. Missing from the racing picture this year are our charming ladies, Mrs. B. Honess and Mrs. B. Atkins, both of whom have retired from the competitive side of the sport. Brenda's husband, Tony, is also having a year's rest while he studies for his Sanitary Inspector's Examinations.

Club runs still carry on and Tea Bookings are still quite well supported. With the advent of a little hot weather we hope for bigger and better runs and faster and longer times and distances, but until then we must be satisfied with things as they are.

By the time the next set of scribings is published we shall be in the middle of the long-distance season, which, with any luck, will show that the Central lads can still take parcels with the best of them; till then, then,

Yours with a 'bundle'.

All the best from,

HONEST GINGE.

P.S. On behalf of my friend and relation 'SIR JASPER', I am directed to bring your attention to the "GRAND CHALLENGE" issued in another place in this magazine. Gadzooks and Gollywogs !!!!!

FOR SALE. Ex shortmarker has schedule for '50' on G.54 for sale. Too fast for owner. Would exchange for something around the 2-45 mark.

Also :- 27" Conloys on Airlite Continentals D.F. 45s.

27" Weinmann on S.F. Powells, D.F. 40s. One pair

G.B. brakes, nylon bushes, rubbers. 20s.

P.J. Crowsley, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent.

THE RUSSELL EMPORIUM OFFERS :- 23" Strudwick 'Oxford Superb' road frame £4. 0. 0. Brooks B.17 Swallow saddle 15s. Rear D/F sprint, Nisi on Blumfield with B.H. q.r. spindle £1.

R. Russell, 52 Saltwood Road, Seaford.

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

Well, summer must be here for anyone would know by the confusion on the old highways of Great Britain, most of which would not be occurring in this age if the 2,000-year-old lesson taught by the Romans had been observed. The Roman Empire was served throughout by an exceedingly well-planned network of trunk and secondary roads, remarkable for good engineering and construction. The trunk roads were direct routes designed to connect places of military and commercial importance with every neighbouring centre by the quickest and easiest route. As a deliberately planned system they were thus more nearly analogous to our modern railways than to the British road network; for this has usually developed quite at random by linking up a succession of tracks and lanes intended in the first place purely for local traffic. However, if the Romans had had all their way perhaps we would not have the Sussex lane as we know it to-day, for it was the character of their roads to be exceptionally straight.

At the time of writing these notes there is a thunderstorm raging outside, and I feel that it is the first of many that we shall have in the course of the summer. Why, do you ask? Well, the Meteorological Office is making investigations into thunderstorms during June, July and August, and is asking for volunteers to help. This same exercise was carried out in 1957, when practically no storms occurred. However, the Met. Office assures it's observers that they will not be disappointed this year. By the way, if anyone is interested, he should write immediately to F.H. Ludlam, Dept. of Meteorology, Imperial College, London, S.W.7.

Recently on our hard plod home one evening when we were fighting a north-easter we were passed by another Hastings club, all three of them. But not with their wheels touching the ground, oh no - they the hardriders were in a certain vehicle PKT 811. Then they call themselves cyclists, what a laugh; of course they may have crashed ('Stacked-up,' please - Ed.), in which case it only goes to prove my earlier notes. On a recent Sunday, stopping at a cafe for elevenses we were greeted by our old friend with protests. It was explained that we had ordered tea on Whit-Monday and had not turned up. We explained that it was not our club at all and were once more made welcome. However the club concerned must have a pretty poor administration, not making themselves clear, and also it would not be a bad idea to send an apology to our Secretary for the embarrassment caused, or is all that procedure old-fashioned? For the information of all concerned the Social Sec. has changed his address. It is now :- 70, Paynton Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex. C.R.S.

## SPARTAN CYCLE RACING CLUB.

The old 'Ed' mush keeps on badgering me to write this load of tripe, so I suppose I had better do something to pacify the brute. Only the other evening I was peacefully free-wheeling thro' the centre of Hastings when my ear 'oles was shattered by a loud "Well, where is it?". "Where is what?" I says all innocent like. "Your Bonk stuff", says the 'Ed' mush. Well, the long and short of it was that I promised to get something down within three days. (Good job he didn't know I was on my way to slip a scrounging letter under his door, furtive like).

