



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

**East Sussex
Cycling Association**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

PRICE

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No. 30.

SUMMER 1970

Secretary) Mr. R Humphrey (Mr. D Neeves
&) 4 Ebenezer Cottages Editor (19 East Parade
Treasurer) FRAMFIELD Uckfield. (HASTINGS Sussex.

EDITORIAL

Looking back over the three months since the last issue, they have not perhaps been the happiest of times for Esca people. March was clouded by the passing of two leading members of the Brighton Mitre; then there was the scare caused by the Police 'No U turns' request, followed by a wretched morning for the Team TT in the middle of the coldest April since goodness knows when. However, things have lately been looking brighter. We are now in the seventh week of almost continuous 'shorts' weather, there was an encouragingly good entry for the June 25, the first on the new 'reversed' course; the reaction to the new course seems to be generally favourable; and the system of event promotion by member clubs continues to work smoothly. One or two small clouds remain. Lewes Wanderers are puzzled by the drop in support for their previously popular evening criteriums, while in some quarters support by young riders seems to be a rather unpredictable quantity, as Hastings found with a drop in the entry for the Junior section of their Open, from twelve riders last year to three this time. Still, the sun is shining, so with what is usually the most enjoyable half of the racing season to come, here's hoping that sun-tanned legs will continue to pedal smoothly under blue skies, and that no-one will be blown off his bicycle by the turbulence as Cliff Sharp flashes by.

D N

VALETE

In March Sussex cycling suffered a double loss with the passing of Gerry Jackson and Charles Turner. Gerry, who died after an accident while cycling, was a young man in only his second season who was already showing great promise as a racing performer, and was also proving his value as a clubman. Charles, who died after a heart attack, was of course known to all cyclists in the county, and had a long career behind him, first as a racing man, then for many years as an official, track promoter, and recently president of his Club. These two, the youngster and the elder, will not soon be forgotten; and the sympathy of everyone connected with this Association goes to their club, the Brighton Mitre CC.

We have been asked to state in these pages that 'Billy' Bedford, who is the warden of Blackboys Youth Hostel, welcomes all racing cyclists who are Y.H.A. members, and who wish to race on the new Esca course. Early starts and evening duties can all be arranged, but the warden does not supply alarm clocks!

FORTHCOMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

- July 12th 100 Miles. Promoting Club: Lewes Wanderers.
10 Miles Ladies, Juniors and Boys.
- August 10th 50 Miles. Promoting Club: East Grinstead CC.
- August 17th 25 Miles Two-up Team Time Trial.
- September 6th Open 25 Miles, Ladies and Gents.
Promoting Club: Eastbourne Rovers C & AC.

BRIGHTON MITRE CC

The quarter started with a double tragedy for us, first the death of Gerry Jackson after an accident at Rushlake Green, then the passing away of Charles Turner. Most of you know that Charles was a hard worker both for his club and for Sussex cycling generally; but just how much work he did only became evident when he was no longer there to do it. Charles was club President, general secretary of the Sussex Cycle Racing League, Vice-Chairman of the Sussex Division of the BCF and also served on the committee of the Brighton, Hove and Portslade Sports Advisory Council and other local bodies, as well as promoting the Mitre track meetings for many years. Gerry Jackson had only been in the club a year, but as club captain had made a big impact on club life, revitalising club runs and training activities.

Now to brighter things. The club is still in good heart, attendance at club room and on club runs is up, and we have a steady influx of new members. The first ESCA 25 of the year saw the unusual event of a complete Mitre 'whitewash', with first three on scratch, first two on handicap and the team prize. We have been trying to repeat this, but without success to date, although we have been figuring in placings in most events. Our juniors are still improving steadily. Adrian Morris got down to 1 2 51 on an excursion to the Southend Road, and John Yardley has improved from an '8' to a '4' this year. Peter Churchill qualified for the GHS final with a fine 25 10 in the London South heat. Both he and Bob Bicknell, who did 25 43, are young enough to compete again next year. On the promotional side, our Road Race had a disappointing entry, due to a clash with a big event at the Palace. Our track promotions are due, and all Escabods will be very welcome at the track for our BIRDSEYE meeting on June 24th, when admission will be FREE. Incidentally, our clubroom is now at Bevendean Youth Centre, Bevendean, on Fridays. Visitors always welcome.

K M W

Deadline for contributions to
the Autumn edition of BONK
will be September 1st.

It wasn't until the beginning of May that the ice floes seemed to crack on the River Medway, so the racing season got off to a slow start. Even so, our Open 10 mile event which replaced our Hilly 31 attracted a fine entry of 84. Being the pusher-off, I was grateful that it was a slightly down hill start! The weather ranged from sunshine to sleet - no fun on the exposed stretches of the A2, but had little effect on Clive Ashby who won in 23 57, and with Chris Parker (3rd) and Vic Butler, Southborough took the team prize, plus fastest junior (Chris) and fastest schoolboy (Paul Woodman). It looks like another Ashby year. Already he's brought the club's 10 record down to 23 5, won the SCCU 25 and taken third place in the Crawley event over Easter. On the Q1 he put up the fastest time there for six years with a 59 55 in the KCA 25. By the way, we are promoting the club's Open 25 on the Q1 on August 2nd, and it's been selected as a counting event for this year's Campag Trophy, so mark that date. Malcom Withers is now down to a 1 3 27 and leading his brother by a fair margin at the moment, while Orch has clocked 1 1 57 on the Bath Road, so there may be some team awards in the offing. Royston and Stu are going as well as their studies will allow. The ESCA Team TT seemed to take the mantle of the 100s reputation as it poured throughout. Royston and Vic Butler rolled in second, six minutes behind the Sharp-Colburn duo, who were steaming along at an impossible rate of knots. Dave Steel and Richard Cave were fourth, a minute up on the Withers twins. In fact the day could have concluded damp and cheerless had it not been for the fiery management committee in the village hall afterwards, when Lou and the Great White Chief were nearly at each other's throats over U turns, jerseys in team time-trials and other world-shaking items.

