



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex Cycling Association

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

PRICE

7P

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLE ASSOCIATION

New Series No. 34.

SUMMER 1961

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

Editor

{ Mr. D. Neeves IA
{ 19, East Parade,
{ HASTINGS, Essex

EDITORIAL

What a year for racing men! Here we are with the season three and a half months old, and we can look back on a grand total of two Sunday mornings when racing was really enjoyable. They were, how could we forget, May 9th and June 13th, plus two freak warm Saturday afternoons for the Central's Billy 22 and the Eastbourne Open 10. All the rest have had ideal conditions for testing the time triallists' well known 'grin-and-bear-it' qualities to the full. While on the subject of weather conditions, isn't it time that the Association did something about making the March 25 less miserable for both riders and officials? Now that the old boggy of the Uckfield U-turn has been removed, there is surely no need for an 8 am start which thanks to E.S.T. is 7 am by the sun at a time of year when an hour can make all the difference between a reasonable ride and a frozen penance. Frankly, only a few youthful riders who are so young and fit that they can make light of the conditions really get anything out of this event; and as a ride along the A22 to the Boship after it was all over showed that the traffic was nothing to worry about, why not have a 9-30 start in future to give the event a chance of being a pleasure instead of an open invitation to frost-bite?

Finally, I'm sure that all readers would like to join me in congratulating Lou Bathurst and his Southborough clubmates, who were chiefly responsible for what was by all accounts a highly successful National Championship 25. This was the first time that a 'National' has been run in the South-East in my recollection, and is certainly a feather in the cap for all concerned.

D.N.

We were all sorry to hear a week ago of the passing of the president of the Hastings and St. Leonards club, Fred Martin. He has done much work on behalf of cycling in Kent and Sussex for a number of years. Always out at our events, Boship became his regular marshalling point; but perhaps he will be most missed in Kent where he held many offices. All members extend their sympathy to his wife: no doubt the Editor will find space to write a few lines about our Fred.

It certainly gives me much pleasure to report that the Grand National Draw was an outstanding success despite the worst that the postal strike could do. It makes the organisation of events a pleasure when everyone rallies round and supports the organiser. The financial result was in excess of our wildest dreams; thank you one and all for your cooperation. On the racing side some good competition between the clubs has resulted from the events so far this season; though in some cases the entry has not been as good as might be expected. So far this season we have not been favoured with a really good morning; but now that the longer distances are coming along we shall see times improve in Association events. Our policy of member clubs promoting the Association's time trials is again working very well this season, with promoting secretaries getting good co-operation from their clubmates. One pleasing feature is the welcome cup of tea at the finish of the event, which in the case of the 25 mile events finishing in Isfield Lane entails quite a lot of work to organise.

Quite a few members of the Association will soon be thinking about the Social Season, which believe it or not is only a matter of four months away; and it will be well to remember that our Annual Party and A.G.M. will take place with Geoff Willcocks as the organiser. Perhaps he will shortly be putting forward some new ideas for the function. On Sunday October 3rd our President, John Dutson, will be organising a Touring Competition with a very central starting point. Having taken part in competitions organised by John in the past, I can assure you all that you will have an interesting time; so let's all enter the event and prove that after all, racing is only a small part of our sport.

R.H.

We regret to record the passing of Fred Martin, president of the Hastings & St. Leonards C.C. who died on May 26th after five months illness. Fred, who was 69, was in his tenth year as Hastings president and had been a vice-president for eleven years before that; and throughout those years gave generously in both time and money to his club. Not a life-long cyclist (horses were both Fred's business and chief sport), Fred nevertheless bought a lightweight cycle after his election as president, and frequently joined in the social runs. After retiring from business about five years ago, he devoted himself to the official side of the game; and became president and chairman of the Kent C.A. chairman of the Kent V.T.T.A. a member of the R.T.T.C. London South-East District Council, and a member of the Kent and Sussex Fellowship. We extend our sympathy to his widow, Mrs Blanche Martin, his family and his club.

SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS

Firstly, having risen to the exalted heights of the parish council, I shall expect a bit more respect from you lot. Not that I expect everyone to lay prostrate before me, but a respectful touch of the forelock followed by "Sir" or "Councillor" will be enough. This last quarter has seen most of the club's open promotions behind us. The Open 10 back in April saw better weather than in '70, most necessary on the exposed stretches of the A2. There was a fine entry, and while the club didn't hog the prize list we made a profit. Come our road race and it really tipped down for the junior event, which had a fine 4th place for Paul Woodman in his first road race. It dried out for the senior event and we had the great spectacle of Cliff Sharp being dropped with mechanical trouble then recatching the bunch and sprinting into third place behind Don Awcock. The following week we got another soaker when Lou promoted the National Championship 25. At the time of writing I only know that Derek Cottington won: the rest of the story will follow. Because of the 25 we didn't have our usual Whitsun on the Isle of Wight after an unbroken run of 22 years. Never having mastered the art of writing about racing without it appearing to be a time-table,

but I'll try to do a quick resume. The Hardriders had a good entry from us with Royston our fastest and Les Hayman taking a keenly fought Lanterne Rouge spot from Lou, the Hon. Ed. screwing them both. I wish to wallow in the memories of the Central's Hilly 22 as it was a fine promotion on a fine afternoon and found this writer beating all his clubmates with a stupendous 1-1-8 which was a glorious 24th place (Seeks dictionary for further superlatives), a very rare occurrence these days, especially with Tony Peachey roaring up the come-back trail. Another rough old day for the Esca Team T.T. I was going to write about the result but I haven't got a result sheet - we need a better promoter next year! I trust that the London South nig-nogs won't be so insistant about the Esca 10s being on the Pevensey Marsh course next time: it was only due to help from the Rovers and Hastings that the events got run at all. Our own club T.T.T. had the distinction of a travelling marshal telling riders where the icy patches were on the course - it's rather early!

