



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

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# East Sussex Cycling Association

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## EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No.40

NEW YEAR 1973

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&  
Treasurer

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### EDITORIAL

Many cyclists, far too many, are being taken to hospital with serious injuries as a result of being run down by motor vehicles, with the incident of the car cutting down the cyclist by turning left across his path assuming epidemic proportions. This does not take into account the frequent occasions when cyclists are left angry and shaken after narrowly escaping this fate by luck or fast reactions. Time after time the offending motorist offers the same excuse, "I didn't see you", and as many of these incidents happen in broad daylight, one begins to have thoughts about just how good some of these drivers' eyesight might be. These suspicions were confirmed when the British School Of Motoring conducted a stringent test on volunteers at the last Motor Show, resulting in a horrifying rate of failure varying from 33% on one day to 53% on another. This proves what cyclists have long suspected, that a terrifying proportion of the people driving cars have eyesight so defective that they should not be driving at all. That being so the only way to survive on the road is to assume at all times that the motorists cannot see you; it's all too probable that up to a half of them can't.

D.N.

Here we are at the end of another year. The start of 1973 will see many of our member clubs holding their dinners during the first few weeks, including of course, our own Prize Presentation and Supper at Framfield on February 10th. These functions always attract a large number of visitors from the other clubs in the area and give everyone a chance to renew old friendships and gossip over a pint or two.

With the increase in the sale of cycles by the large manufacturers, an opportunity is possibly open to us to make every effort to increase the membership of our clubs. Both the B.C.F. and the C.T.C. membership is on the upward trend, especially in the Western and North-East parts of the country; and with a little more effort on the part of all of us I feel that we should be able to arrest the drop in membership within our clubs.

The coming year sees no change in the officials of the Association, with the exception of the President; and I feel sure that Ken Stevens will uphold the traditions of his predecessors. The time trials programme for the coming season follows the same pattern as last year. The Hardriders event has been put back to the first week-end in March, which will enable us to have the use of Hellingly Village Hall for the event. A list of the opening events and their promoting secretaries appears on another page; and all intending competitors are asked to make sure they send their entries to the correct person.

With the annual Childrens' Party (which will be a thing of the past by the time you read these notes), the usual draw on the Grand National, and the question of a Touring Competition to be resolved at a Management Committee meeting early in January, we shall have a pretty full year. At the Annual General Meeting discussion took place as to what our trophies were presented for; and in our next issue I will endeavour to give a brief description of our main trophies and what they are awarded for.

In conclusion may I remind all of my readers that our Prize Presentation is being held on February 10th at Framfield: full details will shortly be circulated to all clubs.

Here's wishing everyone a successful 1973.

R.H.

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As a working housewife - cum - mother - cum - mechanic - cum - secretary etc. etc. this must be a short report as time is near Christmas and is precious. On top of everything else one of my daughters has 'flu, so I am not the slightest bit in the mood for writing Bonk notes. The only thing I must mention is our Dinner. Unfortunately we clash with the Rovers this year on February 3rd. It is a long story which I shall proceed to bore you with. We booked the Red Barn for Jan. 13th some time ago, only to find now they have changed hands. The price went up and we had no choice of band, and could not have our disco'. So a change of venue was found at the Ashdown Forest Golf Hotel, Forest Row, the date arranged for Jan. 20th, the disco' booked etc. Then I was told not to have that date as we would clash with the Central, Redhill and Croydon Premier; and as this would have taken about half our guests I changed the date again to Feb. 3rd. the only date still free. By this time I was getting decidedly unpopular with the disco'. Now of course I find I clash with the Rovers, but I am sorry - I refuse to change it all again. Next year if we like our new venue we will book very early for our usual day, early January 1974. Our guests for '73 are Pete Duker and his wife. We are hoping to get a song from Pete, but apparently it depends on how much booze we get in him first! Our other guest is Mrs Molly Sale of Woodgate Dairies, who sponsors our Carnival Road Race each year. Tickets are £2 .50 each or £1 .50 for schoolboys, from Mick Robinson, 1, West View, Eastbourne Road, Blindley Heath, nr. Lingfield, Surrey.

We regret that our Fred Marshall got knocked off his bike recently. He does not know what hit him but he has been in a bad way and is still suffering from a broken collar bone. He is home but will not be going to work for some time. I should like to take this opportunity to wish him well from all of us Escabods and bodesses. Our President, Keith Butler was another car victim, but it seems his bike came off worse than he did, and it was not long before he was pushing the pedals again. Apart from that there is no more news or even scandal, not that I know of anyway. I hope you are all enjoying the social season in true cyclists fashion. Best wishes for the new year from all of us in our corner of Sussex.

VAL

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Having been recently elected to this honourabel post of Press Secretary, I am, as a result, completely without notes ( as they say in Fleet Street), so the memory bank is due for upheaval. The new English invasion of Germany took place recently when six of the Excel went to visit Roger Sturt and Sheila, our club's exiles in Frankfurt. For most of us it was our first trip by hovercraft ; so naturally it was a wild and windy night at Ramsgate when we left. Has anyone else sat on a big dipper for fifty minutes ? If not, try Hoverlloyd. It was an interesting week -end ; sampling the German beer, boulder-rolling and shopping ; which resulted in a 110 mph dash down the Autobahn (we were not on our bikes) to arrive at Calais just in time to see the last hovercraft of the night depart. At times like these the only thing to do is to have lots of beer and sleep in the local park. This we did, and woke resembling a club of Spotty Muldoons having been the victims of some hungry French insects. Carefully avoiding quarantine we eventually arrived home just twenty four hours late ! Although we have been quiet on the racing scene during the past season, with the exception of Roger Hughes and John Spooner, the touring and clubrun side has been very active. A couple of incidents that come to mind of clubrun occurences were (1) the meeting on the South Downs Way at Graffham Down of a completely naked pedestrian (male, 20'ish) with whom we exchanged pleasantries and dragged Val away ; (2) the finding of a tree root by John Roberts which resulted in his frame, an Alan Shorter, being just that - by about 3 ins. (Offers for a 37" wheelbase touring iron to Sheepcote Valley please).

