



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex Cycling Association

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

New Series No.43

AUTUMN 1973

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EDITORIAL

First of all I would like to use this space to offer my sincere sympathy to Southborough and District Wheelers on the recent loss of their President through a natural cause which takes too many comparatively young men at the height of their mental powers; and my sympathy also goes to the two club members who consequently found themselves in extremely harrowing circumstances while far from home in a foreign land. Since his club joined the East Sussex Cycling Association in the mid fifties, Lou Bathurst had been one of the group of Southborough members who were East Sussex minded; and had supported the Association continuously by helping to keep an interest in Esca affairs alive in his club, and by personally supporting us as competitor, timekeeper and vice-chairman. While mourning Lou's untimely passing, we can look back and be thankful for the tremendous amount that he had already contributed to the sport. We have also lost, through home moving, Crawley stalwart and past Esca president Stan Curtis, and the controversial but entertaining Tony Wilkinson, who has contributed many pages of notes to this magazine under the pen name of 'Young Thropp'. Turning now to happier topics, it is pleasant to be able to congratulate several Esca notabilities on some great performances during the past season. Our 1973 president Ken Stevens has done if anything better than in 1972, which had been regarded as Ken's annus mirabilis; and past president John Dutson showed, with a sparkling ride in the Sussex CA 50, that the talent which made him the first rider to beat the hour in East Sussex has by no means deserted him. Our worthy chairman too, has been quietly notching up good rides both at home and away, including, I notice, a good-looking 2-7 in the North Road CC Memorial 50. With Iris Stevens also racing until halted by a careless motorist, and even your editor doing a little; no one can deny that the Association is run by active officials.

D.N.

'GEN' From The Secretary

First of all my apologies for not having any notes in the last two issues of the magazine, due to lack of time to sit down and concentrate on writing notes. Like so many of our fellow cyclists it is the same few people who get lumbered with the organisation of our sport; this applies at local as well as national level. The time is fast approaching when Annual General Meetings will be held, not only by clubs, but your local Associations, Road Time Trials Council and British Cycling Federation: normally it is the same few persons who attend these meetings and they reluctantly get re-elected to Office for another year rather than see the sport suffer. What about a few more of you making an effort to attend the meetings and offer to take on some of the jobs: I can assure you the retiring officials will be only too willing to help anyone who takes on a job. Below are the dates and venues for the following A.G.M.s :-

British Cycling Federation Sussex Division
Friday October 12th at 7-30pm. Y.M.C.A. Lewes

RTTC London South DC
Sunday October 14th at 2-30pm West Green Community Centre,
West Green, Crawley

East Sussex Cycling Association
Sunday December 16th 2-30pm Hellingly Village Hall

Besides the above, the Sussex Cyclists Association, Kent Cycling Assn. and RTTC South-East District Council will also be holding their AGMs shortly.

Since last writing these notes we were all shocked when we heard of the sudden death of Lou Bathurst. It came as a great shock to me personally; he was a person I really admired, and it always amazed me how he found time not only to be able to race, but also to undertake so many committee duties in many different bodies both local and national, and be so efficient at them. Though Lou has passed on I am certain that the impact he made in our sport will not be forgotten for many a decade.

Two more forthcoming events which I feel everyone will support; the Touring Competition on Sunday November 11th, and the Supper and Prize Presentation on February 9th. As the one this year was such a success, it is expected that it will again take the form of a supper at Framfield.

R.H.

LEWES WANDERERS C.C. (Continued)

