



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex Cycling Association



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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No. 16.

CHRISTMAS 1966

Secretary) Mr. R. Humphrey,
&) 4, Ebenezer Cottages,
Treasurer) FRAMFIELD, Uckfield.

Editor: Mr. D. Neeves,
19, East Parade,
HASTINGS.

EDITORIAL

As this Association begins another year, it's twenty-first, a little of the usual turn-of-year stocktaking should be in order.

The recent A.G.M. showed that the clubs are solidly behind the majority of the persons who have now been doing official jobs for a good many years, (only the handicappers suffered any real criticism and Iris Stevens would almost certainly have been re-elected had she wished to stand). This, looked at in one way is most gratifying, yet in another sense is perhaps less so. Might not the Association, by electing the same Hon. Secretary for twenty out of it's twenty-one years, be storing up an "Après moi le déluge" situation for the future: again, are there really no amateur journalists itching for the chance to put their stamp on this magazine? However, in the immediate future the filling of official positions is not the real problem. (Even the worst-off of affiliated clubs seem to have at least one member who is both keen and competent). The most pressing task is the finding of young riders to keep up the active strength of the clubs and to gradually introduce new blood into Association events. This, of course, will not be easy - keen young bike-riders are not nowadays found on every street; but they do exist (Southborough Wheelers, for instance, have done remarkably well lately in recruiting youngsters), and every effort must be made to find and attract them. Our coming-of-age celebrations, gay though they may be, will have a bitter-sweet flavour unless they have a feeling of hope for the years to come.

"GEN" from the Secretary.

With the Social Season in full swing, very little thought is being given to training. The Forum which followed our Luncheon at Eastbourne recently should prove very helpful to us all then, early in the new year, thoughts are turned to training in readiness for the season's early events. With the very long racing season, riders to-day who compete throughout the year have only a few weeks to relax before thinking about getting fit again. Whether or not this long season is a good thing for our sport remains to be seen, but I feel that within the next year or so we shall have to consider a possible curtailment of some of our events, as it is becoming more difficult each year for clubs to fit in their own club events, even though more clubs are arranging Saturday afternoon events. It is the club events that surely should be the main stay of our sport, all members of clubs should realise that they have a duty to their club to support club events and not leave it to a few of the longmarkers to make up the field in these events.

At the recent Annual General Meeting the question of marshalling Association events was discussed in detail. In 1967 clubs will know well in advance what will be required of them, as for the shorter distance events, clubs will be asked to cover the same point for all these events. Club members will assist their officials if they would let it be known which events they will be available to assist with marshalling. It must be realised that without marshals the running of events will be impossible.

One major change took place in the Officials of the Association at the A.G.M. Iris Stevens our Social Secretary for the past 5 years retired, and John Dutson has taken on this very important job. On behalf of all of us, Iris, please accept our thanks for all the assistance that you have given the Association during the past 5 years. Our new President, Geoff Willcocks, needs no introduction, he is already well known as the Champion of D.N.S's. in the Association. As President he will have a job to get out of being No. 1 in the Hard Riders next February.

In conclusion, to everyone a Merry Xmas and many happy miles during 1967, and above all do not forget 1967 will see the Association Come of Age.

R.H.

THE HASTINGS CYCLING CLUB.

The main topic of conversation just now, is the ESCA Luncheon and Prize Presentation. Six of us, disguised as cyclists, rode to this popular function. For an appetiser, we were taken on a conducted tour of the Langney Housing Estate by Pied Dennis Piper-Neeves. How we revelled in the numerous Cul-de-Sacs and rejoiced amid the panoramic view of undulating Hard Core, Concrete Mixers and escalating mounds of sand ballast and cement. The ultimate vista being only slightly marred by mottled grey and black tarpaulins.

What a thrill to discover the Community Centre rising in majestic grey and white on the very edge of our misguided tour. However does D.N. find this place in the dark? He must be guided by the comforting hand of D.C. (Certainly not - the lady doesn't patronise the clubroom - Ed.). Inside the nicely heated building, the well-stocked bar would have delighted even the inimitable Brewmaster Coleman. A lot will be written and spoken about this successful new formula function, so I'll just say: "WELL DONE, IRIS".

On the same day, Fred the Prez: and Ted travelled by car to the V.T.T.A. Luncheon at Newnham in Kent. During the journey, Fred qualified as the World's Most Cautious Driver. When offered a toffee by Ted, he refused the generous offer with the remark: "No thanks, Ted, I'm driving". It is hoped that the rewarding diploma will be presented to Fred at our 'do' at the Royal Victoria Hotel, St. Leonards, on Saturday, January 28th, 1967. The other day, we held an A.G.M. Well why not?, other clubs do. Jack was in the chair and there were enough of us there to prevent him from feeling lonely and neglected. Esther promised to carry on as Hon. Gen. Sec. and the only other change of office was created by Maurice volunteering to do Racing and Runs sec.

