



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

**East Sussex
Cycling Association**

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No.36.

CHRISTMAS 1971

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&
Treasurer

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Framfield, Uckfield.

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EDITORIAL

First of all, as this is the Christmas number, I would like to offer the compliments of the season to all readers and to those indefatigable persons who keep the magazine going with their contributions, usually late I know, but often hammered out under far from easy circumstances. Welcome back to Brighton Excelsior, who after missing several editions, reappears in this issue to show that the old style of social club riding, which for years was the normal thing, still holds out in one or two places. The Excel's boys and girls have obviously been enjoying the social side of things, but not too much has been seen of their racing strength in local events, and I hope there will be a little upsurge in this department next season to boost the Association at present rather meagre fields. This, of course, must be the big hope for the Association's 1972 activities, that more new blood will come into the member clubs, and that the new riders will be keen to have a go on the East Sussex courses. These seem to get changed in some way or other every year, but considering that the bulk of the entries in our events are 'old faithfuls' who have been bashing away for many years, these course changes are a good thing in that they help to prevent the monotony of forever riding up and down the same piece of road.

Here's wishing you all many miles of enjoyable riding in 1972

D.N.

'Gen' From The Secretary

It is now 25 years since that eventful meeting at Ashburnham when our Association was brought into being, and it is pleasing to see that several of these founder members are still active within the Association. Many changes have taken place within our sport and also in our Association. Several of the clubs who were early members are now non-existent, but others have come along and taken their places.

At the inception of the Association it was apparent that the future of our existence would depend to a great extent on the social side of cycling. Over the years every effort has been made by your Committee to encourage all its members to get together at regular intervals. Rallies, Signpost Quests, Touring Competitions, Parties and the Annual Luncheon have done much to foster the comradeship between clubs, but perhaps above all have been the get-togethers over a cup of tea after our time trials, in the early days at 'rosemary' and latterly at Hellingly Hall or in Isfield Lane. With the advent of the motor car as the accepted means of transport, gone are the days when quite a few of the competitors in our events spent the night in digs in the vicinity of Magham Down and met at the Red Lion on the Saturday evening for a chat over a pint or two. Many of the competitors in our events these days are married with a family, and the car enables them to ride in events and bring the family out with them; this surely is a good thing for the Association. Any event that can be organised, whether for cyclists or cars owners should be encouraged in the interests of our sport, even though it might not meet with the approval of the really dedicated cyclists within our ranks.

By the time you read these notes our AGM will have taken place. What changes will have taken place I cannot hazard a guess, but with Crawley Wheelers nominating the President for 1972 I am sure that we shall see more support for our events from that club than has been the case in the last year or two. If our Editor can find the space elsewhere in this issue will be found details of our time trial programme for 1972. A few alterations have been made - the Open 25 will be held in July and two Saturday afternoon 10s will be held on a new course starting at Whitesmith which has now been approved by the RTTC. Changes are being made in certain of our other courses; details will be circulated to clubs in due course. Our courses sub-committee has much work to do still before the details are finally placed before your Committee.

R.H.

BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR C.C.

Many members went into early retirement this season but we hope that after an enjoyable social season they'll be only too glad to get back on their bikes in the new year bounding with energy and enthusiasm. Plenty of enthusiasm has been in existence among members for 'rough-stuff', and, providing you can afford to wreck your equipment now and again, this pastime seems to offer much in the way of exercise, fun and pleasant relief from the traffic-burdened highways. Several members have been exploring the multitude of bridleways (prominently marked by the Council) on the Isle of Wight, and two or three trips have been made since August. The Bank Holiday week-end on the Island was rather different in as much as mist shrouded us from Saturday to Monday (NO - it was not an alcoholic haze!), and we found our way from place to place more by luck than judgement. Apart from a fair sized group from the Hampshire Road Club the Island seemed to be completely free of cyclists. We returned in October to see what we had missed in the mist, and, being blessed with perfect weather, had a marvellous time. The entire week-end was spent on tracks with the exception of a few quiet lanes. Our base was the youth hostel at Whitwell, and from there we investigated the recent landslide at Blackgang Chine. From there we rode under the shadow of Chillerton Down, through Shorwell then turned left onto a familiar track which eventually led to Freshwater. After a welcome brew-up on top we emerged into the depths of Brightstone Forest with its maze of inviting tracks. On emerging we continued on along the top of the cliffs and were rewarded with fine views of the Solent. The clifftop turf was as smooth as a bowling green, and with the track going down hill and a breeze partly behind us we fairly flashed down to Freshwater where we were disappointed to find the cafes already shut-up till next season. The following week-end we were made to pay for the good weather enjoyed the previous week, and the planned exploration of the Ashdown Forest area was deferred. However we did get the chance to try out a previously 'unknown' pub at Coxbrooke near Buxted and, in spite of the fact that there was no electricity due to the heavy rain, a good time was had by all. The afternoon was tiring as the bridle path chosen, after several miles, went straight through the middle of a ploughed field, with wheels clogging up within seconds. We eventually found the road again but too late for tea at Lewes; but a quick phone call to the cafe just outside Uckfield assured us of some refreshment on arrival. Apologies to any members who had turned up at Bull House. Eight members took part in the Brighton Mitre 'Egg and Bacon' 25 (to be honest, more for the food than the suffering) It was decided beforehand that we would each wait for each other up

