

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

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**East Sussex  
Cycling Association**

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SPRING 1971

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& } 4 Ebenezer Cottages,  
Treasurer } FRAMFIELD, Uckfield.

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

### TWENTY YEARS OF BONK

It was in the spring of 1951 that the first issue of BONK appeared. It cost sixpence and was a sixteen page effort edited by A. Jack Rogers of Tunbridge Wells Albion, one of the Association's founder member clubs. It had a cover which had the word BONK printed from the block which has been used ever since; and, a far cry from the present situation, all the advertising space was taken up by three cycle shops, a health food store, a cafe, a jeweller, and the firm that printed the cover. There had been an ESCA magazine before that - a twelve page coverless publication known as the Handbook and Magazine costing threepence, which was produced by Roy Humphrey and printed by him on a flatbed duplicator. A year or two passed before BONK began to grow. The summer of 1953 saw the first twenty page issue, by the spring of the following year it had reached twenty-four pages, and since then it has been very much as you know it now, though no cartoonist has come along to take the place of the Uckfield member who used to draw the Life with the 'Farmers' series. Of the many people mentioned in the early editions of BONK, only Jack Southerden and Ken Griffiths (then in the Uckfield & District) are active riders to-day, though Phil Hitchcock was racing until quite recently; while Ken Champion (then an Eastbourne fast man), and 'Farmers' Cedric Pearson and Arthur Thorpe are sometimes seen watching points at Association events. Not mentioned, but very much present, was of course Roy Humphrey and this writer was also around but too obscure to warrant any mention. Since Jack Rogers began it all, other occupants of the editorial chair have been Ron Newman (Polegate Road Club) 1952-54, Geoff Willcocks 1954-56, D. Neeves (1956-59 and 1964-71, Dave Patten (Tunbridge Wells Road Club) 1959-62, and Mrs. Sheila Patten 1962-64. Incidentally, for most of its life, BONK has been duplicated by the same person - Brighton clubman Arthur Linington.

D.N.



When John Adams made his controversial Luncheon speech in which he urged racing men to try touring, he understandably stirred up a lot of feeling among the many racing men and women who for years have been doing just that.

There is a long-held misconception among some 'pure' touring types that they are the only people who do any touring and social riding, but this of course is far from being true. A large number of racing men are admittedly just athletes on wheels, but many others find pleasure from the more leisurely side of the game, with such people as Pete Crowsley, Maurice Colburn, the Stringers, the Steven-ees and John Dutson as notable examples. Even speed king Cliff Sharp has a dabble at touring and youth-hostelling now and again.

Club runs too are very much alive in East Sussex - practically every club in the Association having runs as part of its programme. Brighton Excelsior are prolific club runners, Southborough have a long tradition of regular runs, Hastings have people on the road pretty every Sunday of the year, and as John knows, many Eastbourne racing types also belong to the CTC and take part in their activities.

John's idea of a southern cyclists' rally was quite a good one, as the York gathering seems to be as popular as ever. It should not be difficult to find a venue (Plumpton racecourse, perhaps?): all we would have to do then is find a man of the calibre and dedication of Cliff Pratt to run the show.

DEADLINE for the contributions to the Summer edition of BONK will be June 1st.

The social season being nearly over too soon, and the rapidly approaching first events, cause me to awake with a shock to find that Bonk notes are due again. Winter social events, starting with our Dinner on December 5th, have been well supported, the Dinner being attended by over seventy people. Attendance on winter club runs has been a bit sparse at times, although a run has been held every week except the first week-end of the snow. The second snowy week-end saw a rough-stuff run along the top of the downs through 2-ft. snowdrifts, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all concerned. The arrival of the racing season will see a reversion to afternoon runs with we hope an improved attendance. We are beginning to get our annual spring influx of schoolboy members. The proportion that stays even a year is small, but we try to make them welcome, and convert the few into true cyclists. I imagine all clubs have this problem. We try to organise events that suit them, and I would be interested to hear from any other clubs who think they have an answer to the problem of keeping more in the club for more than a few months.

Our racing strength should be about the same as last year, the main stalwarts being Robin, Keith Chandler, who should return from Technical College at the end of March, Adrian and John, who make the transition to senior status. Bob Bicknell should be our leading schoolboy; we will have to await the emergence of some of the newer ones to see how much competition he gets. The track should see us with a slightly stronger representation than recently, with Keith, John, Dave Best, Graham Charlton and Alan Handley all intending to ride and most of the above making the occasional appearance in road races. On the social front we held a fish and chip supper in the clubroom on February 12th, coupled with a slide quiz, ably organised by my wife for the eats and Derek Harber and Mike Hampshire doing the slides. We have a spring lunch planned for April 4th at the Elephant & Castle, as well as a full programme of other events during the year.

In case the postal strike runs on much longer, may I take the opportunity of informing Escabods about our first promotion of 1971, a 63 mile road race at Rushlake Green on April 18th. 1st, 2nd and 3rd category riders - entries to Maurice Wyatt at 14 Paythorne Close, Southwick. I am glad to see that John Dutson is taking his presidency seriously; I have seen him twice recently out training for first man off in the Hilly 16. Maurice Cumberworth's column in 'the comic' the other week re club amalgamation is one of the hardy annuals that appear



every year about AGM time. I do not know how small a club can become and still remain viable. Some clubs in this area have soldiered on for years with very small memberships, but still manage to promote events and play a full part in the game; and I think that providing a club can promote open events successfully, and play its part in securing the continuance of the sport, then good luck to it. Some of the larger clubs in the area have not always earned their place in the cycling scene, sometimes not even promoting one event a year, but still expecting other clubs to provide events for their riders.