You will have noted that Southboro' haven't been much in evidence this year mainly because they have elected to ride K.C.A. events which are clashing with several Esca mornings.. Who said date-fixing? Thus yours truly was the only SDW in the May 25, and with Rick Stringer breathing down my neck I was harried into winning the handicap. (That generous allowance helped too. Ed.) It's the honest truth that I was talking to a 'horsy' woman recently about cycle racing and she said "I suppose you handicap the riders like we do with the faster men carrying the biggest weight". The idea of Cliff Sharp hurtling round Boship with a 12 lbs. bob-weight under his saddle appeals to my imagination. The mass-start lada try - oh, how they try, and they would win too if all those other rotters wouldn't go so fast. Malc W. did manage a seventh in the S.F.A. event, but the Division Champs. saw our eclipse this year. Yours truly, who entered for comic relief, retired early after a do-or-die battle with the machine examiner (they may stick their tubs on but French chalk keeps your hands cleaner), and Robin came in a while later to talk about our holiday. The Withers twins were our best and Jacko came in just a bit down (O.K. Jacko - I won't tell them how much).

I don't know if you have noticed how many bods have returned to cycling over the past few seasons; in fact it seems as though very few haven't. It's really great, but as so few juniors are staying it does appear that the average age of riders these days is over 30, which makes the word "veteran" seem a trifle

ridiculous. Presumably in the course of time cycling will rival bowls as the old man's game. What about Boys up to 16, Juniors to 18, Cyclist to 40, Senior to 55, Super Senior to 70, then Vets - give them something to aim for. Among our faces from the past Dave Wright and his wife came out to join us after a fourteen year gap; Ken Chantler is hovering on the brink of having a go; and of course Lou, Spider, Bryan Leyland and Pete Baker are all rushing about. Our 'old-timers' 25 in July won't be so different from an ordinary club event. Forgot to mention that Graham Orch. now engaged, has returned to his customary place at the top of club events; and Mick Hartley is riding again.

We often moan at the demise of club runs these days, and Captain Jacko really does have a tough job; but a run to the Swan at West Peckham was most heartening. Not only was it the biggest run for ages, but the complete Hayman and Hayward families turned up - by bike! Les and Diane shepherded Peter and Julie out on their junior (fairy?) cycles from Tonbridge; while Leslie Hayward (she's 10 now - how time flies) was stoker on Ron's tandem with Dawn on a single. Dave Steel has now settled with the Reading Wheelers, but the gap has been filled - well filled - by Pete 'polo' Wall, ex Apollo C.C. and Alf and Peggy Obard from the Bellingham Whs. are also welcome to our club. Finally the club's Easter at Brecon for the sixth year - a fabulous time. The weather has never been better nor the rough-stuff kinder: no mishaps, fights nor exhaustion, and the added incentive of seeing it while it is still unspoiled.

The Editor rightly took me to task for the abrupt finish to my last report. My apologies: I believe Schubert had the same trouble with one of his later symphonies (but Schubert had a good excuse. Ed.)

CROW

=====

ATTENTION ALL PRESS SECRETARIES !!!!!

Next August Bank Holiday don't waste your time gardening, getting drunk or sitting in your car in a seven mile traffic jam. Pack your wife/husband and kids off to your mother's, settle down at the typewriter and hammer out some notes for the Autumn edition of BONK. Deadline will be September 1st. By the way, Woppit, the correct address is 19, East Parade NOT "The Crock Shop".

Of, grunt, heave ...untangles self from, ugh, strain...yoga pose, to scribble some Central notes. If he can't ride a bike anymore, Woppit must do something to stave off the bulging mid-riff! Well now, the summer edition is usually filled with loads of racing 'gen' because everybody is too busy trying to get fit to be involved in any scandal; so here goes with the racing results.

Turning in his fastest time for five years, John Dut. clocked a sparkling 1-1-42 in the Bellingham Wheelers' 25 on the Portsmouth road, and Honest Ginge produced a fine 1-5-31 in the same event. J.R.D. actually scooped the handicap and Ken took third place on handicap. On the same date, which was obviously the Central's day, Paul Lipscombe (who came 6th), Bob Prunty and Ray Pilcher, won the team award in the Rodney Wheelers road race. A most creditable performance for three newcomers to bunch racing, especially on the Frant circuit; so watch out roadmen for this trio! The season started in earnest with the Hardriders 16. Ron Rogers's time of 43-43 gains him third place; and with J.R.D.'s 44-33 and Alan Priddy's 44-54 they took second team place. Geoff Boor, showing a surplus amount of mid-riff, produced a 51-50. The club's road race on the Staplefield circuit ended in a sprint finish won by R. Conrad of the Clarecourt. The 'home' team of Paul Lipscombe, Ron Rogers and Alan Priddy came in 11th, 12th and 13th. The dynamic duo of John and Ken put in a 1-26-24 in the South Eastern 33 miles tea-up. The first club 25 saw a win for Paul with a 1-3-44: his 3½ mins handicap gave him first handicap as well. Both of the Ken Atkinses and Alan Robinson finished with '9's. The full story has not been revealed, but Mike Creech and Paul Brunty managed to get lost and were D.N.F. Leading the Central's road racing assault this year is Don Awcock, who has two magnificent wins to his credit to date, both in one week-end! The Catford event on May 22nd gave him number one, and the Southborough event the following day gave him the second win. The first club evening 10 on the Chailey course produced a magnificent turn-out of three riders (cries of "shame"). Despite Woppit's timekeeping Don Awcock won in 24-38, while H. Ginge did a '26' and Geoff was just outside evens complaining of the mountainous terrain!