The Club decided to discontinue the Open '50'. Event Secretary Esther is now employed full time by a St. Leonards Organisation known as Shady Knights (only Esther knows just how shady they are). As she explained: "I'm on call almost all the time, and feel that I cannot do justice to the job". On the behalf of members and competitors, President Fred thanked Esther for the able manner in which she had organised the events. Dennis Neeves has volunteered to be event secretary of the Open '25s' to be held over the Q140 on Sunday, June 4th. Let's hope that he will remember to post himself an entry form. Maybe he will be too busy organising to ride himself.

Still on the social theme, the club was well represented at the K.C.A. Dinner at Chatham. At this function, Blanche Martin made her maiden speech. "Best speaker that the club has produced", declares

Jack. This is cheering news, for should Arthur succumb to alcoholic fumes at our 'do', we can fall back on the willing and able Blanche.

John and Jessie are now moving into their recently completed 'self-build' house located in the back-of-beyond of the Pebsham Wilderness. By a strange coincidence, their near neighbour (only a 'phone call away), is another ex-club member, Brian Edmonds. Unfortunately, communication breaks down when wandering Bedouins cut the wires simply to amuse their entertainment starved Bintz.

The skill of the surgeons at the East Grinstead Hospital have enabled Jack to do some riding again. Although not yet fit enough for employment, the powers-that-be have high hopes of further healing and we are all pleased to see Jack about again.

As this year nears it's end, this scribe's thanks are due to the colourful characters in our club who make this bonk-gen possible. Types such as Esther, Blanche, Fred and Arthur, not forgetting of course the Great Neevo. Boy! how I've milked him. This is not to be read as an apology, because next year I sincerely promise to be meaner than ever.

Looking leaner and more eager than ever, Wilfred 'Drummer' Baker is now back in Hastings and has rejoined the Club. I hope to be wringing some fun out of him next year.

Should any Escabods be in the vicinity of the Ash Tree Inn, Ashburnham, Sunday evening, December 18th, you are welcome to drop in, as we have organised a Christmas Social with a sandwich buffet and entertainment. So as we draw nearer to the festive and nostalgic time of the year, let us all united be and sing a merry refrain, to all the absent cyclists who we wish to see again. To those away in distant lands, in the air or on the sea, may the pleasure soon be ours to greet them heartily.

Happy and Seasonal Escalating,

GANNET

DEADLINE for contributions to the Spring edition of 'BONK' will be 1st March, 1967.

I, MAURICE ARCHIBALD COLBURN, of Willingdon in the County Borough of Eastbourne, wish it to be known that the change in my place of residence from the Borough of Lewes to the aforesaid district of Willingdon was not in any way occasioned by or influenced by the disease or malady known as the "Eastbourne Drift". I hereby state that I do not suffer, and have never at any time suffered, from the aforesaid disease or malady, and I therefore give warning that any persons spreading rumours to the contrary, either by word of mouth or through the medium of any periodical magazine, shall render themselves liable to legal proceedings for slander or libel.

Signed on this the seventh day of December in the year Nineteen hundred and sixty-six.

M. A. COLBURN.

HERE AND THERE

Jim Hollands of Rye Wheelers says he has retired from bike-raeing. He has taken up football and turns out regularly for Rye United.

A while back Brian Strong of the Rovers decided to test the strength of Dunlop steel H.P. rims, and found that they stayed true even when pushed hard against the back of a motor vehicle. Brian now has for sale an ultra-short wheelbase Holdsworth road frame.

Then there is the club president and his wife who, after having a new car since April, were so unsure of the light switches that they found themselves going down a steep hill outside their home town on first dipped lights, then the fog lamp and finally coming to a halt with no lights at all.

Dot Collins got into the Editor's bad books at the Luncheon by asking him if he had come by car. This, "the most despicable suggestion of the year" got her a fearsome growl, the blackest of black looks, and summary chastisement.

