



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex Cycling Association



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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New series No.10.

Summer 1965

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EDITORIAL

In a few days time, ESCA racing men will compete on yet another version of G.52; this time one that is a compromise between the wishes of the Association and the concern of the Police with road safety. There seems to be little wrong with the latest G52, but inevitably there will be dissidents; and when in the course of the discussion at the next AGM someone half humourously suggests a course north of the A 22 avoiding that artery altogether, there will be a chorus of groans. Why, one might ask, is it that any incline on a time-trial course which cannot be ridden on '81' produces mutters of "murder"; yet in recent years there has been an increase in the popularity of such events as the Bath Road Hilly 50 and the Southborough Wheelers Hilly 42, while our own Hardriders 12 consistently gets a good entry. Two possible answers come to mind. There are relatively few hilly events with a capital 'H', so they may be attractive as a novelty; while perhaps to times conscious time-trialists the 'Hardriders' label gives an 'evens' ride complete respectability, but in an event not so described they tend to judge their efforts by the 25 mph standard.

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WHATEVER HAPPENED TO PAGE TWO..?????

Eagle-eyed readers who have already spotted that something is wrong with this page are entitled to an explanation.

The truth is that for the first time in living memory, the Editor has received no Gen, bump, baloney or any other form of information from the Sec. Obviously Roy is busy settling in at his palatial new residence, Ebenezer Mansions; so as it would, we feel, be sacrilege to use this page for any other purpose than the time-honoured 'Gen from the Sec.' page two is hereby declared a Protected Zone until, as we all hope, our President and Hon. Secretary makes his literary 'come-back' in the autumn edition.

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SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS

It has often been said of the Wheelers that we are not a racing club; an accurate statement I'm glad to say: but when people say that we are not a competitive club then they err badly. In the past quarter, for instance, the rivalry between club captain Mike Daniel and young upstart John Potter has been really intense; and several others are close behind. This of course isn't for anything trivial like racing, but for the "big-time" stuff i.e. attendance points on club-runs and club nights. Excitement ran high when for the first time in over four years Danny was toppled from No. 1 spot in the monthly "charts" by John. Danny's downfall was caused by his taking a week-end off to visit his brother; and although he has now regained the top spot due to being a non racing man, his lead is slender and there is much speculation as to whether he can hold on until the final count for the attendance cup is made on October 31st. Certain informed club circles have been heard advancing the opinion that if Danny keeps to his staple diet of tea, swiss rolls and sweets he might succumb to a sudden attack of scurvy and be put out of the running altogether!

From the foregoing it can be gathered that the club-runs are in a fairly healthy state, and with the arrival of warmer weather the usual band of winter stalwarts have been augmented by others, notably the "First Lady of the Southboro' Wheelers" Anny Hayman, who is never short of admirers to accompany her in walking up the hills (Perhaps they're not fit either. Ed.) We visited and exhibited at that popular Spring event, the Eastbourne C.T.C. slide show, which seems to get more popular each year; as well as covering some new routes we found in mid-Kent and bits of roughstuff - yes even after all these years.

Because outmoded traditionalists still cling to a week of seven days we never have enough week-ends in the year. Perhaps with the introduction of the metric system we could press for a week-end in every five. Nevertheless we get by with a crowded calendar. Easter day fell on a Sunday this year, and several of the club nearly fell in the Irish Channell. This was on our trip to the Gower Peninsula in South Wales, which was another "bikes and cars

style excursion. The weather was not very kind, but everyone seemed to enjoy himself camping at Okwich Bay; some exploring the byways of the Gower and some sampling the delights of Swansea. Don Robb's 20 inch wheeled Royal Enfield, (i.e. unsprung semi-Moulton) made it's debut and damaged it's front rim by hitting a stone on a sharp descent. Needless to say all spare wheels were 27s. The day at Measlade Bay was perhaps the best, with plenty of cliffs and caves to satisfy the adventurous (Pete Cooke being well to the fore here); and a large expanse of sandy beach where Messrs. Hayman, Hoadley, Potter and Crowsley played racing in the sea, and came out soaked but exhilarated and amazingly enough their bikes looking little the worse for the ordeal. The Bathurst snore that caused such feeling in '64 seemed to lose it's potency this year, for which everyone gave thanks. Just to give the tour it's finishing touch there was snow to drive home through on the Monday.

The week-end before was a busy one too for Ron Hayward, our Hilly 42 promoter. We had a great morning and a moderate field of fifty plus for the event, which was won by the 1961 winner, Robin Buchan of Norwood Paragon in 1-58-15. Crow ensured that he would get enough food at the finish by starting no. 1 and finishing tenth. A good crowd at the finish gave the club it's traditional social atmosphere. Club racing got off to a slow start with the first event looking like a fancy-dress ball as riders tried to keep out the cold. Geoff "only touring" Boxall won it with a 1-15 by eight seconds from Don Robb; and Roger Broadgate broke Crow's slowest '25' record with 1-40-26.