Brighton Excelsior (continued)

the road and ride round together to the 12½ mile point and breakfast, which, we would continue with our official club-run. Unfortunately the first two, on meeting up, thought they would take a short cut and wait for the remainder at Cowfold, but they went so slowly that the 'bunch' was past Cowfold before them and, being unaware of the situation, did bit and bit trying to catch the first two who, in their opinions, must have gone absolutely off their heads. All of a lather we arrived at the feeding tent ready to play hell with them for causing us such discomfort, but of finding the tent empty, just had to laugh at the ridiculous situation. Needless to say, they turbed up about 24 minutes later! A nicely prepared breakfast washed down by one of the best cups of tea in Sussex was enjoyed, and after some social chit-chat the club-run continued. After the hair-raising descent of a 1 in 5 we went via Lydwell and West Hoathly enjoying the beautiful autumn tints on the way to an early dinner at Sharpethorne. At closing time we left and took the route through the old disused railway tunnel. (If anyone else does this do take care as there are several hazards.) The pace really hotted up at the other end of the tunnel, but being off the back had it's advantages as one could view the bodies flying through the air at great speed, the leaders having found the rope which a kindly farmer had tied across the track, no doubt as a cattle crossing. Not much harm had been done and the fast-moving bunch continued to the end of the track. Here we made a dramatic entrance to Horted Keynes station, much to the amazement of about 1-200 people who were waiting to photograph the 'Earl of Berkly' in full steam (this engine and 'Bluebell' had been hastily halted by a startled railway official as soon as we emerged on to the track). The bikes were nonchalantly parked on platform 4 while we boarded the waiting train, walked through to platform 3 and partook of refreshments in the station buffet. About 18 hilly miles were before us and tea at Bull House, Lewes, and with only an hour left we really had to get down to it. After a rest and light tea we slowly crawled home. One of our best week-ends of the year, however, was the hostelling one to Ewhurst on the Friday night and Hindhead on Saturday. Once again rough-stuff was incorporated on the old railway track from Cranleigh, the Godalming Navigaton tow path and Tilford Common, plus tracks encountered in the depths of the Devil's Punchbowls en route to the hostel at Hindhead. Despite the tears brought on by the 'never-stop-smoking' log fire, a really sociable evening was enjoyed by walker and cyclist alike. The following day we crossed into Hampshire, visited the charming village of Selborne and then made our way to Petersfield for dinner. We proceeded homewards under the shadow of the South Downs and

Brighton Excelsior C.C. (Continued)

thoroughly enjoying the pleasing lanes around Elsted, Diding and Bepton. Main road was tolerated from Cocking to Singleton, but after that we reverted to the lanes, suffering on the climb from East Dean, through Eartham Wood and Slindon and before long we were four abreast across Ford airport and sprinting for tea at Littlehampton. The 'Route' was taken on the way back from there - rather to the surprise of new member Andrew (wonder why we haven't seen him since!). Motorised trips were made to the showing of "Wheeler's World" in Kent and up to Surrey for Nevil Chanin's slide show, and both met with resounding approval. Nine of us attended the ESCA Party at Hellingly. Needless to say, after tea we were very keen to buy raffle tickets when we spied the edible prizes on the table. Alas, we were not among the fortunate winners, and it was necessary to stop at the pub in Ringmer for refreshment on the way home. Some jolly music tempted some members to stay behind, but some of us, who had breakfasted at 6-30 that morning and were feeling the effects of a long day, decided to press on and with keen member Terry at the front we were back in Brighton by 22-30 hours.

There were a few changes in club officials for 1972 decided at the recent A.G.M. However, after nine years John Roberts resigned from the position of Club Captain although he has accepted the Vice-Captain's job. John issued a letter to all members thanking them for their support during his years of office and recalled some of the good times experienced during those years. It is understandable that he would like a rest from this exacting position; and whilst things won't be quite the same, we feel sure the runs will in future be equally enjoyable under the supervision of the new Captain, Chris Beckingham. A list of relevant officials possibly of help to other clubs' officials and those of the Association is given below :-

Hon. General Sec. R.G. Stringer 81, St. Andrew's Road, Portslade-by-sea
BN4 1DD . Telephone Brighton 573723

Time Trial Sec. Dave Cox 10, Lucerne Road, Brighton 6.
B.C.F. Secretary Dave Edwards Framfield Road, Uckfield, Sussex.
Social Sec. R. (Dick) Jones 62, Grange Road, Hove BN3 5HW.
Press Secretary J. Roberts 94, Milner Road, Brighton.
Club Captain Chris Beckingham 59, Rose Walk, Worthing, Sussex.
Two new members were welcomed to the Committee, namely Roger Hughes (winner of the SCA 30 on 79 fixed and one-time leading light of the CTC West Sussex DA) and Ashley Leaney. Our Australian section is still being ably looked after by Brian Toghill; and we understand that Roger and Sheila Sturt are settling down in the 'Fatherland', and

With Roger Sturt's bikes going out shortly after Christmas the West German Excel should soon be on the road. (Morgans die Welt). Apart from the two or three 'temporary' members who are with us for the duration of their University and Teachers Training College courses, membership is slack with active/paying members now down to about 25. A future Excel is assured, however, with several members producing new additions to their family. Congratulations to Dick and Fran, who have a son James ; also to Doreen and John Spooner, Tim and Diane Keats. Sheila and Roger are expecting about March, while Mick and Doreen have been married now for three months !!