Road racing finds a stronger Southboro' following each season, and this year has been crowned with a highly successful Kent division championship on the Chilham circuit when we took both senior and junior titles! Dave Steel won a three-up sprint - a real surprise for us all, with Robin 4th in the senior event; while the wet junior event saw a Southboro' 1st and 2nd with Chris and Richard and Bob Geer 5th. As is the way with road racing, the quality of the rides don't always show in the results, but full senior and junior teams have been in action practically every week-end, and with three wins to Chris, a 3rd and 4th to 'Ashers', two 4th places to Robin and not forgetting Mick 'Never-say-die' Jackson did get 12th place in the Fairies' RR, we're around. The club road race on the Frant circuit found Paul Cronk of Croydon Premier taking the junior event with a

long lone break, and Ken Kipping of the Crest CC doing the same in the senior section. Humour was added to the latter event by Frank 'ear-rings' Godwin falling off.

Easter found ten of us back at our usual spot near Brecon. The weather wasn't so kind this year and with neither Geoff Boxall or Les Hayman in attendance there were no devastating hard rides. This year's epic was the ascent of Lord Hereford's Knob, where Jacko got lost and the police were called in. Seems good material for cross-toasting. Whitsun - sorry, Spring Bank Holiday, was again spent on the Isle of Wight, where it was very hot. Memory recalls an enormous Chinese meal and a mile of rough-stuff through 3-ft stinging nettles - in shorts!

So often my past reports have read like Emergency Ward 10, and I'm afraid that this quarter is no exception. Geoff Withers crashed heavily on some road works on Quarry Hill, while riding home from the clubroom, and is now residing in Sevenoaks Hospital with a fractured collarbone and suspected fractured skull, which makes Royston's pile-up (riding up an inside lane of cars) seem tame stuff. We all wish Geoff a speedy recovery (or he'll lose an awful lot of club-run attendance points). Holidays are as usual a talking point, with two continental tours planned, one of them to watch Le Tour; while going to the other extreme, Jacko plans to 'do' Cape Wrath alone. A welcome back to Brian Leyland who has rejoined and is racing again after a prolonged lay-off. Also to Gerald Maryan, late of the Tunbridge Wells Road Club, whose season has been cut back by a pneumonia virus infection. We're also pleased to see Geoff Boxall on a new bike and out with us again.

Finally, comment must be passed on Young Thropp's outburst in the last issue of BONK. The Editor's summing-up answered most of the criticisms, but I would like to add that I've never known of the "Great Facade" before, let alone trying to keep it up. ESCA is among other things, an atmosphere. If Young Thropp can't locate it I'm rather sorry but that's up to him.

Only two days late - I must be improving!

CROW

Oh, golly gosh, another BONK deadline here and I have not a thought in my head, not a printable thought, anyway. Our club seems to be getting even smaller lately. Our Tom has gone walkabouts again. Not exactly walkabouts, but he is working in a hotel in Norway for six months. It sounds a very posh place in a beautiful part of the country. He hopes to stay on after the six months to get in some ski-ing. We are seeing much less of Bob Smith lately, he having gone down with a touch of the Dick Marchants, and a new job both of which are keeping him off the bike at the moment. Dick gets married this month, and we all wish him and Barbara all the best for their future together. Dick's settee is well booked up by club mates for the next few months, but Dick is not getting a spare bed or doing up the spare room. Probably very wise.

We have of course kept up the record of keeping the Sussex Championship in our club with Trevor Budgen taking the honours. Being as the Junior Championship had to be cancelled due to lack of entries, we still have the Junior Championship in our club with Bob Beatty. Bob has started his season well with several wins already to his credit. At the time of writing George Clare is riding in the Tour of Britain in the All Stars team. We all hope to see him at the finish in Brighton. He has been going well recently and should show well in the Tour.

For any of you who may be interested, our evening 10s started Monday June 1st. The course is the same, around Getwick and the start is 8 pm. These events go on for eight weeks, all but the last on Monday, the last one being on a Tuesday. In my last report I said I had ordered a good day for our road races, and we got it. A glorious sunny day that made the whole thing go off well, and made all the work put into it worth while. Unfortunately I had so many entries that I had the heart-breaking job of returning many of them. If any of you whose entries I returned are reading this I'm sorry, but please enter again next year. It just happened that there was not much on that day, and the chance of that happening again is remote.

