



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

**East Sussex
Cycling Association**

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No. 32. CHRISTMAS 1970

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

EDITORIAL

On November 29th the Association showed two different faces. There was an excellent turnout for the Party, but earlier in the day the situation was not nearly so good, with Crawley and Brighton Excelsior not represented at the A.G.M., and Southborough able to find only one delegate. This looks dangerously like apathy and could make the officials wonder whether they were re-elected because they have done well or because not many people care who does the jobs. The financial side too is none too healthy; a sixty pounds loss on a year cannot be repeated many times. Taking a broader view of the game, there is the disturbing spectacle of national officials squabbling over details of the Joint Agreement, while down at club level the problem of those who merely want to ride bikes is more often than not simply that of getting and keeping enough young riders to keep the sport going. The big drop in the number of people qualifying for the BBAR certificates should be a warning to the power politicians to concentrate on the things that really matter. Finally, I hope that the idea of starting a serious training schedule in November for next season will not gain ground in this area, particularly in view of the news published in CYCLING that many of the riders who are tearing about in February are dropping out, having had enough, in July. Bearing in mind that it takes a healthy young man about six weeks to train up to near peak racing fitness, and that most of the events that count come after Easter, my advice is to keep the legs and lungs in reasonable shape on Sunday club runs, plus plenty of indoor sport (the kind involving bats and celluloid balls), and for the rest of the time relax and live a little, then enter for the Hardriders 16 and make it the first really serious ride of the year.

"GEN" from the Secretary.

With the Social Season well under way, we can look back on two events organised by the Association. First the Touring Competition organised and run on our behalf by the Brighton Excelsior C.C. What a pity so few of our member clubs failed to enter members. From reports of those who took part the organisation and the layout of the competition was very good indeed. Full results are printed elsewhere in this issue. Next year's competition will be organised by our 1971 President John Dutson and will take place during the summer on a date to be arranged. I understand that the event will include a class for motorised members of our clubs.

The Annual Party that followed the A.G.M. at Hellingly was supported by an excellent turnout of members, despite the fact that a slide show had to be put on at short notice in place of the Roller Racing which had to be cancelled due to lack of entries. This year the price of tickets was kept down by not having such an elaborate meal, which many present thought quite good. It must be borne in mind that one only gets what one pays for these days. The slide show provided by members was much appreciated, but what a pity that one or two people insisted in talking throughout the show, much to the annoyance of the persons sitting around them.

At the Annual General Meeting before the Party, 7 of the 9 member clubs had delegates in attendance. Main decisions taken at the Meeting will be found elsewhere in this edition. Once again, finance was big on the Agenda. Without a doubt, the Grand National Draw kept the finances on a sound basis, even though entries for Time Trials were up on the previous year. The Open Junior and Schoolboys' events were poorly supported, and showed a large deficit. It goes without question that an increase in entries in the Time Trials will see quite an improvement in our finances. Next year we are again organising a Draw on the Grand National and shortly I shall be circulating tickets to clubs and I appeal to you all to make a big effort to make it a financial success.

In conclusion, may I take this opportunity of wishing you all the best for Christmas and the New Year, and may 1971 be a bumper year for us all.

R.H.

RESULT OF 1970 B.A.R. COMPETITION, decided over 25, 50 and 100 miles. Winner to hold Memorial Trophy for one year

			Average mph
1st	D. Hook	Eastbourne Rovers	23.202
2nd	B Hone	Central Sussex CC	22.974
3rd	M. Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	22.873
4th	R. Johnson	Brighton Mitre CC	22.566
5th	A. Wilkinson	Central Sussex CC	22.178
6th	R. Ewart	Central Sussex CC	20.935
7th	P. Crowsley	Southborough & D.	20.739
8th	J. Southerden	Hastings & St. L.	20.669

Team: Central Sussex CC

(Hone, Wilkinson and Ewart) 22.029

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ASSOCIATION RACING PROGRAMME FOR 1971

Feb 28	M	Hardriders 16	G895	Hastings & St. L.
Mar 14	M & W	25 Miles	G833	Central Sussex CC
Apr 4	M	2-up 35 $\frac{3}{4}$	T.T.T. G891	Southborough & D.
	W	10 Miles		
	S	10 Miles		
May 2	M & W	25 Miles	G833	Brighton Excel CC
Jun 13	M & W	50 Miles	G851	Brighton Mitre CC
Jul 11	M & W	OPEN 100 Miles	G861	Lewes Wanderers
Aug 15	M & W	50 Miles	G851	East Grinstead CC
Sep 5	M & W	OPEN 25 Miles	G833	R. Humphrey
Oct 10	M & W	2-up 25 T.T.T.	G833	Eastbourne Rovers
Oct 10	(pm)M	OPEN HILL-CLIMB		Firle Eastbourne Rovers

EASTBOURNE ROVERS (Potterers Section).

Arming myself with pen, paper and a packet of salted peanuts, I sift around in the dusty corners for any 'happenings' in the Rovers over the past three months. A few late season holidays were taken during October. Brian and Rosemary flitted up to Derbyshire with a couple of trikes on the roof of the Mini. It is gathered from the remarks that have slipped out that not much trike riding was done! Brian, by the way, is a reformed character (well, almost). Since our Rosie got hold of him his hair is cut short (by Rosie), and it is rumoured that he is giving up black finger nails when Rosemary gives up smoking. Regarding the latter, she has Bill on her side as Bill is not slow in encouraging anyone into this vice, especially if there is any chance of a free fag. (Only No. 6 tipped, though - Ed.). Off on a mile-eating week-end for a Y.H.A. holiday reunion in Wiltshire, Maurice Colburn actually admitted to getting the knock. He followed this up a few weeks later with a tour of Surrey, the New Forest, Isle of Wight and Sussex South Downs (all in a week), with half a dozen of his fellow tourists. He says the highlight of this was the night spent close to home at Alfriston hostel. Our mile-eater has always looked in disdain at the club's 'Clapped Out CC' who often week-end there. Away up north Jane and Graham met wet and windy weather for their long week-end up at the National Hill-Climb. They managed a whistle stop tour of The Lakes, Yorkshire and Derbyshire - in the Beetle, of course.