On a recent hostelling week-end to the Isle of Wight we were unable to find a breakfast in Newport, so, in desperation, we marched into the biggest hotel we could find, where, after a courteous reception we were accepted as fairly normal and for 60p had a superb meal, also discovering that upon request one could order extra toast ad infinitum at no extra cost - so we did ! For the railway enthusiasts the week-end included a trip on the preserved stretch of line at Haven Street. In contrast to this plethora of food was the youth hostelling week-end to Inglesham. Following a splendid film show given by John Wheat we headed south into the wind and rain. Hungerford (there's a name!) was deadly, Newbury was deserted, the A4, despite it's hallowed connections, was darned hard, and it was not until Reading that we ate, and how ! Just to prove we did these things (and others) we held a film show (slides and movie) at the club room which attracted a good crowd, including some members from

other Esca clubs. The evening was organised by Mike Stringer and was most successful. As was the case last year, membership numbers did not warrant a club dinner on traditional lines, so sixteen of us, shepherded by Dick Jones, spent an evening wining and dining at 'The Abinger' (sin centre of the South ?).

At last word has been recieved from our Aussie member, Brian Toghill, who has been silent for about six months. He reports that he was busy making repairs to a Youth Hostel at Port Headland, and modestly admits that the 1400 A.dollars spent on renovations was his own hard earned money - saved for a round-the-world trip ( now postponed). The Excelsior cupids have been at it ! John Roberts announced his engagement to Gill, and Kevin and Margaret have named the day as January 20th 1973. Congratulations to them all. With the S.C.A. Luncheon on the 21st of January, brewery shares could well be up that week-end !

Well, here endeth my first attempt at the written word, and I will leave you pondering about the man who saved up his luncheon vouchers and bought a dinner suit. .... Here's wishing everyone in the E.S.C.A. good cycling in 1973 from the Excel.

A. RANDONNEUR

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J Stands For Juggernaut

When I composed my editorial for the Autumn edition (writes the Editor), I did not foresee how quickly the groundswell of public concern about inter-continental freight lorries would increase to a raging storm. By early November the word "juggernaut" had become the popular synonym for a large commercial motor vehicle ; and since then one can hardly open any national or local newspaper or magazine without finding feature articles, news items and letters to the editor on the vexed question of these monsters of the road. There have been numerous Questions In The House, the hassling about total weights and axle loadings are still going on in Brussels, the East Sussex County Council has brought out a routeing plan which it is hoped will be adhered to by the lorry owners, some Mayfield residents have proposed that the disused railway line should be used to make a Mayfield by-pass, and two Hastings town councillors tried to get the local authority to ban giant lorries from the town, only to find

(Continued Overleaf)

J Stands For Juggernaut (Continued)

that there is no law which would empower them to do this. Much more will be heard on this subject ; and many peoples' feelings about it were summed up succinctly in an article in Saturday Tit-Bits which ended with these words, ".....we must not let our relentless pursuit of economic growth drive England's once green and pleasant land to the brink of becoming Europe's battered, tatty lay-by."

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CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

There are some days in one's life when E.S.P.(extra sensory perception)for those who don't read science fiction),or divine intervention become significant. December 18th was one such day ; but alas the voice calling from afar was not saying that our 5p pools syndicate had scooped half a million pounds,but that the Central's notes might not make Bonk. The lateness was caused by mental exhaustion brought on by watching fifteen aficionados scaling the heights of Handcross in the Winter 10½ mls. T.T. Not that they were trying mind you. Ron Rogers freewheeled past with his gear flapping in the breeze. The Ewart/Boore battle was in full flow,the advantage seeming to lie with the one carrying least weight. Alan Robinson,trying to "Take the Waiting Out Of Wanting",was in training for the Dulwich Paragon Xmas 25. The Mitre contingent were in hot pursuit of Hilary,and she(perhaps characteristically ?),wasn't trying too hard to get away.However,mention must be made of the winner,our all-Essex boy,the big E course basher,Robin Johnson,who frightened me,I'll tell you ! Nevertheless,good luck for next season,Robin : anyone who tries so hard in winter deserves to succeed. The lucky competitors retired to the White Harte at Cuckfield for afters,and Young Thropp had to take the kids home. And so from one zoo to another. Two rather rare beasts have re-emerged recently,namely Central Sussex On Tour and Central Sussex On Clubrun. Ron Ewart,Rod andChris Laker attacked the lanes and hills of Exmoor in late summer (the motorised contingent will remain anonymous); Dut saw the ponies which Chris nursed,and visited the Dart Valley Railway). Ron was in fine form and smashed off Chris by half a wheel up DunkeryBeacon. The St.Budeaux 25 on The Cop was memorable only for the dismal lack of support and for allowing the promise of handicapper-baiting next season with "Held up 1 min. by fox hunt" in the 'State Reason For Delay' column. As it was a touring holiday I'll spare you all the times. An even rarer sight has been the Central club run with the

Central Sussex C.C. (Continued)

numbers varying from six to fourteen.Things are looking up in this department,and all credit must go to Geoff Boore for producing the action. Boore has lost several stones already,and so is now able to rival Muhammed Ali both for loquacity and weight. Whether he will take the £1 from Ron Ewart for beating him at any distance next year I will leave for all to savour.