Two pieces of shattering news (or possibly rumours) have reached Woppit lately. It appears that 'Windo.s' Whitt. might be married, (we knew he'd need those grass track trophies one day), and that Siggs has done a '2' this year. (One speechless scribe!) It has also come to light that the Great White Chief, (out of the news lately owing to the Engers affair), has now jeopardised his

amateur status. It seems that he has been employed as a professional timekeeper and official for the Whit Monday sports between Buxted Boys Club and the chicken factory. It would further seem that the same official skived off jury service to officiate at events on Marine Drive. On arrival, and inspection, we was incensed to read that all officials were expected to arrive early to erect barriers and prepare the course! A just desert? Rumour has it that this year's competitors on the Isle of Man have prepared a booklet on "How To Tell The Difference Between Courses De Primes And Devils" for the judges' rostrum.

Well now, it's time to sign off for another three months, by which time the season will be in full swing, and Woppit will be in his new domain. Having escaped the acid pen of the Editor in the last issue, I will wait with bated breath... See you up the kerb.

WOPPIT

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RIDE THE CHAMPION BICYCLE

There has been a lot of talk recently about "shamateurs", assisted riders and non-persons; so the Editor, who believes in being completely honest, would like to publicly admit what has for long been rumoured in East Sussex - that he is an "assisted non-professional" under the aegis of Heath Cycles of Eastbourne. In all his big events this season, including the defence of his 'Chainwheel Creek' trophy, Dennis will be using a Horace Heath 'Lower Dicker' special timetrial frame, equipped with Jupiter alloy cotterless cranks, with 48T chainwheel, Rex 'Oloroso' chain and 16-17-18-19-20T freewheel, specially strengthened wheels with 32-40 spokes, T.T.F.N. handlebar set, and Duplex 'Lant me Rouge' gear mechanism. The frameset will be finished in the famous Heath colour scheme of flamboyant puce with pea-green lining; and Dennis's track suit will be in the same easily recognisable colours.

Southborough's first unisex event ran into trouble when Les Hayman and Dawn Hayward entered the Team T.T. Dawn hadn't got a racing vest so it was suggested that Les should wear shorts and a black bra'.

Looking for possible officials for the Lewes Criterium, Willcocks said to one Central notability, "What do you do on Thursday evenings" He got the cryptic reply, "It depends on the time of the month".

Keith Butler said he thought that Lewes Wanderers had folded up with Uckfield. He was told that they had an obligation to keep going as no-one else would accept Derek Agg !

When Willcocks said he'd been warned off riding a bike for the present, Charlies Lednor and Janman expressed the view that he should have been "warned off years ago".

Hard luck story of the season ? Malc Withers was leading a South-boro' club event when he punctured and crashed 200 yards from the finish and was D.N.F.

Cyclists' wives have a lot to put up with but Joy Sladen went beyond the call of duty in blowing up 1000 balloons for husband Bill's Fyffe's track meeting.

Mitre man Alan Packett, looking at the track and considering taking out a license after 20 years, away from the game, must set some sort of record if he rides. Come to think of it, it must take a lot of courage to ride a bike at all with a name like that .

The Editor, who remains very much in the heavyweight class in spite of plenty of hard riding and salads, was seen quietly sobbing after reading in a national daily that Olympic athlete David Hemery was complaining about being unable to put on any weight although he eats lots of steak and kidney and treacle puddings .

A few months ago Les West told the same newspaper that he used to earn as much as £1,000 a year from his amateur racing. This sort of disclosure has a slightly bitter taste to those of us who get rather less than this from our full-time jobs, and earn only ironic cheers for our bike-riding.

So it's still a shaky "Wotcher cocks" from behind the pain barrier as your scribe tries to get shot of sciatica which is being caused by spinal curvature. Recent sessions with an osteopath have left a feeling of having tangled with a grizzly bear ; and have convinced him that the name of the practitioner concerned should begin with "Mick Mc." ! Still, it's all in a good cause, as the sailor said to the popsy, so let's hope there's a happier report next time. Almost as demoralising as the pain are the people who come up and say "Neevo's done thousands of miles", "Neevo's going like a train", "Neevo's never been so fit" etc. Thanks, folks, I'm sure you mean well - in a twisted sort of way ; but it looks as if Agg will have to be brought out of the museum to contest the Chainwheel Creek battle this year.