In connection with the club racing scene it must be said that the "Hayman Hotel" is a haven of refuge for all those itinerant wheelers (surely we have a record number) who sleep on various floors after having played their dice games to a late hour. Recently some members have been so overcome by the luxury of the establishment that they have been reluctant to leave at the appointed hour and have consequently been D.N.S. Geoff 'n' Anny may have to enply a chucker-out if this sort of thing goes on.

So far each club event has been won by a different person, Crow taking the second 25 with 1-8-40 from Geoff Boxall. Don recorded a personal best in the 30, his

1-19 being just ahead of Tony Neale. John Potter had a well deserved win in the first evening '10' with 26-4 - with the course fifty yards long. Actually he is the only person with two wins, as he took the second one also with 26-19 after Crow (26-18) had been disqualified for not entering in time.

Down in East Sussex our first second claimer Clive Orchard has been storming around with a second in the Hardriders, a win in the Spring 25 with 1-4-6, and a great solo ride in the Team T.T. (well, I was dropped in the first hundred yards!). Our inter-club with the Rovers and the Tun. Wells R.C. on the Q 41 mountain course was great event, although our packing of fifth, sixth and seventh in the event only got us "placed" in the team contest. Congrats to Cliff Sharpe on his winning ride, and Roy Martin's come back as runner-up. Pleasure in Southboro' circles was registered as Brian Crouch returned to ride his first 25 after a four year lay-off. He was only 13 secs. behind Crow with 1-7-1. A second place for Brian in an evening 10 shows that when this stylish powerhouse gets going there will be some healthy scraps in the club.

Latest results to hand are the Kent CA 25 on a "float" morning, when most people improved two to three minutes. Crow, who claims he's only having a dabble until his studies are finished, went down to 1-4-17. John Potter improved 3 mins. to a personal best 1-6-56 for third h'cap. Mick Armitage came down to a '7', Ron Hayward to an '8', and Brian Layland to a '10'.

Finally our club birthday celebrations went off well with the usual auction, tea party and slide show. And on that social note with a list of current club champions, we say adieu and good luck for the next three months. No. 1. in the attendance charts.. 'Lora' Daniel. D.N.S. champion.. John Hoadley. Saturday night stop-out... Don Robb. Height above sea level.. Graham South.

0000	----	0000	----	0000	----	CROW
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KOOM! Greetings from the men of the SPROCKET on the eastern borders of ESCALAND. Alas GNAMBA GAHAIL (the Drum Beater) is gone from us for ever; so it is left to I, the WHITCH DOCTOR of the tribe, to pick up the pen of the great one and continue his work.

Firstly, mostly, the protector of the Wheelers, has waved his ancient magic bottom bracket spindle and directed that the men of the SPROCKET must turn again to the TRACK OF GRASS for fame and fortune, for are they not champions of the great RYE SPORTS DAY FESTIVAL? And is not MICHAEL OF THE BENT WHEELS champion of all the ESCA people at the 440 yards? Accordingly, the men of the SPROCKET have polished up all their best equipment, made by CHATER-LEA, WILLIAMS and SANDY HOLDSWORTH, and hid it in a safe place. Instead they will use their oldest machines, for is not the above mentioned MICHAEL OF THE BENT WHEELS their team mate.

Our people rejoice that the BATTLE OF THE DIMOREROAD AGAINST bearded men of Hastings (known as Hastings chaps) has at last been won; six of our gallant men finishing with faster times than the best HASTINGS CHAP. This has been a great month indeed for the SROCKET. Our 25 record (perhaps the slowest in all of E.G.), has at last been broken, by eleven seconds to 1-4-14. More praise to MICHAEL OF THE BENT WHEELS.

Let it be known to all men of ESCA that a challenge has been issued by the men of the SPROCKET. We have the illustrious team shield of GAS)SON (the most revered name in Sprocket Land). We challenge you to come and do battle with us at the RYE SPORTS FESTIVAL 1965, the winners to take away the trophy for one year. No quarter will be asked or given and no white feathers accepted.

Alpaka Riopleparto, which is the new war-cry of the Wheelers.....

THE WHITCH DOCTOR

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It's caught me unawares again - that deadly Bonk deadline, even after asking the Editor when it is every time I've set eyes on him.