Our fast man Cliff Sharp is talking about going into hibernation till next February, only riding his bike to work. Mind you, it is doubtful if his bike will last the winter: only the other day a crank fell off, which was promptly run over by a Southdown bus. How his bike gets through a machine check I don't know. The rest of us are quite happy to potter with our C.T.C. section, all fighting to get on to Bill Collins's wheel. Bill, of course, is getting the miles in, ready for the attempt on the End to End with John Dutson on a tandem. They were to have gone for it this year, but Dutson wasn't fit enough and cried off. It's amazing where these old 'uns get their energy from. Only last Sunday, Vic Eldridge went for a prime round the back of Mayfield, whilst the rest of us were reduced to walking; and there was an anguished cry from Dot Collins: "Save your strength for to-night, Vic". And I thought it was always "never on Sundays". It is rumoured that Bill has inquired of Vic about the course of monkey glands he is supposed to be taking!

Eastbourne Rovers (continued).

Maybe the miles haven't been covered, but we certainly have had a variety. On one October run to Beechurst Park, Haywards Heath, about fifteen bods queued up for a ride on the miniature train. Giving young Heather a ride was the excuse, but it certainly made the little engine grunt. On another run we had a sausage sizzle on what mercifully was a fine day after a rather wet week. Also on the menu appeared freshly picked mushrooms, gathered by the hardy quartet that tackled the Downland rough-stuff, while the rest of us went by road.

In November we also had a slide show at Alfriston Youth Hostel, which function unfortunately clashed with the Clubman's Touring Competition. The slides were the show given by Neville Chanin at the York Rally, and accompanied by Neville's witty commentary we were whipped round England, through France, ending up in the Lebanon.

We are getting looks of nostalgia from old folk, and wonder from the kids, when the club goes by these days; for as well as the usual solos we have trikes, three or four 'double-breasted' jobs, plus of course the Stevens chariot made for two and an infant.

The biggest snag is fitting in a visit to a children's playground to give Heather a ride on the swings, then, once this is done, avoiding all sight of such places for the rest of the day. On a recent run home down from Heathfield, the Stevens tandem started a burn-up, Brian quickly latched on, followed by Mo on a solo. Mo said afterwards that if he got more than three yards off he had to fight like hell to get on again, or he would have been dropped. I think Rosemary needed a clean pair of you-know-whats afterwards, never having gone so fast before.

Well, folks, this may be the last time you have to put up with this tripe, as our A.G.M. is nigh and I may get chucked out (I hope), but I will leave you with the thought:

"DON'T FORGET OUR DINNER - FEBRUARY 6th."

Scrubber.

Firstly, friendly greetings from our Ambassador in Australia, Brian Toghill (or the rag-bag of East Sussex as he was once called by the Eastbourne Rovers). Brian wishes to be remembered to all his associates and officials in the Association, although it seems likely that timekeepers etc. will be only too keen to forget the fluorescent jerked late starter. Being decent types we think it only fair to warn fellow pedallers that Dave Stringer is purchasing a motor-car and plans to start taking driving lessons in the near future. Seriously though, Dave, we've every confidence in you and DON'T FORGET THE ROOF RACK !! Dave is abstaining from racing next year so the other half of the Stringer two-up team will be in need of a new partner. Frank Godwin might have filled the bill as Rick's partner, but the former has temporarily finished with cycling after a fairly promising season, which is a pity. A combination of the fair sex and Christianity has over-ruled the delights of being awheel.

Thursdays at the clubroom are very well supported, as is the bar, particularly now that Double Diamond is on tap ! Perhaps the Brighton & District Bus Co. will soon be sporting a new fleet on the proceeds ! It becomes more difficult to find dinner and tea places these days with so many members out on a Sunday, so if other clubs find new ones, please let us know. Some members have had their first introduction to youth hostelling recently, when the club sent to Milford hostel. The weather was perfect and with the Surrey lanes full of Autumn tints it was enough to inspire those taking part to book another week-end away as soon as there is an available date. Two younger members set themselves up as rent-a-washer/wiper, and at sixpence a head, the evening meal gave them their best pocket money for some time !

Grand weather favoured us on the day of the Esca Tourist Trial, and, having received our envelope of instructions at Lewes, we set off for what turned out to be a strenuous day. Dave Cox and Neville Tingley worked hard to find out where dinner was to be, and either their good map reading or noses got them to the pub for opening time - thus they abandoned the T.T. There was a soggy bit of rough stuff, short and enjoyable; and apart from one hill on this section, riders lost points for any hill en route that they were seen to walk. Speed judging, free-wheeling, bike handling and a short quiz on Sussex helped decide the eventual winner. Tea at Hadlow Down was an enjoyable and welcome refresher, and here the results of the day's efforts were computed. Only seven riders finished,

and apart from Pete Crowsley, all the starters had been Excelsior members ! This was a disappointing factor as the whole thing had been arranged especially in the area so as to be readily accessible for East Sussex members. The Excel being a more western based group, several of their members ended up with a day's mileage of ninety plus ! We fully appreciate that earlier notification to clubs would have been preferable, but it was still disappointing that those who had actually entered and asked for tea to be provided did not turn up. John Roberts put in a lot of hard work to provide a day's fun, and it was very unfortunate that genuine personal circumstances caused some delay which in turn led to drastic lack of support. The Post Office can also be accused of having a hand in upsetting things, but in spite of the obvious disadvantages it was a good day and congratulations to avid tourist Chris Beckingham.

The social season is just that, although not many dinners have been attended so far. Incidentally, ours is on the ninth of January, and we're all saving hard. Next season our club is promoting a two-up Saturday afternoon event early in the season, a track meeting, and a road race in September, and we hope for plenty of local support. (Bear this in mind when training starts, as we are offering generous prizes).

Well, that's all we've time for, so Happy Christmas and New Year to you all.

ROPY RIDER.

 THE CRAWLEY WHEELERS.

Right - let's go on another edition of Monty Neeves Flying Bonk (apologies to any professional jokers, Like Young Thropp who is in Alan Hale's bad books after last Bonk's comments, apparently Alan sheds his skin once a year anyway). So what's happened in Crawley since last issue ? George Monk was seen refusing a "fag" at club !! I (thought I deserve a mention) was seen in shorts on a tandem, Harry Knowles rode a club 10, and we got torn to pieces in a local (ignorant non-supporting) paper for not riding a team in the New Town's Sports Festival, mainly because our club Open 10 was on the same day !