Resplendent in their new vests our lads have been in there having a go since Kilby and Burbery loosened up in the S.C.A. 25. That wasn't the only loosening up either, as Pete 'did an Agg' (or a Cliff Sharp if you prefer a more recent occasion) and unshipped the same crank twice, finishing with a 1-20! The Lewes-Newhaven saw a nice gallop from Steve Myatt, whose 36-47 scooped the handicap ; but the day's shock came from Dick Whittington, who did 38-4 in his first-ever event for second place and second handicap. Burbery, Gander and Andrews did '38s' with the others close up, and newcomer Richard Isted managed to last out for a '46'. In the S.C.A. 50 km T.T.T. Steve/Whittington did 1-26-30 and clobbered Simon/Gander by 1-12, and Hills/Burbery by nearly two minutes. Kilby went solo, with The Copper DNS, and did a fair 1-30. The Association 25 in cold, windy conditions, saw Burbery's 10-23 holding off Whittington by 29 seconds. Kilby and Savage did 1-13s and The Copper a '17', which meant that he got himself beaten by Valerie Stringer ! However, as he said, with a pointed look at Willcocks, it's not the first time a club rider has been humbled by the fair sex. Passing quickly to the Division Junior R.R. Championship, we had no fewer than five entrants and it was great to see Steve come third after a puncture and near pile-up on the last lap. The others resembled the ten little nigger boys through various troubles, although all credit to Richard Isted, who got dropped through gear trouble but carried on "for the miles". A cold and drizzly club 25 saw Whittington 'do a Steve' and Wallop the field, plus the handicap, with 1-9-5. Andrews and Burbery did 1-10s, Hills and Kilby 1-13s, and The Copper a '16', but more about this event later. Having come off during the R.R. Championship Simon evidently thought a repeat was necessary during training. This

This time he excelled himself by doing so uphill and cracking his collarbone! Despite shocking weather for the S.C.A. Team Championship, all our riders (bar Simon) started and Dick paddled to a very good 1-7-25,36 seconds better than Andrews. Hills with 1-8-34 was just one second better than Burberry, while Gander did a '10', Kilby a '12', and Savage a '14', narrowly escaping The Copper's fate of being walloped by Val Stringer, who did a heroic ride in such conditions. Later Steve sampled the same thing in the Southborough Junior R.R. at Frant, and "only just" finished. The evening 10s got off to a good start, with Simon doing a '27' dead, and a surprise 27-24 from young Andrew Myatt. Steve's 26-15 took the second event from Gander with 27-2, and Tony Andrews a second slower. Eddie Wright felt stirred to competition, after many years, and did a very fair 30-6. Cliff Sharp showed what can be done by pounding round in 23-36. Steve got the third event in 26-4 with Andrews doing 26-29 and Cliff Sharp lopping off another nine seconds. Steve also won number four with 25-33 with Andrews again second in 26-35. The Copper crept down in 29-3.

From the foregoing it will be seen that a certain 'Three-letter word' is notable for his absence. He eventually showed up at one 'ten', and when asked why we'd seen nothing of him, replied, "You know my ==!!!+ address." He was promptly told by the Myatts that they'd called on him so often that the neighbours had threatened to have them nicked for causing a public nuisance. Agg's rejoinder, "I'm not like you layabouts - I have to work "is enough to make you cry - with laughter! We're willing to bet that no one runs a Laurel and Hardy type event to match the first club 25. First man Burberry found the turn marshal in the wrong place, due to Willcocks not getting with Kilby's instructions; then later he hollered his number as he crossed the line - and woke up the timekeeper!! He said later "As I was winding down I turned round and saw Sharp staggering out of his car peering at the watch and rubbing his eyes; it only wanted a nightcap and pyjamas to complete the scene ." Sharp wasn't allowed to get away with his mumbled apology, as next evening Andrew Myatt caused some hilarity by presenting him with a large alarm clock aptly bearing the brand name PETER!

We're glad to see the resuscitation of The Copper, whose concern about the old 'personal tonnage' creeping up has led him back to his bike and a 'mini Chainwheel Creek' with Eddie Wright. Mention of come-backs reminds us how pleasant it was to open the last BONK and see again the old familiar 'Woppit' style. There'll be some shaking when he gets foraging among the Central 'sin bins'.

We're also glad to be able to report a full field for our Evening Criterium this time. Marvellous what a bit of straight talking does, isn't it? We'd like to send our best wishes to George Rickards, one of those unobtrusive officials who mean so much to the sport. George has heart trouble, and as he has always been willing to officiate at events, he has been sadly missed this season. In common with most sensible people we deplore the RTTC prevarication over the Engers/Cornillie affair. Apply the rules by all means to deliberate offenders; but in a borderline case of this sort such mis-handling can only make the jurisdiction of the sport an object of derision. And what is a "non-amateur" anyway if he isn't a professional? The whizz-kids who thought that one up should take a return ticket to Siberia - and not use the other half! As I'm writing this the sun is smiling away and things look pretty hopeful for good bike-riding. Let's all hope they stay that way. Bung-ho for now.

ALSORAN

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COMING EVENTS

- July 11th OPEN 100 miles Ladies and Gents G861
Event Secretary G. Willcocks, Lewes Wanderers.
- Aug. 15th 50 miles Ladies and Gents G851
Event Secretary Mrs V. Baxendine East Grinstead C.C.
- Sept. 5th OPEN 25 miles Ladies and Gents G833
Event Secretary R. Humphrey 4, Ebenezer Cott's Framfield.

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Shoot That Fortune Teller

On that horrible Thursday when the heavens opened and stayed open all day, trade on Hastings sea front was, as you might expect, down to February level. So much for the DAILY MAIL astrologer, whose forecast for the Editor was "Success is likely both in the financial and the professional sector".

BRIGHTON MITRE C.C.