Officials are likely to be very scarce this year, so if anyone knows of any former cyclists who could be dragged back into the game to help with the odd events so as to take some of the load off the willing few, then please do all you can in this respect.

That's all for now, see you up the road at all the Esca events this year, I hope.

K.M.W.

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CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

Once upon a time (Autumn 1959 to be exact: Mon Dieu ! is it that long ago ?), a certain Woppit was cajoled into writing Bonk notes for the dearly departed U.D.C.C. In a fit of nostalgia, the very same volunteered to assist with a bit of timekeeping or odd-jobbing for the Central. Well, now he's been cajoled once more into putting pen to paper, and so for those who have never known or heard of Woppit (for it's been a long time), here is a warning to lock your skeletons in their cupboards. For those who do remember him - get the skeletons out for dusting !

It was pointed out to me that Neevo would have a fit when he heard Woppit had returned (albeit without a bicycle on which he was never good at staying on, anyway). I hope the editor recovers swiftly because these notes will be in by deadline, and if he can think back twelve years, he'll realise that's a miracle. Anyway, I hope it doesn't put him off his ride in the Hardriders, or he'll use the shock of it as an excuse for not catching Dutson.

I must be forgiven for lapses into nostalgia, but it's probably due to my sudden re-entry into ESCA life, and I really am out of touch. I am, also, as yet, without my well-trained Spy-Ring of old, from whose ferretting nothing was sacred. Any volunteers for

contributors to Woppit's "Mark II Little Black Book" ?

My re-birth, so to speak, took place at the AGM, which was a lively affair - in no way Booring - at which I was delighted to see Roy Amey chairing the meeting so efficiently, as is his wont. I regret I was too late to glean anything by being at the Club Dinner, held at the Elephant & Castle. Brian Hone cleaned up with the silver-ware, and gave a successful speech, despite pre-race nerves, although his treatment of non-cyclist guests was a bit rough ! The raffle was well-supported, and Chris Shafer's Disco was an improvement over Howard Burrell's D.J. act of the previous year. Even Beryl Dalziel didn't want it turned down !

As a prospective house owner, Yours Truly will be taking lessons from Brian, who is now installed in his new abode, and realising what he's let himself in for. A late racing start in this quarter by all accounts.

Ron Rogers rode a Road Race at Broad Halfpenny Down (new or old pence ?), on St. Valentine's Day. The mild winter had allowed other people to get a few miles under their belts, and Ron lasted only 6 of 8 laps. However, the following week saw him and Alan do a Priddy good February time of 1-4-31 in the Brentwood R.C. "25" two-up, although they thought the wind was against them going out, only to realise there was a gale in their faces after the turn. J.R.D. and Honest Ginge were D.N.S. due to an early attack of old age, or was it 'flu ?

Well now, apart from a separate piece of nostalgia (if the editor finds a space for it), I guess that's about it for now. By next time the Hilly 20 on March 13th. will be over, and the racing season will be in earnest with the Central out for blood; so until then .....

Love,

WOPPIT.



TONBRIDGE

3rd January 1971

To The Editor, Bonk.

I very seldom write to your excellent publication, which I always read from cover to cover and enjoy very much. However, I must make a few points arising from the Christmas issue.

First of all, the Southborough Committee was extremely concerned that they were not fully represented at the AGM. There was a clash with the Kent CA and it so happened that our delegates had to choose between the two. Much as we would have come down to Hellingly, there were some of us with jobs to attend to at the other meeting, and also there were a couple of very controversial items on which we had to speak. It was unfortunate that the elected delegates were those only available and we sincerely apologise. We also did not support the party both for this reason and due to a slip up in our organisation which we hope will not be repeated.

Then there is the suggestion of National officials squabbling over the details of the Joint Agreement. By the time this letter is read both governing bodies in their respective National Councils will have expressed their attitudes which will have been decided at District and Club level democratically. As I am one of the National Officials against whom the charge could be levied I can assure all Escabods that on the RTTC and so far as I am aware many of the BCF executive do have the interests of the riders very much at heart. It is merely that they see this interest in different ways and it is through the Joint Agreement workings that these differences can be thrashed out. This is of course why the RTTC have stood their ground and done their best to keep the Agreement in force.

Now on the subject of the fall in qualifying rides for the BBAR. To my mind this arose this year through their being fewer 100 mile and 12 hour events, and many of them being held in very poor conditions. If we get another year like 1969 the numbers will be well up again. After all, there are still more riders in time trials competing, and although this may be somewhat due to the increase in shorter distance events, we only need good weather for the distance races. Even if the long distance events really are getting unpopular, the number of

rides indicates the interest in time trialling is growing.

Having knocked your editorial in the main, may I now commend the common sense in your last remarks, although I am not sure about the Hardriders. We would all like to see Clubrunning get greater support than they do these days, and I agree that for many riders the disappointment of slowish rides early in the season does put some off by the time when they should really start going fast. Certainly let's have a later start to the racing season. More training before getting down to the suffering would benefit many riders more than they realise.