I have just read through the last BONK in an effort to find inspiration for something to write. It's nice to see Young Thropp back in the mag', and I did agree with much of what he wrote, even though it was fighting talk. I met Young Thropp at the Central's dinner for the first time this year, and, tell you what, he isn't so young! Well, he can't be as he does talk of the BLRC and that dates you now, doesn't it? Doesn't time fly? I was one of those

League Wallers and my other half was a Union-ite, yet we got married despite this. I always thought of ESCA as an all Union type association, but it seems that there are many other League Wallers in our midst. You could always tell the League from the Union riders. The League boys had a cape roll wrapped up in a 'nicked' ice-cream banner and had an enormous bonk bag; while the Union riders had saddle bags. Crow was the exception, being in both lots. By the way we can all write what we like about John Dutson in this mag', as he confessed at a recent meeting that he doesn't read BONK, only buys it to support the Association. That got us going, that did! As you can see, I really have nothing to write about. No scandal that I know of - all is quiet on our home front. So that's it for this issue - see you all at the 50 on August 10th?

VAL.

SHARP'S THE WORD

... and quick the action where Cliff of that name is concerned. The Seaford Express rode in the National Championship 25 and came thirty-second with 57.50. This dabble in the hottest of hot company must have done him good, because the following Sunday he put up a new Association record of 58.11 on the revised course, and two days later knocked a few more seconds off the Rovers' 10 record, putting it down to 22.29.

Even Mr Sharp would be hard put to it to ride from Lansdowne Crescent, Hellingly, to Seaford in five minutes, which was the task facing Geoff Willcocks after he had told the assembled company (some-what gleefully, we thought) that Amparo had been threatening to go back to Spain if he didn't mend his ways regarding stopping out all the time and turning up late to meet her. He was also worried about certain Spanish words which his wife had used to him, which were not in the Spanish dictionary, but which he was sure meant something uncomplimentary!

A motor horn sounded in the Eastbourne R.R. and a voice piped up "Look out - here comes Budgie".

This same notorious rider went to the Doc with a bad knee and was told that he had the knee of a man of 80. Se if you see a man of 80 with one knee missing

Now you wouldn't think that Ron Ewart could get lost at Earwig Corner would you ?

Following recent events, someone was heard to say: "I hear that Young Thropp has had a Son and Hair".

Geoff Willcocks did a 1 17 59 in the S.C.A. 25 and was heard to say: "Let's see the Editor beat that this season !"

The Editor says that if someone would think up a 25 course starting a bit less than a day's ride from Hastings he might just do that.

Howard Burrell wrote for a job and found that he would be required to play a roulette system if he accepted !

John Dutson was doing the chores after the Central's road race and was heard to say to the Great White Chief: "I don't want you lighting up that old pipe after I've swept round you".

Willcocks asked the G.W.C. if he had received the Lewes Criterium start sheets. When Roy said that he had, Willcocks said: "Well, they're out of date, because we've added a late entry on to ours". Roy didn't appreciate the joke.

Derek Agg is on the breadline. He was heard asking about back numbers of CYCLING from clubmates - "because I can't afford to buy it now I've got commitments." He'll be out with a collecting box next week !

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If, like yours truly, you have noticed that Ken Stevens hasn't yet started racing this season, and have asked him why, you will no doubt have received the reply: "I'm waiting until the mornings get better". Well, it looks as if he might not get a ride in 1970; but I'll leave it to Al Moran to comment on this season's weather.

It came as quite a surprise to find the Editorial centred round my comments about the crumbling racing scene in East Sussex, and the quality of the rides in the 50 was even more surprising. This was presumably due to a four club struggle for the team award, which affected the majority of a field which was very low in entrants. Of course, the 50 clashed with the Division Road Race Championship, and as a result both events suffered. Isn't it about time something was done about clashes of this nature ? The whole Esca calendar seems to my mind to be anomalous anyway. Why does the first 25 appear so early in March ? As a BAR event it's a waste of time. Why run the two-up 25 in one of the best months of the year ? The three remaining 100s in London South are in a three week period in July and are all Association Events. Why not make the Esca 100 an open now the 12 hours has gone ? The September Open 25 clashes with the Southern Counties 12 hours (now the only '12' in the district) and the 29th Wheelers' 25. Finally and even more ridiculous is the clash of the Esca 25 and the Hastings 25. In most cases it seems to be to the advantage of the Association to change it's date. How about Feb. Hardriders, March 2-up 25, April 2-up 35³/₄, May 50, June 25, July 50 and 25, August 100, September 25 and October Hill-climb ? (See you at the date-fixing meeting - Ed.).

Still, back to Central Sussex. At the start of the season an unprecedented number of licence application forms were applied for, but this is where the enthusiasm ended. The Bonner brought down part of the bunch on the Baynards circuit and retired to testing. Hat and Glasses, having made an abortive attempt at riding a three day event at Girvan in Ayrshire which ended with a train journey back from York after Bob Beatty's car had blown a gasket on the way up, retired to join him. Young Thropp, having made his debut in the Eastbourne Rovers Spring Handicap (thanks for the ride), called it a day until the Lewes Criteriums. What is the point of riding round and round a small circuit if you're not good enough to get in the prizes ? The three musketeers, Ron Rogers, Alan Priddy and Ray Pilcher, who do not share this view, have been racing steadily throughout the season. As far as I know, they have had no successes on the