Spring brought the usual flush of keen-ness to the Mitre, but with varying states of fitness. Adrian Morris had the edge in most of the early club events, with Robin and John Yardley fighting it out for second place. Come-back man Maurice Wyatt is down to a '5' already, and looks as though he will be pushing the young ones close shortly. The club should have it's best season for years ; for with Keith Chandler back from college for the summer, we have four men capable of challengeing for the places in local events. Easter saw a Y.H.A. tour to the New Forest via Herne Hill, with some of the riding on cross-country paths. The trip was slightly plagued with collapsing back wheels, also a persistent head wind on the last day. Robin, Adrian and myself rode the Crawley Wheelers 25 on Good Friday : the times recorded were not anything to record in these pages. Suffice it to say that after being caught by Cliff Sharp inside three miles, it was all I could do to turn 81 going down Pease Pottage hill. The evening 10 series started with a victory for John Yardley, resplendent with a new road iron, just having the edge over Adrian - 23 seconds separating the first four riders. Thirteen-year-old Colin Leigh did a '27' with his eleven-year-old brother being only just outside evens, while another thirteen-year-old, Graham Cuddy did a '28' in his first-ever event. Our latest crop of schoolboys seems to be coming along well. Peter Churchill, still a schoolboy in his third season of racing, has rejoined us first claim; and should stand a reasonable chance in the GHS 10 after his fifth place last year.

The opening of the track season saw a couple of new faces from the Mitre on the Park, John Yardley gaining a 3rd place medal in his first-ever track event, the Division Individual Pursuit ; going on to ride very well at the first two track meetings. There does seem to be an encouraging number of new faces on the track this year. Adrian had aquired the Terry Rickards 'Five Bar Gate' track cycle which dates back to the early days of the Brighton and Hove Wheelers, and expects to make his track debut soon. With my 'iron' and Dave Best's, which is also of 1949 vintage, we should soon be able to join some of the veteran machine events. The S.C.A. Team Championship 25, which used to be the main event of the local calendar, looked a little strange this year with no Eastbourne or Central teams. It was nice to see Lewes manageing to dig up three teams without having to resort to Willcocks as in some past years. The title went to Worthing yet again. We expected to run them

Brighton Mitre C.C. (Continued)

closer than we did, but Adrian had an off day and did not even make the counting team, Maurice Wyatt just pipping him. We have recently run a small touring competition in the club in order to encourage some of the younger ones with no racing aspirations. Guess who was first - Pete Churchill, second John Yardley. The club's Spring Lunch at the Elephant and Castle, Lewes, was quite well supported, as have been our other social events at the clubroom. We do try to have a balanced programme for all our members ; and have been much encouraged by the return to the fold of some of our former members. The club road race at Rushlake Green was won by John Lyons of the Morden, who always seem to do well at the Mitre events. John has taken prizes in both of the last Open 25s as well as the road race. The event saw a new promoter in Maurice Wyatt, who made a very capable job of it. We unwittingly provided the St. John's with more work than they have had for a while, but this was no reflection on the promoter ! That's all for now.....

K.M.W.

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FOR SALE 24 inch Carlton 'GiroD'Italia'. 531 tubing, Weinmann sprint rims on Atom Q/R hubs, Simplex Prestige gears with D/T levers, Brooks Professional saddle, Zeus cotterless double chainset, Weinmann 999 brakes, tubular tyres, G.B. fittings. £25 or near offer. Stephen Holland. 'Maybank', Watermill Lane, Pett, nr. Hastings.

WANTED 36 hole, small flange, gear sided rear hub in reasonable condition. State price to Simon Myatt, 8, Priory Crescent, Lewes, Sx. Phone Lewes 3368, or contact any Lewes Wanderer.

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WHEN IS A SHORT CUT NOT A SHORT CUT ?

Answer, when a rider who is not of the stuff that Kings of the Mountains are made of decides to cut off a corner by going from Ringmer across to the A27 via Glynde. In the time it takes him to struggle up the downs and downlets, finishing up by grinding through Glynde feeling like the Tour's Lanterne Rouge having a bad day on the Toumalet, he could have ridden the long way into and out of Lewes.

T I M E - T R I A L - R E S U L T S

25 Miles March 14th Promoted by Central Sussex.

| | | | |
|-------|----------------|------------------------|------------|
| 1st | R. Johnson | Brighton Mitre | 1 - 4 - 37 |
| 2nd | J. Dutson | Central Sussex | 1 - 4 - 52 |
| 3rd | G. Charlwood | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 4 - 55 |
| 4 | A. Morris | Brighton Mitre | 1 - 4 - 57 |
| 5 | K. Stevens | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 5 - 37 |
| 6 | R. Harrison | Southborough Whs. | 1 - 5 - 59 |
| Team | Brighton Mitre | 3 - 16 - 23 | |
| H'cap | K. Griffiths | Eastbourne Rovers (12) | 59 - 57 |

Entrants 30. Starters 30. Finishers 27.

The morning was fine but very cold, which affected some riders. The first few were obviously 'screaming fit'; the rest in varying stages of half - fitness and unfitness.

35 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles two-up Team T.T. April 4th
Promoted by Southborough Wheelers.

| | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 1st | R. Sturt - M. Adams | Brighton Excelsior | 1 - 34 - 23 |
| 2nd | K. Stevens - M. Colburn | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 34 - 58 |
| 3rd | A. Priddy - R. Rogers | Central Sussex | 1 - 36 - 47 |
| 4 | D. Hook - J. Williams | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 36 - 59 |
| 5 | J. Dutson - K. Atkins | Central Sussex | 1 - 37 - 36 |
| 6 | G. Withers - M. Withers | Southborough Whs. | 1 - 40 - 55 |

Entrants 14 teams - all finished. Weather cold and damp.