The meeting was held on 4th December at the 'Alma Arms', Uckfield, with Mr. J. Southerden (Hastings & St. Leonards C.C.) in the Chair. The chief officials and delegates from eight affiliated clubs were present, including the newcomers to our ranks, the Crawley C.C. No fewer than four items on the agenda caused lengthy and sometimes heated discussions, so the meeting went on for longer than it had done for some years. The election of a Press Sec. sparked off considerable discussion on write-ups (and sometimes the lack of them) in the local Press. Then there were complaints from Central Sussex about handicapping, and the placing of riders in certain events last season. John Dutson pointed out that though he was on the panel of handicappers he had never been asked to assist with an event. Roy Humphrey (who, with Stan Nash, had done most of the handicapping), countered by explaining that the time factor was the cause, and that the new system of sending start-sheets to individual riders would give more time so that other handicappers could be given a turn. In spite of this, Mr. Dutson declined to stand again. Crawley proposed that well-known official Basil Chilcott be added to the list, subject to his being willing. The question of marshalling caused some fairly heated exchanges, with event promoters alleging backsliding by at least one club, and another club secretary told the meeting that his clubmates were so unwilling to do this duty that he had to cover all his club's commitments himself. There was a timely reminder from Alan Bathurst (President of Southborough Wheelers) that although time-trials are about riders, without marshals there can be no events. The meeting eventually passed Ken Stevens's plan that at the start of the year each club be given a list of its marshalling commitments for the coming season. The Central Sussex proposal that vouchers be offered as an alternative to trophies and medals led to arguments on details rather than on principle (only the Hastings C.C. voted 'against'). The version of the proposal which was passed was the result of amendment and clarification chiefly by A. Bathurst, and now has the added proviso that the voucher values be in proportion to the total racing income for the year. A letter was read from the secretary of the Sussex C.A. proposing that the two associations promote a joint 12 hours event in future. The meeting decided to reply that the E.S.C.A. would welcome such an idea, provided that the event is held on the East Sussex course with the start and finish moved to the Lewes area. The social programme for 1967 will again consist of Touring Comp & Party; Grand National Draw; Luncheon and Prize Presentation. Iris Stevens, after four years as Social Sec.,

did not wish to stand again: John Dutson (Central Sussex C.C., who has had past experience of organising dinners, &c., was elected. Chairman Jack Southerden said that he would not stand as his eye trouble made him an uncertain quantity, but the meeting was overwhelmingly in favour of Jack (a stalwart for many years) being allowed to 'soldier on' through the Association's coming-of-age year. Other officials elected or re-elected were:- President - Geoff Willcocks (Lewes Wanderers); Vice-Chairman and Press Secretary - Ken Atkins (Central Sussex); Hon. Secretary/Treasurer/Racing Secretary - Roy Humphrey (Eastbourne Rovers); Assistant Racing Secretary - Ken Stevens (Eastbourne Rovers); Magazine Editor - Dennis Neeves (Hastings & St. Leonards); Minutes Secretary - Mrs. E. Carpenter (Hastings & St. Leonards).

Road Time Trial Programme as applied for, for 1967

OPEN EVENTS

Saturday, April 22nd	Junior & Schoolboys	10 Miles
Saturday, May 6th	Junior & Schoolboys	10 Miles
Saturday May 13th	Junior & Schoolboys	10 Miles
Sunday August 6th	Ladies & Gents	12 Hours
Sunday September 3rd	Anniversary	25 Miles

ASSOCIATION EVENTS

February 26th	12 Miles Hard Riders
March 12th	Men's 25 Miles, Ladies' 10 Miles
April 2nd	35 $\frac{1}{4}$ Miles Team Time Trial & Ladies 25 M.
April 23rd	50 Miles & Ladies 10 Miles
June 11th	Mens and Ladies 25 Miles
July 9th	Mens and Ladies 100 Miles
August 27th	Mens and Ladies 50 Miles
October 8th	Hill Climb

1967 will see a change in the method of distribution of Start & Result sheets for Association Events. In future these will be sent direct to each rider and not to the Racing Secretary of the club as has been the case in the past. To cover the extra cost of this an additional 6d. will be added to Entry Fees for all events next year.

With this issue we in the Wheelers can heave a sigh of relief at having won what must have been the most exciting team B.A.R. contest in the Association's history. The final margin of 0.022 mph from six riders after a season's campaigning was, to quote Ron Ewart, "A real cliff-hanger ending". We salute Roy, Paul and Ron, the gallant losers, knowing full well that the Central were not fielding all their 'big guns' for the contest. See you next season, fellas! Nor was the closeness limited to the team award, as Paul took third place in the individual B.A.R. from Crow by a mere 0.007 mph. (There's something familiar about those figures); but Southborough packed well with Crow 4th, Ron 5th and Tony 6th. After all that we add our congrats to Cliff Sharp whose walk-over win has helped to take him to 135th in the British B.A.R. and 13th in the C.T.C.'s own B.A.R. contest. Well done, Cliff.

Our junior intake seems to have taken root resulting in lively 'discussion groups' down at the clubroom. Stones v. Beatles and Campag' v. Simplex being the main topics. Stu Moore and Bob Wenham seem to be the equipment kings, with about half-a-dozen others a Campag' chainset behind. Since the spring, clubrun numbers have greatly increased, with Danny successfully doing most of the hard work, not easy when you have a dozen or more bods who aren't used to bike control in a bunched clubrun. Spider has also put on some feature runs, including a scavenger hunt that was won by Robin Howard. Anny's run to Gatwick Airport gave members a chance to view aircraft or air-hostesses according to taste. The roller race run in conjunction with Southboro' road safety week saw a three-cornered contest with the Fairies, S.D.W. and Eastbourne. Big Jim, Doug and Ken put up a good show for the 'Sun-trap'; especially exciting was the devastating dead-heat in the 880 yards double-harness with Steve Armitage and Crow against Ken and Jim. Top honours eventually went to Dave Patten and Clive Orchard of the Fairies.