Now what have the Central been doing since the last issue? I can assure all readers that it isn't anything scandalous; as with the terrific enthusiasm in the racing field there hasn't been time for anything else. Last year's team successes were continued in the first ESCA event of 1965 - the Hardriders. And for the first time ever we gained first place. The following week-end was spent mustering our strength for the first ESCA 25, in which the Central won the team and Min Morgan second place, the first of his 'rut' of seconds. Meanwhile, several members, who should by now have reached their years of discretion, were riding the East Surrey Hilly 33. Alan, Rodney and David ventured to the Bath Road, and for Alan it proved worthwhile - he managed a 'two'. The last week-end of March saw the first club event. The first three places were covered by twenty-four seconds, an unusual happening on our local 'sporting' course, which includes our Road Race prime hill. Michael Wren was fastest with 1-7-34, Ken did 1-7-50 and John 1-7-58. Ron Ewart, riding again this year after a lapse of more seasons than he really cares to remember, returned a creditable 1-15-24. Then came the ESCA two-up, again giving the club a win, and despite a late start of one minute by John and Ken, second place also. The tales which reached Barbara at Halland made her very inclined to stay away from the finish for fear of what was going to be said when they finished.

Ken fought shy of the SCA three-up the following week, so John teamed with Michael and Min, and the trio recorded an event record of 1-41-16 for the 42 miles, but which only stood until a later starting Worthing team finished 12 secs. faster. Good Friday saw four members ride the Dartford Wheelers 25; but the traffic going up to Brands Hatch, and what seemed an uphill course in both directions, has made them all say "Never again". (I know a lot of courses like that..Ed.). That's what comes of trying to get a crafty fast time! The Easter 'Mile-eating' Tour seems to have consisted of hill sprinting - yes, up them!

Central Sussex C.C. (cont.)

Photographing the back of an unsuspecting young lady who was taking a dog for a walk; and various members drinking fizz from bottles while holding up signposts in odd spots seemed the only things they had time for, as the hostels chosen were so far apart and all their energy had to be preserved for getting from one to the other.

The Saturday morning 25 on the fast E.3. promoted by the Basildon C.C. saw club record lowered to 58-34 by Michael; and with Joe's 59-51 and his 1-0-2 the team record was also lowered. John's 1-0-8 was a return to the type of ride he regularly turned out in the late 50s. Gerry was unfortunate in wrecking a wheel after the first mile, but he managed to get his championship qualifying ride of 59-15 the following week in the Zeus event on the same course. The club is very proud to have not one, but three riders accepted for the forthcoming Championship 25 on the Devon course - the S1 - at Whitsun. They are Michael Wren, Gerald Atterbury and Michael Morgan; and we wish all three much luck on the morning.

Ken won the second club 25 - the club championship, with 1-6-38; and on the same morning Alan and David lowered the long-standing tandem 30 record, with a ride of 1-7-50 in the University C.C. event. John, backed by Alan and Ken, have put the club's name first on the new Addiscombe 50 team shield, which is a memorial trophy to our old friend Charlie Davey - a well-known South London figure until his death. John not only took third place but third handicap as well. Surely handicaps are meant for up and coming young riders, not old men making a come-back! In the Surrey St. Christophers 25 Ganger led Don Awcock and our "Roddors" to a team win. Ganger was riding his second event of his present come-back, and is complaining of also being in a rut - with two 4s. Not a bad rut?

W.D. Lovell Esq. seems to be the only member who doesn't live cycling this year; his ambition is to be a Member of Parliament. The first step was his defeat in the Clayton parish bye-elections last week. All good men start by being defeated, or so it is said.

The Open Road Race, in our opinion, was very successful. With such a first class field, it was predicted that

Central Sussex C.C. (Cont.)

It would be a bunch finish - and it was. Alan Sturgess (Norwood Paragon) took the verdict from Reg Smith (London Coureurs) and John Greatwood (Dulwich Paragon), closely followed by B.O'Leary (London Coureurs), Roy Manser (San Fairy Ann) and Fred Stonham (Brighton Premier), and then the bunch. The five prime winners were. Roy Manser, A. Barnett (Old Kent) B.O'Leary, D. Burwood (Vulcan RC) and K. Warren (Morden CRC). The weather played a big part in the success of the venture. Everyone enjoyed the mid-summer sunshine in what is surely one of the prettiest parts of the county. The club, and particularly the organiser John Dutson, wish to offer thanks to all Association members who helped in any way with the running of the event.

Oh what a lot of racing; roll on the social season, when life becomes late nights and late mornings, instead of early nights and early mornings. Which reminds me - club dinner - Hassocks Hotel, December 11th. Bookings being taken by Michael Wren - now.

B.A.

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HEAR YE.....HEAR YE.....HEAR YE!!!

Mr G. Willcocks, well known cyclist and writer of Seaford, being incensed by certain comments made in the last edition of Bonk by the Editor, Mr. D. Neeves; has written to the said Mr Neeves challenging him to a duel at Chainwheel Creek; this contest to be decided under R.T.F.C. regulations early on the morning of Sunday June 13th. It is rumoured that Mr Willcocks, having covered numerous training miles and ridden a club '10' inside evens, is confident of victory. However, Mr Neeves has also done several score of training miles and has also been inside evens at ten miles, so the contest should be close and hard fought.

... MAY THE BEST MAN WIN. ...