Fortunately, the job of doing a report for BONK is not mine for keeps, and the sooner the Pree Secretary commences his job the better for all of us. However, in view of the Editor's comments at the Esca A.G.M., I've done my best.

ROPEY RIDER

ESCA PARTY 1971

Only 54 people attended this function, a drop of more than 30 on last year ; and once again we had complaints about not enough food for the money. The caterer was approached and gave a break down of his prices, which showed that most people actually got a 'buckshee' cup of tea ! He reminded the organiser of the necessity to pay two people 50p per hour for Sunday work, which included preparing as well as serving the meal, and pointed out the higher cost of food these days. Apart from this, things proceeded smoothly, and the organiser wishes to thank all those who gave draw prizes, as well as Valerie Stringer and Messrs Johnson, Jones, Stevens, Dutson and another Excel member, for an interesting selection of slides. Many thanks to Ted Jarvis of the C.T.C. who so kindly supplied the projector as he did last year ; also a like number of apologies to Crow, who was unable to unleash the seven hundred or so slides he'd brought down "Just for a short programme, you know", as time ran out. Obviously the catering question has not been solved, and the matter will have to be aored at the next Association meeting.

Geoff Willcocks.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There have been two meetings of the Management Committee during the autumn, the first on October 11th and the second on November 15th. The first one was the date-fixing meeting for the 1972 programme, and with several other topics discussed, it was a lengthy meeting. Apologies for non-attendance were recieved from East Grinstead and Brighton Excelsior. The courses sub-committee reported it's work so far, with what seemed to be a satisfactory 10 course, nearly a circuit from Whitesmith through Halland, Ringmer and Laughton. They had also thought up a new Team T.T. course to avoid the undesirable crossing of the main road at Halland. The new course (approx. 29 miles) will be Hellingly-Halland-The Broyle-Ringmer-Glynde-Polegate-Boship. The meeting decided to leave the 50 course as it is, and to defer the 100 course until a future meeting. When the 1972 programme was fixed, it was decided to scrap the October 2-up, to hold the September 25 three weeks later, to give the badly-supported August 50 another rey, and to promote the Open 25 on July 30th in the hope of getting better support. The 100 and Hill-Climb will again be open. Two Saturday afternoon 10s will be promoted, the first on May 13th and the second on June 24th. It was stated that the RTTC, acting on the complaint about company riding in the 100, had suspended A.Obbard and A.Priddy from Nov.1st to next April 30th. The event organisers, Lewes, complained about the way in which the Management Committee had handled the matter, but it seemed that the trouble had been that certain officials and riders had gone away on holiday immediately after the event. Next year's points value was fixed at 15p per point, the poor financial situation not allowing any more. There will again be medals for the second and third best-all-rounders, and engravable awards for a minimum of seven points, lesser amounts getting a voucher. All BAR finishers will get a certificate. Entry fees will be 30p except for the 100, which will be 50p, and the Open 25 35p. After the racing matters there was some discussion about the duplicating of Bonk, and it was decided to leave this to the AGM. The second meeting was largely devoted to reviewing the Association trophies and finfing out which ones needed repairs or new bands for engraving. Roy Humphrey offered to donate a shield to be given to the winner of the points competition on condition that the Association pays for the engraving. The meeting was told that owing to difficulties at the proposed venue, the Luncheon could not now take place. Instead there would be a cycling supper on the evening before the planned luncheon date, and it would be held at Framfield Village Hall.

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Divided between several handicappers who, during the season, chose to forget that Crow, while he probably does more bum rides than anyone else outside the Chainwheel Creek bracket, can always be relied on to turn in a 1-5 when (a) He suddenly realises that he's got four weeks left to get a place in his club's B.A.R. contest ; (b) He just happens to feel in the mood.

COINCIDENCE OF THE YEAR (And the year before that and The Year Before That etc.....)

Every year at the beginning of October there just happens to be an advert for a certain make of bicycle on the same page as a large picture of the new British Best-All-Rounder .

NOVEL IDEA OF THE YEAR

Combined time-trial and pursuit match in Oldbury 25, perhaps inspired by the success of the Otley 12 hours four years ago. Surprise, surprise, Cottingham breaks comp. record and the event gets a big write-up in CYCLING.

FURORE OF THE YEAR

A.Engers and supporters versus the R.T.T.C.

MYSTERY OF THE YEAR

Who has been showing Derek Agg a copy of BONK before his club sec. has a chance to sell him one ?

UNFORTUNATE FORECAST OF THE YEAR

"We should do better in the Team Time Trial" Phil Edwards quoted in CYCLING early in August.

FLOP OF THE YEAR

The Association two-up 25 in October with only seven teams .

ESCA ENTHUSIAST OF THE YEAR

Pete Crowsley, who was on holiday in Aldeburgh at the time of the June 5th, and came back to Hellingly at a cost of several pounds in order to compete.

Awards Of The Year (continued)

The Kent rider who last July advertised in CYCLING for a young and attractive lady to go touring with him .