I suppose it is traditional in the winter Bonk to survey the past racing season and your own club's efforts in particular. Collectively support has been substantial in East Sussex events as usual. We won the Team B.A.R. by default again. Is there no other club in the Association with three riders man enough to finish the 100 ? (Incidentally Crow,you can't claim last individual place in the B.A.R.old bean - I licked you hollow). Don Awcock and Paul Lipscombe continue to improve in the road racing sphere : it is perhaps a pity that Don doesn't have Paul's adventurous spirit,as one feels that he could perhaps produce a few shocks in national calibre fields. It is regrettable that the club did not promote any road races in 1972 ; the 2nd and 3rd category event in particular will have been missed. Once again we must raise our racing hats to Lewes Wanderers for their outstanding contribution to this area's Divisional activity. Hilary and Chris have swelled the ladies' racing scene in all the right places : and the closest call came when Chris freewheeled over the line in an evening 10 to find that Hilary had beaten her by one sec. Chris,as many will know,produced the only P.B. in the Campag' event and that after fading and losing about two minutes in the last five miles.

Woppit is rumoured to be in Canada,so that's why Y.T. is chewing over the fat with you again. So.....let's end with a bit of controversy for Dennis to toy with over the pud. There was enough money given away in prizes in the one Mitre Campag' event to have kept the whole of Sussex in racing for twelve months. (Mitre,this doesn't imply criticism,so don't take offence : I'm still recieving letters from irate old ladies in Edenbridge and Hastings about the facade affair). Finally what are the chances of having a nostalgic 12 hours event in 1974 to remind some of us where East Sussex really is. (Why not ask the Sussex Costabulary Traffic Superintendent and the club people who would be needed for marshalling ? Ed.).

See you all soon.....

YOUNG THROPP

P.S. Who said I couldn't write Central Bonk notes without mentioning John,Ken or Barbara ? And look out for the new names on the '73 start sheets.

## SOUTHBOROUGH AND DISTRICT WHEELERS

"Tell me", said Dawn, who was rushing off an article for the club mag', "What do you consider your best performance this year?" "Madam" I intoned sternly, "Is it not enough that Lord Longford is attempting to save the masses from corruption and depravity by trying to ban Men Only; do you wish for the Southborough Gazette to wallow in the depths of carnal lust? Do you....." "Actually I was really referring to your cycling performances" she said. And she was too. It was all part of the super 40th anniversary edition of our magazine which appeared at the club dinner and will shortly be available in paper-back. This tome was edited by Val Peachey just before she produced her 9lb. daughter: wonder she could reach the typewriter keys with that lot inside her, and she certainly deserves the merit trophy for her efforts. Should you buy a copy you will learn what a marvellous club we are and our hopes for the future, but not, strangely enough, why we finished bottom of the Esca League table. I will supply the answer which is that the club is going through a sort of northern drift phase at the moment, someone having put round the rumour that if they go south their skins will turn brown and they'll be transported for life to Bradford, something like that anyway.

The season ran out with no surprises. Malc took his second B.A.R. from Alf and Les, Mick Hartley mopped up the short distance awards, Alan Brockington was the best junior and Ian Woodman took the boys' championship. Geoff Withers was unbeaten by club members in the hill-climbs but had a surprise when Bob Liddiard came within three seconds of him in the club event. A Southboro' quartet rode the final Association 25 where Geoff led our team of Doug Wright and Pete Wall with a 1-7-29. Crow managed an eight minute late start through mis-reading his start sheet (a novel excuse). The social season got under way if not with a bang then certainly with a crash when Spider piled up when returning from the Fellowship 'do' at Brightling. When released from hospital his facial expression looked like that of a stand-in for Hammer Films Inc. However, Spider was out and around in time to run our open tourist comp. with assistance from Alf. No outside riders but a good club entry had a dry day which brightened up in the afternoon. Speed-judging found Lou 11 minutes too fast, and the Question "What is free and white?" elicited several answers in the observation section, with most riders just putting "Miss X". After lunch at East Malling the afternoon was a map-reading scramble over the North Downs where Les scored top points and Crow lost them for arriving at a check without his bike.

## Southborough and District Wheelers (Continued)

However, Crow went on to his sixth win in this event with Malc coming second from Arthur Smith and Robin. This appears to have been Danny's last appearance on the club scene: he wasn't even at the dinner. A temporary lapse, we trust. Of the 79 people at our club's dinner on Dec. 9th the only Esca visitor was 'News-Hound' Neeves, who I trust found something suitable for Bonk, especially after his epic train journey home. A big thing was made of our 40th year, and who better to propose The Club than Ted Harrison, who gave us one of his fabulous speeches; sometimes funny, sometimes very moving, but never using 'old material'; how does he do it? A next-morning consensus indicated that it had more 'swing' than the previous year, and that Dawn had done a fine job of organisation. The East Surrey contingent only just available for comment, having been juggling-up before, during and after the dinner and up till 3-30 am at the Obbard household.

Did the Association A.G.M. have a record attendance? It looked like it. Southborough had five present and was able to 'loan' some members to the East Grinstead for voting purposes. The tourist comp. that wasn't took a time to sort out, and joined the list of 'unfortunate coincidences' events for which the past year has been notorious. Actually the day on which the comp. should have been held was pretty foul; and I think some of us up here were harbouring illusions of tea at West Blatchington and a long trek home. The same old firm seems to be running the show and with only the social events showing a profit maybe it's time to stop all this silly racing. Back to Southborough we find that welcome resurgence of the clubrun scene has occurred with a dozen plus out on morning hard rides. Our Autumn Fayre ably organised by Joyce Wright, raised £83 towards our new club room which was to have been started on the day of the club dinner but rain stopped play. Anyone with a spare JCB for trench-diggers would be most welcome. Meanwhile we are still to be found at Speldhurst on Fridays with cars that clog the entrance and water that falls on the table tennis table when it rains.