In the final E.S.C.A. 25 the two above named gentlemen (as second-claimers) plus Graham O. unsuccessfully tried to take the team prize from the Central, while our second team of Ron, Don Brooks and Crow were covered by seven seconds, all with '5's. Nick Whitney took the first handicap with a '7'. The Association Hill-Climb saw Dave, Clive and Don again second to the Central, but no Southboros rode the Catford, Bec or K.C.A. climbs. Congrats to Dave Patten on his K.C.A. and Bec wins. That hog Graham Orch. took the club climb from surprise runner-up John Neale. Graham well and truly cornered the prize market with everything racing except the 24 hours,

which went to Tony Neale. We had six finishers in the Senior B.A.R., Geoff Hayman, Jacko and the Armitage brothers being unfortunate DNF's. Threats for next season include a team in the National 24 hours and a go at road racing. Readers need take little notice of the latter intention as it has been promised annually for the last decade or so. Danny promoted our annual reliability ride which had thirteen successful finishers in the 100 in 8 and one (the Orchard fellow again) in the 100 in 7. John Potter was the promoter of our Tourist Competition, and despite earlier misgivings, put on a really good event, though lack of prior publicity caused the low entry of only nine. Crow managed to win one piece of club silverware by winning after a close morning battle with Lou. Third place went to Derek Hanson, now living at Edenbridge after leaving the Fortune C.C. area.

Late holidays seem to be all the rage in Southborough circles. Danny, Mick Hammond, John Headley and Geoff n'Anny did a Scottish tour - by car, shame be it, and got indifferent weather for their sins! Lou, Mick and Jean Armitage, Don Robb, Maureen Butcher (a recent welcome acquisition to club circles) and Pete Baker and Pixie went all aquatic with a holiday on the Norfolk broads. Tony Neale led a Y.H.A. walking tour in Austria, and just to show that some people still cycle on holiday, Steve Pattimore, our new Y.H.A. king, went to the Lakes and did some tough rough-stuff crossings to Black Sail hostel; and Chris Sheppard went to the Isle of Wight. Words fail us when mentioning Ron Hayward's latest exploits. He's just taken up running and has been seeing off more than a few members of the Tonbridge Athletic Club! In fact he seems to have started a new wave of interest in this form of perambulation in the club: there are definite plans to have two Southborough teams in the Belle Vue cross-country event on the day after the club dinner! Indeed, the dinner season is now on us again. Ron and Dawn went to the Tunbridge Wells R.C.'s. new venue at Uckfield, while Wheelers have been in evidence at the K.C.A. and Wignore dinners. Unfortunately, our own dinner will be a rather smaller affair than usual this year and we apologise to all Esca-ites for being unable to accommodate them. Outside circumstances forced this upon us, but we hope to revert to the 'big do' status next year.

Finally the ESCA Luncheon. Congrats to Iris and the Committee on the new look. The venue and meal were excellent, and from comments by everyone there - yes, even the dyed-in-the-wool tourists - the racing man's forum was a huge success. We were all pleased to receive our prizes - especially the team B.A.R. medals - the margin

Southborough & District Wheelers (continued).

had dropped to 0.018 mph by then !

And with that we wish you all an outrageously glorious Christmas and social season. Promise no serious training before the Hardriders 12.

CROW

P.S. What's happening ? This report is finished a week before the deadline ! Collapse of contributor. (Collapse of Editor too - Ed.).

HERE AND THERE

Then there was the well-known Lewes personality who, listening to Dave Handley at the Luncheon, was shattered to find that interval training is not as he thought a ride, then after an interval of six weeks, another ride, then after an interval of eight weeks another ride, and so on and so on.

At the Southboro' dinner cross-toasting was continuous and hilarious, causing not a few red faces (reddest of all was Medway star Geoff Wiles). One toast spot-lighted a lady who was alleged to have told her husband: "We shall have to move, dear - Crow has found us".

This cross-toasting uncovered the fact that while everyone's attention has been focused on the 'Eastbourne Drift', a similar thing has been quietly building up in the Tonbridge area. This is the 'Willow Lea drift', with Annie Hayman as the North's answer to Dot Collins. Believe it or not, Crow got a mention here as well !!!

It is rumoured in the 'Suntrap' that if Brian Strong can get round to putting the wheels into his Allin, he might be seen on the road in January, or perhaps February, or failing that, in March.

Dept. of "Oh, It's Grand To Get Up In The Morning, But It's Nicer To Stay In Bed". Referring to the Hastings twosome who went to the Esca AGM by van, and arrived ten minutes after the pair who went by bike.