+ +

DIRTY BURRISH

Extract from one of the journeys in the C.T.C. Companion to the British Road Vol.1. written in 1898.

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The road to Etchingham and onwards is now hard and good enough in all weathers, but a generation ago things were very different. Sussex was always renowned for being "full of dirt and mire", but the Burwash region seems to have been one of the worst even in the bad days. There are, or were recently, persons living in these parts who have witnessed a two wheeled cart being pulled from the mill by a team of six horses, the mud reaching to the bottom of the cart; and it is said that well into this century the farmers' wives maintained the ancient practise of riding pillion behind their husbands, wheeled traffic being impracticable. The following yarn, as a sample of local "log-pulling" on the subject, is, I think worth quotation :- a man walking along the road from Burwash to Ticehurst saw a hat in the middle of the track. As he passed he gave it a kick, and was greeted as he did so with a faint "Holloa"! He stopped, and under the hat, to his great astonishment, he found a man's head. He asked what was the matter, and received the reply, "I am on horseback, and my horse is sunk in the mud; for heaven's sake help me out - I am sinking deeper every minute." Men were collected and the horse and his rider dug out. The horse, to the surprise of all present, came up with his mouth full of hay, which, on a further search, was found to have been taken from a load of hay on a cart which had gone and four horses before the man got there!" The inhabitants of Burwash and the district round formerly a very wild and secluded one, used to be somewhat noted for their independence. It is related that when George IV passed through the village on his return to Brighton, after visiting Sir John Ladd at Etchingham, the church bells were not rung, and on an inquiry being made, the ringers alleged that: - "They rung for him when he came through the first time and he gave them no beer, so they weren't going to ring for him again - not likely". Which looks as if the worthy 'Burrish' labourers had imbibed the spirit of

Dirty Burrish (Cont.)

of what is said to be the true Sussex motto :- We won't be druv"; crst, a hog.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS ROAD CLUB

Greetings from the Royal Borough. With the racing season well under way, life continues as normal in the Road Club. That is to say the minimum of racing and the maximum of anything you might fancy (e.g. Marion Ricks, Jane Godson etc. Ed.) Not that we haven't been racing; we have every week and since the season started, with members thrashing round the countryside. The times as yet are not particularly brilliant, but everyone seems to enjoy himself, which is the main thing I suppose. The only thing of note is Graham Lade reaching the last eight in the Sussex Pursuit Championship. In fact he was fourth fastest in the time-trials.

The last named has once again taken to staying under canvas before events, and from this an interesting tale comes to light. The other week-end, Graham, together with Ken, Iris and Jane of the Eastbourne, were away together literally. During the night Ken had to forcibly remove Graham from Jane's sleeping bag. This wasn't done for any moral reason - apparently it was Ken's turn! Anyway, that's how the story was related to me. Both Graham and Ken inform me that it was a cold night and Jane's sleeping bag was better than theirs'... Ha, ha. The club's 'Bluebeard', Gordon, has acquired a new dragon and soon hopes to gain a Triumph 'Spitfire'. I always thought the sports car came before the 'bird'. If the adverts are any indication, the bird is sometimes included in the specification of the car. Anyway it seems as though Gordon has forsaken his faithful velo. Shame on him. Why not combine all three, Gordon, and make yourself a complete physical wreck instead of half a one?

In the last edition of Bonk I mentioned one or two new keen members. Keen wasn't the word. One of them, Dave Bell, is a nut-case in my estimation. One Saturday he took part in and completed the Kent Messenger 50 mile Walk. Next day he rode in the SCA 42 mile team time-trial much to everybody's amazement. Cor.. I bet his legs ached! Mine did and I only rode in the time-trial. The highly esteemed Alan Jenner declares that he will be out of competitive

Tun. Wells R.C. (cont.)

cycling for a time. This is not due to his daughter keeping him awake at nights. He has recently bought a house, and apparently a lot of work has to be done in it. Here's to the 'house-warming' if it ever gets that far.

You may have wondered what has happened to Dave Nightingale, and why he hasn't been mentioned. Unfortunately I haven't got anything on him or Marion. Since the last edition of Bonk he has been keeping pretty quiet and not a rumour has reached me. I really must try for the next issue or I'll never hold my head up again. That's all I can think of for now, so I'll sign off and see you up the road somewhere.

WACK

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EAST GRINSTEAD CYCLING CLUB

Now with the '65 season well under way members have been out and about, with Chris Danby taking driving lessons and Mick Robinson walking about with what looked to be a foot sticking out of his jacket; it was later found to be his hand in platter after almost cutting his thumb off while attending to the engine of his van.

First ride of the season for R. Smith was the Polhill event and only his first ever junior event. He finished fifth a few yards down. The first club 10 was held on Sunday March 28th and was a Marchant benefit with a time of 24-59. He also took the handicap award; he only got that because he hadn't ridden a 'ten' for three years. Talking of 'tens', the club will hold one every Tuesday evening from June 8th to August 17th - should prove good training.