Well back to the bike -- Bob Jones has continued his efforts and

The Crowley Wheelers (continued).

did a 4-38 in his first 100, and also became the third Wheeler to go under the hour, so next season you other Escaites had better beware. On the same note, it may be added that I'm going to ride next season (yes, a bike!!), so you fellas that I pass had better be careful, for what you say will be taken down and printed in the next edition of this. Meanwhile -- our veterans (and there are many of them) have been riding very well, it's amazing what mixed racing does to an old timer like Len Main !! No wonder there's so few females in our club! Ah and back to the point again, Clyde Rimple our ex-Olympian is going to demonstrate to us all next year how a track iron should be ridden.

And talking of how to ride, I was one of the privileged lads who arose at 4-30 a.m. to marshal Les West's record, and what a superlative performance this was in such arctic conditions !! Congratulations to Westy and commiserations to poor Pete Smith who still made a splendid effort. (Seems that Bath tub - sorry, Bath Road Budgie, should go for it now !! and that same character is now back from his continental skive, having spent his colossal winnings in gay Paris; never could lay off the women, could he !).

Enough enough, said he, onward we shall ride -- early season George Sallows and I are promoting a New Town Spring Classis (77) mls so we're all busy gathering hints from Master Ron, who seems to know what needs to be done. He successfully organised the Skol Six trip, where our juniors once again exercised their voices to the full extent. (Coming to that, Chris Watts was shrieking her encouragement to Tony and Co. who so ably entertained the crowds).

Well what else is there - I mean if the Southboro can warble on for two pages then I'm sure I can ! - yes, no doubt you will notice the Wheelers in new flash continental clothing soon, 'cos our local Mackeson man is going into the business.

So there you go, wishes to all those who have successfully read this manuscript (and understood it), sports-writers beware - I've arrived !!! and with that Zebedee said Au Revoir !!

ZEBEDEE

Letter to the Editor.

18 Harding Avenue,
Eastbourne.
24.9.1970.

Dear Sir,

I read with some interest the Autumn issue's Excelsior notes in which 'Ropy Rider' tells of his clubmates' participation in 'Boulder Rolling' over the cliffs near Portland. I can confirm the exciting nature of this sport, though my experience of it has been at the receiving end. Even a small rock hurtling out of the blue and embedding itself deep in the beach inches from where one is sitting can be relied on to enliven an otherwise dull period of sunbathing or fishing. A "real beauty of several tons" launched at the right spot might well precipitate a major cliff fall guaranteed to wipe out all life for some considerable area around. It is to be hoped that in this case the Excelsior boys took the precaution of ensuring that no-one could possibly be below. So far as our own Sussex cliffs are concerned, it is at no time safe to assume that the beach is unoccupied, even at high tide. In addition, it is notoriously dangerous to stand on the edges of chalk cliffs, which often have an unsupported overhang, undetectable from above. Participation in this practise is surely at best thoughtless, at worst criminal, and at all times suicidal.

Yours faithfully,

Stan Nash.

The Association's ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND PRIZE PRESENTATION will be held at the Maiden's Head Hotel, Uckfield, on Sunday, February 14th, 1971. Tickets will cost 25 shillings and the organiser is P.J. Crowsley, 'Crowsleys', Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent. The menu has been approved by the Annual General Meeting and details will be sent to clubs as soon as possible.

Result of Hill-Climb - held on Sunday, 11th October 1970 at West Firle
Distance - 1,500 yards.

			mins	secs
1st	M. Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	4	10.2
2nd	R. Harrison	Southborough & District	4	11.8
3rd	G. Withers	Southborough & District	4	20.8
4th	J. Spooner	Brighton Excelsior CC	4	23.2
5th	P. Crowsley	Southborough & District	4	30.8
6th	T. Leach	Eastbourne Rovers	4	33.8
7th	A. Morris	Brighton Mitre CC	4	36.2
8th	J. Southerden	Hastings & St. Leonards	4	46.8

1st Team: Southborough. 2nd: Eastbourne Rovers. 3rd: Mitre.

Entrants 18. Starters 15. Timekeepers: D. Stokes and R. Porter.

-----ooooOoooo-----

Result of Clubman's Touring Competition held on Sunday November 15th.

			Points lost
1st	C. Beckingham	Brighton Excelsior CC	24
2nd	R. Stringer	" "	29
3rd	V. Stringer	" "	32
4th	P. Crowsley	Southborough & District	38
5th	A. Clark	Brighton Excelsior CC	41
6th	R. Jones	" "	53
7th	M. Adams	" "	80

Disqualified: J. Palmer, J. Goodings, N. Tingley, D. Cox.

SATURDAY NIGHT AND SUNDAY MORNING

Work this out. When Cliff Sharp takes off on one of his famous flits up to Boroughbridge, he gets up on Sunday morning before a lot of people have gone to bed on Saturday night!

On being shown the hilarious picture of his motorised 'heap' being shored up by bikes after the Hill-Climb, Cliff said he thought that all the 'old iron' round it spoilt the view for any prospective buyer. An observer said the off-grey/dark mud two-tone effect proved Cliff right in one respect - when he boasted that he'd never cleaned it since he bought it !!

HERE AND THERE

The Baxendines bought a new horseless carriage, and Val drove it round to the Budgen house to show it to Trevor, taking her two children with her. Trevor was out, but his parents were in, and as we go to press Budgie has still not quite convinced them that he is not having an affair with a married lady with a family.

Don't be surprised to hear that a lot of birds have died in the Catsfield area. The reason will be some dubious home-made bread which was thrown away by the Eastbourne crowd. Dot Collins, who has made it, had got so engrossed in the goggle-box that she forgot all about the bread in the oven.

Then there was another well-known lady Rover who, during tea, displayed her bright red passion-killer type urmentionables.

Residents of Seaford have been startled at seeing a wild figure tearing along on a bike, in shirtsleeves, but wearing large gauntlet gloves. This is Cliff Sharp, whose latest idea for keeping fit is that one should on no account get overheated!