The club 'human relations' scene appears quite interesting, though who has and has not got their divorces through isn't quite clear. Babs and Bryan plan to marry in the spring, while Geoff and Malc are settling into their respective lives of domesticity. Two Southboro' ladies have had Pete Wall's babies this year; while Val Peachy and Ann Joyce have brought forth little ones but both categorically deny any connections with the aforesaid gentleman. Crow has been requested by an ex-cycling girl to take her to a club dinner (womens' lib. strikes again). Continued overleaf

Southborough And District Wheelers (Continued)

Readers with an interest in 'distance events may like to know that our A.G.M. on December 17th had an agenda covering 4½ foolscap pages and carried 41 motions ( I heard a rumour that the chairman left his watch at home and took a calendar to the meeting. Ed.) With luck it should finish in time for Christmas ! Among the items are two more designs for club racing vests now that our red and black 'vees' are out of fashion ; and a motion to change the club's name to "South - borough Wheelers". If this is passed then perhaps Bob and I will form the Touring Club of Edenbridge ! Anyway, you can always come and ride our 4 lap Boxing Day 10 if you're bored, but whichever way you spend the Yuletide season I trust you enjoy it.

CROW

December '72 wasn't the best of months for Crow (writes the Editor); perhaps his stars were in opposition instead of conjunction. On learning that a certain married lady was going to be in a club party travelling up to the Rainbow Room, he hurriedly booked a place, only to find on the night that the lady and her husband had cried off. Then at the Association A.G.M. he arrived very late as usual ; but the meeting had started twenty minutes late so he entered almost un-noticed by the delegates who were still straightening out their agendas and other 'bumf'.

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The Editor dropped a clanger or two in December as well. Expecting a visit from his sister, when the door bell rang he picked up a broom, held it 'at the ready', then flung open the door and bellowed "Halt - who goes there", to find himself confronted by a startled gas board man who had come to read the meter. This sort of thing must run in the family, because a few days later the Editor's nephew and some of his college pals came across an elderly lady swaying in the force 8 gale that was blowing at the time. Grabbing her by both arms, they shepherded her across the road, then found to their embarrassment that the poor old dear didn't want to cross the road - she was only trying to go round the corner !

The Editor had to do some quick thinking on his sister's last visit before Christmas. He usually plays her in with a few bars of 'Why Was She Born So Beautiful' on the piano, but on being reminded of the date, he hurriedly switched to 'The Most Beautiful Girl in the World'.

The Editor writes : Many cyclists are interested in the Arts, as anyone who has been to the Congress Theatre during ballet performances will have noticed ; so the following appreciation of the late composer Havergal Brian by Peter Crowsley should not be out of place in these pages.

Those who noted that the Sussex domiciled composer Havergal Brian died at Shoreham on November 28th might feel that this has no connection with cycling and Bonk. In fact it is a story of what might have been. Dr Brian died at the age of 96 after a lifetime of neglect, despite producing a fantastic musical output of 5 operas, 32 symphonies and a multitude of concertos and other works, most of which he composed after he was 80 ! He was the epitome of the sadly neglected genius whose music bore the stamp of greatness yet never caught on. I first came across his music in 1954, and although it wasn't until the sixties and after hearing his enormous 'Gothic' symphony that I came under the spell of his art. In recent years I have been trying to get his music recognised by badgering the BBC, orchestras, conductors, and record companies, in fact anyone who I thought might listen. Last June I was invited to the first recording of his works in Leicester by Unicorn Records, and had the privilege of meeting the composer a couple of months before he died. Dr Brian chatted briefly about his early cycling days in the Potteries, and of somersaulting over the 'bars when hitting road repairs at night - no 'Road Up' signs in those days which were of course still in the 19th Century. I was hoping to get him to expand on his cycling days on a subsequent visit with the idea of getting a first-hand account of 19th Century cycling. Alas, it was not to be ; his stories went with him and we are the poorer.

P.J.C.

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THE RACING SCENE

25 Miles September 24th G833

1	C.Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers	1	0	24
2	J.Dutson	Central Sussex	1	3	1
3	K.Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	1	3	37
4	R.Johnson	Brighton Mitre	1	4	9
5	M.Wyatt	Brighton Mitre	1	4	14
6	M.Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	1	4	40

Handicap P.Burbery (Lewes Wand.) 9mins. 58 13 nett

Team Eastbourne (Sharp,Stevens,Colburn) 3 8 59

\* \* \* \* \*

Hill Climb October 8th Firle

1	T.Leach	Eastbourne Rovers	4m.	11.6s.
2	R.Retallick	Harlequins C.C.	4m.	13.6s.
3	R.Hughes	Brighton Excelsior	4m.	18.8s.
4	M.Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	4m.	23.6s.
5	J.Spooner	Brighton Excelsior	4m.	25.4s.
6	R.Whittington	Lewes Wanderers	5m.	8.2s.

\* \* \* \* \*

1972 Trophy Winners

B A R Memorial Trophy	M Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers
Pewter Mug (Hardriders)	C Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers
L.Reich and Sons 50 miles	C Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers
100 Miles Trophy	M Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers
Under 60 Minutes Trophy	C Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers
F.March Memorial Trophy	Eastbourne Rovers	
Rosemary Shield	Eastbourne Rovers	
Ted Jenner 100 miles Shield	Central Sussex	
Clubmans' Touring Trophy	.....	
Fastest Junior 25 Miles Trophy	.....	
Points League Shield	Eastbourne Rovers	

THE RACING SCENE

1972 Mens' Best All-Rounder Competition

Decided Over 25, 50 and 100 Miles

Winner to hold Memorial Trophy for one year ; Holder J.Dutson

1.	M.Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	23.039	mph.
2.	K.Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	22.998	"
3.	P.Burbery	Lewes Wanderers	21.352	"
4.	R.Ewart	Central Sussex	21.260	"
5.	R.Laker	Central Sussex	21.173	"
6.	D.Routledge	Crawley Wheelers	21.145	"
7.	R.Whittington	Lewes Wanderers	20.252	"
8.	J.Southerden	Hastings & St.Leon.	20.166	"
9.	P.Crowsley	Southborough & Distr.	19.810	"
10.	A.Wilkinson	Central Sussex	19.339	"

Team Central Sussex (Ewart,Laker,Wilkinson) 20.590 "

Ladies and Junior B.A.R. Trophies not awarded.