R.R. scene, but the extra trying involved in this type of event is showing results in the T.T. world. In a recent event on Q1 Ron did a short '5' and Alan a short '4' for first and second handicaps, but were both disqualified for incorrectly filling in their entry forms. Ray did a personal best '9' in the SCA Team Championship. The two club 25s have been very successful affairs, with about eight riders in each. The joint effort with the Mitre on the Sayers Common circuit had a highspot with the very much unexpected and appreciated cups of tea provided by the ESCA President and his good lady. The early event saw the surprise non-racing appearance of 'Ali' Barber, septic finger and all. Chris Shafer was also out but there is no sign of a return to the fray by that venerable old gentleman. Sid Solly has returned and gallops around occasionally, but has a tendency not to start. Sid, Dave Challis and Geoff Palmer were riding home from the club one night down Valebridge Road, Burgess Hill, when Geoff decided to ride between a parked bus and an invalid carriage. As a result Geoff almost stopped to share the carriage, hitting the road directly outside the Atkins residence and suffering a lacerated face which required fifty stitches, and two broken fingers. Fortunately the repair work was good.

Even John Dutson rode in one of the club 25s. As reported previously he has moved house and is busy rebuilding. J.D. moved effortlessly to a '15', but the old Dutson style was still there. He intends winning the 'Fastest 25' pot with the last event of the season.

Last quarter the censor's pencil hit these notes and all mention of Clive Cruttenden was removed. If you've seen Clive around you will certainly remember him because of his spectacular 'Tigra' frame. The machine has been christened "Tigger" and its fame is spreading far and wide. Two complete strangers at a local road race were overheard to say: "Look out - here comes Tigger". A member of a South London club is reported to have attempted to have the enamelling of the Tigger repeated on his own frame. This misfired, and the result apparently is hideous in the extreme, and has been named: "The Parrot". Tigger is looked after with loving care, and when it was pointed out to Clive's wife Doreen that the new house they are contemplating buying has a garage, the retort was: "Oh no, Tigger sleeps with us". By the time you read this, Ron Ewart will have reached the exalted ranks of the V.T.T.A. For the benefit of new readers, this entitles one to ride down the middle of the road and

cut corners, and to be massacred on standard by Charlie Burrell. In the recent Bexley 25 on Romney Marsh Ron was screwed by Jack Southerden who promptly invited him to join the V.T.T.A. Kent Group. Yours truly has ridden a few events with Ron this year and has found that he is "As well-known as the Bellman", and almost as well-known as the Agg. (Congratulations Aloran on getting him back, by the way). If you rode the Outer Mongolian 25 some Yak rider would come up and say: "Hello, Ron, how are you going this year?" So much for the more mature end of the club. Six school-boys entered the Bellingham 10 and Chas Burrell offered a medal for the best performance. Terry Lee declared in advance that he would win, and did, and later got his 10 time down to a '27' in the GHS event. Adrian Young and Terry are very evenly matched, and two more likeable and likely cycling prospects one couldn't wish to meet. Adrian had his entry back from the G.H.S. because he hadn't entered in the name of his school. During the event I heard a well-known London South official complaining about the shortage of entries.

Recently our membership has been boosted by the transfer of Paul Lipscombe from Crawley Wheelers. (If any of you try to find any other connection between Eric and Paul and Young Thropp you will have to look an awful long way). Paul has done any amount of training this year, but has been plagued with a bad knee. His first event after his lay-off (an evening 10) saw Paul produce a PB 24-22, and he must now be regarded as a serious contender for the Central's 25 trophy (unless Don Awcock rides a 25). Don has only had three placings so far this year, but he said that he is just getting fit. That sounds like trouble for somebody. Alan Robinson was safely dispatched into the ranks of the married on May 30th and Rodney intends joining him in August. Even Hat and Glasses was heard to say: "Thinking of joining 'em myself". Now that is contagious insanity if ever I saw it! The last-mentioned staid bachelor has bought himself a 750 cc Norton "For when I fancy a tweak in the evenings". He's the club's first Hell's Angel. Ken Atkins is in retirement catching up on the work in his new post. Now is the time to get out training, Barbara! So, looking forward to riding the fast version of the 25 course,

YOUNG THROPP

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

A meeting of the Management Committee was held at Hellingly on April 12th, with Ken Atkins in the chair. The Social Secretary reported a successful Social Season, which had commenced with a well supported Party and Film Show at Netherfield, following the A.G.M. The Children's Party in January had attracted 31 children and made a profit of sixpence. The Luncheon and Prize Presentation in February had been successful socially, but had shown a rather big loss of £12 6s. 3d., partially due to the decision to give free wine to the people on the top table, the idea being to welcome the chief guests and to say "thank you" to certain officials. The Grand National Draw had not done so well as in recent years, receipts being £9 down and printing costs up, resulting in a profit of £18 14s. 0d. The magazine editor reported that sales of BONK were stable at just over 100 copies per issue. The Association President, Stan Shirley, then explained his idea of an East Sussex clubs time-trial league, with all award winners getting a fixed number of points for their clubs which would be worked out into a club league table, with a trophy for the top club. The meeting felt that this was a good idea which could be a stimulus to entries and spirited racing, and it was agreed that it should go forward to the next A.G.M. as a management committee proposal. The delegates then got down to what was clearly the most important item on the agenda, the question of courses, an urgent matter because of the request by the County Police to cut out all U turns on 'A' class roads. The Chairman, who is on the RTTC London South DC committee, put the meeting in the picture as to what had happened so far, and a lengthy and sometimes heated discussion, with Alan Bathurst maintaining that the Police had no power to stop a time-trial taking place, while others led by Roy Humphrey, were sure that they could and possibly would, if we did not co-operate. Some people thought that the DC officials had panicked, while others thought that they had only done what anyone would have done under the circumstances. The Chairman said that in his opinion although we were bound to co-operate with the Police, we must stand on our rights under the Road Traffic Acts, and Mr. Bathurst supported him. It was eventually decided that apart from the Police request, the abolition of the U turn at Uckfield was overdue for our own good. It was agreed that a proposed 25 course, starting at East Hoathly, with turns at the Boship roundabout and a point west of Laughton, and finishing down the lane off Iron Pear Tree Corner, East Hoathly, should be sent to the DC, with the request