How about the poor chap who can't go to his club's Christmas tea because he's got to stay at home and light the fire ready for when his wife comes home from Bingo !!!

EAST SUSSEX C.A. 1966 BEST ALL-ROUNDER COMPETITION

GENTS. Winner to hold the 'Henry Gale' Trophy for one year.

1st:	C. Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers	58-43	2- 3-13	4-26-21	225 mls.
			22.794 mph			
2nd:	R.K. Amey	Central Sussex	1-4-33	2-15-43	4-31-31	239 mls.
			21.843 mph.			
3rd:	P. Barber	Central Sussex	1-4-27	2-14-50	4-39-36	229 mls.
			21.528 mph.			
4th:	P. Crowsley	Southborough Wh.	21.521 mph.			
5th:	R. Hayward	do.	21.188 mph.			
6th:	A. Neale	do.	21.072 mph.			
7th:	R. Ewart	Central Sussex	20.338 mph.			
8th:	D. Agg	Lewes Wanderers	20.328 mph.			
9th:	M. Kilby	do.	19.858 mph.			

1st Team: Southborough Wh. (Crowsley, Hayward, Neale) 21.260 mph.
 2nd Team: Central Sussex (Amey, Barber, Ewart) 21.236 mph.

LADIES. Decided over 10, 25 and 50 Miles.
Winner holds 'F. Rix' Trophy for one year.

1st:	I. Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	29-56			
			1-10-17			
			2-30-58	20.419 mph.		
2nd:	J. Godden	Eastbourne Rovers		18.910 mph.		
3rd:	M. Ricks	Eastbourne Rovers		18.277 mph.		

GRAND OLD CUSTOMS No. 2.

This grand old custom is exclusive to the grand old Hastings & St. Leonards C.C., who every year elect Jack Southerden as chairman of the club committee. This in itself is a sensible choice, but one that is nullified by the Hon. Sec's. predilection for calling meetings on Monday evenings. Now Monday night is dancing practise night for Jack (ballroom dancing being the other great love of his life), so more often than not he has to send apologies for absence. However, with true British genius for getting out of the mess that they have got themselves in, the club also elects a good vice-chairman in Ron Powell, who fills the breach admirably. A few deep thinking people see the whole thing as a cunning plot by Esther to avoid buying another chair; the position being that there are only seven chairs and a three-seat

settee in the Carpenter bungalow, while the club committee numbers eleven, so that if everyone turns up the last to arrive has to sit on the floor.

J.N.

EAST SUSSEX C.T.C. By Peter Crowsley, SDW, CTC, YHA, DCAS.

Throughout all of our fair county of Sussex, it would appear that only the East Sussex D.A. of the C.T.C. (Eastbourne Section) still has a regular club-runs programme, so perhaps a few notes on the subject of this august body would not be out of place in the Christmas edition of 'Bonk'. With three sections: the hard-riders led by Bruce Allcorn, the Dental Board, and the family section (sometimes called the 'clapped-out C.C.') led by Bill Collins, the section has a lot of activity going on. The mile-eating Dental Board can be easily recognised as one wears a funny hat and the other says she is going to ride in the ESCA 12 hours next year. Actually, Ann has been having a lively 'needle' match with Marion in Association events and has taken to racing without her deer-stalker to show that she means business. Meanwhile Marion, apart from receiving improper suggestions during the last ESCA 50, has had her usual entourage of admirers trailing her, especially from over the border in East Surrey. It took Marion about a week to recover when she was the only girl on one of the East Surrey clubruns, although the reason for this isn't quite clear.

Earlier in the year nine of the section had a great time rambling in the Lake District and returned all looking fitter and with about two hundred photos of the holiday. August Bank Holiday was spent at Mrs. Willard's at Chitcomb with rather more sunbathing than cycling to their credit. (Where's Chitcomb? It's about ten miles from Hastings, near Brede. Where's Brede?? It's about two miles from Wes..... oh, never mind - Ed.). 'Yaki' Cornwall disgraced himself by adding to a nocturnal rain-storm from a second floor window!

The big event of the year was the slide lecture given by Neville Channing of the East Surreys at Ringmer on November 13th. Neville is a brilliant photographer and raconteur, and really brought to the enthusiastic audience the atmosphere of his trips in Greece and the Sahara. No tourist routes for these boys!

Reports that Ed. Nealon resigned his Presidency of the section

due to pregnancy are unfounded: it's just his unfortunate habit of carrying a bulky camera inside the front of his windcheater that gives rise to such ideas. Our new president is 'Yub' Moore of Lewes, who is at present looking for any vacant warehouse or aircraft hangar to store his vast cycle collection: three tandems, including a vet, sundry bikes, a trike and now his son David has bought another. Latest news is that he has just acquired a Dursley-Pedersen from Bill Collins.