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LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

O.K. social season types, before complacency sets in we'll just remind you that it's only a matter of ten weeks or so before the old Hardriders forms start circulating - so go easy on the good life! The September 25 saw Steve Myatt's 1-6-57 hammering Andrew's by 1-21, with Whittington doing a 9-33 and Savage a minute slower. Steve carried on with the good work in the Sussex 30, in which his 19-25 gave him fourth place and also clobbered the handicap. Burbery did a '24' and Kilby a '28'. In the Mitre 2-up Steve and Dick managed a 5-26, despite the latter being shattered and hanging on in the last couple of miles; while Andrews/Burbery got round in 7-20. Much joy in the Worthing had Andrews and Savage back to 1-13s ; while Burbery and Kilby decided to be DNS after the unfortunate accident to Jeff Marshall. Savage joined forces with the Copper in the Esca 2-up , and they did a '9' : then in the afternoon the latter showed how wonderful our policemen are by assaulting the dreaded hill-climbing grind at Firle, and getting up in six minutes. Dick's 4-57 was the best performance by a club rider on this hill. Finally we had the Campag event, thrown in tremendous style by the Mitre. A great big hand to Robin Johnson and his confederates for putting on the best time trial seen in Sussex for many a year. Your scribe, surveying the happy hord at the finish, heartily agreed with the bloke who said "If only a few more Sussex events had this kind of support. Some of the atmosphere got into Steve, who crashed through the '5' barrier by five seconds, and had spectator Whittington saying "If only I'd entered this one". Burbery's 9-1 was 51 seconds too good for Savage who naturally had to wind up the season with a '9', and Kilby for some reason went right back to a '13'. After the remarks in this column last time, everyone was interested to see what Jill Clapton could do on a Sussex course : her awesome ride of 1-2-49, which clobbered a grand total of 70 of the males, tells it's own story ! Burbery decided to take to the 'mountains' and rationalise the figures for the bumpy Lewes-Godstone and Return place-to-place record held by the Copper in 3-8-3 for the 65½ miles. Pete's 3-0-43 on a none-too-easy morning was quite a ride. So after all the statistics had been computed it was found that Dick Whittington had clinched the club B.A.R. trophy - no mean feat in his first racing

Season - and Steve had grabbed the Edca Junior 25 'pot'. Apologies for an error last time. The '10' handicap winner was Eddie Wright, who just beat Tony Andrews, a right turn-up seeing that he only came back "for a bit of fun". Great handicapping by Peter Sharp here, as no more than 59 secs. covered the first six riders.

One October week-end saw a case of "hair today and gone tomorrow" by Andrew Myatt, whose mother objected to the length of his mane, and banished him from the house with a warning to get it cut - or else. When he hadn't returned after many hours, speculation ran rife until a phone call told her that he'd gone to think things over - in Paris! Eventually he slunk back, but as he hasn't been seen lately we're not sure if he's still in the throes of 'Scissorphobia' or whether he'll be changing his name to Sean! Having got over his knee trouble Trevor Wright sallied forth for a bit of nocturnal training, but in swerving to avoid an unlit pedestrian he piled up and became an 'egg-head', being bed-bound for a few days. Richard Isted, evidently not paying much ATTENTION to all the advice about riding head-down, did his best to push a car off the road. The owner didn't see the joke and brought in the police, since when there have been rumblings in high places about a charge of furious riding! He hasn't been around either, so we're half expecting to have to stand bail in the near future. Although not seen much on a bike these days 'Tourist' Agg just can't seem to lay those gremlins. While doing his bit (aptly enough) in the Touring Competition his car was rammed amidstips by another car at a road junction, and it's shape somewhat modified. Elizabeth was shaken up but fortunately no one was hurt and the family was able to do ample justice to the tea afterwards. On several occasions lately Derek has been hailed by clubmates but never seems to be aware of their presence. It's been suggested that we have a whip round for an ear trumpet and a strong pair of glasses! It's reported that Simon Myatt has ideas about taking up gliding. If he has as much trouble staying in the plane as he does on his bike, he'll wear out parachutes in record numbers!

With the social season gathering momentum, it's now time for the bit you've been waiting for. Yes, there will be a Lewes Dinner at the Elephant and Castle as usual, so once again put the date on your training charts as the final fling before the painful process of rehabilitation. This is Saturday, February 19th at 7-30 pm for 8, and the damage is 80p - cheap at half the price. Applications to G. Willcocks, 6a Broad Street, Seaford by Feb 16th at the latest. To our regulars we say come in out of the cold and treat yourself to a good meal and a first-class giggle. You won't be

disappointed, and as the man said when he saw the egg roll off the cliff, you've got to go a long way to beat it.

Well, that's it folks for this time, so all the best for the Christmas festivities, and keep the old wheels turning.

ALSORAN

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HERE AND THERE

Word has come from Lewes that whenever Derk Agg is asked to buy a copy of Bonk, he says "Too late - I've seen it." One suggestion up for consideration is that anyone found showing Aggy his copy be placed on scratch in all Association events next season.

Humphrey didn't break any records at the first BCF luncheon, but he did break a wine glass - cross toasting!

Cliff Sharp shows budding talent as a comedian. When the Sharpsmobile lost its front number plate, he said that he hadn't hurried to replace it because with it missing, people wouldn't readily recognise the vehicle.