There was also a ladies and boys 10 on the Marsh course which drew only a handful of entrants, including one 20 - year - old who entered by mistake! C. Leigh of Brighton Mitre was the fastest boy in 31 - 6, while Iris Stevens won the ladies section in 30 - 50.

25 Miles May 2nd Promoted by Brighton Excelsior.

| | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------------|------------|
| 1st | C. Sharp | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 1 - 34 |
| 2nd | A. Morris | Brighton Mitre | 1 - 3 - 58 |
| 3rd | J. Dutson | Central Sussex | 1 - 4 - 52 |
| | M. Colburn | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 4 - 52 |
| 5 | K. Stevens | Eastbourne Rovers | 1 - 4 - 53 |
| 6 | R. Hughes | Brighton Excelsior | 1 - 5 - 9 |

1st Handicap P. Crowsley Southborough Whs. (9) 58 - 34
Fastest vet. on standard J. Southerden Hastings 1 - 11 - 8 + 2-4
1st Team Eastbourne Rovers 3 - 11 - 9
Entrants 38. Starters 32. Finishers 32.
Only one lady entered, Mrs V. Stringer, Brighton Excel. did 1 - 17 -

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H E R E - A N D - T H E R E

There were so many 'bunch finishes' in the Hastings 25 that some spectators thought they were watching a road race, and the recorder nearly started putting riders down "at 2 mins".

The result board wallah at the same event, after having Ken Stevens bellowing "write something" at him from a distance of about two feet, did just that on his note-pad, tore off the page and passed it back to Kenneth, who found it was a rude five-lette word!

One East Sussex wag sent in his entry for the Hastings event on a form for the Ladies National Championship 25. If he had ridden with B.B. and co. and done the same time that he did on Q140, he would have come twelfth.

It's well known that an event sed's duties include booking pre race night accomodation for the riders, where needed. Robin Johnson remembered this when orgainising the June 50, and made sure of a place for himself at the popular racing man's guest house at Lansdowne Crescent.

At the Hastings club's slide show one picture showed Dave Morris posing with one hand resting on the top of a trig point obelisk and one foot resting on the base. Arthur Coleman exclaimed, "Blimey Dave - you look as if you've just shot it!"

Pete Burbery of Lewes recently met a lady who said she was the former Janet Golds of the Central. She particularly wished to be remembered to Arthur Thorpe, Cedric Pearson and John Dutson, among others, and sent her fond regards. Did Woppit say some - thing about skeletons?

An unusual excuse for stopping in an event was recorded by Crow, who got a four-foot branch tangled in his Ozgear.

Well, BONK deadline is here - well it was last week, and I still have not got down to this horrid task. All I have in the head is a cold. I thought I had a bright idea by bringing my girls and their friends up here to Ashdown Forest so as they could run around and play while I write these notes. It wasn't a good idea at all as I am being used as target practise for a football, and the little dears seem to be pretty good shots; However, I shall endeavour to ignore the onslaught and proceed.

Our club is having it's ups and downs. First Trevor out of action for some time, but fortunately he is back on form again and took the Sussex Division Championship title as he predicted he would. As he said, he had to win it again as otherwise there would be a gap on his sideboard. No sooner was Trevor back in action than Bob Beatty crashed heavily while racing, breaking his collar-bone in three places. However he has made a remarkable recovery and he too is fit. "Our National Health Pro" Trev call him (he's a fine one to talk). Trev is now in Calvados, France, getting some Continental experience and doing some racing as well! He is doing quite well over there already, despite the fact that he is doing his own cooking. With Trevor over in France it left us short of active racing members again, but then came news of the other two Bobs being sighted out training. That is Messrs Smith and Kater, taking a little time off from courtjig to mix their pleasures: so now we have 'Three Bob's worth of team' and things look brighter again. Our road race promotions had a nice sunny day and seemed to go off well. I am now busy on my next promotion which is on Saturday afternoon July 10th. This event is not in the handbook, but is part of our East Grinstead Carnival, starting and finishing at the Carnival and using the Lingfield circuit over 48 miles. 1/2 and 3rd cats. entry fee 40p incl. levy to me, Mrs V. Baxendine, 111, Blount Avenue, East Grinstead, Sussex. Phone E.G. 25981. Closing date is June 22nd, and prizes go down to fifth place with a £10 first prize. I am only mentioning this in case BONK comes out in time for entries. (If certain club note writers get much further behind, it will be just in time for next year's! Ed.) Our club evening 10s are under way again; this year we have gone back to the Godstone course. Then we have a jumble sale, which has become necessary as Mick Robinson won't have room for his wife after his marriage in August until the collection of jumble has been removed from his front room! Talking of weddings, the next wedding in the Grinstead club is Bob Smith and Eileen in June; and we give them our best wishes for everlasting happiness together.

Our schoolboy section has got itself organised into a charity ride for the club. Seems we can do this, and everyone else is jumping on the band wagon as it were. They hope to raise enough money to buy club jerseys to share between them. The many faces of Crow have a new addition now - as a councillor on the Edenbridge Council. He has apparently been causing quite a stir by turning up to Council meetings on his bike complete with shorts, racing vest and sweat! This is yet another string to Crow's bow, or should I say double bass? Just one more thing I should mention. Going back to the East Grinstead Carnival, we are having a stand and, we hope, rollers. At the moment the idea is to invite any-one to ride at a small charge and the one who has done the fastest 220 at the end of the day gets a prize. There are holding-up problems though, and at the moment I am after the Dunlop type rollers with fixed bikes. So I am not sure what I am doing (as usual), but should any-one be interested please give me a ring. That's it.