Committee Meeting Report (continued).

that they should reply by May 1st. It was also agreed that the July 10 miles event should be held on the Pevensey Marsh course.

THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH by the Editor.

Every bike rider knows that different qualities of road surface affect riding speed, and this is especially noticeable when racing; but no-one seems to have measured the effect, so, having noticed a big big difference in the speed I could do on the smooth asphalt of Cooden Drive against what I could manage on the very worn tarmac of the A259 across Pevensey Marsh, I decided to get this into figures. Accordingly, one morning I started from Pevensey Bridge, and using a 72-inch gear and trying moderately hard, covered the 2½ miles to the Lamb Inn in 8 mins. 40 secs., which works out at 17.3 mph. I then moved over to Cooden Beach Station, and, using the same gear and the same amount of effort, covered the two miles to Bexhill traffic lights in 6½ mins. - 18.4 mph. This shows that very good and very poor road surfaces can make a difference of up to 2½ minutes in a 25; and also shows that if the Marsh road was re-surfaced, Cliff Sharp would almost certainly put the Eastbourne 10 record below 22 mins. While doing these calculations I thought I might as well try to measure something else that racing men talk about, namely, the effect on times of courses with several turns. It seems a fair assumption that a rider brakes down from top speed to walking pace in the last 50 yards up to the turn, and probably takes about 100 yards to get back into full flight. Travelling at 25 mph it takes approximately 12 secs. to cover 150 yards. Slowing down and getting going again must reduce the speed to half that figure, which means that the 150 yards takes 24 seconds. Therefore, a rider who normally does 1-0-0 for a 25 can expect to slow about 12 seconds per turn.

Once again from the Land of the Sun which for once is living up to it's name. Here things have been remarkably quiet, especially on the racing scene, where only Cliff Sharp appears to be concentrating, with a good many miles to his credit. Our new schoolboy member Terry Leach is also keeping his end up with some good rides in the evening 10 series, giving quiet a few of the senior riders a fright. Undoubtedly his best ride to date was fourth place in the GHS 10 with 25-20. Terry is getting a lot of encouragement from his parents, both of whom are ex-cyclists, his father being an old BLRC man. Of the others, Mo Colburn seems to be having an extended social season with trips up to Sheffield for reunions (he says). His clubmates think there must be a female around to draw him that far for just a week-end. Meanwhile Graham Lade is riding at least three times a week in a bid to get fit and so far has not succeeded, though his times are improving. (Stop Press. He has just managed a '5' on E). So are the times of Tim Eadon, who is also having a go at Brighton track, along with Graham. The evening ten mile events are being quite well supported with either Ken Stevens or Stan Nash timekeeping, while our esteemed Editor is turn marshal, furtively marking the riders off with chalk as they go round the roundabout, hoping he doesn't get caught for disfiguring the war memorial. Cliff of course is leading the series, his four rides to date being 23.6, 23.6, 23.18 and 23.5. He insists he is not in a rut, just consistent. On the subject of our wonder boy, he was recently enquiring the date of the Redhill Mountain 50, stating his intention of riding it this year. On being reminded that it was the day before the club's Open 25 he replied: "That's O.K., I shall be back in time for the start". Maurise said: "That is not the point". The club, of course, is relying on Cliff to win their promotion. The 25 is our fourth 'open' this year, having already staged a road race, a ten mile T.T. (unfortunately not very well supported), and a two-up team time-trial.

We are still managing to do a fair bit of touring. The usual bank holiday week-end camping trip saw eight members plus two children and a dog descend on the quiet and simple country folk near Diss in Norfolk, spending a good day and half touring round those fantastically quiet roads, with not a hint of a bank holiday about them. It proved to be quite an eventful week-end, highlighted by a visit to a steam engine enthusiast's place at Bressingham, where among the many working engines was the 'Brittania' class locomotive

'Oliver Cromwell' chugging at full steam up 300 years of track. Other incidents during the week-end were Mo falling over and spraining his foot while playing football with Heather's ball, and Iris coming a purler on loose gravel when a stick lodged in her front wheel, locking it solid. Heather was none the worse for her first pile-up, and was more interested in Bruce's administrations to her Mum's grazed knee. John Mumford proved himself no tourist when it took him two hours to find the camp site after reaching Diss (about six miles away). Then next day he went out and getting back to within two miles, again most himself, this time taking an hour to cover the two miles, in a car! The boys, of course, tasted the local ale, causing the publican to ask them to stay longer longer as his takings had greatly improved while they were there.