A.J. Bathurst

Editor's reply ..... My remarks concerning the Southborough representation at the AGM were certainly not directed at our vice-chairman and those of his clubmates who had to be at the Kent meeting, but I felt that a club as big as Southborough could have found one or two other people to support Peter Crowsley at Hellingly. Regarding the support for RTTC events, I will admit that the figures look good; but I feel that they give a misleading impression of the health of the sport, taking the long term view, because so many of the riders are veterans, who of course are getting no younger, and juniors, the majority of whom flit in and out of the sport without becoming even established club members, let alone potential material for official positions.

ADVERTISE IN BONK

The Management Committee has decided that as there may be people who would like to advertise in this magazine but may not wish to take part of the cover for a year, they should be given the opportunity of placing adverts in these pages at reasonable cost. If your club would like to advertise a forthcoming open event or social function (or even a non-cycling event with which a club member may be concerned) send the details to the Editor, who will make up a boxed advertisement covering one third of a page of BONK at a cost of 20p. Also don't forget that equipment for sale or wanted can be advertised in these pages for 2p a line.



A Little Bit of Nostalgia - the Frantic Fifties.

When asked to write for "Bonk" once more,  
Nostalgia o'er did creep  
Of life with Farmers, Cuckoo lands,  
And tales of Chainwheel Creek.

The Old Professor, sage and wise,  
His car, his wife, her tea;  
Now lost to com-pahs shiny brass;  
Those days are over, see.

Of Oz and Rose, and Ken and Barb,  
Of Siggs and Norman Wright.  
Of Cedric Pearson, famed of fame,  
I could go on all night.

The days when John did fifty-eights,  
And Neevo eighty-fives,  
Ken Griff was going fast, as now,  
And Crow was young and lithe.

Windows Whitt and Arthur Thorpe  
Were Kings at Preston Park,  
And grace was said at ESCA lunch  
By Reg Tew's Vicar lark.

When Nodder's disapproval meant  
The end of some career,  
And Tourist Agg could stay the course  
If home was not too near.

Ganger, Spindle, Opera too,  
I remember well.  
Peacock, Chausser, Carder Mike  
All now ring a bell.

Veteran Horace, Uncle dear,  
Cyclist thru and thru.  
Willcocks, plodder of them all,  
I remember them, do you?

A Little Bit of Nostalgia - the Frantic Fifties (continued).

Seems now so strange these long years hence,  
Like club-runs lost afar;  
Like "Derby's" beds on Isle of Wight;  
Like Boxall's Christmas cards.

But yet I'd say in retrospect  
Of all the things I've learned,  
The friends you'll meet in ESCA land  
Are best - so 'UP THE KERB'.

Woppit

RACING IS HERE AGAIN

The 1971 racing season began on February 28th with the traditional Hardriders event, nowadays a 16 mile ride round a Hellingly - Rushlake Green - Heathfield circuit, with the suffering in the first seven miles. The event went off smoothly, the only cause for complaint being the temperature, which was much lower than the riders (and the marshals!) would have wished. However, the conditions did not deter anyone, and all the 35 entrants (which included two on-the-line) reported to timekeeper Warwick Dunford, and all finished except the Hastings club's debutant Robin Peters, who pulled his wheel over several times and did not wish to have his time recorded, though in fact he would still not have been last. Last year's Eastbourne one-two of Sharp and Colburn staged a repeat performance, Cliff clocking 42 mins. 3 secs. and Maurice 43-13, with Ron Rogers of Central Sussex a surprise third in 43-43. Don Hook's fifth place 44-13 backed up Sharp and Colburn to give the Rovers the team prize; with the Central's Rogers, Dutson and Friddy second in 2-13-10 and Southborough (who had a large entry), third in 2-13-58. John Dutson, the fastest president the Association has ever had, was first man off and clocked 44-33, while Pete Crowsley made amends for his 'world's slowest' performance of two years ago by hustling round in 45-2. Down at the other end of the result list the Editor trundled round in 52-28, nearly a minute to the good on vice-chairman Lou Bathurst.



Most people I've spoken to have said how little the postal strike, now in it's sixth week I believe, has affected them. - I have agreed till now, but with the Hardriders 16 to-morrow I'll just have to let Dennis have this or face a long ride to Hastings: no chance of posting it a few days late as usual. The immediate thought that comes to mind is that the mild weather of recent weeks should cause the Hardriders to be run off at a fair pace, judging from the amount of training that's been going on up in this part of the world. In fact, I counted about fifteen 'racers' on the Brighton road recently between Redhill and Horley - just like the 'good old days'. Was I out training? Not likely - just playing at postman in the Redhill area which gives a chance to help others and get out on the bike at the same time. Dinners as usual dominate the winter scene, and this time I'm glad to say our annual bun-fight was far more successful than the disaster of yesteryear. Dick Poole and John Dutson were our guest speakers with John Tooby dishing out the silverware. All three commented on the wide range of activities in which our club indulges; long may it be so, despite the forebodings of 'Jeremiah' Howard when replying for the club. The rest of the evening seems to have gone off well, with some of our racing men dragged on to the dance floor for the first time. Prizes got shared round this time - a change from the 'Orchard takes all' days. Dave Steel took the BAR with Ron second. Royston was the points league winner, Paul Woodman the Junior BAR and Geoff Withers the attendance trophy winner after some controversy. Next day the AGM went through smoothly with few changes, but Jacko now takes over the captaincy and Dawn is back on the committee after several years' absence.