Incidentally, Cliff is now using a gear of 48 fixed, which is two inches lower than the bottom gear in the range that the Editor uses for winter touring!

Guy Little of the Hastings club bought some grapes cheap, with a view to making his own wine; and there's a rumour that he is treading them down in a chamber pot and is put out because he can only use one foot at a time.

After being elected Esca President, John Dutson told the meeting that he suspected that the reason his club had nominated him was that he was the only member who looked old enough for the job.

Having had a wet ride to the A.G.M., the Editor changed into dry trousers and socks and indoor shoes, after which no-one would believe that he had cycled to the meeting and one club President accused him of having come by car.

After the mishaps to his workbike, Geoff Willcocks has decided to ask Cliff Sharp for a few tips on cycle maintenance.

Hi folks ! He we are again, another racing season over, and the social season under way. Even winter seems to have caught up with us at last. Have you noticed how late summer seems to be coming, and what good weather we get in October ? Why, I wonder, cannot the racing season be altered accordingly. Instead of racing in the freezing fog or even snow in March, extend the season through October. This year found October with wonderful weather and a lot of fit cyclists but no events left. It did, of course, give the record breakers a chance to have a go, and some of us the opportunity to see Les West break that long standing London-Brighton-and-back record. Looking back on our racing season, the club, despite it's small numbers, had a good year. Having just sent my previous Bonk report from South Devon, with nothing much to report, I nearly died of shock when I picked up an old newspaper in a cafe and found that Trevor had won the Bath Road 100. (I see enough of papers for fifty weeks of the year, so I do not buy one when on holiday - not that I ever buy one, of course). Trevor was soon off to France with Willy Hill after his Bath Road epic. Both did well on the continent and learned a lot, not only about racing, but about grape picking as well. They set out to beat the French at their own game and had two weeks hard work at the vineyards; so if you find a toenail or two in your wine this Christmas, it might be one of Trevor's ! He lost his socks and boots as well, but you're all right there because they could not get into the bottle. The latest on Trev is that he is actually working, and working hard, but only as long as it takes to save up enough money for next season though. Tom Padbury has returned from his summer job in a Norwegian hotel, but by the time this is printed he will be back in Norway again. This time he is working at a hotel in a ski-ing resort (Budgie thinks that this should read "she-ing"). He will only be working evenings and still get more money than a lot of people here can earn all day. Our Tom certainly gets around, but unfortunately his home base may be moving to Canterbury next year, thus taking Tom away from the East Grinstead Cycling Club and Escaland.

It will be mainly to the younger members that the club will be looking next year. One member we can rely on to notch up many wins is Bob Beatty. Bob is another who has joined the 'Home for breakfast and out again for the club run' brigade. As someone's Mum (he shall remain nameless) said: "What do you find to do all that time?" His answer was unprintable, but to the point ! We have five schoolboys now all showing great promise. Two of them have

been training each week ready for the Roller Contest. What a shame that so few entered and the contest had to be cancelled. It seemed such a good idea. Club gossip well. George is no longer in love, so lock up your daughters - George is on the rampage again. Overheard down club.... "I had a letter from Budgie to-day - knew it was from him because I had to pay tenpence on it". Out shopping one day in new coat and shoes, local policeman stops me and says: "I didn't recognise you all dressed up and without your Argus van". It's all lies, honest !

Mick Robinson will be glad when we hold our jumble sale, as he will be able to move back into his house. Fred Marshall won our recent free-wheeling contest, with Ray Lunn a close second. Fifteen members and friends turned up for this event, which was encouraging.

Guest speakers at our dinner are again Dave Bonner and Colin Lewis, though possibly the go-go girls may be more of an attraction. The date - January 16th. I don't think there is anything else to report. Now I can get down to the chocolates: (I think they are meant for me !) and watch the colour TV. I'm baby sitting, you see. That's just to let you know that I have friends with money - sickening, isn't it ? It's our wedding anniversary to-day, and we are spending it appropriately - apart in silent mourning. On that doleful note I close. It just remains for me to wish you all successful club dinners, with lots of all those things you had to give up for the racing season !!!

VAL.

VANDALS STRIKE AGAIN

Seen in the advertisement columns of CYCLING:

"Tubulars slashed".

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

TIME TRIAL LEAGUE

CLUB	22.2.70		8.3.70			12.4.70		10.5.70			7.6.70		12.7.70			9.8.70		16.8.70		6.9.70		TOTAL
	HARDRIDERS	"25" MEN	"10" LADIES	2-UP T T T	"10" LADIES	"10" JUNIOR	"20" SCHOOLBOYS	"50" MEN	"10" LADIES	"10" JUNIOR	"10" SCHOOLBOYS	"25" MEN	"25" LADIES	"100" MEN	"10" JUNIOR	"10" SCHOOLBOYS	"50" MEN	"25" T T T	"25" MEN	"25" LADIES	HILL-CLIMB	
1st EASTBOURNE ROVERS	8	2	3		2	1	5	2	1	1	8	5		2	4	3	4	4	4	5		60
2nd BRIGHTON MITRE CC	1	14			7	2	5		8	8				3	3		1	5		1		58
3rd BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR	1	1	2	1	2		7	1			3	4										22
4th CENTRAL SUSSEX CC	3	1					1				5	7			1		3					21
4th SOUTHBOROUGH & DIST			5												7		3			6		21
6th LEWES WANDERERS CC						3					2	1		1	1							8
7th EAST GRINSTEAD CC															5							5
8th HASTINGS & St. L.												2					2					4
9th CRAWLEY WHEELERS																		3				3

Firstly, apologies from the Mitre for absence from the last issue. Your contributor was holidaying in Scotland when the deadline came up, and the event somehow passed by. As a result, this epistle goes back to earlier in the year for some of the comments.