In the road race field, neither Dick nor Mac seemed to have much luck over Easter. Dick tried a lone break in the DeLaune road race, but was caught only two miles from the finish, and having nothing left could not do more than finish in the bunch. The first club 25 was won by Mick before his nasty accident, and his time on the Pound Hill course was 1-6-18. Tom Padbury did 1-9-18 and Phil Hitchcock just beat evens. (The trouble with Phil is too much cycling of the wrong sort - motor-cycling). Up and coming Graham Drummond, schoolboy hope, got lost round the course. In the 'ten' though he did a good ride to record 29-2 in his first event.

East Grinstead C.C. (Cont.)

In the afternoon of the same day R. Smith came fourth in the West Croydon wheelers road race, won by M. Phillips-Rhill.

Our own road race on May 2nd was won by Steve Lawrence of Dulwich, making his third win in as many rides on this Ligfield. Richard Marchant finished in the bunch and Mac retired. The following week Robert Smith came third in the Ravensbury road race at Pirbright, the pace being very fast with a bunch of ten going off the back after only. R. Marchant finished in the bunch in the Brighton Mitre road race.

R.S.

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Club-girls - Is This You?

"The modern bicycling craze is not only far beyond a girl's strength, but it tends to destroy the sweet simplicity of her girlish nature. Besides, how dreadful it would be if, by some accident, she were to fall off into the arms of a strange man."

Mrs Lynn Linton.....1897

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EASTBOURNE ROVERS C&AC.

With strict instructions not to write much about racing as "Everyone knows what's been going on", I find that there is absolutely nothing else to write about. With racing and training taking up most people's time, clubruns and the like have been nil. Anyway, here is a brief outline of what the club has been up to.

The racing strength has been very low at times; several times there have been more ladies riding than men, but things are looking up now with the addition of two ex-'Farmers' to the club, Doug Roberts and Ken Griffiths. Cliff Sharpe has been piling up the miles and is keeping the club's name to the fore locally. He is improving in leaps and bounds, with personal bests at 25 and 50 miles

Eastbourne Rovers (Cont.)

already this year, both on G.50 courses. Another improver has been Jane Goddon, who has improved her 25 time twice. The second time she knocked six minutes off with a very fine 1-12-55 in the Easterley on E.3. Her time was only two and a half minutes behind Iris who will have to watch out. These two have been doing very well financially, with three handicaps and a first place. This doesn't include Sussex and East Sussex placings. They are being accused of being professionals! They rather upset the South-West London Ladies C.A., for only three weeks after joining, they rode in a 25 and took first, first handicap and the team award - really rubbing it in.

Once again we took the premier awards in the Road Club's inter-club 25 and ladies 10; Cliff winning the 25 and Iris the 10. We thought we ought to let our hosts win the team, so Ken Stevens stopped to pick up a dropped pump (he lost it later).

Four members have been going away camping most week-ends under the pretence of racing, and a very enjoyable time has been had. As one of the four I can tell you that nothing scandalous has happened, and I wouldn't tell you if there had. (Never mind, Wack gives you the low-down in the Road Club notes. Ed.). Someone who did cause a minor scandal was Dave Nightingale; but no doubt Wack will tell you all about it. All I can say is that both he and Marion were very anxious to leave everyone early the night before the inter-club 25.

Life has been very quiet (except Ken Stevens, that is) up at the clubroom to date; though Doug Roberts is proving quite a 'stirrer'. Jane is either in the kitchen with Fred (married) or running round the billiard table pursued by Ken (also married). She seems to prefer the attentions of the married ones. The lads must be slipping. Stan Nash is showing signs of fitness (or is it fatigue?), since he took to bringing a friend to the clubroom. Seems that he makes Stan ride instead of using his car and Half-wheels him unmercifully. (This friend is probably in the pay of Bill Collins. Ed.).

Well I can't find anything much about this bunch of 'angels', so I will finish with two reminders:-

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

Open 25 G.52. June 20th. Entries to Stan Nash at 18, Harding Avenue, Eastbourne.

Grass track meeting combined with athletics Princes Park Oval on July 6th. 7-15 PM. Events include Sussex 5 mile grass championship. Entries to R. Humphrey.

SCRUBBER

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AS THE CROW FLIES

With four months' study now behind me, I'm richer in wisdom and poorer by one bike. The people at H&BI in the other hand can now breathe a sigh of relief for several things; no more wet 'tubs' tracks down the hallway of No. 35, no more orange and banana skins in the wastepaper baskets, and lumps of old cheese left on chairs.