I'm afraid the club isn't what it used to be when it comes to visiting other dinners. As a generalisation Lou 'does' the Kent and South London area, while I support Esca, (hope the rest of you don't wonder why we only get seventy people to our function). Sorry I missed the Central and Hastings this season, but Lou reported favourably on the latter. Incidentally, we were pleased to see Blanche, Fred and Dennis at our dinner, and hope that Fred will soon be restored to health. Dennis seems to get round to all the club functions; does this come under editorial expenses? (Unfortunately, it doesn't - Ed.). The Rovers and East Grinstead are two functions that seem to go from strength to strength, and I'm glad to have attended both. We rounded off with Lewes, as usual; the dinner that has it's own unique atmosphere. It's the only place where you can swap a bottle of Devon Violets for a second-hand

lamp battery! My debut at luncheon organising coincided with the postal strike, which gave the organisation of this year's Esca luncheon some sporting moments. However, by getting in my first 100 miles in a day for '71, and the great help afforded me by other Esca officials, found the great day going off O.K., with 70 plus attending at the Maiden's Head, Uckfield. Keith Butler and John Holmes were the guest speakers, the latter making a rather strange speech-cum-debate which certainly turned on a few people: later he admitted that he had imbibed a bit too much to recall exactly what he did say. The Children's Party was a great success - at least the grown-ups enjoyed it and they were more numerous than the children! Roy was able to have one of his informal committee meetings and distributed the post (he did the same at the Rovers' party, too). I hope the rule "No adult will be admitted unless accompanied by a child" will not be enforced. Christmas morning's heavy snow caused the cancellation of our 10, and there was one get-together at Bryan and Julie Leylands which was enjoyed by all present.

Editor's note: And there these notes suddenly end, with no farewell, no good wishes for the coming racing season, not even a signature, but the atrocious handwriting assures me that they were as always written by .....

CROW

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#### THE CHILDREN'S PARTY

This event for the very young Esca people was organised by Iris Stevens and held at Hellingly Hall on January 10th. Nearly thirty youngsters attended, accompanied by their parents, plus several more adults who find in the party a good excuse for an hour or two of Esca sociability. The children kindly left enough food for the grown-ups to have a snack; and after the fancy dress competition, judged by Stan and Joan Shirley, they took part in a programme of games MC'd by Uncle Dennis.

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As I write these notes the 1971 racing season is only a few hours away, and one wonders how many of the starters in the Hardriders will wish that they had got in a few more training miles during the past weeks of perhaps one of the mildest winters we have had for a number of years. The entry for the event is very encouraging, the postal strike seems to have had little effect, cyclists seem to find a way of overcoming lack of postal communications.

With the relaxation of the RTTC Rule allowing entries on the line, we may have had an additional rider or two in the event. I have heard it said during the past week that it might be a good thing to allow Associations such as ours to accept entries on the line, where a full field is not received. To my mind this would not be a good thing, as in quite a few cases I feel that this would encourage riders not to enter in advance. This would mean that the organising secretary would be unable to publish a Start Sheet which would give a true picture of the field. Another point which would arise is the marshalling. Without a start sheet with the full number of riders on it, marshals would have quite a long wait before they were certain that the last rider had passed their point, or turned, as the case may be.

The Luncheon & Prize Presentation proved quite successful with an attendance of nearly 80. A pleasing feature of the function was the large number who cycled to the Maiden's Head, it must be 8 or 9 years since we have seen so many cycles parked against every bit of wall space at this hostelry. Many Uckfield residents have remarked that it is years since they have seen so many cycles at a function. Perhaps with the price of petrol and insurance continually rising we shall see more riding out to functions, and who knows, perhaps the old habit of a week-end away at an event, instead of motoring down in the morning.

In conclusion, I appeal to you all to make a special effort to sell as many draw tickets as possible, much depends on the result of the returns cash wise from this event, if you have not had any tickets, ask your club secretary for some.

R.H.

The delegates were told that the proposed 10 miles course from Whitesmith to Ringmer and back had been rejected by the District Council chiefly because it contained a 'U' turn. It was said that many members of the D.C. committee were not familiar with the roads concerned, and it was decided to send a letter to the D.C. protesting against the decision, pointing out that it was detrimental to the sport in this area, and suggesting that in future they at least come down and look at any proposed course before making a decision.

The Magazine Editor reported that sales of BONK were about the same, and, referring back to the Treasurer's AGM report which showed that because of greatly increased duplicating costs, the magazine was now losing money, suggested an increase in price to cover this. After some discussion it was decided to make the price seven new pence in the hope that this would cover probable increases in costs for several years ahead. It was suggested that the BCF and CTC be approached with a view to them placing adverts on the magazine cover. It was also agreed that clubs should be given the opportunity of putting adverts on the actual pages at reasonable cost. P. Crowsley reported that the Luncheon and Prize Presentation had been successful in spite of various difficulties, including of course the postal strike. The financial loss on the function was £6 9s. 3d., which included a meal which the management said they had served but which the organiser had been unable to account for. A. Bathurst said that he had not been happy with the guest speakers, and added that in his opinion guest speakers should be chosen by the Committee. R. Humphrey pointed out that the postal strike was responsible for the number of missing awards at the presentation. After some discussion about the supply of awards, it was decided to approach the Birmingham Medal Co. to find out if they would deal with the Association direct, instead of as previously, through a retailer. Mr. Humphrey also said that arrangements for the Grand National Draw were well in hand; all the tickets had been distributed by hand.