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1972 Points League

1st	Eastbourne Rovers	194	points.	2nd	Central Sussex	94
3rd	Brighton Mitre	89.				
	Brighton Excelsior	33			East Grinstead	28
	Lewes Wanderers	28			Hastings & St.L.13	
	Crawley Wheelers	7			Southborough Wh.	7

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Opening Events Of The 1973 Season

March 4th 16 Miles Hardriders G895 Entry Fee 35p

Mrs V.Stringer 51, The Crescent, Southwick, Sussex. BN4 4BL

April 8th 29 Miles 2-up Team Time Trial G892 35p each.

P.Crowsley Mill Hill, Edenbridge, Kent.

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## LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

As usual for this edition, we'd better start with the jolting reminder that it will shortly be time to get out training for the Hardriders as it's only a matter of some seven weeks away! Our brethren finished the season with plenty of endeavour if not with lasting fame. The SCA 25 saw Burbery's 1-7 a minute too fast for Andrews, with Kilby loungeing about with a '14' and Savage most unusually DNS: it will thus be gathered that there was no serious threat to Cliff Sharp who tore up everyone with 58-21. After many years a club 15 was brought back, again over the notorious Sheffield Park 'bumps', and this resulted in a win for Savage whose 43-28 pushed Whittington into second place by 29 secs. and also swiped the handicap while he was about it. Kilby provided the shock here by Hammering no less a person than Steve Myatt by 1min. 4secs. in 46-16! Steve, not having been on his bike due to working in London, soon found out that it doesn't take all that long to go rusty. Burbery joined several private triallists on the spur of the moment, and did 41-6, being headed by Mo Colburn with 39-26 and the Mitre's Alan Goodson who did an excellent 40-22.

As this year's Association hill-climb promoters, with a very poor entry of 10 we feel entitled to ask if Escabods are now scared of their own anti-gravity event. For the sake of its continuance we hope to see much more support in future. Congratulations to Rover Terry Leach on a fine win despite the depleted field. Our only entrant, Whittington, was sixth in 5 mins. 8.2 secs. The next week Burbery had a crafty stab at Mo Colburn's Lewes-Tunbridge Wells and back record over the Eridge Switchback course, but finished with a 2-11, some 1 min. 57 secs. adrift, after running short of steam coming back. Finally Sussex time-trialling went out in style with another first-class presentation by the Mitre, their second Campag' 25, in which Steve did 1-7-52 and clobbered Burbery by 44 seconds, having evidently done some 'de-rusting' in the meantime. Of course speculation ran high as to what Beryl Burton would do in her first Sussex outing and she certainly didn't disappoint, crushing all but the top four in the gents' event with a spectacular 58-56. As one bloke was heard to remark, "That was worth coming a long way to see".

After all the dust had been blown away it was clear that Pete Burbery in this year's club Best-All-Rounder, due reward for some consistent riding. Dick Whittington's expected close challenge was blunted by bad luck in June. Hardly had he got over the Exeat fall than he ventured out for a spin along Seaford front,

## Lewes Wanderers C.C. (Continued)

concluding that he'd be unlikely to fall foul of anything there. Well he'd only just got going when a gent opened a car door, and there was Dick once more grovelling on the tarmac. He was only bruised this time, but had the satisfaction of noting that the bloke couldn't shut the offending door afterwards.

Peter Sharp decided to have a "working class" holiday so cleared off to France for a fortnight. As no reports of last ditch anti-Common Market subversion have appeared, and there do not seem to have been any protests from M. Pompidou, we must conclude that he only went for the scenery. In his absence a committee meeting had to be switched to Hugh Gander's place, and this featured an astonishing action by no less a person than Mick Kilby who, notwithstanding that Judy Goldstein was sitting next to him, promptly removed his trousers! Judy's surprised exclamation was greeted with, "Well, I said I was going to take 'em off", as if this was nothing unusual. The sequel to all this came at the Hill Climb when Mick asked Judy if she would be at the next meeting, and added, "I shan't be taking off my trousers this time". Judy replied, "In that case I won't bother to come". This same lady had everything going for her en route to the Campag' event when, due to a bit of insecure loading she lost the nipper's push-chair off the car roof rack at 60 mph! Not only was there nothing else behind, but the pushchair was only scratched into the bargain. We're glad to report that two more bike-riders have seen the light and have joined us with a view to action in 1973. They are Brian Wilkins of Hove and John Honeyball of Seaford; so we welcome their efforts to keep the Lewes flag flying in sundry places.

The latest report on GJK 263 is that it's still battered but unbowed. Returning home from a (very) adventurous trip to London, Fred "smelt something not quite right" and then heard a high-pitched howl, by which time he'd 'got the message' that it might not be a bad thing to hesitate. Well, one front hub was smoking, due to the bearing having disintegrated, but with typical 'luck of the Irish', Fred fitted another and carried on. Recently he was called from a house by a couple of coppers who upset him by asking if the old girl was in a roadworthy condition, and then observing that, "People don't usually go around in 'heapd' like this". To this Fred indignantly replied, "I've got a current MOT certificate and the old kiddy has to earn her bread the hard way." The coppers desisted but went away unimpressed! Doubtless Cliff would approve of all this.

( continued overleaf)

Lewes Wanderers C.C. (Continued)

Attention all Division roadmen. In due course clubs will be sent details of a chance to race in France, in May, during the Lewes/Blois town 'twinning' celebrations. As soon as we know more we'll let you know ; but it's understood that all food and accomodation is on the locals, so all you'll need is about a tenner for the fare. If possible we'd like to raise a team to send as this promises to be a fair old 'do'. The B.C.F. Luncheon at Henfield was notable for the absence of Roy Humphrey (which one character likened to the Coronation minus the Archbishop of Canterbury). He was effectively prevented from attending because yours truly completely forgot to pick up him and Dorothy, and later had to crawl up to Framfield and apologise most sincerely. (You've only just lived down the 'block - age' - now you do this ! Ed.) As several people there wanted to see him, and he had the Division trophies to boot, the verbal rocks were flying on all sides. As if that wasn't enough, a week later having been invited to propose The Club at the Mitre dinner, your scribe's conservative taste in the grubstakes raised the hackles of the manager at the Black Lion, that worthy demanding to know if anything was wrong with the food ! He wasn't much mollified by being told, "That's why we always have things like steak and kidney at our dinners."