During my spare time in Town I have managed to find some attractions that the tourist guides don't mention. For instance, have you ever heard that the snow is no hazard in London 'cos the traffic clears it all away? Yes, I believed that too, until the day I tried riding down Albany road (which is highly cambered), on smooth track tubs when it was covered with packed snow. After the second attempt at becoming a radiator mascot I found walking safer! Spring eventually comes to London. How is this judged? By the appearance of recumbent couples in London parks. Given a hot spell in April or May and in any lunch hour the parks are covered with droves of office girls sprawled out on the grass - this is THE tourist attraction.

Some people say that cycling in London is dangerous but this is something of an exaggeration. A few more pairs of eyes would help of course; but you can get by and you soon learn the knack of brushing pedestrians without actually knocking them over. Eventually you will commit a faux-pas and end up down a one-way street or something, but any oncoming taxi driver will gladly inform you of your error.

One thing you shouldn't miss are the bargain shops. Filled to overflowing with every conceivable object -

usually manufactured in Hong-Kong, East Germany or Japan, they can save pounds over the normal priced article. On the bookshelves you can see paper bands round lurid paper backs proclaiming "Sexual Perversion in a Girls School - For Adults Only... 2/6" and such like. It's good to see that the literary tastes of the populace are not neglected. While on the subject of reading, if like me, you're the type of person who reads half the magazines on Smith's book-stalls without buying them, then London, especially Charing Cross road, will be your delight.

If you are 'doing' the popular spots, then you might visit the London Planetarium, it's very good: but don't do as I did and start eating carrots in there - the echo is deafening! My own favourite hang-out is the London Music Shop in Weymouth street. If you're feeling particularly brave you can try to get a tune out of a chime bar, though the proprietors don't go much on this.

For those who wish to explore further afield, a sport-ing evening can be had by riding into the suburbs for about ten miles and trying to return to ones starting point by a different route - without looking at a map. Adventures here are legion and far too long to tell in this article; but the high-light must have been rough-stuff-ing over Highgate golf course at ten o'clock at night and hitting a foot deep trench. This was an abortive attempt to find a "short cut".

Perhaps all this sounds a far cry from ESCA, but to round off the day one could call in on Condor Cycles in Grays In Road and hear the same dirty jokes as certain colourful characters are wont to tell down in this part of the world.

CROW

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HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS CYCLING CLUB

Circumstances have kept the writer's car off the ground and his wheels off the road, so the news may be a little out of order. The quarter started with the President's Opening Luncheon and Lunch. True to past form the weather was mild and sunny. Elevenses were at Stone. The

The run then followed the back lanes of Winchelsea and so through Brede to Westfield for lunch. With such a mixed gathering as these events provide, we arrived in two lumps with an odd man or two to follow. The run and lunch were both very enjoyable - thanks Fred.

Bob French, as readers know, is showing the same consistency as previous years and is having a go every week-end. In fact, he had two goes one week-end. On the Saturday he rode in the 'Bike' road race on the Cowbech circuit. He put up a creditable performance, keeping up with the leaders and only losing in the sprint finish. Conditions were atrocious for the K.C. 25 on the Sunday, but he managed to improve his time. Shortly afterwards the pattern was the same for the Rye-Hythe-Hye with Bob winning in 1-57-41. As last year H. Wall won the invitation junior 15 mls. event. Evening 10s have started once again, being held every Wed. on the Broad Oak-Udmore bourse. Anyone wishing to have a go can guarantee finding someone there from now until the end of August or early September. Or do you just want a run round with a natter in between? For the first two weeks, Bob was in a mysterious hibernation; so Dennis had to do some training miles so as to keep our end up against the men of Rye (just as well for him in view of a rumoured challenge by an irate club correspondent). However, Bob has now reappeared; below form at first, he has now got himself back into '24 minute' shape and we are hoping for a good ride in the forthcoming ESCA 25.

The weather was only moderate for the reliability Trial; nevertheless it was well supported. The event was, of course, mainly for non-members. Young Trevor Nash won the speed-judging contest in the morning with a discrepancy of only one minute. Everyone completed the afternoon twenty-five mile course, ending at Chitcomb for an excellent tea.

Don't forget the club's Open 50 on the fourth of July. It is one of the best courses in the South, and we have always had good time-trial weather in the past. Helpers can look forward to a good kip on Littlestone Beach afterwards. Write to Esther now. The Dinner has been booked. This one being our ninetyth we can promise everything will be top grade. Too early to plug.

S.A.