The date of the Touring Competition was fixed for October 3rd. Organiser J. Dutson said that he had several new ideas in mind for this event, including a section for cars.



A very shabby "watcher cocks" from this segment of the Esca 'orange'. Your scribe, having suffered the torture of sciatica for some five weeks (it's like a succession of Agg gremlins hammering your leg muscles), hobbled out to the Harriders feeling like a man who hasn't got long to go. He then had what remained of his morale completely crushed by the totally unexpected sight of his favourite adversary, Neevo, romping round the course like a frisky terrier. (He must have watched me on the downhill section - Ed.). As if this wasn't enough, he later fell foul of this athlete, who delivered a bold punch by demanding these notes (which up till then hadn't even been thought about), and then delivered some free advice about March 1st usually following the end of February. Can you wonder that your scribe collapsed into the nearest chair asking himself how much more can a man take? To turn to happier things, the social season went out on a bender with the Wanderers' dinner, which brought no fewer than 56 devout souls to our bastion of culture, and resulted in another outbreak of extreme satisfaction for all concerned. Jane Lede's toast to the club was witty and well put together, and was notable for being the first-ever by a lady (one hesitates to call Jane a dragon). The usual good support by the Rovers, plus other Beabods and a contingent from the Catford, ensured a swinging time from the start, while once again the generosity of Mrs. Cox and club members nicely loaded up the raffle table. The prize presentation included the ceremonial handing over, preceded by a wallpaper 'scroll' announcement, of the Chainwheel Creek trophy to last year's vainqueur amid great acclaim. Victim of the annual 'special award' was Mick Kilby, who paid for Amparo's hero worship when yours truly presented him with a tin of 'Good Boy' chocolate drops for dogs! Plenty of cross-toasting and the usual excellent meal completed the successful formula, although many people were disappointed by the absence of the character generally considered to be our main attraction - 'Tourist' Agg. According to reports, he thought a wedding was more important, but this certainly didn't prevent his name being taken in vain! (Another report was that he was actually playing table-tennis - Ed.).

At the club AGM the presidency passed to Pete Burbury, a long serving stalwart who as chairman has the far-from-easy task of controlling the committees meetings. We welcome two new faces in Tony Hill and Richard Whittington. The latter is our second member of that name and brings to mind a true story about the original one

who was stopped by a copper in Newhaven when his front light had gone out. After delivering a lecture, the law asked his name, and he said "Whittington", to which came the sarcastic reply "and I suppose your Christian name's Dick". When Dick said that this was correct he was threatened with a conducted tour of the local 'nick' until he convinced the copper that he wasn't having him on. Incidentally, the new Dick's father is an ex Wanderer of some 35 years ago.

This year there will be ten evening 10's on the Rodmell course, starting and finishing by Cranedown estate, Lewes, as last year. All comers are welcome at 8 pm from May 10th until July 19th each Monday, except Bank Holiday week, when it will be June 1st. Dates for our evening road race criterium are Thursdays June 3rd, 10th and 17th, and it will depend on this year's support whether this will continue. Entry fee is 90p, so let's have a better field than last year, lads, otherwise you'll be kicking yourself in the teeth. For the duration of the postal strike any information to or from the Wanderers can be exchanged by ringing Peter Sharp on Lewes 2524, at any reasonable hour, or Mick Kilby on Burgess Hill 41555 during office hours. Be prepared to see a dazzling sight when our courcours parade in their new club vests which are the result of the younger element wishing to brighten up our image. (Didn't see any of them in the Harriders! - Ed.). Chief 'stirrer' on this was Hugh Gander, whose filibustering tactics rivalled Peter Sharp's prolixity and sorely tried the chairman's patience. We've got a right politician here! The Goldsteins finally left us in December and all were sorry to see them go. People like these are all too rare these days.

Congratulations to Crow for organising such a successful Association Luncheon in the face of no-post adversity, etc., particularly as this was his first attempt. At the other end of the scale we've got a cross-toasting score to settle with Stan Shirley of the Mitre next social season. Asked if he'd ever been to a Lewes dinner, he replied: "No, we've never got that low". Oh well, it takes all sorts to make a world, so on that generous thought we'll say here's to some pleasant pedal-churning, friendly weather and absence of the 'sags' in 1977.

See you all down the road, you lucky people.

ALSORAN.



Ron Hayward found that the seat pillar on Dawn's bike was stuck in the seat tube, so he decided to heat the tube with a blow lamp. He did so - and split the tube.

Interesting sight at the Eastbourne dinner: Iris Stevens going on to the floor and doing a dance which she had never done before, in order to keep out of one of R.H's. committee meetings.

And then there was the official who took a box of matches out to Hellingly Hall, only to find that the kettle is electric.

The Eastbourne dinner is fast becoming known as the "Bums and Bosoms Dinner" because some of the novelty dances at that function cause any ladies wearing mini or low cut dresses to give a generous display of those portions of their anatomy.

Talking of dinners, it has been the thing this year to be three sheets to the wind when making speeches. John Holmes was certainly in that state when he stood up at the Association Lunch, with results that you can read about on another page; and Iris Stevens sunk numerous nerve-stiffeners before saying her piece at the Pier Hotel.