By the time the next edition comes out many of our members will have taken their holidays, Sharpie of course having already had his in March. Next week Stan Nash leaves for a sun worshipping holiday in Yugoslavia, followed a few weeks later by Brian Guy and Bruce Allcorn, who are off on a hostelling tour of Scotland. These two plan plenty of rough-stuff and are hoping to take up the challenge of a certain remote hostel where the handbook says: "Not recommended for cyclists"! Another hosteller, Mo Colburn, is joining a Y.H.A. tour to Norway.

Well, must finish this lot as it is nearly time for me to be off in our 10 and I must hand this to the marshal at the turn.

SCRUBBER

PUBLIC APOLOGY

The Editor wishes to offer his unreserved and abject apologies to Valerie Baxendine of East Grinstead for all the rude things that he has said and written about her typing. After struggling through the manuscript of the above Eastbourne notes, apparently written by a person riding back seat on a tandem travelling over Belgian pavé, he realises that Val's work is nothing to complain about.

ASSOCIATION TIME-TRIAL RESULTS

35³/₄ MILES TWO-UP April 12th. H M S

1st	C Sharp/ M Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	1 30 45
2nd	V Butler/ R Harrison	Southborough Wheelers	1 36 46
3rd	R Stringer/D Stringer	Brighton Excelsior	1 37 15

Ten teams finished complete. One team finished with one rider.
Four teams started with only one rider. Two teams did not start.
One team did not finish.

LADIES 10 MILES

1st	V Stringer	Brighton Excelsior	30 33
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BOYS 10 MILES

1st	S Myatt	Lewes Wanderers	28 7
2nd	R Bicknell	Brighton Mitre CC	28 8
3rd	T Leach	Eastbourne Rovers	28 11

JUNIOR 10 MILES

1st	J Yardley	Brighton Mitre CC	26 37
2nd	T Eadon	Eastbourne Rovers	26 46
3rd	M Vowells	San Fairy Ann CC	27 20

50 MILES May 10th

1st	F Godwin	Brighton Excelsior	2 8 31
2nd	D Hook	Eastbourne Rovers	2 8 42
3rd	K Chandler	Brighton Mitre	2 9 32

Handicap - K Griffiths Eastbourne Rovers (20) 2 2 11
Team - Brighton Excelsior (Godwin, R Stringer, J Spooner) 6 33 8

LADIES 10 MILES

1st	I Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	29 42
2nd	V Stringer	Brighton Excelsior	30 15

Time-Trial Results (continued).

BOYS 10 MILES May 10th H M S

1st	P Churchill	Brighton Mitre CC	26 14
2nd	B Maxlow	Norwood Paragon CC	26 15
3rd	B Bicknell	Brighton Mitre CC	27 3

JUNIOR 10 MILES

1st	G Matthews	Worthing Excelsior CC	24 40
2nd	J Yardley	Brighton Mitre CC	25 21
3rd	A Morris	Brighton Mitre CC	25 57

25 MILES June 7th

1st	C Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers	58 11 (Assn Record)
2nd	J Williams	Eastbourne Rovers	1 1 53
3rd	B Hone	Central Sussex CC	1 2 32

Handicap - P Lipscombe Central Sussex (6¹/₄) 57 8
Team - Eastbourne Rovers (Sharp, Williams, D Hook) 3 2 27

Ladies -	V Stringer	Brighton Excelsior	1 13 36
	I Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	1 14 45

LEWES WANDERERS CC

Starting on a more sober note than usual, we'd like to extend our sympathy to the Mitre on the loss of two members since the last edition. The news about Gerry Jackson and Charlie Turner hit everyone pretty hard, and more so because of the suddenness in each case, and Sussex cycling is that much poorer for their passing.

Having finally got over the disappointment of no Eddy Merckx at Herne Hill, your scribe feels fit to face his public once again. On being told of this notorious non-event, Peter Sharp, who once claimed that he doesn't know anyone, proved that any progress in this direction is a myth, by saying: "Who's Eddy Merckx, anyway?" The deathly hush that followed was finally broken by a wealth of unprintable comments before he was acquainted with the facts!

Having scorned the Hardriders event, our heroes began the serious stuff in the Lewes-Newhaven and back, in which Burbery's 38 33 was good enough for a win, and the handicap to boot. Steve Myatt was second with 40 43 and the rest suffered. A load of wind and wetness for the Association Team TT with Kilby and Burbery back to a '53', but Symon Myatt rocked the schoolboys by coming out on top with 28 7 in their 10, and beating by $1\frac{1}{4}$ minutes brother Steve, who rode in the Junior event. In the SCA Team TT Kilby was DNS, so Burbery went solo and did a creditable 1 9 8. Gander sampled a 'brick wall' gale and came second with a 32-20 in the Hastings schoolboys 10. Your scribe suspects the Editor of having something to do with this in order to bear out his comment in an earlier BONK. (You're wrong, Geoff, I was talking about our hard course - this was the easy one - Ed.). Kilby did 2 26 in the Association 50, while in the Boys' 10 Gander got down to 27 48, and Trevor Wright was inside evens.