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A club dinner is in progress. The main course is being served to the smartly dressed company. Suddenly there is a small commotion at the door, and a spare figure attired in a brown sports jacket and fair-isle pullover sidles in; and mumbling "Sorry I'm late folks, the engine seized up", he seats himself at a vacant place on the top table. Experienced dinner-goers will easily recognise the latecomer, that well-known resident of Seaford and member of Lewes Wanderers, Geoffrey J. Willcocks, of whom an examining doctor might say, "You're in quite good shape for a man of eighty - a pity you're only forty-one". Geoff is a keen rider who has always been prevented from putting his keenness into practise by his obsession with renovating ancient motor cars (each one known as "The Bomb"), and his weakness for "dragons". These two activities have left him with little time for getting the miles in, and may be the reason for his fame as the Association's champion non-starter in time trials. He has, however, other claims to fame. A decade or so ago, he spent an interesting year as locum tenens ESCA hon. sec. while A.H. was engaged in courtship. He followed this with a period as editor of this magazine which was also not without incident. He had a stormy passage during the "Block-age", when the Association badge disappeared apparently lost on the Cuckoo Line half way between two characters named Humph and Jiff; and he finally came to grief when the Committee enquired as to whether the Spring '56 edition was to be merged with the Summer issue.

Since then he has resolutely refused high office, but has continued as Lewes press secretary, and under the pen name 'Alsoran' is now the longest running contributor to Bonk. Geoff has suffered many setbacks. The Bomb has broken down miles from home, his dragons have staged demoralising wild-cat strikes, and when he returns to the club-run it is usually when the club's current fast man decides to lead a 'bash' round Crowborough. But still he comes up smiling, and manages to be a continual thorn in the side of such staid officials as Meg Eldridge.

This then, is a brief sketch of the Challenger of Chainwheel Creek, Seaford's answer to Charles Atlas... Geoff Willcocks.

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LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

Re the Editor's "few kind words" in front of our last saga; club members have similar ideas about a preface for that gentleman's eulogial. The trouble is that they're all unprintable!! Your scribe, having once been chewed up by Auntie Sheila after some Bonk criticism, sees the last edition as a cunning scheme by Neevo to do likewise as soon as the clouds start flying from this end. Well, apart from echoing a prominent Central member's query as to whether Caxton's original printing press has recently been unearthed (and used), in Hastings, no breath of reproach is forthcoming. It is generally accepted that every dog must have his day, so maybe that applies to editors as well!

With the season well under way, our lads have been trundling the tarmac and it's various substitutes in some backwoods areas. Colburn's 35-46 in the Harriers got him sixth place, a position he also occupied in the freezing SC. 25 in March. In the Association 25 he was eighth with a six; and then won the Lewes - Newhaven and back with 37-39, beating the Tourist by 40 secs. Burbury was third with 38-35, while the Copper took the handicap into custody with 39-6. Thus encouraged, the pair then indulged in the ESCA Team Time-trial and got round in 1-43. The following week-end they were joined by Colburn for the SC. counter part and managed fifth team place with 1-50. Agg did a 9 in the Bee, and a 10 in the Fountain at Easter, then had a visitation from his old pals the 'mechanical gremlins', which slowed him to a 22 in the Assn. 50, where Colburn was eighth with a 15. The Tourist had sent the gremlins packing by the time he rode the 34th Nov. 25, as he galloped to a 5, while Colburn did a 6 in the Worthing club event. The Brickwoods/Mitre 63 mile road race on the Cow-beech circuit featured Colburn's debut at this form of enjoyment, and he finished fifteenth on a hard day. Next came the Addiscombe 50 with Colburn again doing a 15, Agg a 21 and the Copper a 33, having "died a thousand deaths" en route. The evening 10 series saw the emergence from hibernation of Willcocks, who just scraped inside evens despite his boast "I feel really fit" before being

Lewes Wanderers C.C. (cont.)

catapulted from the line (Oh boy - does he need catapulting!! Ed.). This character provided the shock of the year so far by actually starting in the S.C. Team Championship, (Humphrey please note!), and finishing as well. Colburn just beat Agg, both doing 8s, Burberry clocked a 9 and the Copper a 10.

With that up to date we now come to the most momentous news ever aired in this column; Chancellor Elbridge is the possessor of a gleaming brand-new 'iron'. When this became known there was a universal demand for a scrutiny of the club's bank account, but to everyone's surprise this was found to be intact! What has prompted this reckless and flagrant disregard for Agg's usual caution in money matters is not clear yet; although it has been suggested that his old bike probably collapsed under him or was accidentally taken away by the local dustmen - sorry, refuse operatives. Copper Burgess is enquiring into lost, stolen or Strayed machines in the Peacehaven area, while the Chancellor just grins and says nowt. All those who were hoping for a "Hik van Burberry" have had to make do with Hazel Ann. Still, Pete says she'll be the Beryl Burton of 1984, so we'll have to wait and see. He was congratulated by one member on the fact that the baby is human!

After the ESCA T.T.T. Ken Stevens asked the Copper if he was now in the goldfish breeding business, and then pointed to one of his headlamps which contained about three inches of water. Mick mumbled something about it being due to the wet weather, a fact that he evidently thought had escaped the jeering audience. Perhaps it stopped the reflector rattling! Colburn bawled out will-cocksoon a recent club-run for being a road-hog and a menace to traffic etc. Your scribe now learns that the Mitre road race was in danger of being stopped by the Great White Chief because one rider was on the wrong side of the white line. Yes, you've guessed it folks, Colburn's self-imposed halo came adrift rather suddenly!