There also seems to be a tendency for club members to, so to speak, cook a snook at their own club dinner. Derek Agg was not among those present at the Lewes dinner, while at the Southborough function their member who was down to propose the toast to the visitors rolled in just as the sweet was being served, then proceeded to deliver a speech which he was apparently making up as he went along.

Back to racing, and any young rider who wants to know what time triallists used to look like between 1946 (when shorts were first permitted) and 1952 (after which club jerseys were allowed), has only got to take a look at the Mitre's Alan Packett.

Brian Guy's late night snogging with Rosemary has not gone too well lately: he keeps getting attacks of sickness and diarrhoea, and keeps falling asleep.

When Bill and Dot Collins acquired a TV set, they clearly made such diversions more respectable amongst the Rovers, for now the Lade household has one of the bug-eyes monsters trapped in a corner. Bill maintains that the telly in Commercial Road is little used at present, since he is now in strict training for the Cardiff-London tandem trike record attempt with J.R.D.

Maurice Colburn doubts whether he wants to get mixed up with the Esca children's party again, because this year, when nodding a balloon down after helping to inflate dozens of the things, he was approached in a very belligerent manner by two boys who demanded to know whether he supported Leeds or Chelsea.

With all sorts of foul language being used about the postal strike, Peter Sharp of Lewes actually welcomes it. He says that he hasn't paid a bill since it started!

Derek Agg was in the Salfords area and saw what he thought was Mao-Tse-Tung wearing a coolie hat and riding a bicycle. Closer investigation revealed that it was none other than Young Thropp.

On the day that the Editor was due to act as Toastmaster and M.C. at his club's dinner and dance, his horoscope in one daily paper read: "If you show enthusiasm, others will follow suit and success will come to a social arrangement".

Department of Penury ..... Copies of BONK were being dished out at the Lewes AGM, and when one was handed to Derek Agg he promptly bunged it back, saying "You're too late, mate - I've seen somebody else's".

Lewes member Simon Myatt has been enlivening Mitre clubruns with a series of demonstrations of how not to stay on the bike, with one such frolic ending in hospital. In spite of this he still loves the tarmac, and when he was asked after one excursion he if'd had a good day, he replied "Not really, I never came off once".

A certain Esca 'medical expert', on being told about Willcocks's back trouble, pronounced the ruthless diagnosis "Too much bed and not enough bike-riding".



Another season and another Bonk deadline on us. Our main news is that we have changed our clubroom. We now meet at the Market Room at the rear of the Crown Hotel in the East Grinstead High Street. The evening is still the same, Tuesday from 8 pm onwards. (Editor's note: The next line in the manuscript consists of a line of crosses which the writer says are not kisses. Pity.) Going back in time, our dinner and 'dance'??? was it's usual raving success, thanks to Trevor who did all the hard work again. This year we had a disco and dancing girls. The dancing girls were very well received. Fred sat on the floor for a better look, and glasses got steamed up all round. John Pratt of Geoffrey Butler Cycles proposed the toast to the club. He detailed the club's successes during 1970 with humour and sincerity, a clear indication of why he is in such demand at cycling functions. Bob Smith welcomed the visitors. Jack Train M.B.E. travelled down from Scotland, John Willcocks of International Cycle Sport came as a guest of Fred Marshall, and past guest speakers came again, namely Keith and Marilyn Butler and Dave and Margaret Bonner. Budgie won the club's Best-all-Rounder competition with an average speed of 24.163 mph and Bob Beatty won the junior BAR in a record 25.117 mph. Further reflections on the dinner. Bosoms were very much to the fore, and the subject of much cross-toasting. I wondered at first why my Alan was changing our places round; after all it was he who drew up the table plans, so why change now? Then seeing Ethel in her very nice 'little' black dress I could see it all, as it were, though I didn't think it necessary for Alan to stand on his chair every time he made a toast (every few seconds).

Fashion note ..... I think this new idea of shorts is smashing because in summer I live in shorts and if shopping on the bike I wear them. Now instead of being some oddity I shall be in the height of fashion. All I want now is for our cycling shoe manufacturers to produce cycling boots to wear with my cycling shorts, then we cycling ladies will really be with it.

Well, it's head down and eyeballs out season again, Budgie has stacked in many miles already, though he now has doctor's orders to ease off. A case of burning the candle at both ends or something. Budgie by the way was voted Sportsman of the Year by our local paper - for cycling, I think it was. The nice sunny weather even got Mick Robinson to blow the dust off his bike recently, but he has declared he cannot come out with us as the mice have eaten his cycle caps! All he has left is a yoke, but he doesn't think it very funny. Ah, sorry about that. We regret that two colourful

personalities, Dave and Margaret Bonner, are soon moving from our district to Ashington. Trevor was very glad and relieved when the tanker drivers ended their strike before the racing season started. Lastly, just a mention about our road races. Date May 2nd. 1st, 2nd and 3rds and Juniors. Place Lingfield. Thinks ..... "Does anyone really read this load of rubbish?".

VAL.

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EASTBOURNE ROVERS C. & A.C.

Faithful followers of the works of Scrubber (as regards Bonk notes, that is), will quickly realise from the load of old rubbish that follows hereafter that your former scribe has been permitted to devote more time to her other activities; and I will merely add that I wish that I was one of them! (This statement will thus inform the Editor that his new correspondent is male, but he'll have to work the rest out for himself.