And that's the cue you've been searching for. February 17th is the date ; so pin it on your pyjamas (or nighties as the case may be), and put it up in your usual police station etc. The venue is as always, the Elephant And Castle, Lewes, at the hour of 7-30 for 8 pm. and the menu, according to Jack Goldstein, is 'Snake and Pygmy' pie. Tickets are 80p (and they are worth it as an example of Jack's artistry) and the meal and entertainment are thrown in for good measure ; so if you like a real cyclists' function, this is tailor-made for you . Applications to G. Willcocks at 127, Hythe Crescent, Seaford BN25 3VB. Note new address . Oh, we do cater for coach parties !

Well folks, that's it for now, so with the Editor breathing fire and flame and muttering "Late again" we'll say all the best and see you down the road etc.

ALSORAN

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No prizes offered for guessing the identity of the Eastbourne rider who keeps muttering, "I'm Gonna Smash Sharp In The Hardriders". He says, "Ah, well - I might believe it yet".

HERE AND THERE

Peter Sharp declined to reply to the Club toast at the Lewes dinner "As I'm no good at speeches", Later it came out that he overslept and missed Beryl's great ride as he'd been 'gassing' till past 2 am.

Anent the Editor's 'aside' in the Summer edition, Tony Andrews might have 'got something' after all as Peter Sharp's grand piano is a Broadwood.

A certain Central 'orrible punster, seeing Eastbourne's Jane with her new addition, commented, "Does that pram make Jane a ma(r)ma Lade?" After a crack like that we wonder how he can possibly 'preserve' his dignity.

Having now moved to within 200 yards of Cliff Sharp, Willcocks has threatened to post up a list of visiting times for consultations about future Sharpmobile troubles!!

Hearing that Jack Goldstein had sold his cafe and gone into the printing business, the Esca Chairman said, "Blimey - what's that bloke going to have a go at next?"

Judy refers to Amparo as 'Angostura' and says that's just her 'bitter' fun.

During a discussion about the Lewes club 15, Hugh Gander asked if it would be an evening event. The chairman replied, "What - in October?"

As Association press sec. Crow was asked to send the BAR table to the press. The title 'Fluke Win By Colburn' was mentioned, suggested strangely enough by that sometimes outspoken rider who came second.

A possible reason for the large number at the A.G.M. was that everyone was expecting some of Iris's birthday cake. One Southboro' delegate arrived with sun-glasses fearing being blinded by such vast candle power. (Miaow -miaow...Ed.)

Association best-all-rounders have a tradition for versatility ; and this year's champion certainly has an eye for photography judging from Mo's touring slides at the C.T.C. autumn show.

All things come to he who waits !! Jack Southerden's 1st Handicap in the Ashford Wheelers 30 was his first ever handicap win in any open or association event in Kent.

## THE CRAWLEY WHEELERS

Before we start, the Crawley Wheelers hope you had a merry Christmas and wish you a bright and happy New Year. We from Crawley will endeavour to push our riders down in your area this coming year, as we feel they will enjoy the rides more if they meet a sociable bunch of lads that usually ride in Esca events.

It's all over! Yes - Christmas. You can put away the train sets now and dig out that bike, knock the mud and rust off, then straighten the 'bars, change out of top gear where you left it last time you rode it, oil it up well - no, not too much you fool, it's all running on the carpet, wipe that extra grease off, oh dear, not with the curtains, now get out. That's a good idea; get out on that bike, and make up your mind this is going to be your best year for bike racing. Read up all the 'gen' on training methods then throw away the books and do your own training. Yes, that's right, you've got it - will power. Let's see what we have lined up for 1973. Course for both time trialling and road racing in the Crawley area will not be used this year owing to the building of the new M23 and its subsidiary roads. For our Open 25 on Good Friday the Horsham-Worthing road will most likely be used. The Road Race will be held on the Lingfield circuit. We shall be organising our annual reliability trial on Feb. 18th. Distances 50 km and 100 km starting from the clubroom at 10 am and 10-30 am. Ron Ford is the organiser. The club dinner and dance is on Feb. 3rd at the George Hotel, Crawley. We hope to have some of our members attending the Esca supper on Saturday, Feb. 10th.

Ken Webb's 100,000 miles in 448 days is a new world record, and since Ken started his marathon ride on Sept. 1st 1971 he has broken 14 records, five of these being world records. There is a whisper that he intends to do it all over again, and he expects to beat this 1972 record by a substantial margin. Ken also hopes to be publishing a book soon about his cycling career. Club champion for 1972 is Danny Routledge, for which he will receive the President's Cup. Adrian Jones wins the Gordon Trophy for his excellent performances in events in which he made 53 points. Tony Goodsell is our schoolboy champion and we shall be keeping an eye on him next season as he intends to have a go for the Sussex Junior Road Race Championship. However, I think Howard Nickless will have something to say on that subject as he is still eligible to ride in the Sussex Championship which he won last year. We seem to have quite an influx of new members suddenly, so it looks like our club coach is going to have his work cut out in the beginning of the year preparing these new

## The Crawley Wheelers (Continued)

cyclists for the road. If our Coach goes through the training programme he has set up he should win the Club B.A.R. what with weight training, circuit training and road work, we shall all be too tired to race; we will need to have Sundays off to have a rest! Richard Griffin has already started training for the Catford 24 hrs. he's aiming at the club record this year; so good luck Richard. Congratulations to Richard and his wife, Jenny, on the arrival of a fine baby daughter named Jane Elizabeth. Get Well wishes to our vice-chairman Len Main, who is convalescing after a serious stomach ulcer operation. Good luck Len, and we shall be pleased to see you back on the bike and back in circulation. Thanks Due to Norman Chappell, 'Norman's Dad' who has carried out a great job for the last couple of years in writing out our special events certificates in a very proficient style. Also to Stan and Edna Curtis, who have turned out at events over the past years to help in marshalling, timekeeping, attending meetings on behalf of the club, and serving up tea at events and at the clubroom. Also to our other timekeepers, Dave Stokes, Ernie Harrison and Len Main for turning out in all weathers. Finally thanks to one of our new keen members, Brian Kendal, who has fitted up a record player for the club room which has given the place a bit more life. Yours truly has been trying to stir up some interest in Sunday club runs; I will let you know if I have any success.