Well now, to get down to the club notes. In common with other ESCA clubs we have been giving the races a bashing (ought to reverse that last bit, I think). You already know our disgraceful record in Association events, so I will tell you about our efforts in 'opens' etc. - it's even worse. We had a wonderful team in the Lancing Road Race (Pause for C.R.S. to shudder), Bernard Dean, Mick Walker and Lofty stacked up while Keith Kewell and Yours Truly went off the back. In the B.C.F. Sussex Road Race Bernie did manage a sixth and Lofty tenth: as for the others, well I've only got three days, so I'll leave it till the Social Season to tell all about it. Now for the bright spot. In the Folkestone C.C. '25' (it was run early Sunday morning or late Saturday night, I think), Micky Lingham recorded a personal best of 1-7-10 on a hard morning. He says he is fed up with being a longmarker, so watch out, Patten. Our evening event series is swinging along quite nicely with the same M. Lingham leading in the handicap points competition. All the events are won on handicap, with the handicaps based on the previous event time, so you can imagine rivalry is very keen. Now for the track side. The old firm of Walker and myself has been enlarged now by Kewell and Lingham. Although we did not get very far in the team pursuit we are more than pleased with the new boys' showing. Those who witnessed our first heat will tell you how those two novices had 'old hand' Walker off the back and suffering.

We Spartans have been watching Neevo to try to find out the secret of his superlative rides and amazing fitness. Now I can gleefully report that we've nobbled him. Now I can disclose to one and all the secret of success.

- (1) First buy a Rock Shop in Hastings or some other go-ahead Seaside town.
- (2) Catch a Saturday evening train to Sevenoaks and find 'digs'.
- (3) Mount your cycle in Sevenoaks at 9-30 a.m. on Sunday (later as you get fit).

## Spartan Cycle Racing Club (continued).

- (4) The urge for business will then take over and force you to sprint down to the coast, arriving in time to catch the first coachload of trippers and start hawking the old postcards, &c.

I can assure you all that this is quite genuine. The crafty devil has actually been seen doing it by a series of Spartan observers disguised as scarecrows; that means wearing our usual cycling clobber. And now for some -

### SPARTAN SCANDAL

Episode three in the Walker Love Mystery. This laddie left the club-run one bright Sunday morning with the excuse that he would go home and take his canoe out on the sea. He was seen later in the day cycling home from the direction of Udimore. Must have been a very high tide! He thought he was going to get away with it this time!

In the 'digs' for the Folkestone '25' there were twenty-two racing cyclists and only two went to the pub. Guess which club they were in?

I am intrigued. How does C.R.S. know who gets out to the early time-trials? Surely he is not so foolish as to get up himself to find out. Query ... has he ever heard of Owen Blower?

BILLY SMART (Showman)

### HERE and THERE

A well-known advert states that "It's a Man's Life In The Regular Army", and this is also true of the Pump Maintenance Co., judging by a recent statement by Ken Miller which brought the house down :- "Once when I was doing a job at Jevington Stud Farm ....."

A certain Hastings racing man was seen riding down Havelock Road (freewheeling too) from the direction of the station, presumably just back from a Spartans' training run. Don't worry, Tony, I haven't told C.R.S.

Siggo reports that he intends to attack Dutson's Uckfield to Burgess Hill record as soon as he gets a favourable morning -

Here & There (continued).

"favourable" meaning when both J. and K. are away racing.

At the Eastbourne C.T.C. open-air 'sausage sizzle' a certain young lady went with her boy friend to "look for some more wood". Some time later she returned blushing slightly with roughly enough wood to make a dozen boxes of matches.

Riding home from the latter 'do', the Editor stopped to help two scooterists who had broken down, and so reached the 'Lamb' two minutes after closing time. A man can make no greater sacrifice!

Readers will be pleased to know that Percy Bliss is back 'up the road' with his watch again, though as yet he has to travel by car.

Connoisseurs of equipment who think they have "seen it all" must visit Southboro' and see the 'Burgelux' home-made derailleur gear. It has a touch of Heath Robinson - but it works!

Someone ought to tell Lou Bathurst that the duties of Club President do not include tickling young ladies' legs at committee meetings.

The Editor, desiring to aid the Spartans in their epic struggle against C.R.S., but being prevented by permanent Easter knees from giving them practical support, has decided to ride up and down the promenade with mudguards removed, wearing Italian sunglasses and his hat back to front, and carrying a large musette bearing the words: "Join the Spartan Car Riding Club".

A new club recently formed in Eastbourne is called the 'Velo Club Macaroni'. Its activities are chiefly social, and its two founder members are Antonio di Grey and Gino Mayes.

The Editor has come to the conclusion that the 'Grinstead's new Press Sec. has another hobby besides cycling - carving the Lord's Prayer on pin heads!

Deadline for contributions to the Autumn issue is August 26th. 'BONK' is edited by Dennis Neeves who is quite a nice chap really and deserves a better fate.

The End.

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