VAL

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EASTBOURNE ROVERS C.C.

I knew I must already be late with these notes when I was requested to pass on Al Moran's notes to the Editor; but a further week has gone by and I've just received a final ultimatum from the latter! Being late however, does enable me to include the comic turn put on by Cliff Sharp for the benefit of the Pangbourne Lane audience at the Archer 50. Cliff, on his way to victory with a 1-56 or even a 1-55, punctured with only three miles left and rode one of them on the rim before he could 'hijack' a marshal's machine. He jumped aboard and set off up The Lane, then suddenly realised that he was on a tandem and worse, flogging a McNamara size gear and unable to change out of it as the lever was at the back! I understand that the timekeeper took some convincing that Cliff hadn't had a partner! A 1-57 for second place after all that was certainly a fine effort.

To go back to the early season Maurice again promoted an open road race which for once enjoyed a beautiful afternoon and made for a fast race, victory going to George Clare. Though it seems a long time ago now, this was the time of the postal strike, and it was interesting that entries were delivered on the bike from as far away as Croydon. The first entries were however delivered mid-week by some apparently unemployed Brighton Premier coureurs! Maybe it was the worry of the road race the previous day, but Maurice certainly suffered a mental lapse in the March Association 25, completely forgetting the location of the Laughton turn and thus spoiling his ride and possibly losing the club the team award. Ken was particularly pleased with his ride of 1-5-37 as evidence of returning good form. Maurice did manage to gain a narrow advantage over Ken in the Sussex C.A. 25 (1-7-6 to 1-7-43) and in the club 10 (25-37 to 26-11), but rivalry had to be temporarily shelved when they rode together in the Association 2-up 35 $\frac{3}{4}$, taking second place 35 seconds down on the Excel. pair, and giving Maurice five placings in five rides in this event.

The club didn't see much of Cliff in March as he piled up the incredible total of 2800 miles which included separate five-day 'tours' (!) to Lands End and St. David's Head. It didn't do him much good in the Charlotteville 50 however, as he was forced to retire before halfway with severe cramp; but he's certainly moving now, witness the Archer 50 and a 22-49 May evening 10. Cliff certainly had Easter troubles in other ways, including having to get water from horse troughs in order to keep Doug Roberts's van going en route to Herne Hill, Doug having punctured his radiator by running into a car stationery at traffic lights! Then on the Friday after the

Eastbourne Rovers C.C. (continued)

he somersaulted over the bonnet of an errant horseless carriage and now possesses a 'humpty backed' Hetchins: the driver's comment was merely "What's wrong with that?"

The camping contingent went for Easter to the New Forest, Escaland also being represented there by John Williams and Rod Laker on the Hollands Wood campsite. Maurice did 1-5-6 in the Crabwood 25 for tenth place behind Joe Mummary, beating J.R.D. among several Escabods riding. Ken was D.N.F. deciding that Bank Holidays and racing don't mix: I think he got badly rattled by Jill Clapton thundering along just behind him! Brian Guy was also D.N.F. and I suspect there was a connection with Rosemary taking along 'Lady Chatterley's Lover' for the week-end! With the racing out of the way cycling and walking were enjoyed in excellent weather; but I can see now why there is talk of admission charges for the Forest, as the traffic gets more and more impossible.

With G833 not being considered suitable for a club 25 in view of the distance to the start from Eastbourne, we experimented in April with a 'sporting' 22 mile circuit around the perimeter of Pevensey Marsh. This was won by Maurice with 1-3-35 on yet another hard morning, against Ken's 1-4-13 and Terry Leach's 1-5-9. The latter had shocked us all the previous day by being only three seconds down on Ken in a very windy Hastings open 10 at Camber; and this in his first event of the year and in his first season as a junior! No Rovers report would be complete without a mention of GJK 263 (yes, there is a number under the dirt) the Sharpmobile. It broke down soon after Rushlake Green when Cliff was returning home after the Central Sussex R.R., and eventually Cliff got his bike back out and rode home for dinner. Suitably refreshed, he set off to ride back to the van for another go at starting it, but came across an A.A. bloke and sent him on ahead. By the time Cliff got to Rushlake Green, old faithful had been nursed back to health! Finally, sincere congratulations to Brian and Rosemary on their engagement. Rosemary's eyes positively sparkled when Ken warned her that tricyclists have three of everything! Happy days!!!

THE MOOR

P.S. After many years as part of a Cycling and Athletic club, the cycling section has now severed its connection with the athletes and is now "Eastbourne Rovers C.C."

Ken Stevens was elected in May to the Kent and Sussex Fellowship. After reports of the strange initiation ceremonies, can we expect a balder pate?