I'll start this report by mentioning RACING (well, I thought I'd get this out of the way early on; readers will be able to stop quivering during the remainder of this diatribe), meaning of course the Hardriders. I've thus given away the fact that this article was not commenced until after Mr. Editor's closing date, which is a splendid start to my journalistic career! In the aforesaid event

we managed to grab four out of the first six places, with Cliff and Maurice 1st and 2nd as last year, and scored a comfortable team win. Ken was just squeezed out of the team by Don Hook, but has with that ride, coming as it does after very little activity in 1970, already got Maurice very apprehensive concerning his number two spot in the club behind Cliff! One of our nine riders in the Hardriders was John Blackman, a past member of the North Road CC, who has joined us recently and is very keen to race after a lay-off of several years. Brian Guy and Ken have been joining him for regular weight and circuit training over at Bexhill, and have returned with awe-inspiring tales of the fearsome weights that John has been tossing around. The strength is undoubtedly there, and when the speed returns in full, I think the club fast men had better watch out.

The past couple of months has seen no lack of social life in the club. Several of us joined the East Sussex CTC for a New Year's party at Vic Eldridge's 'pad'. This was very enjoyable, even though



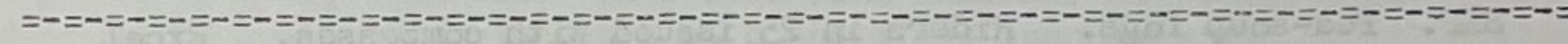
the mistake was made of getting in piles of Chinese food, with the result that we all stayed horribly sober ! All, that is, except Rosemary, who downed about half a pint of barley wine and there-after would keep falling asleep - the best laid schemes, eh, Brian ? The club tea party at the end of January was again a great success, with the highlight undoubtedly being the sight of Cliff gliding along, stick in hand and balloon between legs ! The nursery rhyme battle was finally declared an honourable draw as there seemed no end to the inventiveness of the two teams left in the competition. Many thanks to Iris and Stan Connelly in particular for their hard work in arranging this 'do'. And thus to the high spot of our social season, the club dinner on February 6th. The steady increase in numbers since we separated our dinner from the athletic section continued, with 108 people sitting down to enjoy the usual excellent meal. We all knew we were in for another marvellous evening when Ken's 'boob' on his first announcement as toastmaster inspired an impromptu chorus of 'Why Was He Born So Beautiful' from the Hants RC/ East Surrey RC 'choir' (all bookings with money in advance to Freddie Swetman); and the general opinion was that the function gets better every year. Thanks, Graham and Jane, for a great evening. Some Escabods present may have noticed that Maurice and Kenny Graham (Wigmore CC) were very slow to sit down after the loyal toast. I can now reveal that they had just got an eyeful of the 'hot pants' Rosemary was wearing ! We had a goodly representation at the Association Luncheon at Uckfield, and all enjoyed themselves. Roy H. as usual at such functions, held another committee meeting, with the difference that this time he announced it officially. I particularly liked Geoff Willcocks's very funny speech; by the way Geoff is still a bachelor at heart - the only time he spoke to his wife at our dinner was when he wanted to borrow some money off her ! It was good to see that the vast majority rode to the Luncheon. Ken and Iris on the tandem, but freed for once from the burden of Heather's sidecar, picked up the speed urge after charging through Uckfield with the Excel mob, and, after joining up with Cliff, Maurice and Ken Griffiths, really stirred it up after Halland. Maurice tried to ride alongside the tandem but eventually gave it best and tried to get Cliff up to the front. He, club champion notwithstanding, stuck like a leech to the back wheel of the tandem and sent Ken Griffiths up instead. Cliff felt duly ashamed when poor Ken blew himself up completely and was dropped half a mile by the Road.

Cliff has, as usual, been claiming throughout the winter that he is horribly unfit, and there have been stories of his having breakfast at 1-30 pm and dinner at 1-45 pm on Sundays, so few miles has he been doing at week-ends. One result is that Ken Stevens has been able to say, to his great joy, that he weighs less than Cliff. However, we have all become sceptical of Cliff's idea of 'unfit', and the Hardriders result shows why ! Doug Roberts has returned to the scene full of enthusiasm for racing more frequently this year. He has acquired a van and there are rumours of racing trips to the Boro' and Teesside. Part of the preparation for these 'grand designs' has been the removal of all face fungus, which prompted the remark from Iris one club night of "I know what's different about you, you silly old b..... - you've shaved your beard off", to which Doug replied that Iris must have indeed been drunk at the club dinner, as the beard had already gone then. Talking of new motor vehicles, Graham and Jane haven't had much luck with their new 'Beetle': A few days before Christmas Graham was hit by a drunken driver, with £300 of damage resulting, and they haven't got the car back yet. At least Cliff doesn't have to worry about new car troubles.

I'd better stop these ramblings, so I'll just wish you fast times without the inconvenience of actually training. I'm still hoping it will work for me. (Oh dear - this gives it away to Dennis that I'm a racing member of the Rovers).

Yours till my weary brain can think of a better name.

THE MOOR.