One Esca Hill-Climb laugh was when some of the loudest shouts of "Up-Up-Up" were not for a rider but for the Sharpsmobile labouring mightily to the summit!

Cliff produced a classic shot of 'How Not To Do It' at the Party. It showed a time triallist going like the clappers but with a hirsute mass where his face should have been, and a line of vision extending back under his saddle. Cliff challenged anyone to identify the culprit, when Willcocks said "It's you, mate - I recognise the fork ends".

When R.H. was re-elected Hon. Sec. at the AGM, it was pointed out that he had now held the position for 25 years. Robin Johnson commented "The first 25 years are the worst".

News has reached us that due to some enormous chronological miscalculation, Crow has joined the West Kent Youth (yes - youth!) Orchestra. He is reported to have said that it's just as bad as road racing as they all go too fast for him.

Latest news of the Sharpsmobile is that it has lost its front number plate, but Cliff found another one on the dump, and was delighted to find that the letters and numbers almost matched!

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

TIME TRIAL LEAGUE

1971

CLUB	HARDRIDERS 15	25 MEN	25 LADIES	2-up T.T.T.	10 LADIES	10 SCHOOLBOYS	25 MEN	25 LADIES	50 MEN	50 LADIES	100 MEN (open)	100 LADIES	50 MEN	50 LADIES	25 MEN (open)	25 LADIES	2-up T.T.T. MEN	2-up T.T.T. LADIES	OPEN HILL CLIMB	TOTAL
EASTBOURNE ROVERS C.C.	25	16	12				21	18	18	19	15	25	20	7	15					161
CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.	10	7	10				9	18	6	7	3	20	8	2						119
BRIGHTON MITRE C.C.	5	19				9	16	6		8	3	3	5							70
SOUTHBOROUGH & DISTR. WHS.	2	4		4			3			8	3	2						10		35
BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR C.C.		2		8			6	2	2									5		25
LEWES WANDERERS C.C.								4		8	2			4				4		22
HASTINGS & ST. LEONDS. C.C.										5	4			6						15
CRAWLEY WHEELERS													3	3						6
EAST GRINSTEAD C.C.				2																2

Winter draws on (or drawers), and looking back at the autumn from the depths of the social season, we seem to have had a very good year. The quarter started with Adrian 'getting under' to the tune of 58-53 in the Colchester Rovers event during the Bank Holiday week-end and Robin returned the best 12 hrs. by a club member for some years with 238 miles. Our open two-up had a disappointing entry, but was a go event on the day with a close tussle between Wiseman/Dobson of the Comrades and Fagg/Edwards of the Middlesex, Adrian and Robin being placed third. We have moved the event to March 26th next year in the hope of catching the locals when they are feeling a bit keener.

The Campagnolo Trophy 25 went very well, after lots of hard work by Robin before the day, and virtually every member of the club on the day. Willi Moore's 56-20 on a very cold morning shows that it is the riders who make the times and not the courses. Cliff Sharp's 58-11 also (I think) equals his best in Sussex. Robin's long-term scrounging exercise before the event also left us with a reasonable profit on the event. Our least competitive event of the season was the Eggand Bacon 25, which is usually an excuse for some of the 'old crocks' in the club to brush the rust off their irons and stagger round the course. However this year they were a bit thin on the ground, being represented only by Bill Sladen, as I hesitate to bracket Alan Limbrey in that category. Alan is yet another contemplating a comeback. What with Alan Packett, Maurice Wyatt, myself and Alan, our racing team for 1972 could look a bit superannuated.

Having temporarily exhausted racing topics, we turn to the social season, the first event in my calendar being the BCF lunch at Shoreham. This was a first try, after hearing moans over the years about medals going astray. Most of the prizewinners attended, and I think it was a successful 'do'. The ESCA Touring Competition was, I thought, very ably organised by John Dutson. Shame on the Mitre for being represented only by car-borne travellers, but the weather dissuaded our sole rider. Still, letting the cars have a go did get a lot of people out to an Esca event that has been sometimes poorly supported. Our club dinner followed on November 27th, the move from the now defunct Arnold House to the Black Swan proving a success, with a bigger attendance than for many years, and a most enjoyable evening. The lion's share of the prizes was taken by Robin and Adrian, with John Yardley and Keith Chandler taking most of the remainder. Main Speaker was Duncan Miller of Fyffes, who mentioned plans for getting top continental trackmen to the Park for our Fyffes meeting next year.

Our AGM saw a bit of a turn round on the committee, Bill retiring as chairman and Jean Hayler retiring from the treasurer's job. Stan Shirley is now chairman with Robin taking over the moneybags, and Maurice Wyatt replacing Robin as T.T. secretary. I don't think it does any club harm to have a change, as the more people there are in the club capable of handling the various jobs, the better. Aloran's comments about people who gripe and groan during the season getting along to the AGMs didn't seem to go home in the case of BCF members, so I trust we can assume that there were no complaints on the season's happenings.

Mention in last issue's Herer And There about Crow and Aloran writing Bank notes on the back of possibly compromising literature made me write these notes on previously unsullied paper.

That's all for now - see you at the Hardriders.

K.M.W.