Our club promotions during the year have now all passed more or less successfully, an overall profit being made, although one or two showed a small loss. Our plans for next year are similar, although we are only promoting two track meetings instead of three, and we hope to see plenty of Escabods among the entries for our first event, a road race in April. Club events during the year have been keenly contested, with Robin Johnson, Keith Chandler, Adrian Morris and John Yardley fighting it out for the major placings. Keith departed for a full-time course at Hatfield Technical College, so will be out of circulation except holiday periods in 1971. All the four above mentioned riders improved considerably during the year, and all four are young enough to continue to improve for a while yet. Adrian managed 1-0-58 on an excursion to the Bath Road, Robin has a couple of 1-1s and a 2-4 for a fifty to show for his efforts, and Keith and John both managed 1-3s. The rest of us are lagging somewhat, with Peter Churchill and Bob Bicknell doing 1-6 and 1-7 respectively. Peter and Bob represented us in the G.H.S. final at Northampton, where Peter gained an excellent fifth place overall. We were sorry to lose him to the Worthing at the end of the season, but we have a number of keen youngsters to give him keen competition next year.

Club runs have been generally well supported, and have followed Brighton Excel's example by taking to rough-stuff excursions, supplemented by trips up 'The Pipe' under the A27. Certain members, notably Alan Handley, have left portions of their anatomy in various unfriendly thorn bushes over the county. A number of social events have been run, including a picnic at Henfield in June, attended by over thirty members. With two stack-ups on the way there, and a further two at the picnic site, it was a fairly eventful affair. That brings us more or less up to date, to the end of the racing season, and to the all too short social season. By the time this appears in print, our dinner will be over. It is at the Arnold House Hotel, Brighton, and we expect the attendance to be about 75 people. Three weeks ago, the lads had the first hostel run of the winter, to Hastings. Eight riders managed the trip in spite of some inclement weather. In the morning I noticed Sharp and Colburn battering away en route to one of their hostel excursions, which I gather just about equal my normal yearly total of training miles!

It seems odd that our club, and evidently others, patronise hostels far more in the winter than in the summer. One reason, I suppose, is that it is possible to travel without advance booking in the winter, and get nearer the original idea of hostels, which with the addition of car parks and rising charges seems to deviate somewhat from the original purpose.

We have been glad to welcome back to the club Maurice Wyatt, back from the brain drain, who was a club stalwart in the fifties; and more recently Alan Packett, who has acquired a new iron and intends to ride a little next year. With a bit of luck, our representation in Esca events will be up a little on last season, especially in the senior events.

That's all for now. Let's make the most of the too few weeks of social season left.

K.M.W.

LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

Greetings once again from the Esca 'upper crust': did someone say that's hard to swallow? As your scribe's memory wasn't quite up to Mick Kilby's immaculate records, he has to recap on one or two vital statistics from last time. Four of our lads must have finished up with identical opinions of the new Association 25 course, as they all did 1-9s and were talking about the Savage 'complaint' being contagious! The season has seen a titanic struggle between Kilby and Burbery, which continued in the club 25 when the former was over a minute to the good, while Trevor Wright's '11' gave him the handicap. By this time Mick had got the bit well and truly between his molars, having done a personal best 25-53 in a Worthing 10; and in the Esca 50 he demolished Savage by over eight minutes with a '20', continuing in the Open 25, where he sneaked a crafty 20 secs over Burbery, both doing '8's. Came the Bognor Campag event and Burbery, rising to the big occasion, returned the compliment with an almost identical margin. Savage had quietly been doing two more '9's, and now wishes to challenge all comers for the title of 'Mr. 1-9' - we reckon he's prone to 'em! The Central 2-up saw '10's from Kilby/Burbery and Savage/B. Aunis (Haslemere), while Gander/Simon Myatt found that extra 1.8 miles a severe hardship, and lumbered in with a '20'. Kilby used the

SCA 30 to get 43 seconds on Burbery before the Mitre 2-up, which saw the second racing appearance of Mick Hills this season. He teamed with Pete for a 5-29 and trimmed the Kilby-Savage 'firm next door' by 34 seconds. Gander-Wright did well with 9-18. Foul weather for the Worthing saw Burbery take 33 seconds out of Kilby, who slithered to second handicap, with Savage and Gander on '10's and Steve Myatt DNF after failing to take a greasy roundabout. Kilby got a sudden wanderlust and rode the Southampton Whs. 25, doing a '7' on P² and punishing no less a person than fit man Ron Ewart of the Central by 2½ minutes. Finally came the Mitre 25, where Burbery administered the coup de grace and clobbered Kilby, again by 33 seconds in 1-9-14, while Savage slipped to an '11'. As Burbery hadn't done a short '3' since 1962, the Club B.A.R. went to Kilby with 21.113 mph, against Pete's 20.584. None of our heroes could face the Hill-Climb, the general opinion being that you need a full season of really hard racing to train for it! Before leaving the hard stuff for this season, belated congratulations to Trevor Budgen on his Bath Road triumph. It did us good to see a Sussex rider in such an exalted position.

At the other end of the scale, we now revert to the Association 50, which will be remembered for the return of the notorious Agg gremlins. Anticipating the need for sustenance en route, Derek had carefully bolted on a bottle cage before being hurled from the line. Alas, his first attempted gear change, at the Boship, revealed the horrible truth - he'd clamped up his gear cable for good measure! A reliable observer reported thus: "He came back to the start, threw his iron on to the grass verge, and let loose a flood of invective that would have made a bargee blush". Incidentally, your scribe had a narrow escape from a fate worse than death when the front saddle rivets of his work bike pulled out and he missed the saddle frame by the proverbial cat's whisker! Later an even more incredible performance was the vertical splitting of a bottom bracket cup on the same machine, resulting in a lack of traction due to missing balls. A certain lady Rover overheard the last few words at the A.G.M. and had to have her mind put at rest by hearing the complete context! Surprised beholders of Hugh Gander in the last few weeks have been wondering if he's been putting horse manure in his shoes as he seems to have sprung up to equine proportions in a very short time! Let's hope that next year's racing shows if it's all to the good. Older members were interested to see 'Scrubber's' mention of Des Terrell. He was one of those who set the Wanderers club on it's feet again in

1951 and did so much, both racing and social, to make us tick, before bowing out for family reasons.

It's rumoured that Savage was seen at one event, pump in hand and absentmindedly feeling for the valve on his 60-odd tooth chainring - he'd mistaken it for his rear wheel! Possibly the prodigious gears he gets force him into one pedalling rate, hence the '9' rut. He also has to be careful to miss cats-eyes, and other impedimenta, as the ground clearance is a little tight!