A sun-tanned "Wotcher, cocks" from the Lewes nobility; and don't let us hear anyone moaning about the British weather after such a cracker of a summer: truly this has been one to remember for a long time. Having left Escabods agog and waiting for the next crop of Lewes performances, we'll carry on with the stirring saga. Alas, of our team in the evening criterium, only Andrews and Myatt survived to figure in the overall placings, being 18th and 20th respectively. Hills didn't ride at all due to working too late; Bealch had as many DNFs as you could find, due to work interfering with training (a sorry state of affairs); while Whittington, who was prevented by injuries from riding the second one, got up for the third and was going well when he punctured, thus discolouring the air along the Broyle with his language. This was also the event in which Steve put in a great sprint to win the second prime, the 'carrot being a tub' so kindly donated by Mrs Cook of Hove. Later he said "I just had to have that tub" as I wanted one and hadn't got any money". (Shades of the notorious Russell!) Later in the race he punctured and finished last! Division champion Bob Beatty won the series after a close tussle with Dave Duke, who is now a clubmate, his two wins giving him the edge although they were level on points. Third, only three points down, was the Central's Paul Lipscombe. Firm marshalling at the 'dodgy' points on the extended course, ensured that there were no incidents, and we have decided to promote the series again next year. The evening 10 series finally sorted itself out as a win for Steve by four minutes over Andrews, with the handicap deservedly going to young Mick Wilkins, who improved with every ride and just beat Alison Burgess by 1 m 39secs. 14-year-old Mark Wadey found himself in a 28-52 rut, doing no fewer than four of them, three in succession! It was noticed that in a later event he was riding what seemed to be a high fixed which he later revealed was no less than 100! He was promptly chewed up by one or two people and reminded that at such a tender age he mustn't consider himself a budding Alf Engers. In the SCA Junior 10, 12 years-old Ian Burgess grabbed the handicap with a 34-7 ride, nearly two minutes better than sidler Alison; while in the SCA 50 Honeyball shook Burbery when his "-19-5 was 2mins. 19 secs. better, with Brian Wilkins taking care of the handicap with a neat 2-22-22. In the 3rd cat. event on Bognor seafront the bunch was demoralised by Rod Laker's solo effort before Steve left them to finish a very worthy second on his own.

Continued overleaf

We laid on a gorgeous day for the Association 100, too gorgeous in fact, judging by the large number of DNFs due to heat exhaustion. However, four of our stalwarts finished, and Honeyball's 4-58-44 in his first crack at the distance was a great effort and $4\frac{1}{2}$ minutes too good for Burbery, with Brian Wilkins doing 5-20-57 despite a numb lower back, (does that make him a dead-end kid?), and Savage creeping in with a '29'. Honeyball tried a crafty solo stab at the SCCU 50 and did a '23'; then came the Association 25 where Steve somewed on Burbery, his 1-6-11 being 1-18 faster, and Honeyball doing 1-7-57 to 1-8-25 by Andrews. Continuous rain (after a glorious week) for the club 25 saw Burbery back on top with 1-7-55 and a 1 minute beating of Honeyball. Savage was 4 secs. over the top of his usual '9' with 1-10-3, although to be fair he'd done a 9-21 the previous week; and the handicap winner was Mick Wilkins with a '26'. The next week saw Honeyball with 2-20-50 in the Association 50, which beat Burbery by $1\frac{1}{2}$ mins, with Brian on a '29', and Savage and the Copper both mysteriously DNS. In the Kent CA 12 hours, a superbly organised event, we finished a team for the first time for ages, Honeyball doing 213.8 Myatt just a mile less, and Burbery 212.4. Brian was DNF due to 'dead end' trouble at 100 miles. For your scribe the highlight of this event was when Crow waved aside a sponge offered up by the Copper and said "I'll have the bucket". He then dipped his safari-style hat into it, filled it up, then jammed it back on his head and rode off in a flurry of wetness, shouting "That's lovely!" Brian obviously benefited from the extra miles as his (26' in the Crawley 10 rocked 'em all and was too good even for Honeyball who was aghast at the finish. He repeated the dose in the Association 25 when his 1-7-35 was only 19 secs. slower than Honeyball, and got him the handicap by another minute, also from John. Savage did yet another '9' (yet he says he's done more '10's), Andrews also a '9', and Burbery saying nasty things when he punctured and lost a couple of minutes or more for his 1-10-23. Pete Bealch has been keeping the flag flying at Preston Park; and with almost all of our 23 members active, we can look back on a successful, if not world-beating season. Like everyone else in Escaland we were deeply shocked to hear of the death of Lou Bathurst. Such a popular character and hard worker for the sport will be sorely missed; and our sympathy is extended to Southborough in their tragic loss. Due to the last-minute illness of Joan Shirley, we had a crisis on our hands about catering at the 100. However, all thanks are due to Sylvia Burgess, Sue Wilkins and Beryl Whittington for pitching in and

running things so well. In the event (literally), Joan was able to turn up and assist, so we finished up with the best of both worlds! A fortnight after the Neevo shock appearance, the evening 10 marshals had a similar jolt when an unfamiliar figure heaved itself over the top of the hill. Speculation ran rife until it turned out that the mystery rider was none other than the 'other' Sharp, our tame Peter, who, in a rush of sudden enthusiasm, had tossed the watch to Reg Porter and headed for the turn. His 32-54, after umpteen years without turning a pedal 'in anger', was certainly no disgrace. He has again had a French holiday, saying "Well, all the working class people go over these days". Jack Goldstein bought a Dormobile when Judy protested about having no transport, the other pair having contracted divers maladies. Eventually the local constabulary viewed with disfavour the keeping of them (unlicensed) in the street, and Jack had to take swift avoiding action to save his pocket!