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Your President For 1972

The Association's President for 1972 will be Stan Curtis of the Crawley Wheelers; who is one of that club's leading officials. We do not think that readers would expect too much in the matter of being first man off in the Hardriders, as Stan is not known as a racing man, though he may have been in the past. Perhaps his club will once again contribute some notes, and let us know about this.

Lighting Tip

Complaints are understandably frequent about rattling and flickering front battery lamps. However, the Editor has found one which is quite an improvement in, of all places, Woolworths. The lamp in question is the 'Vesta' lamp, which is a standard size front lamp taking the usual double-cell battery. It seems to be made of strooger metal than some other makes, has an efficient tumbler switch, does not rattle or flicker, and has chrome which so far has not started to flake.

Had I written this report on my birthday it would still have been a couple of days late : as it is I'm now a week down on sched. but for those dear kind friends who have been asking for at least the past five years whether I'm a vet. yet, the answer is no, and what's more not for a couple of years yet.

The Southboro' autumn scene has been enlivened by the introduction of cycle popo. Pete Wall has been it's protagonist since he joined the club, and has written enormous articles in the club mag' on this aspect of the sport. It was gratifying to see that Pete's enthusiasm didn't fall on stony ground ; and one crisp November Sunday morn the club assembled on Tonbridge playing fields with members of the Norwood Paragon as tutors and also loaners of machines and equipment. The morning's entertainment produced no scores but generated more keenness, with not surprisingly our rough-stuff king Robin Howard seemingly our most natural polo man. Whether a Southborough polo team will come into being as in the thirties, only time will tell. Reverting back to the racing season, the season ran out pretty true to form with Malc Withers winning his first club BAR by a fair margin from Ron Hayward, followed by Crow, Geoff Withers and George. Paul Woodman took the junior BAR by a mere 4mph from his brother Ian ! A couple of '58's helped here as they did in the 25 Champs. which Paul also won from Royston. It was this championship table that caused most interest through the year, with positions always in a state of flux till the final event. While the outstanding weather of the '71 autumn will be remembered for years to come, it was noticeable that this anti-cyclone weather brought in a rash of misty mornings that were also cold and damp into the bargain. I'll remember it for entering a 'month of n25s' and having to start no higher than No.15 in any of them ; and, having got colder and wetter on each ride, retired after a bitter Gravesend 25 only to miss a float morning on the marshes. Our hill-climb strength was weakened by the withdrawal of Royston, who was scouring the country for late 10s in order to beat Paul for the 10 mile championship : in the end they tied for premier position. The anti gravity season opened with a club event up Ide Hill, in which Geoff narrowly beat Malc with everyone else some way back ; and this was repeated in the afternoon in the KCA climb, with Geoff increasing his margin to 8 seconds. Our chances of a team win in the Esca climb were dashed when Malc arrived too late from doing a '2' in the Brentwood 25 : Geoff and Crow finished 5th and 7th respectively. It was indeed rewarding after all the grunting and groaning was over to relax at the summit of Waterworks Hill and, in convivial company, drink tea and view the late afternoon panorama of the Weald. Glorious.

In contrast it poured buckets for the Catford, causing the lower slopes to resemble a cycl-cross. Crow had Geoff by three fifths of a second, but this was reversed on the result sheet, The weather cleared for the Bec in the afternoon when Geoff was three seconds too good for Crow. Other things come to mind like Malc getting under the hour in the Rapier event with 59-17. The season-long scrap between Ian Woodman and Adrian Harrison for second place in the Junior BAR - taken by the former. Jacko's personal best in the West Suffolk 12hrs of 219 miles. Not forgetting young Francis Abbot who, having tasted the 'big time' by winning the handicap in the final club 25, announced his retirement from cycle racing and said he would sell his bike "probably to some professional for about £100" so he could take up go-cart racing. !

Spider Dunford organised our open tourist comp. on November 14th with several innovations, one of which was turning it into a two-stage event. He certainly picked a fine day. Pete Baker's car rally experience in the speed judging and 'tulip' sections saw him win the morning section, while Robin Howard made top points in the afternoon map-reading section. Robin and Crow tied for first place overall, with our new member from Liverpool, Dave Joyce, making third spot, and Bob Liddiard, making his debut in these things fourth. Interestingly, twelfth and last place went to one Withers G (retired on stage 2), on which more anon. The following week Johnny Dutson put on his new-style Esca touring comp. which admitted a class for motorists, much to the consternation of those who felt that things were not like this in the old days. By the end of the event, however, I think everyone was agreed that this innovation was a good one, not only because of the size of the entry, but also making the event a very family and social affair which was typical of the Association. Results showed that Robin won the floodlit obstacle event, Yours Truly pipped Geoff Boxall in the free-wheeling competition, and Robin and Geoff won the team award - and very fine prizes they were too. Many thanks to Stan and Joan Shirley for cooking up a much needed meal, and to Eric Kent, who nearly froze at his marshalling point in the afternoon.

With the deletion of the 12 hours the AGM is providing a fair substitute. Our team don't seem to have quite got the measure of this event, and after a bright start Malc, Geoff and Dawn were 'sold out' well before the circuit - I mean Any Other Business was reached. In contrast the Exel, led by Dick Jones, really shooed stamina in debate, while Rick enlivened the final minutes. The ensuing slide show had a strangely Gallic air thanks to John and Ken, the home area being well represented by Val Stringer.