The Tourist corrects the remarks about the venue of the club A.G.M. which was held at his residence, referring to the somewhat rowdy affair that took place at the Copper's precinct, Agg commented "You don't think I'd use language

Lewes Wanderers (cont.)

like that in my own place, do you?" The latest members to throw in their lot with the Lewes elite are Ken Savage and Don Webb (ex Uckfield), who need no introduction to readers, Mike Bulford, a Londoner now living at Chailey, who did 29-5 in his first event, a 10; and Dave Edwards, John's brother, has decided to join. We hope to be getting them all doing a bit as the season goes on.

Another likely reason for the Chancellor's attack of 'Spring Fever', mentioned earlier, has come to light. When two members called at his place recently, they were told that he was out helping the local post lady with her deliveries! Alas, they couldn't wait to see who has captured the heart of this confirmed misogynist, but enquiries may produce some interesting news for the next edition. Peter Sharp has lately been confined to bed through overwork (on his fruit farm). Willcocks was heard to say that it will be a long time before such a thing happens to him. Should there be any Escabos who doubt the news about the Chancellor's new iron, a certain club member who specialises in photographing the unusual (for which occasion Sylvia Burgess has never forgiven him), has a shot taken at the finish of the Team Championship. This was deemed necessary as for reasons too well-known to repeat, Agg is something of a rarity in East Sussex territory.

Well, folks, that's it once again from the "Sin Bin of the South", so good wheeling and bags of sunshine from now on.

ALSO

x x

HERE AND THERE

It is noted that the Squire of Culverwood is now the Earl of Ebenezer. What happened, hoy, did you get too far behind with the rent?

Former 'Iron Man' Nash was observed wearing jeans at the finish of the S.C.A. Team Championship on a warm morning. A wag suggested that as soon as winter comes he'll revert to shorts!

Willcocks queries if he's the only Escabod to chew glucose tablets before riding to work - a distance of nearly a mile!

HARD LUCK STORY no.1. A well known and very sociable member of Southborough Wheelers was happily bowling along a back road near Tonbridge, enroute for the house of a certain married lady, to "Play some gramophone records"; when who should he meet going the other way but the Editor of Bonk.

HARD LUCK STORY No.2. Editor of Bonk, on route for Holdsworth's, had mapped out a clever route avoiding the traffic-ridden A 21. He avoided the traffic alright, but found that several roads ended in the earthworks of the Sevenoaks by-pass; and then had to struggle up some hills which would have had even Dave Patten out of the saddle....Never again!!!

Bad news for Here and There fans..Marion, having been let down by Dave, Nevil, John et al. has decided to concentrate entirely on racing for the rest of the summer.

A.H. acting as Chief Commissionaire in the Central Sussex road race, was seen going round before the start asking the names of those riding. One chap asked him why he didn't look at his programme; and hoy replied that he couldn't - he'd left his at home.

HERE AND THERE

The other week-end, Tunbridge Wells R.C. held it's annual inter-club 25 with the Rovers, E.G. instead and Southboro'. Members of the Road Club were asked to put up some of the Eastbourne for the Saturday night. Cliff Sharp was duly billeted with D. Nightingale. The Monday after the arrangements were finalised, the said D. Nightingale rang up the event secretary and asked, nay, pleaded, for the illustrious Marion to stay with him instead. It transpired that Mr and Mrs Nightingale would be out until 5 a.m. on the Sunday morning. The outcome was that Cliff stayed with Gordon and 'Nits' did a lollo next morning. There's a moral there somewhere.

Good news for Here and There fans!!! Encouraged by the above mentioned week-end, Marion has now decided against the monastic existence and is ready to be sociable as of yore. Now then, chaps, form an orderly queue.

It is reported that the current Willcocks jealousy has the registration letters D.D.Y. Any connection with Ken Dodd's Diddy Men?

When entries closed for the Spring 50, event see Ken Stevens was puzzled by the very low entry. It turned out that half the entries had gone to Culverwood, as Ken was correctly listed in the ATTC handbook, but A.H. has sent out entry forms with his own name and address on them.

On the morning of the 50 a large plate of cakes was seen in Hellingly Hall, apparently left from a social function the previous evening. Shortly after Ken Atkins finished, the plate was still there but no cakes.....Hunger Knock, Ken?

The Rovers' treasurer is so mean that she persuades the social secretary that his biscuits have gone soft so that she can have them free. And the seat in Graham's van is permanently dented - since Jane sat in it.

CLUB CORRESPONDANTS PLEASE NOTE

Deadline for contributions to the Autumn edition of Bonk will be August 29th.

This edition of Bonk was edited By Dennis Neeves, who has complete confidence in Sir Alec Douglas-Home and is willing to serve under him in any capacity when the Conservatives are returned to power.

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