And now I must get a new hand for my watch; it's twenty minutes to Christmas as near as I can make it, and I've missed the post; so if you don't see this letter from Crawley in Bonk you will know it arrived too late. Happy New Year to all 'ye aw'.

GORDY CHRIS

### Overture And Beginners Please.

Have you ever wanted to be on the stage? Well, now is your chance; get on the Management Committee. The September meeting was held on the stage at Framfield village hall, with an audience of one cleaner and two girls. Dramatis personae in this human drama were as follows:- Black hearted villain R. Humphrey; Beautiful heroine Val Baxendine; the part of the rugged, clean-living hero was unsuccessfully attempted by Messrs Kilby, Crowsley, Atkins, Dutson et al.

P.J.C.

The 1972 Annual General Meeting

The meeting was held at Hellingly Village Hall on December 3rd with Ken Atkins in the chair. All the Association's member clubs were represented. There were no controversial motions on the agenda ; and the most animated discussion was about the event which on the face of it excites the least interest - the Touring Competition. When asked the reason for the cancellation of the event, the organisers, Brighton Excelsior, chiefly blamed the fact that the Autumn issue of Bonk, which contained the entry form, reached some clubs too near to the closing date. The Magazine Editor agreed that this was possibly true, and pointed out that in order to cut the very high cost of postage, he delivered the magazines to the clubs by hand whenever possible, either personally or with the help of intermediaries, and he regretted that this procedure did slow down distribution. John Dutson, a past organiser of the competition, disagreed with the Excelsior, and said that as it had been known for months that there would be a touring competition in November, if people had really been interested they would have made inquiries to either the organisers or the Hon. Sec. After a lengthy discussion the meeting carried a proposition that a touring competition be held in 1973, with details to be settled by the management committee. Brighton Excelsior offered their services as organisers. The only other change, which in effect means very little, is that the 1973 Track Championships are deleted. All the officials were re-elected unopposed, with Ken Stevens as Eastbourne's nomination for 1973 President and Stan Curtis added to the list of V.P.s. The post of Social Secretary was again not filled ; as last year the social events will be organised by different people. John Dutson is looking after the forthcoming Supper and Prize Presentation ; and Roy Humphrey will promote the draw on the Grand National. The Secretary/Treasurer's report showed that the Association's financial position had improved, thanks to promoting clubs keeping down the cost of road events and the social fixtures all showing a profit. Because of this fairly happy situation it was agreed that we could afford to bring the Rosemary and 100 mile trophies up to date. The club affiliation fee remains at £2. Qualifying distances for the B.A.R. competitions remain as for 1972. Minimum points awards will be 13p per point. An offer by Central Sx. member Geoff Boore to show some films after the Prize Presentation, was turned down with thanks on the grounds that most people prefer to 'chinwag' at this function. However, a suggestion by Mr Neeves that the Association should consider a film show as such, got some

1972 Annual General Meeting (Continued)

support ; and it was decided to refer the matter to the next meeting of the management committee ; also the suggestion put forward by Pete Burbury of Lewes Wanderers that the Association should have place-to-place records. The Hon. Secretary said that he believed many people were a bit vague about the Association's trophies ; so he intended to make a list of our trophies and the events for which they are awarded, for publication in a forthcoming issue of Bonk.

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Time Trialling For Top People ? ?

Several new categories of racing man have been instituted in recent years ; and the Daily Telegraph, or at least one of its sub-editors, seemed to be trying to start yet another one last October when, in its Monday morning list of results, it described a 'gentleman' type 10 mile event as the "Whitewebbs Gentlefolk's 10". The R T T C are pretty good at defining different categories, but we wonder what qualification they would insist on for intending entrants to a "gentlefolks" event. A title, or at least a close relation with one ? Proof of a regular subscription to The Times and Country Life ? Three full seasons of riding to hounds ? And how long before a winner of one of these events is later disqualified as the result of a complaint to the R T T C that he is no gentleman ?

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Cheaper By The Dozen

During the autumn, Cycling featured some full-page advertisements for a new set of gears which had no recommended price but which were described as "A privilege for a few select bicycles". Just why they are likely to be a privilege, etc became obvious to the Editor when during a trip to Town he saw set of these gears in a shop window priced at £28.40.\* Still, by now we should be hardened to what 'Woolies' would call the 'trading up' in cycle equipment, with £25 double chainsets, £20 brakes and more recently £10 saddles and five-speed freewheels at £16. What with all this and the possibility of titanium frames in the near future, racing men will soon be afraid to use roof racks, and we may see the time when competitors will travel to and from events with their racing irons locked in Securicor vans.