The Southboro' social front has been left till last as to some this represents a recurrence of former glories. It would appear that the East Surreys are responsible for leading some club members astray, as Lou, Spider, Bryan, Pete Wall, Jacko and Royston cycled to the East Surrey stag party at Merstham. Having enjoyed dubious humour, songs and Alcohol they attempted to cycle home. For those who wish to dwell on the morbid details there are two long and somewhat conflicting articles in the Nov. and Dec. issues of the club mag. Suffice to say that most of the party arrived home after 2 am in various states of disrepair, including a short-distance 'ace' who was stopped twice by the police for being incapable, slept most of the night in a phone box, and finally took three hours to traverse Southborough - arriving home at 8 am ! The salutary lessons of this expedition was unlearnt however, as a fortnight later another party, by mini-bus this time, attended the East Surreys' dinner in South London. Again I have conflicting reports of a "terrific time", biliousness striking before the soup was served, and inert gentlemen being carried from the loo to the mini-bus when the event was over. Glad they enjoyed it. At least it offers an explanation as to why Geoff W. finished 8 mins. down in the 15 mph speed judging section of the Touring Comp. next morning. Next Saturday the club's dinner will be upon us, and I await with bated breath the events of that evening. A front line report will have to wait until the next Bonk unless you're lucky enough to have a ticket.

This only leaves me to now wish everyone a happy Christmas and an enjoyable 1972 ; and to our President-elect better get training Stan, the Hardriders isn't far off and you're No.1.

CROW

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H E R E _ A N D _ T H E R E

We've sometimes heard R.H. described as an old woman, but was that really a Womens' Institute diary he had at the AGM ?

Further progress in the Permissive Society - two male members of the Rovers were seen aboard a Claud Butler tandem, attached to which was a sidecar and a child. We've heard of consenting adults but this is ridiculous.

Robin Buchan to Cliff Sharp at Eastern Counties 100. "Why are you locking the van. Cliff, no-one is going to steal that !"

Once more an apology is due to the Editor for the late submission of these notes (Indeed, I should perhaps assure him that they are for the Xmas issue, and not early for Spring !); but my head is still reverberating with phrases like "all in favour", "point of order" "Mr Chairman" and "that contravenes regulation 3,000". From which you will gather that I'm suffering from a surfeit of AGMs and committee meetings, five in the space of eight days to be precise.

Our club AGM was one of the 'fearsome fivesome', but I did at least manage to avoid the onerous job of secretary, which Graham has given up because of a change of job and a hoped-for move to the Crowborough area. (The problem is finding property at less than £14,000 ; though why anyone should pay to live on these arctic slopes I can't imagine.) An ominous silence at the meeting was ended by Iris volunteering to take over from Graham. Thanks to the sterling efforts of Cliff as treasurer (We only get his signature on a cheque by employing a pseudo autograph hunter), we can at least report a healthy financial position, although in common with most clubs in this area, we have myriad other problems ! One thing is certain, we won't be able to accuse Cliff of embezzlement as long as the club can make a profit and he retains GJK 263 ! Cliff had to miss the last club committee meeting because said vehicle had shed a number plate, but this has been remedied after masterly adaptation of a plate from another local wreck !

Congratulations are due to Cliff for gaining third place in the CTC Best-All-Rounder competition behind Robin Buchan - his best placing yet. His best 25 of the year was finally 56-55 in the Oldbury event on K16 ; but this was clearly a poor ride really, since he was beaten by six minutes by some new racer by the name of Cottington ! Cliff always reckons he starts enjoying his racing once the 12 hour punishment is out of the way ; and he obviously enjoyed winning the final SCA and ESCA 25s with '59s', taking second place behind Brown in the Worthing 25, and a fine 6th place in the Mitre Campag event with 58-11, in which connection congratulations to Robin for a superbly organised event. My appreciation of the event was, however, somewhat marred by finding on my return from holiday that a minute had been added to my time, with the result that I became another victim of the flying Jill Clapton ! Maurice and Ken backed Cliff in the Association open 25 to a team victory in an incredibly close contest, and thereby ensured that the Rovers retained the points league 'crown'. Just to rub it in, however, young Terry Leach dragged a suffering Ken to

Eastbourne Rovers C.C. (Continued)

a fine 1-1-37 in the Association 2-up25, a slow start losing them first place to J.D. and K.A. by just two seconds ; then in the afternoon Maurice and Terry took 3rd and 4th places in the Hill-Climb behind the Luton pair, with only two fifths of a second separating them. As a final racing note, warm congratulations to John D. for an emphatic B.A.R. win in his presidential year.

With racing out of the way, diverse activities were enjoyed by the club. The Ladies took to the aforementioned house-hunting, Cliff to hibernation, and Ken to knocking his house about ; but Maurice disappeared immediately after the Mitre 25 on a week's tour (yes, on the bike !) to the Wye valley and Devon in superb weather. Cliff had made his now habitual pilgrimage to the Lakes a little earlier, but other than awesome mutterings of "Gatescarth Pass" and "Black Sail Pass" little can ever be gleaned about these trips, although 56-43 was done on K16 as an afterthought on the return journey. A few fitness fanatics can now be observed grunting and straining at various bizarre exercises on club nights, although strangely so far more non-racing than racing members are involved. Cliff has however threatened to join in any time now - he'll probably need it as he seems to be adopting a policy of week-end abstinence (he doesn't ride the bike either !). The social season seems to get shorter every year, and my 1972 diary already has so many entries, ranging from CTC walks to Pink Floyd concerts (I wonder if 'Philharmonic Pete' Crowsley has heard of 'Pink Floyd') that I'm sure the Hardriders will be here before the Mitre 25 dirt is cleaned off my racing iron !