- MAR. Gales, blizzards and freezing fog. Boship impassable to cars. Humphrey condemns low entry for Esca 25 and says he's not happy about financial position. G831 altered.
- APR. Dicker a foot deep in slush. Sharp does a '58' but is caught by Crow who gives him a 'black bomber' as he goes past. Humphrey says not much left in kitty. 50 course altered.
- MAY Mini hurricane hits Sussex. Central road race field airborne and last seen over Kent. Colburn's Cornish tour ends in Lake District. Humphrey warns of perilous state of finances. G.831 altered.
- JUN. Terrential rain. Police charge Sharp with evasion of petrol tax by running van on steam. Agg starts training for 1972 olympics. Humphrey says finances are grim. 100 course altered.
- JUL. Freak arctic spell. Chainwheel Creek iced up and battle decided on skates. Roll call necessary after all events, and marshals issued with St. Bernard dogs. Humphrey says finances are didastrous.
- AUG. Sudden thaw and heavy flooding. Young Thropp rammed by drifting punt in 100. Willcocks wins and says he prefers 'float' mornings. Humphrey says finances are desperate. Had there been a 12 hours the course would have been altered.
- SEP. Pea-soup fogs. Riders in 25 issued with compasses. Excel clubrun adrift for three days in ever decreasing circles. Humphrey says finances are in a hopeless position.
- OCT. Severe flooding. Neeves catches Colburn in Hill-Climb. Framfield cut off but Humphrey sends bad financial news by carrier pigeon. Escabods incredulous - no course altered.
- NOV. Brilliant sunshine and no wind. Dutson and Atkins tour in Welsh mountains on tandem trike. Editor of BONK faces sub-ventor charge. Humphrey says bank balance woeful.

- DEC. Heat wave. Hastings dinner televised on beach. Humphrey jaunty at Esca AGM - says record bank balance after he'd corrected slight mistake. Sharp work bike disintegrates.

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HASTINGS & St. LEONARDS C.C.

Greetings from the eastern end of Esca territory. This issue sees the club's deputy note-writer back in action, owing to the illness of our President and Press Secretary Fred Martin, who in mid-January was found to have serious lung trouble which called for immediate hospitalisation. After an exploratory operation Fred was sent home, but is still having regular treatment which we all hope will restore him to health. This meant that Fred was unable to preside over the club dinner on January 30th, but in all other aspects the function was a great success with a marvellous atmosphere right from the start. Barbara Powell had worked very hard to organise the evening, while on the night Dennis was very much in evidence as toastmaster, leader of the dance band and M.C., with Ernie Spray making a good job of the reply for the club, and George Page, the 'Mayor of Wittersham' taking the president's chair. The following Saturday the local press did us proud, featuring a picture of the diners and full report of the evening, plus a picture of Jack Southerden with his trophies and a knowledgable piece about cycling on the sports page. An interesting sidelight to the dinner was the reunion of those two great 'characters', tricyclists Jim Catt and Gordon Lamb, whom older Esca-ites will remember as rumbustious ale-quaffers and cross-toasters at dinners and luncheons in the fifties. Bill Collins from the Suntrap and Showplace proposed the toast to the club at our dinner; the following week Dennis returned the compliment at the Rovers' function, accompanied by a good number of his clubmates. We also fraternised with our near neighbours at their tea party at Hellingly Hall after a brisk bash over the downs to Birling Gap as an appetiser. Dennis proved to be a complete dead loss at indoor games, staying at the same table through sessions of 'Beetle' and getting horribly roared off at pushing a peanut with his nose. All too soon of course, the social season was over and we were busy organising the Hardriders 16 for the Association. This event went off very satisfactorily, with marshalling assistance from Eric Kent and Jane and John from the Rovers; and we fielded five



Hastings & St. Leonards CO (continued).

riders, of whom Richard Wall and Bob French were fastest with long '46's', Jack was a bit below par through backache, Dennis hauled his many stones round in 52½ minutes, and our keen youngster Robin Peters had his first time trial spoilt by pulling his wheel over several times. Meanwhile runs leader Dave Morris leads a small group of tourists every Sunday, and by the time you read these notes we shall have all got together for our traditional opening run and lunch at Netherfield.

Now it's au revoir from this cinque port. All the best and smooth riding.

HASTINGER.

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#### GREAT EAST SUSSEX SEX CHANGE MYSTERY

Has the Editor of BONK changed his sex? No, definitely not, writes the Editor, but it appears that somebody thinks I have, as the envelope containing one club's notes for this edition was addressed to "Denise Neeves". What's up Val - aren't I masculine enough for you? Other verbal bricks thrown at me in recent weeks have come from Esther Carpenter's young son, who, seeing me approaching the house, said to his mother "Here comes that uncle who is quite fat"; a young and hirsute Eastbourne Rover who wanted to know if I wear a toupee; and another Rover who in the Hardriders changing room remarked that he didn't know they made racing shorts that big

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#### WORTHING - SEX TRAP OF THE SOUTH ???

Is it true that after reading in the national press about the Worthing curate who denounced his town as a latter day Sodom and Gomorrah, certain Esca-ites are thinking of joining the Worthing Excelsior second claim?

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#### CYCLING MAKES THE SCENE

A correspondent reports that on a recent BBC TV 'Top Of The Pops' programme, coopers Jimmy Savile, who as a racing man rode in the Tour of Britain in the 50's, introduced the Push-Bike Song with a great yell of "Up The League".