By the time this appears we shall know the outcome of the proposed split in the BCF/RTTC Joint Agreement. As we see it, the sport can only lose if this takes place, with the important people (the bike-riders) being pushed around at the whim of Authority. We can only hope that wiser counsels prevail.

Finally, a big black mark for any Escabod who doesn't yet know where the 'Elephant & Castle' stands in Lewes. Why? Well, enough to say that the date is Saturday, February 20th, the time 7-30 for 8 pm, the price still very reasonable at 14/-, the meal as good as usual, and the entertainment - just ask anyone who came to last year's laugh-in. Applications at the latest by February 15th to G. Willcocks, 6a Broad Street, Seaford. Write it on your training chart (you can't ride on empty stomachs) and roll up.

So once again it's down with the racing curtain, up with the elbows, &c. (I wonder what he means by "&c." - Ed.), and a merry social season to you all.

ALSORAN.

The club A.G.M. - I'm told I'm to be given a second trial as Press Secretary - the worthy Dennis says "Deadline for Bonk notes three days time - I plead for time - he very generously gives me twenty-four hours.

The last issue of Bonk I escaped by being, as Dennis told you, in a little fishing village in Cornwall, and Dennis deputised splendidly for me. What can I tell you? No club room news. It was a very hard decision the committee had to make to close the club room. Two years ago we thought we had the answer to the club's needs. A very enthusiastic beginning, but gradually interest waned until only about ten of the senior members used the room, leaving the club with a weekly loss which the finances could not continue to carry. It makes one wonder what can be done to attract and KEEP the younger members. Membership remains about the same - young members come, one or two stay.

On the racing side, our worthy veteran Jack Southerden continues to return good times in both the K.C.A. and E.S.C.A. events. One especially grand ride was in the Southborough Campag 25 in which he returned a time of 1-8-38. In the K.C.A. Best-All-Rounder contest he finished in 14th place; also he was second in the V.T.T.A. Kent Group B.A.R., losing first place to Frank Ford on age standard. Richard Wall also returned good times with both associations. Richard journeyes very far afield to ride in some events, going to Essex to ride in one 25. The weekly evening 10s proved very successful and popular. Bob French commenced the season by winning most of these events, but after the Southborough Campag 25 he faded away again: perhaps he will make a bigger effort next year. Peter Hoath proved the most successful of the juniors and shows promise of doing some grand times next season.

Now the close season is half over, and club dinners and association luncheons are bringing racing rivals together on very friendly terms. Our club dinner and dance will be as usual at the Royal Victoria Hotel on Saturday January 30th. Tickets can be obtained from the Social Secretary, Mrs. Barbara Powell, 2 St. Helms Avenue, Hastings, or from any club member. The Club A.G.M. was well attended and many items were discussed at great length. It is always interesting to hear different views expressed: many ideas usually produce one good one. There were no changes in officials, except that it was decided to revert back to a runs captain and also a racing captain and so avoid speed clashing with the slower riders.

The election of officers for 1971 was as follows :-

Fred Martin starts his 10th year as President. Arthur Coleman Chairman; Barbara Powell - Vice-Chairman; Ernie Spray commences his 20th year as Treasurer; Esther Carpenter continues her long stay as Secretary; Barbara Powell - Social Secretary; Fred Martin - Press Secretary; Dennis Neeves - Open 25 promoter; Dave Morris - Runs Captain; Graham Wilks - Racing Secretary; Jack Southerden makes a welcome return, joining Ron Powell and Sid Powell to form the committee.

NEWS ITEMS The Kent Cycling Association has again honoured our club by electing it's President, Fred Martin, to be President and Chairman of the Association for the second successive year. Arthur Coleman has again been elected to serve on the K.C.A. committee. He will also be Toast Master at the K.C.A. Luncheon at Cranbrook on December 13th. This is also the date of our club's Christmas party at Netherfield, where we shall all start what we wish all our friends, a Happy Christmas. Dennis Neeves has again been elected as Editor of BONK. Congratulations to Graham and Linda on the arrival of Edwin. He was only a few days old when he ordered Graham to change his lovely Aston-Martin car for one that he could ride in in comfort. Now we see Graham with a complete nursery called a Renault! Edwin made his first public appearance at the Esca Hill-Climb. Linda tells me that Graham knows all there is to know as a baby sitter. Looking to next year, the Hastings club will be responsible for promoting the Association Hardriders 16 on February 28th.

Best wishes to all for a lovely Christmas.

F.M.

Reports from Mid-Sussex indicate that Young Thropp has lately been absent from the cycling scene owing to domestic commitments, hence no Central Sussex notes in this issue. However, the Central are still at large, and will be holding their Dinner on January 23rd at Lewes. Identity of organiser is not known, but no doubt Ken and Barbara Atkins will answer inquiries at "Wheelers", Valebridge Road, Burgess Hill.

The 'Sporting Record' sports annual of 1950 had as it's Sporting Personality of the Year Reg Harris, with runner-up Middlesex and England batsman and Arsenal left-winger Denis Compton. So at the age of eleven Reg Harris and Arie Van Vliet were as well-known to me as the Huddersfield Town centre half George Hepplewhite. Whatever happened to George Hepplewhite? Cycling knowledge then receded into the background until a school trip to France in June 1954. It was very difficult to find the result of the Vancouver Commonwealth Games (or was it Empire Games in those days?) in the French press. Eventually "Bannister beats Landy in 3 mins. 58 secs." was spared two lines in a newspaper full of Louison Bobet's second Tour de France victory. Then came Brian Robinson of Huddersfield Road Club and Shay Elliott, but somehow Luxemburger Charly Gaul was my hero. Brian Haskell, another Road Club rider, turned 'pro, and somehow from somewhere came the news that Ray Booty had broken four hours for a 100 miles T.T. However, did that filter through the 'Ackerpacker jackets' and little aluminium bells? I had a friend with a bell like that on his old roadster. He rode a Star Wheelers club 10 on the Ingbirchworth course through Denby Dale which is famous for it's giant pies. Of course, soon after that Tom Simpson was on the scene, and then I met Ron Ford. Eleven racing cyclists in twenty-five years. BLRC Val never heard of it!