Sub - title 'Suntrapper Rides Again', but positively for the last time ; our official scribe The Moor having once again failed to deliver the goods. Whether he is in love or lacking love we do not know ; but at least he manages to get the pedals round with us on the C.T.C. runs which we support in the winter. One such run was to Nutley, where, joined by two refugees from the Southborough AGM, and several 'Fairies', we ate a tasty pre-Christmas lunch washed down by generous helpings of the 'hard stuff'. This affected certain people in different ways. Vic Eldridge, normally 'Mr Off-The Back', was up front all the way home hammering away like Merckx, while Dot further back, tended to wobble and weave, and was full of goodwill to men especially Bruce, as we noticed whenever the bunch stopped at a Halt sign ! Another visitor to this 'do' was our esteemed Editor, who bashed up via Wadhurst and Crowborough. (Could he be training for the Hardriders?). The Ed. has not been seen at our clubroom this winter, pleading gales, fog and black ice ; but we reckon he will soon be putting in an appearance when he hears that we have started our keep-fit sessions, featuring Iris in her sexy pink shorts. Apart from this activity our racing men are relaxing and resting on the many laurels they gained last season. Cliff, who had a great year with many wins, seventh place behind Roach in the National 50, second place in the C.T.C. Best-all-rounder competition, and fastest Sussex rider in the Mitre's Campag' 25, had only one set-back, the 'orrible fate of being screwed down by the dreaded Mrs B. in the latter event. Ken, possibly fortified by the Phyllosan we gave him at the dinner a few years ago, did P.B.s at every distance he rode, and finished a close second to Maurice in the Association B.A.R. contest. Then with up-and coming Terry Leach winning a 10 and the Hill-Climb, the club had a runaway win in the Points League. The social season commenced with a combined Lade family and Stevens family trip to Winnats for the National Hill-climb ; while Maurice went off on tour and as usual was lucky with the weather (shirt sleeves at Princetown in November) Then there was a club trip to the Rainbow room, where we had a table conveniently placed for the loo, but a long way from the dance floor and even further from the bar. We staggered home in the small hours and not surprisingly were a bit fragile at the Esca A.G.M. later that day. The revellers travelled by mini-bus, hired by the committee to make amends for not spending enough during the past year. At the A.G.M. our treasurer Cliff 'Jim Slater' Sharp revealed a 50% rise in our reserves.

A reminder of how tame club life is now Marion lives at Fareham came to the Rovers recently when on a brief visit home she arrived at Brightling for tea and gaily announced that she'd brought some spare paper panties in case the pair she was wearing disintegrated in the prevailing wet weather ! Finally, although the Christmas junketings are over, don't kick the habit until after our club dinner on Feb. 3rd Tickets from Iris at £1 .60. See you there, and in the meantime a Happy New Year to all Escabods from Suntrapper and The Moor, whose notes, delivered to a temporarily unoccupied cafe, arrived when the Editor was half way through cutting the stencil for these pages.

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HASTINGS AND ST. LEONARDS C.C.

Greetings Escabods and best wishes for 1973. The new year finds us a little happier than we were last September, with Jack, his sight slowly improving after his operation, able to return to club riding and to work ; and Dennis eventually obtaining a suitable replacement for his stolen bike, also back in the saddle. I understand that this last piece of news recieved a mixed reception over Eastbourne way ; one leading Rover is said to have looked a bit thoughtful and shouted at half volume for a good couple of hours after hearing it. The regular Sunday runs, led by Dave, have had a useful new recruit in John Coleman, son of our chairman. President Ernie Spray led a social run out to Ewhurst, where the riders, joined by some car-borne members, ate and drank at a smart hostelry. Ernie also put down his share at the Kent and Sussex Fellowship 'do' at Brightling. The club run visited the same pub' on Christmas Eve and found that My Ding-a-Ling was top of the pops on the juke-box. This was useful to Dennis, who had been asked to learn it for his dance band engagement at a hotel, where the guests spent a lot of their holiday thinking up new and ever filthier verses to this 'corrupt - ing' song ! On the way home from this run Dennis spotted his stolen bike abandoned in a deplorable state in Battle. Since the last issue we have had our A.G.M. which saw Ernie re-elected President, Esther back as Hon. Sec. after a year's baby-rearing, and Jack filling the position of Racing Sec. as Robin did not wish to stand. Barbara Powell continues as Social Sec. A little injection of Youth on to the committee with the election of Wendy Dyer, our Bexhill girl. We hope to see some of you at our club dinner ; Jan. 27th at the Royal Victoria Hotel ; tickets £2 from Barbara at 2, St. Helens Avenue. Yours till Guy Little complains about the heat....

HASTINGER

## HERE AND THERE

The well-known cycling family at Hellingly have now got so many bicycles and tandems that they will soon be living in the cycle shed and using the house for storing their 'irons'. Oh, and visitors have a job to get to their door because the path is blocked by cars and butchers' vans.

Overheard at a Christmas party, ... Hostess, "I put plenty of sherry in the trifle". Guest (sotto voce after eating a spoonful), "I reckon she drank the sherry and breathed over the trifle".

Overheard at Chitcomb the day after the Southborough Whs. dinner, "This is a good cup of tea - it's stronger than the beer I had last night."

The Post Office might have let the side down a bit, but some stuff got through: the Lewes Wanderers Bank notes (delivered by hand), were pushed through the Editor's letter box on the afternoon of Xmas Day.

Then there was the liason officer who left undone that which he ought to have done, with the result that two annual general meetings, one of which had had its date fixed as long ago as last winter, were held on the same afternoon.

Mileage man Ken Webb has met Cliff Sharp several times during the past year, and was very pleased to meet Cliff's "good lady" and child at the Mitre 25. Cliff very hastily disowned Jane and Sarah Jane!

R.H. only sent corrected notices for the September management committee meeting (the original showed November) to those he thought daft enough not to realise the error. Maurice Colburn wonders who else got one besides him. The Editor for a start!

Any Escabod who visits the Southboro' clubroom and finds signs of recent occupation but not a living soul to be seen, should not get worried; this is not the mystery of the Marie Celeste re-enacted on dry land. The Southboro-ites will be found in good health and good spirits at a neighbouring public house called the Bee-Hive. Leading personalities can be easily picked out. The thin man who believes that Guinness Is Good For You is the treasurer; the plumper man handing round photos of Enoch Powell is the leader of the bicycle polo section; and the President can be readily identified as he is the man with the polished dome who is puckering his lips in eager anticipation of his good-night kiss from the landlord's wife.

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