The Crow has been seen migrating south on most week-ends, but the plot to take-over Dottie at No. 25 by bringing down a double bed (see the Autumn 'Bonk') seems to have fallen through, due to Bill's refusal to sleep in the spare room at week-ends!

Pat Hicken, who was rather unkindly named 'The Jersey Cow', has faded from the runs scene, presumably taking her non-existent Mk.X Jaguar with her. Remarks in the last issue about Brian Kent absconding with tax money were off the mark, but in some ways prophetic. In fact, the Kent attempt to start a cut-price petrol empire was forestalled by the law to the tune of £50. On hearing that he might have to do three months, one E.S.C.A. official remarked that he might have time to repair a few 'tubs' between sewing mail-bags.

B.T.K. now seems to have left the area under a cloud of ignominy and unrequited love. The other Brian, 'Steam Shovel' Guy, has succumbed to the three wheel idea and now joins Bill, Jimmy Hobden, Crow and Davy Moore in getting laughed at by small boys (and larger ones). Youth-hostelling as usual has been well to the fore; some members saying that hostel dorms are warmer than their own bedrooms. (What about the men's dorm at Blackboys?).

Finally, my congratulations to our fast C.T.C. member on winning the ESCA Best-All-Rounder Comp. and coming 13th in the C.T.C.'s own B.A.R. Contest.

SEAFORD ----- GATEWAY TO EAST BLATCHINGTON

Extracts from the C.T.C. 'British Road Book' published in 1898

"Seaford, the terminus of our route, is ancient as a town, but modern in it's pretensions to be a seaside resort for summer visitors The history of Seaford has not been particularly eventful. A raid was made upon the town by the French in 1545 ... but the attack was repulsed through the good generalship of Sir Nicholas Pelham (a Sussex squire) As a community of smugglers and wreckers, the inhabitants of Seaford were famous for many generations, and even down to comparatively recent times. Indeed, a local writer even goes so far as to impute a certain lack of civility on the part of the natives to the survival of these habits, and to the moral corruption due to political bribery in days gone by. An article published in a well-known London journal in 1874, drew a very unpleasant picture of the Seafordites, but most visitors to the town will agree that a good deal of it, at all events, as seen by the few extracts appended, is rather too highly coloured. 'There is still discernible among the people of Seaford a mixture of cringing servility and vulgar bullying, inherited from ancestors who would have licked the dust off the boots of the candidate who offered them five pounds apiece for their votes, and would have kicked their own boots in the face of the candidate who only offered them five shillings Few communities contain so large a proportion of non-workers. I will say this for them, that their indolence overpowers their avarice Work, above all things, is abhorrent to them The knowledge that employment can be had for the asking, and that employers are only too thankful to take such labour as they can obtain, is a sure aid to idleness; and the people of Seaford make good use of that knowledge by doing just such occasional strokes of work as suits their fancy or convenience, and by lounging all the rest of the year, with their hands in their pockets all day, and the glass at their lips all night..... After this rather crushing estimate of it's inhabitants, written, it is true, nearly twenty years ago, we turn to the town itself, which is remarkably compact, and the modern part of which, a few box-like rows of houses, is remarkably ugly"

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UNEASY LIES THE HEAD

At the A.G.M. Geoff Willcocks had no sooner been elected President than a delegate insisted that it was right and proper that the President should be first man off in the '67 Hardriders 12. Roy Humphrey made a note of this with great alacrity. Geoff had hardly got his breath back before another 'friend' said that he ought to buy a lounge suit to wear at next year's social functions, whereupon Neevo sportingly offered to lend him a tie to go with it !

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EASTBOURNE ROVERS C. & A.C.

Greetings one and all; first let me wish you a very happy Christmas and all the best for the coming year. Well, times are getting hard, boys, and friend Wilson's squeeze is making it's presence felt. Many of our members are on the brink of poverty: even Ken and Iris are finding the upkeep of four cycle wheels too much, and are in search of a tandem. Anne and Brian have taken to visiting friends in order to use their heat instead of their own; alternatively they arrange committee meetings at their place thereby ensuring a good supply of hot air. Speaking of Committees, our section A.G.M. went off quite smoothly. Iris remains Hon. Secretary, Humph was elected chairman and Anne Social Sec., i.e., Bunmaker-in-Chief. Cliff still retains a hold on the purse strings: he was heard to say: "Now I've got the hang of it I should do better next year", so if anybody sees or hears of Sharpie getting new equipment next season will they please contact us immediately ! Our Committee also recruited new blood in the persons of Cliff Freeman, Nick Mounsey and Brian Guy, who it is hoped will provide fresh ideas and viewpoints while learning what goes on in the running of a club.