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE WHO NEEDS By the Editor.

The 1970 racing season was nearing it's peak. Fast men were getting further and further inside the hour, while at a much lower level this writer, goaded by taunts and thinly-veiled challenged from the Lewes-Seaford area, had removed the mudguards from his winter-summer-touring-work iron and clocked a time over ten miles which he hoped would keep G. Willcocks Esq quiet for the rest of the season. Alas for my fond hopes, this pleasant situation was only to last until I visited the Eastbourne club room the following week. As soon as I walked in, it was clear that something was up. "Hullo Dennis", said a Rovers spokesman, almost beside himself with glee, "Willcocks has done a short '29", and before I could point out that this left me an ample margin, he added: "Of course, the Lewes course is pretty hard - a good minute slower than Pevensey". I did a rapid mental calculation and it was obvious from the smiling faces round me that the other Rovers had done it too, and the answer was

With Friends Like These (continued).

that I was in trouble. "This is terrible" I croaked, "you've got to help me - someone will have to lend me some 24 spoke sprints and silk tubs". The only response to this desperate plea was a gale of laughter from the assembled company as the aforementioned spokesman painted a verbal picture of 24 spoke wheels collapsing under the strain as I stamped away from the turn. When the mirth had subsided another member cleared his throat. Noticing that he was an impressive figure with the badges of an RTTC and BCF coach emblazoned on his track suit, my hopes began to rise again. Surely some good advice would be forthcoming now. "What you want, Dennis," he said slowly, "is a force seven south-west wind out to Little Common, and an East Kent coach coming back". "So much for the Rovers" I thought, as I rode dispiritedly homewards, but there was still one chance I was planning a trip up to the Southborough Wheelers club room that Friday; and, having in the past said a few nice things about them when speaking at their club dinners, I was sure they would rally round. Arriving at Vale Road I broached the subject to one of their number, a long man from Hadlow who I had up to then thought of as quite a decent fellow. The response from him was promising. "Yes, I can let you have a sprint wheel with about twenty-four spokes", he said, only to wipe the smile from my face by adding: "Mind you, it's got forty holes in the rim". This was the end, and as I trudged wearily into Tunbridge Wells Central Station, I realised that the only person I could turn to was that eminent Victorian Samuel Smiles with his doctrine of self help. And so it was that the following Tuesday, equipped only with native determination, alloy touring endricks, odd pedals and a top gear of 86 I did battle with the might of Lewes on the fateful field of Chainwheel Creek.

SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS

News that Crow is going to organise the next Esca Luncheon brought groans and consternation from the Wheelers. "Oh dear," they moaned, "now the menu will be Egg Fu Young followed by black bananas, yoghurt and old cheese, with ginger beer for the top table". I don't know how they found this out; imagine the manager of the Maiden's Head must have split on me! (I think I'll take some sandwiches with me just in case - Ed.). I almost headed these notes "The Remains Of The Southboro' Wheelers", as we seem to have had quite an exodus recently. Richard Cave has moved to Norwich and club best-all-rounder Dave Steel's job will take him to West London. Vic Butler, who works in local government, had a chance to go to the South Sea Islands and teach the natives as they had eaten up all the missionaries, but he opted for dealing with real savages and moved to the Isle of Thanet. Think I've got the story wrong but it's something like that.

The racing side got to quite a thrilling climax as Ron Hayward chased Dave Steel like mad for the club B.A.R. Ron's 232 miles in the Oldbury 12 hours and a 1-2 on the E.31 made things really tight, but Dave clinched things with a 2-2 on the Boro' - "blew up" he said - "did '56' for the first 25"! Farther south, Roy and Vic clocked 1-4-21 and 1-4-22 in the Esca 25, and with Crow as third counter lost the team by three seconds. Must try harder. Greg Moore (Stu's brother) has been bombing about too, did a 13-25; and it was nice to have Spider back on the comeback trail - he clocked an 11-8 in this event. Actually, Spider and Bryan Leyland have been having a right ding-dong in the latter part of the season, which may account for Spider's surprise win over Geoff Withers when Southboro' had an eleven-man team in the Kent C.A. 25. The name of Mick 'Manchester' Hartley appears with SDW again, down to a '5' and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ mins. behind the flying Paul Woodman, who won the Crawley School-boys 10 in 23-9. The hill-climbs found Roy having all his own way again. We opened with the club climb on Ide Hill, where Roy was the only one inside 2 minutes, and surprise surprise, Geoff and Crow tied for second place, followed by Paul and Ron. The result might have been different had Dave not been hospitalised after crashing in the Worthing 25, thus leading to four DNSs from team-mates. In the afternoon the Kent C.A. up Axminster found Roy sixth and Dave, who had escaped from hospital, seventeenth! A new name for Esca hill-climb winners when Mo pipped Roy by a second up Firle, with Geoff third and Crow fifth. We got the team again, but bashing to Brightling to get to tea on time was harder! The Catford came on a really fine morning, but due to some slip-up we didn't have a team.

Southborough Wheelers (continued).

Roy beat Alf Engers for tenth place in 2-20.6, while Crow at least finished a mediocre racing season in fine style by recording his fastest up the hill with 2-26.2, and he's been riding the event almost consecutively since '52. (Those were the days - I was fit enough to ride up to watch it! - Ed.).