We're sorry to hear of the departure of Young Thropp back to northern climes. Always controversial, his opinions and Bonk write-ups will be greatly missed by Escabods. Also going north are Stan and Edna Curtis, who again did so much for us and will be missed likewise. We wish them all the best in their new surroundings.

Re The Moor's remarks in the last issue, and the editorial comment on same; unsolicited support for this view came from former top Sussex roadman Brian Hutton, who was heard to say that when he sees the traffic about on the roads today, the thought of racing on a bike amongst it makes him shudder; and he marvels at how it can still be allowed! With the news about Arch Harding, among others, and more recently Hugh Porter and his clubmate, this business of motorists skittling cyclists has reached a serious level. When one reads about Aubrey Hill being run down in daylight by a motor scooter one is entitled to wonder just where these people are looking, and what sort of idiots are in charge of lethal weapons on the road nowadays. The CTC and CCGB are planning a petition to Parliament about this situation; and it's certainly not before time in our opinion.

There's not much to report this time on GJK 263, which is standing waiting for a buyer, thus lending support to the maxim that "There's one born every minute". Since the last Bonk there have been two more Sharpmobiles, the present one being in good shape and likely to last even Cliff for a couple of seasons at least.

Finally a comment on the Editor v Rovers dinner fracas.

Continued overleaf

Many years ago a popular cyclists' cafe in Horsham sported a juke - box which most unusually had a section for 'pops' and another for authentic jazz recordings. Noticing that it cost half as much again to play one of the latter, Russell indignantly demanded an explanation to be told by the proprietor "They say they charge extra because that's music".

Leaving readers to chew on that, we'll say all the usual good wishes in all languages; and may the autumn and winter match up to what we've just had (weatherwise, of course!). Blimey - I nearly forgot! Our dinner is on Feb. 18th 1974; so write it on your best pyjamas etc. and come along. Cheers and good wheeling, folks.

ALSORAN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mill Hill,
Edenbridge.
Sept. 5th 1973.

Dear Mr. Editor,

Mo Colburn's timely and sane comments on courses in the last issue find sympathy with at least one member of the SDW (Southboro' Dragsrip Wheelers). As our club 10 and 25 courses are now situated on the Tonbridge-Sevenoaks by-pass and have recieved their first full season's use, some personal observation may be of interest. The original 10 course on the Yalding to Horsmonden road was becoming dangerous, especially from the aspect of the turn and the narrow start and finish area. Several traffic incidents had occurred, fortunately without personal injury, and a move was necessary. We now start our 10s about 150 feet higher than the finish on our smooth 'Matchbox Toys' track. Youths try their luck at becoming 'racers' as the start is on the Tonbridge doorstep; and old men come from miles around to do their personal bests and croak of "second youth", before slumping back in their bath chairs. Club membership is imcreased by this influx of junior racers, finances by the large number of private T.T.s, no marshals are required, nor has there been a single accident. Wonderful - or is it? The lovely Queen Street 25 course has been ruined, temporarily at least, by road works that have rendered some