The evening 10s are well under way, and Gander is leading at the moment, having won two with some consistent riding. The third event was notable for the amount of female 'talent' that sprang from somewhere; and they were suitably entertained by the 'Old Crocks', alias Agg, Willcocks and Goldstein, the last two having their first taste of the 'hard stuff' this year. Jack rode up with his hair tucked under a racing cap, and it was five minutes before anyone recognised him! His finishing sprint would have done credit to a Tour of Britain stage winner. The Club 25 provided a shock in the shape of a revitalised President Agg, who announced that he was going to "show 'em". During the event, Nigel Martin of the Premier came by and said: "Agg riding again? I must see this - has he had his frame strengthened?" His '19' was no threat to the course record, although everyone seemed to be crawling, and Burbery's '10' was good enough to clinch matters. Alf Dawes, the SCA 'Humphrey', gave it as his considered opinion that the Wanderers couldn't raise a team for the SCA Team Championship. We took exception to this and entered two squads totalling ten riders, of whom all finished except Trevor Wright, who went off course due to a missing marshal. Mick Hills showed himself for the first time this year, and promptly put a few noses out of joint by doing 1 8 56 and tanning the lot of 'em! Burbery and Gander did 1-9s and Symon Myatt a '10'. Agg and Willcocks indulged in what the former called a "Battle of Double-Chain-wheel Creek", his 1-14 being three minutes too good for Yours Truly, who claims that he was really beaten by the force of gravity. This

was borne out by Mick Venner of the Worthing, who said: "Agg wasn't riding down to Washington - he was dropping like a ----- bomb!" As he crossed the line he just had enough breath to holler "Scrooger, Willcocks" before collapsing onto the verge. April saw the arrival of Graham Stewart (or Stuart) Agg, another prospective bike-rider for 1984. Graham Seymour of Crawley congratulates the parents on picking such an elegant name!

Any reader having a lawn mower for disposal is asked to contact Ken Savage, who is reported to have covered a prodigious mileage looking for a suitable model. Is is said to have worn out so many tubs looking for one that's "different" (don't ask us how) that it would have been as cheap to have bought a new one. Judy Goldstein started something when she revealed that a friend of their's sports the name of Fidoe. It's a pity he's not an Escabod for who better to marshal at Kennel Corner? Other points that some to mind are that his favourite course would naturally be K9, he'd warm up by going for a 'poodle' down the road, he'd be more interested in the telegraph poles than the starting line (and so would soon be in the doghouse with the timekeeper), and he wouldn't feel too happy in a road race among all the various 'cats'. Peter Sharp was once described as being "ani-everything" (although a certain Southborough notability said that he found this hard to swallow, seeing that there are six Sharp offspring). He convulsed the committee by waving a selection of boards and banners to be used in the next protest march. It's rumoured that a vacuum cleaner salesman called once and offered to give a demonstration, but the Sharps got in first, with the result that the bloke ended up heading an anti-Vietnam throng the next weekend.

Congratulations to Valerie Baxendine and Co. for a first-class promotion in the East Grinstead road race. Armbands, pads and pens, free drinks - the commissaires and judges had never had it so good, wille the programmes were the best seen for many a long day. We're disappointed with the low entry for our Evening Criterium, less than a third of the Division license holders. What's up, lads - burned yourselves out? Most people consider that Young Thropp's comments last time were well answered in the Editorial. All we'll say is that if ESCA is a great facade, as he claims, who'd be bothered looking for the real thing? We very much regret the departure, at the end of June, of the Goldsteins, who are swopping the hills and bends of Sussex for the Suffolk 'prairie', and moving to Ipswich. They're

Lewes Wanderers CC (continued).

having a grand sale of stuff from now on at 20% discount, so if it's bargains you're after, get in there quickly. You won't get another chance.

On that piece of advice, we'll say cheers for now, and long may the good weather continue.

ALSORAN

HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS CC

My last notes ended with: "Until Dennis whispers DEADLINE". This time it was a very loud command. (It had to be, otherwise he might have been too late for the Autumn edition, let alone the Summer one - Ed.). What can I write? No dinners or luncheons, and in fact, with the clubroom being closed until September, very little is happening on the social side. In many ways it is a great pity that the Tuesday club night is no more; but with the evening 10 mile events taking place every Wednesday, it was asking a lot to expect members two nights a week as well as the Sunday run.

The Schoolboy and Junior event on April 25th was rather poorly supported, and with a cold blustery wind there were quite a few non-starters. T Leach of the Eastbourne Rovers won the schoolboys section with a time of 30.45. K Taylor of the Tooting Bicycle Club won the junior section with the splendid time of 27.57. It was very pleasing for the Event Secretary, Esther Carpenter, to have so many of the club's older members, including our new vice-president George Page, attending the event.

The evening 10 miles events have been very successful, and numbers increase every week. Richard Wall has brought a very welcome zest to the racing. We are very pleased to welcome back Bon French to our racing programme. For some years Bob was the Club Champion. Then he married and with the exception of the Opening Run, we saw very little of him, but last week he showed us that he can still be a champion if he wishes with his first ride, clocking 27 minutes. Keep it up, Bob. Jack and Richard want another partner in the different events. At present they are working very hard to keep the club's racing name going. Membership remains steady and club runs are usually well supported, but one is dismayed at times by the

Hastings & St. Leonards CC (continued).

lack of interest shown by some of the junior members.