"Senile", "pathetic", "petty", "small-minded", "nobodies", "dictators" These words have a familiar ring, and this is not surprising, because they were being used by clubmen to describe RTTC officials when I came into the game in 1950, and they have been muttered and sometimes used in letters to the cycling press, at intervals ever since. What has gone wrong? During these years there have been twenty lots of AGMs at which presumably the clubs could have elected officials who they find agreeable; but apparently they have not done so; or is it that there is something about becoming an RTTC official that turns a previously decent person into a "small-minded petty dictator"? The cause of the latest outburst is of course the case of Alf Engers, a very fast and very generously assisted amateur racing man, who was alleged to have offended against the rules regarding advertising. I have not contributed to the deluge of letters to CYCLING on this subject because I have had the feeling that there is more to this than just a near-unrecognisable photograph; and the latest flare-up could be the end of a series of events of which I know nothing. Certainly the action of the RTTC was so precipitate and unwise that it must surely have been the action of desperate men, leading one to ponder on why they should be desperate. The only real clue lies in the often used description of Engers as "outspoken", and I have sometimes wondered what this outspokenness might be about and at whom it is directed. Could it be that some RTTC officials have been on the receiving end for too long, and being human, reached the end of their tether and seized on a flimsy excuse to hit back? Whatever the pros and cons might be, some of the letters to CYCLING about the matter have contained some pretty ludicrous suggestions. One idea is that because Alf Engers has the ability to ride a bicycle very fast we should all love him, forgetting that speed, or lack of it, has nothing to do with what a man is as a person. There is the sneer that the RTTC officials are guilty of 'sour grapes' because Engers is a lot faster than them. I find it hard to believe that any officials could be as bad sportsmen as that; but even if you accept that they are, why should they pick on just one man and not the many other star riders who also go a lot faster than the majority of officials? Still, some good may eventually result from this sorry affair. When the rank and file of the club world have got the vitriolic remarks about the RTTC, and the hilarious jokes about underpants and 'St. Michael' labels, off their chests, they might get round to really studying the "outdated rule book" so that next winter they can make moves towards altering those

rules which they find distasteful. They might even begin to think that it is time to abolish the word "amateur", a term which after all is the *raison d'être* of many of the "outdated rules"; and make all riders, whether paid, assisted or unpaid, simply "competitors". If this was done, there would be no need for bitter flare-ups like the Engers affair, and no need for the coy wording of certain dealers' advertisements in CYCLING. Dare one hope, in fact, that after the Lord Mayor's Show will come, not the proverbial muck cart, but a body of cyclists determined to end decades of pretence, humbug and under-the-counter deals, and have a sport that is honest with itself. The price, non participation in the Olympic Games, would affect only a tiny minority, and would, I believe, be a small price to pay for the gain in self-respect that would result.

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HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS C.C.

These notes begin with the sad news that our President, Fred Martin, is no longer with us. It became clear in May that Fred was losing the fight against the illness which had shown itself in January; and so it was that on May 28th a good gathering of club members paid their last respects to the man who had been a benefactor and worker on behalf of the club for twenty years. It was nice to see that Alan Bathurst, for whom Fred always had a high regard, was able to represent his club at the funeral service. Fred would have been delighted with the bumper entry for our open 25 (the trophy for which is in memory of Fred's nephew), with no fewer than 94 riders keen to compete on Q140, among them the Tooting fast men Burrow and Ballard and the past Catford Hill-Climb winner Arthur Pursey, who has recently become a vet. Our open 10 on the Camber course was also successful, with an entry of 29 riders. We had a typical 'Camber' afternoon for this event, with riders complaining of being under-gearred on 108 going out to the turn and battling along, nose to extension on about 78 coming back. The winning time of 24-34 by Tranet junior M. Garwood was a pretty hot ride under these conditions. We fielded four riders, with Bob French our fastest, and Dennis having the almost-forgotten pleasure of catching and dropping a man. Three weeks later Dennis dashed out to Pevensy, in racing kit, went round in the Rovers' open 10 in 28-39, then rode back to Hastings at nearly the same speed to get on with his business. Bob French was our best in this event with 25-8 for fourth place, while Robin Peters got down to 26-47 and screwed Richard Wall by two seconds.

Hastings and St. Leonards C.C. (continued)

Dennis claimed that he could have gone faster, but as he considered the event a bit 'pricey' at 30p, he took as long as he could so as to get his moneysworth! Jack Southerden is having another busy season, racing practically every week-end plus evening 10's. He has ridden in East Sussex and Kent association events, had a bash in the Charlotteville 50 and Hounslow 100, and has got down to a '27' on our own Udimore course and 26-28 in a 'private' with the Rovers. Jack also took the veterans award in the May 2nd Esca 25. In the Esca 2-up neither Richard or Bob were available, so Dennis, not without some trepidation, teamed up with Jack for his longest competitive ride for fifteen years, and was pleased to find that he could last the distance, albeit in the 'wooden spoon' position. In the May 25 Jack did a '11', while Dennis, not fancying yet another cold ride in the endless east wind, was among the non-starters. This year's evening 10 series has been poorly supported so far, with a complete absence of the usual few youngsters who come out to see what the racing lark is about. Our friends at Eastbourne seem to be having the same trouble. Although of course racing is to the fore, social activities are not quite neglected. Dave, Audrey, Robin and Guy keep the Sunday runs going, often meeting the Eastbourne crowd for tea. The club held a successful slide show a few weeks ago, with interesting selections from Dave, Stan Russell and Ron Powell, who had turned out some creditable things in his first attempt at taking colour slides. One picture taken at the Cycle and Camping Exhibition showed Audrey standing beside Beryl Burton. We think that a little speed dust must have rubbed off, because now and again the tandem 'goes mad' and leaps forward at a high rate of M.P.H. leaving the rest of the run gasping for breath lengths down! This month's fixture is a barbecue in Barbara's garden, for which of course we are hoping for a warm, dry evening (a pretty forlorn hope this month, it seems). That just about wraps it up; so all the best from the south end of the A21.

HASTINGER

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STOP PRESS John Dutson won the 50 on June 13th with a 2-6; he is the first Esca president to win an Association event.