Twenty-two of us trolled up to the final night of the Wembley six-day. Marvellous spectacle, of course; the idea for shorter sessions instead of genuine six-day has improved the riders' and spectators' lot considerably - I remember the '51 Wembley six (back to your bath chair grandad). Talking of endurance events, I was the only non-Excel rider in the Esca Touring Comp. As the Excel organised it I expected that we would all have to drink ten pints of brown then identify tracks from a John Coltrane LP, but instead they JUST took us over nearly every hill in Escaland. Finding myself finishing an hour up on Val and Rick and hearing of riders being taken out in case they missed tea, reminded me of the days of the Hennessey-run Esca marathons, when the next-of-kin were informed for anyone finishing lower than fifth. Anyway, congratulations to Chris on winning, Alan for not wrecking my bike on the freewheel section, and John Milner for organising. Who's got the plinth of the Touring Trophy? I've only got the cup. Club runs? Well, the hostelling week-ends get good support, but otherwise it's the same old (figuratively speaking of course) few. Like most clubs in the South-East, membership, especially active membership, is a real problem. If only we could hypnotise a few of those 'kerbside wheelers' into being clubmen, even if their bikes are old heaps: still, they couldn't be worse than the one belonging to the 'abandoned vehicle king' of Seaford. Our Hallow 'een freak-out to Hindhead Y.H. found us laying in bed with the rain beating on the roof racking our brains for the name of a mammal beginning with "N" (newts lay eggs). I think Geoff started that, and if you think it's easy, tell me. It was better next morning, so we watched some yacht racing on Frensham Pond. Talk about pacing - Nodder would have had a fit!

One other success, the SDW team, of Robin, Jacko and Crow took second place in the East Grinstead free-wheeling competition. Funny club the Grinstead - they don't do much cycling, but their club nights are a fountain of intellectual discussion with politics (Bonner v. Collins), "practical jokes we have known", and when the Pope's right hand man (Terry Collins) isn't there - "Ghosts". They have strange rules, too. Sex is not discussed until after 10 p.m. and no committee business is aired at meetings until everyone

Southborough Wheelers (continued).

is outside the Daniels' residence and about to go home. When I got down to the Esca A.G.M. I found myself sitting next to a blonde Red Indian squaw but it was Val in a 'modified' trouser suit. Heaven knows what the Baxendine hearth rug looks like now. The Party and A.G.M. went off very well. The Southboro' active (?) section were at a Tchaikovsky concert at the Albert Hall - culture at last - think I'll give a double-bass recital at our club dinner. Welcome to Johnny Dut. as the '71 Esca President: he's certainly someone who has done a lot for Esca. Pity there was no roller contest but my tummy felt a slide show was kinder following the 'eats'. Still worried about your tummy at the Esca Luncheon? Never mind, Egg Fu Young is something you can get used to !!

Happy Christmas.

CROW.

HELLO CHILDREN... Uncle Dennis calling. Do Mummy and Daddy sometimes want to strangle you on Sunday afternoons? Then come along to Hellingly Village Hall on January 10th and let Auntie Iris strangle you instead. Fun and games will commence at 3-30, there will be lashings of food and orangeade, and Uncle Ken will show Mickey Mouse films to keep Mummy and Daddy amused after tea. Please send your booking, plus one shilling per head, to Mrs. I. Stevens, 3 Lansdowne Crescent, Hellingly, not later than Monday, January 4th.

The Association's Junior Best-All-Rounder for 1970 is John Yardley of Brighton Mitre, with best times of 25-21 and 26-15 at 10 miles, and 1-4-12 and 1-4-35 at 25 miles.

A.G.M. JOTTINGS

The meeting was held on November 29th at Hellingly with Ken Atkins in the chair, and delegates of seven of the nine affiliated clubs present. The Secretary/Treasurer reported that the new system of event promotion by member clubs was working well and attendance at committee meetings had been better. The balance sheet showed a loss of about £60 with the Junior and Boys events proving expensive, and a bigger than usual loss on the Luncheon, due to entertaining a distinguished guest. The Magazine Editor reported sales of BONK about the same as last year, but due to the rising cost of duplicating and printing it was now losing money. The Social Secretary reported good support for all events, though sales of draw tickets were not as good as in 1969. The Racing Secretary said that time-trial entries had been good except for the two-up team event and the junior and boys' events. The Association's President for 1971 will be John Dutson of the Central Sussex club. All the officers were re-elected except Jane Lade and John Dutson, who did not wish to stand again. Maurice Colburn was elected Minutes Secretary: no-one was willing to take the post of Social Secretary so the four social events will be organised by different people. The club affiliation fee was raised from £1-10s. to £2. The social programme will be as for 1970. The Clubmans Touring Competition will be organised by John Dutson. Track Championships available will be 800 metres, 1,000 metres and 7½ km. Gents BAR distances 25, 50 and 100 miles. Ladies 10, 25, 50 miles. Juniors 10 miles (Rovers open) and any Association 25. Points system for awards to continue, minimum value per point 10p. The 100 will be open, but trophies can only be won by East Sussex riders. The club time-trial league was approved and will be run by Stan Shirley. Points to the first eight on scratch; handicap, team and ladies.

After the meeting came the Annual Party attended by 88 people, four more than last year's figure. The food was provided by an outside caterer, and as the price had been kept down, the quantity was not up to hungry cyclists' appetites. The planned roller contest had to be cancelled owing to insufficient entries, and thanks are due to Ted Jarvis of the C.T.C. who saved the situation by bringing his projector and screen, and to Maurice Colburn, Peter Crowsley and Bruce Allcorn, who showed interesting selections of colour slides.

HERE AND THERE

Overheard in the Central Sussex clubroom. Young Thropp is going on Safari while on the way to work: he claims that he can get from Horsham to Horley via footpaths.

According to the past season's start sheets, Crow was riding as usual for Southboro', but judging by the colour scheme of his frame he had apparently been 'poached' by the Polytechnic CC.

Then there was the newcomer to the Hastings club with great faith in providence or something. He rode out to Hellingly on sprints and tubs with no spare, and all his companions on wired-ons.

At the finish of the Central's Hilly 20 John Dutson was complimented on his smart 'Beetle' and replied: "I reckon this car will last me for the rest of my days". Geoff Boore cast a critical eye and commented: "Hmmm, yes - I thought it hadn't got very long to go!"

The Editor would very much like to know if Val Baxendine's trouser suit is a 'fringe benefit' of her van driving job.

And so we come to the end of the last issue of BONK to be priced at one shilling. By the time the Spring '71 issue is on sale, we shall, of course, be in the throes of decimalisation, and the price in p's will have to be fixed by the Management Committee in the New Year.

DEADLINE for the Spring number will be MARCH 1st. Put a tick in your diary, mark a cross on your wall calendar, or tie a knot in one leg of your racing shorts.

Finally, the Editor would like to wish all readers a very Happy Christmas, and the best of luck and many enjoyable miles in 1971.