The Club Open 25 for Ladies, Juniors and Gents on June 7th on the Romney Marsh course attracted seventy riders. R Gaskell of the South-Eastern Road Club was first with 1.16, R Travers, Wignore CC second in 1.23.1 and G Martin, Wignore CC third in 1.24.0. R Dongworth was the first lady with 1.12.34. D Hedgecock, Wignore CC won the handicap, with P McVey of the Folkestone CC second. M Vowells of the San Fairy Ann won the junior award and Frank Ford, Medway Velo the Veterans award. The club's entrant in the junior section, Peter Hoath, was unable to start because of a broken pedal. Dennis Neeves is to be thanked for his hard work in keeping this event up to its usual high standard; also thanks to Pete Avis for his timekeeping, and to all other willing helpers. This event was on the revised Q140. At present opinions are very varied as to whether it will prove as popular as the old course. Perhaps by the time the next BONK is due a more settled opinion will be known.

I think that is all for now.

F M

PROPOSED CLUBS TIME-TRIAL LEAGUE - POINTS TO DATE.

	HARDRIDERS 15	MEN'S 25	LADIES 10	2-UP T T T	LADIES 10	JUNIOR 10	SCHOOLBOYS 10	MEN'S 50	SCHOOLBOYS 10	JUNIOR 10	LADIES 10	MEN'S 25	LADIES 25	MEN'S 100	LADIES 10	SCHOOLBOYS 10	JUNIOR 10	TOTAL
BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR CC	1	1	2	1	2		7			1	2	4						21
BRIGHTON MITRE CC		14				7	2	5	8	8								44
LEWES WANDERERS CC						3					2							5
EASTBOURNE ROVERS C & AC	8	2		3		2	1	5	1	1	2	8						33
SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS				5														5
CRAWLEY WHEELERS																		0
EAST GRINSTEAD CC																		0
HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS CC																		0
CENTRAL SUSSEX CC		3	1					1				6						11

MEN'S, JUNIOR & SCHOOLBOYS EVENTS - Points 3 - 2 - 1 each
for Fastest time, Team Handicap.

LADIES EVENTS - Points 2 - 1 each
for Fastest time, Handicap.

HERE AND THERE

On the Southborough Wheelers' Isle of Wight tour their president was bemoaning the lack of drinking capacity in the club these days. Perhaps he should become a second-claim member of the 'Excel'.

Graham Orchard is courting. When a clubmate called round on a Saturday afternoon, his mother said he was in bed. Interesting.

Seen scrawled in the dirt on the back of a Pirelli lorry, the words "Dunlop are best".

Horrible 'clanger' dropped by our President's lady at the 50. When, in conversation with one of the riders, he informed her that he was a Vet, Vera started talking about dogs! Needless to say, the rider was pretty disgusted!

This is on a par with the display of ignorance by the Editor's mother, who, when talking to her football-mad grandson, heard him mention Alan Ball, asked: "Who is Alan Ball?"

Budgen of the Grinstead being a keen bird-watcher was carrying on his hobby when the car in front stopped but Budgie didn't. Result: one shortened wheelbase model, and two wheels that won't go round. Cause: too short mini skirt.

Eastbourne CTC were well and truly roared off near Beddingham by a man wearing his best Sunday suit and riding a roadster bicycle. Anyone wondering at this apparent lack of energy on their part may find a clue in the fact that they sometimes have elevenses at a stud farm a few miles west of Lewes.

Cliff Sharp was asked by Willcocks if he'd received a start sheet for the following Sunday. Cliff said that he had, then laughed like a drain when Willcocks said: "What number am I?" The answer to this is that Willcocks was referring to the SCA Team Championship, while Cliff meant the National 25!

Cliff's rather beat-up jalopy was due for it's MOT test last week. We wonder what the examiners thought of the floor on the passenger side, which flaps up and down with the draught.

The 'Flaming June' Association 25 found a goodly number of Southborough riders facing the timekeeper, most of them having ambled up from Blackboys hostel. Unfortunately, yesterday's top three are now in retirement. Clive Orchard (business commitments), Graham Orchard (courting), and Clive Ashby (lack of form - he only got down to a '58', and interests in surfing predominate); so it was left to Vic Butler to lead our crowd with 1-4-7, screwing Royston by a mere eleven seconds. Malcom scored a '5', while only five seconds separated Crow and Richard Cave with long 'sixes', and Jacko just fifteen seconds further back. This is the sort of result that makes for good 'needles' later on. Robin suffered from the effects of racing on Brighton prom' the previous afternoon - 'nuff said, while Brian Leyland laid more of his comeback trail with an '11'. We all thought the course was the best one yet in East Sussex. Latest on Geoff Withers is that he is out of hospital and only suffered a broken collarbone. Geoff hopes to start his continental tour in five weeks' time!

Lewes Wanderers were riding a club 30, and noticed Ken Stevens lurking round the course. They did not know that he was observing a Pete Crofts record attempt, and thought he was watching them. At the finish there was talk of "Ken Stevens looking out for dope and advertising", and Jack Goldstein, looking at Willcocks wearing a trade team cap, remarked: "There it is - both on one bicycle".

How to tell when the serious racing season has really started. When Ken Stevens stops smoking and Pete Crowsley starts removing his mudguards for events.

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE

Vive Le Defaillance! by our Paris correspondent.

The Whelk Stalls of Southend (an Essex idyll), by our famous touring expert 'Ragged Ass'.

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