Certain of us are very disturbed about a new cult of self-inflicted punishment which has reared it's head among us. Having experienced the excitement of discovering all the new aches and pains brought on by so-called "Circuit Training" classes, Iris and Ken have been dragging other screaming volunteers into the doubtful joys of "Knees bend" and all that. Such was Ken's agony in the early stages that, rumour has it, block and tackle was installed to lower him downstairs in the morning, while young Brian Guy (a later convert), found a form

of rigor mortis setting in on the day after his first session, and had to be hauled out from under the car on which he was working. It seems we may well have "We'll All Ache Together" as a club song!

Still, enough of our odd habits and on to more pleasurable ones such as the consumption of booze and food; this subject, of course, calls for mention of the dinners attended to date. Anne, Brian and Marion journeyed to Uckfield for the Tunbridge Wells 'do' where a good time was had by all, marred only by the clout round the ear-hole that Brian received from Maureen during a game. Apologising afterwards, Maureen said: "I'm so sorry - I thought it was my old man". Our thoughts are with Ian at this time, for she has a 'belt' that would flatten Cassius Clay. Ken and Iris went west to the Worthing Excoelsior function and returned to sing it's praises, while at the end of November the Rovers were well represented at the E.S.C.A. Luncheon. Held as it was on our own ground, this 'do' yours truly was unable to attend owing to his firm deciding to commence stock-taking on the same day.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, the spot you have all been searching for - presenting our piece de little resistance - the undeniably indefatigable Miss Marion Ricks (pause for fanfare) - fresh from her short season at the Alfriston Salon where she performed with the East Surrey Glee Club. Council workmen are still trying to discover how this notable young lady (stone cold sober as she was) could be so unfortunate as to fall into a rainwater gully forming as she did an ESRC 'sandwich'. As she told us afterwards, "It took all of them to drag me out". Read the dramatic sequel to this in the next copy of 'True Confessions'.

Lastly, dear friends, two minutes silence for Graham Lade, Esq., of the well-known Tunbridge Wells Road Club, who, in a weak moment, sacrificed freedom of speech, thought, spending, etc., etc., and became engaged to Jane. Offers of advice, commiseration and gifts should be addressed to the persons concerned. (Here's some advice for this correspondant Make yourself scarce when your wife reads that! - Ed.). So, until 1967 I will remain.....

Yours,

STEAMING NIT.

P.S. It has come to our notice that the CTC will again be spending Christmas at Blackboys. It is to be hoped that the regrettable episode of Humphrey's coal will not be repeated, as damped coal will not draw well.

As usual with this edition, the Wanderers hereby declare the social season well and truly under way, so get at it mates and the best of British luck with all your winter 'sports' to one and all. Looking back at events since the last issue we find Colburn screwing the Tourist by more than two minutes with 2-14-7 in the Association 50, and thereby winning the club cup for this distance. Kilby managed a '22' and crept for the handicap in this event. In the 25 a week later a hard morning saw Colburn back to a '5', but still swiping Agg again by two minutes. A surprise here was a 1-8-7 by Savage which walloped Kilby by a minute. The Tourist produced one of his rare DNSs in the Bognor, in which Colburn punched an 86 fixed for a 1-4-31, following this with another '4' for second handicap in the S.C.A. Individual Champs. Burbery for once left the birds alone and bowled round in 1-9-37, beating Savage by half a minute, while Woolley, continuing on the come-back trail, got down to a 1-12. Evidently the famous Agg 'Gremlins' were active again as he was DNF for some obscure reason. Next the Mitre 50 saw Colburn emerge as the fastest Sussex rider with 2-12-20. This was a 'personal' that netted him £3 for first handicap - a useful reward for a late burst of fitness. Savage mauled the third handicap here with a '23'. The Worthing 25 produced a great event record of 58-33 by Ron Ford of Crawley Wheelers, with Colburn doing a '5', and Burbery (reported as training on parrot food) clocking 1-11, and beating Kilby by nearly a minute. Finally, the annual storming of Wellingford Lane 'battlements' resulted in Colburn living up to his name and burning up that particular col in 1 min. 49 secs. for fourth place; the best ever performance by a Lewes rider in this piece of perpendicular privation (He's been listening to Ken Dodd again - Ed.), and a fitting climax to yet another racing season.

After the hill-climb, a club members' safari to the hinterland of Rotherfield found 'Gauleiter' Burgess surrounded by forms relating to in-pig sows, outbreaks of fowl-pest and other rural delights. Far from being rejuvenated by cycle patrolling among the cols, he confided to his visitors: "I've never felt so x@% knocked-up in my life", qualifying this by adding that he now sets his own "Regulation Pace" as a good excuse for walking up the worst of them, particularly the one which separates him from the main body of his 'parishioners'. A prize exhibit at this precinct is the monstrous saddle he found leering at him on the local 'issue iron'. Telling how he replaced it with a B17 "quicker than that", he commented: "A few miles on that would have a x3x- rhino in agony - and it wouldn't

be with a headache !" Colburn, now living at Lower Willingdon, is a frequent visitor to the Rovers' clubroom. We await with interest the outcome of his next logical step - a place on the short list at the Commercial Road 'Youth Hostel' !