A merry christmas to all our readers : that reminds me, I once saw that as the first 'entry' on a newly whitewashed lloo wall !

THE MOOR

CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

Well, if I'm not too late for publication here we are again at the end of another successful season. Fourteen trophies have been awarded, with the Cuckfiled Shield for the B.A.R. going to John Dutson with an average speed of 24.304 mph. The outcome of the B.A.F. was a very close thing between John and Ron Rogers, and the final average speed was a record. The following members gained awards gold standards during the year. Ron Ewart - bronzes at 25, 30, 50 and 100 miles ; Ron Rogers - gold 25 and 100, silver 50, bronze 30 ; Paul Lipscombe - silver 25 and 50 ; Bob Prunty - silver 25 and 50 ;

Central Sussex C.C. (continued)

Hilary Nickless - bronze 25.

It's nice to have a lady member actively racing again ; indeed I quote the Evening Argus of October 26th which stated "It was really this vivacious 18 year old blonde who stole the Sussex limelight " when referring to her excellent 3rd place in the Mitre's open event, ladies section. The paper carried a large photo of Hilary to boot. At least a lady in the club will stir up the scandal, (Woppit rubs hands in glee). At a second attempt, Paul Lipscombe broke the Cuckfield-Horsham-Cuckfiled record by a fantastic two whole seconds. The time of 53-13 for the 22 miles finally beat Howard Burrell's four year old record. Brian Hone appeared for the first time this season in the Bognor 25 and returned 1-10-30. His recent change of job brought a pledge of getting fit by riding to work. However, Marjory and the car seem to be more important than training so far ! The Norwood Paragon 50 brought success to the Central with Paul's second ride at the distance giving him a win in 2-7-35. Ken (the Burgess Hill one), won the vets' section with 2-11-59, and with Alan Robinson's 2-17-22 we took the team as well. On the subject of 50s, John's 1-57-10 in the Viking RC event was a new club record. Viking Road Club 50s always remind woppit of the eventful failure and miseries many years ago on the back of a tandem with Dutson driving. Attempting to produce a record for this distance on a twicer, the pair ended up travelling back from the turn on the back of a coal lorry ! Who handicapped the Esca 25 that gave John a handicap award ? Must be some sort of a record - bet he'll be owing minutes next time!

The club dinner will be on January 22nd ; please note this date in your diary as the entertainment event of the year. Tickets are available from Michael Wren, 22, Shepherd's Walk, Hassocks, Sussex. and will cost around £1, which can't be bad. It was nice to see John Gals worthy around again during the summer. He's now returned to the Antarctic, and it is mooted that Crow is very pleased as the competition with the ladies was getting a bit fierce. Central results in the Esca tourist trial were certainly none too good when it came to sign-post questing. Rumour has it that there was too much questing with/for Hilary. Those of us with memories of Escaland in days of yore, will not be too astounded to learn that Arthur Thorpe's exploits with the fair sex led him to some pretty remote parts of the county, and he knew all the signposts !

That's about it for now, except the story of Ron Rogers and his car. When he let the handbrake off outside his garage

1972 Road Time Trials Programme As Approved By The RTTC

Sunday February 27th 16 Miles Hardriders G.895

Promoter Brighton Excelsior C.C.

Sunday April 9th 29 Miles 2-up team time trial

Promoter P.J.Crowsley Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent

Sunday April 30th 25 Miles

Promoter D.Neeves 19, East Parade, Hastings, Sussex G.833

Saturday May 13th 10 Miles

Promoter D.Neeves.

Sunday June 11th 50 Miles

G.851

Promoter R.Johnson 35, Park Avenue, Shoreham-by-sea

Saturday June 24th 10 miles

Promoter A.J.Bathurst 19, Forest Grove, Tonbridge, Kent.

Sunday July 2nd 100 Miles Open

G.861

Promoter G.Willcocks 6a, Broad Street, Seaford, Sussex.

Sunday July 30th 25 Miles Open

G.833

Promoter R.Humphrey 4, Ebenezer Cottages, Framfield, Uckfield.

Sunday August 13th 50 Miles

G.851

Promoter Mrs V.Baxendine 111, Blount Avenue, East Grinstead, Sussex.

Sunday September 24th 25 Miles

G.833

Promoter K.L.Atkins 'Wheelers', Valebridge Road, Burgess Hill, Sx.

Sunday October 8th Open Hill-Climb West Firle

Promoter G.Willcocks 6a, Broad Street, Seaford, Sussex.

NOTE All events are open to Men and Women

Entry Fees Open 100 miles 50p ; Open 25 miles 35p ;
Team Time Trial 60 p per team ; other events 30p

Anyone requiring more details of the above events, please contact
the Association Racing Secretary, Mrs I.Stevens, 3, Lansdowne Crescent,
Hailsham, Sussex.

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