'Tourist' Agg doesn't think much of the report that Ron Hayward of the Southborough has done 15,000 racing miles to date. He said: "That's kid's stuff - I've done 23,000, and that doesn't include 15s and 10s. He wants to get his finger out". Owing to being a rare attender at club dinners, apart from our own (hint to Ron), the Tourist is reasonably safe from any cross-toasts over this latest piece of imprudence.

Getting away from it all in Italy, May hitched a ride and then very unwisely left all his gear, including papers and money, in the car, while he explored Rome. When he returned the car had vanished, and he had to enlist the aid of the British Consulate to get home - hardly the ideal way to end a continental holiday !

It being the Wanderers' turn to provide next year's Association President, the first nomination was naturally the Chancellor, but he refused, saying: "What, and have to sit at the same table as Roy Humphrey ? You must be joking, mate !" This honour was also turned down by Peter Sharp, whose excuse was paper-thin. Readers of a couple of years ago will recall the stirring tales in this column of his heroic deeds as a C.N.D. stalwart, undaunted by determined police resistance and, worse still, the English weather. All this intrepid campaigner could mutter then faced with the momentous decision was: "No, I couldn't do that job; I don't know many people in the E.S.C.A. these days". So, as you now know, that left your poor old scribe to "carry the can" to avoid our having to pass on the honour. I'll do my best, folks, but if I slip up over anything, don't write a letter to Dalton's Weekly, or have the Archbishop of Piddinghoe thunder it from the pulpit. I couldn't stand the humiliation of having my best friends telling me !

Now comes the fanfare of trumpets and the big roll on the drums as the main Social Season announcement is uncorked. Yes, me hearties, once again it's THE annual dinner established as usual at the 'Elephant & Castle', Lewes, at 19.30 for 20.00 hours on January 14th, 1967. 'Freeze' or not, the price is still 9s. 6d., so if you've never been, then decide to remedy the sad omission next year. To those who normally support us the announcement is enough, so don't forget, applications to G. Willcocks, 1 Pelham Place, Seaford, by January 7th at the latest. Even if you're off your food, we'll

find someone to scoff it for you, and there will be the usual 'presentation' to some poor innocent just when he thinks: "It can't possibly be ME !" Don't forget to bring the 'dragons', especially if they're still wearing their mini skirts when the arctic weather hits us. On that happy thought, we'll once more say Adios Amigos, and at the same time print our usual jerker-upper that the Hardriders is only a matter of ten weeks away by the time you're digesting this helping. (Guess who knows he ought to be getting in touch with Maurice Colburn about this and that ? - Ed.). So, far from keeping those social season 'spare tyres' inflated, you'd all do well to watch developments round the middle !

Yours until the bottles are all "bottoms up"

ALSORAN.

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STOP PRESS

We regret to record the death of well-known Catford CC and Eastbourne CTC member Brian Kent, who took his own life on Sat. Dec. 10th. This ends at the age of 25 a busy though sometimes controversial career in the sport. The news of Kent's tragic death came too late to cut out the reference to him in the article 'East Sussex CTC' : both the Editor and Peter Crowsley regret any distress which this reference may cause.

HERE AND THERE

With the passing of the new law concerning cyclists and intoxicants interest has been aroused as to which ESCA club east of Bexhill will provide the first case of "Drunk in charge of a bicycle".

Does the East Sussex County Council read 'Bonk' ? This query stems from the fact that since the last edition the road through Uckfield has been resurfaced, and is no longer a danger to would-be family men on bikes !

Which Lewes rider, noted for his mile-eating feats, refused to ride to the Cycle Show with Cliff Sharp ? He said: "Have a heart, that's much too far".

Lou Bathurst is expecting an angry letter from the B.C.F. following the news in 'Cycling' that Crow is promoting a Christmas morning road-race that flouts a few federation rules.

A loss to the Association and Southborough Wheelers next season will be Tony Neale, the rapidly improving member of the B.A.R. team, who has landed a job with a chemical firm at Mannheim in Germany.

Victims of the Willcocks 'Concerto for Tuba' in Rushlake Green village hall after the Rovers road race haven't been the same since. Brian Strong said it sounded like an elephant snorting - or something that sounded like that ! Significantly enough, when a Folkestone rider had a blow he was D.N.S. - possibly suggesting that this disease is contagious !

Was it intentional or unintentional humour on the part of the Southboro' Social Secretary that put up 'visitor' Crow to propose the toast to the Visitors at their dinner ? Pete was cross-toasted by his President as "The man who has got a pass-out from Eastbourne for to-night".

Finally - to end on a note of goodwill (and THAT's something you don't often find in 'Here and There'), the Editor would like to wish all readers and their families a very Happy Christmas, and here's to many miles of enjoyable cycling in 1967.

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