stretches of the course quite hazardous: I've tried it. However, even before that it had fallen from favour with several club riders as it was "dangerous" i.e. twisty, narrow, poorly surfaced in parts, (a polite word for slow ?). Also it was dangerous for inexperienced riders who tended to ride with the head lowered! Of course the old Q10/Q, as it used to be called, would never appeal to the 'head down' and 108 brigade. The course was tricky, corners had to be negotiated, and motor cars turned up in the most unexpected places: in short you had to keep your wits about you and remember that you were just another road user.: which is what I imagined cycling was largely about. 1973 finds our 25s on the complete by-pass with the turn at the Polhill roundabout. It is not outstandingly fast due to the climbs. Bob Liddiard has done wonders on 84 fixed; but we lesser mortals ned 75 to 100. The surface of the roundabout and the descent of Polhill resemble s black polished marble; and given a summer shower should prove a suitable venue for the South-East England figure-skating championships. Fortunately all the events have been in the dry so far. Mo pointed out the danger in speed differential between cyclists and cars on these courses; but there is also the speed of the cyclists; for on the long descents, and aided by even a moderate tail wind, speeds of 50 mph plus are not that uncommon. Even experienced riders have blow-outs, and inexperienced ones in such conditions with fast traffic is hardly a fortuitious combination. However, the real curse of drag-strip racing is that it can kill cycling psychologically, it is so absolutely boring. This was reflected by comments overheard and the growing number of DNSs in club events towards the end of the season, even on fair evenings. When the novelty of the fast times (which everyone else is doing as well) has worn thin, what else has it to offer? Will the Tonbridge by-pass still have the same riders in even five years time? One personal recollection of the past season was the hot, settled weather of June. On the Wednesday night I rode the East Grinstead 10 time 27-35; and the following night the Southborough 10, a personal best of 24-12. The analogy to the fairground helter-skelter is not so far removed after all.

Yours sincerely,
Pete Crowsley.

=====

Don't forget the TOURING COMPETITION on Sunday November 11th.

Details from John Dutson at 'Rosenau', Blackboys Road, Framfield.

(Continued)

Letter To The Editor

EAST GRINSTEAD CYCLING CLUB

As another racing season comes to an end with all its "ifs" and "buts" and "wait till next season", so comes the time for yet more Bonk notes. Looking back on the season, things started not too well, with a very low active membership, then bucked up with Bob Beatty doing well in road racing, Nigel Maxey going well in both time trials and circuit races; and then we had new recruits Stephen Heppelthwaite and Dave Duke. The season seems to have ended in a bit of an anti-climax though. Bob is busy flat-hunting, and his racing seems to be suffering as a result. Nigel, well, he did not so much slow down but the others seemed to go faster at the end of the season. None the less Nigel has won our Challenge Trophy run on a points system for all club and Esca events. Nigel finished with 67 points to Ray Lunn's 62. Nigel's other great success was winning the Gemini schoolboy criterium series at Sidcup. Also based on points, Nigel managed to get a large enough lead to win, although he did not have much luck on the last day. He was brought down on the first corner of the first race; that and heavy legs from a 25 the previous morning prevented him from making the clean sweep he had previously done. Even so he retained his lap record which gained him a £3 voucher and will be presented with a trophy for winning at the club's dinner. Stephen Heppelthwaite joined us half way through the season, and although he did not get many rides in he still did a '4' for 25 mls. and a '9' for 50 mls. Unfortunately he did not finish a 100 or he would have easily won the club's B.A.R. : as it is though, it looks as if Ray Lunn will be our 1973 Best-All-Rounder. Then we have Dave Duke, who also joined us half way through the season, and has not had much chance to get in many rides for us. He has not yet forgiven me for returning his entry for the June road race, then getting him to be machine examiner. He thinks it was me being devious, but my story is that his entry came in a week late. Dave and his home-made beer have fitted into our club well. I'm not sure which is the most popular - Dave or his beer! One day our landlord at The Crown will realise that all the empty mugs left in our club room are not from the bar but out of his storage boxes, having been filled with Dave's beer. When we all get slung out of our club room we shall then meet at Dave and Anna's.

Last Sunday was our inter-club 25 with the Crawley Wheelers. This time it was us who challenged the Crawley. Last year it was they who challenged us but it was the East Grinstead boys who made a clean sweep of the event. This year the Crawley Wheelers pulled out their trump card by producing Ron Ford out of retirement ;

(Continued)

East Grinstead C.C.

looking just as fit as ever and recording a short '4' apparently effortlessly! Club mate Goodsell was not far behind with another '4'. We are ashamed to say that our first man was in fact Crow with a '6' then Graham Green with a '7'. Eight riders from each club competed on a nice morning and a pleasant time was had by all, including Jim Orbell, a name some of you will remember. Jim came out to assist us, but went straight back to his beloved golf clubs. Our promotion of the Esca 50 seemed to go off without a hitch; but we nearly hashed up that first turn yet again. I had asked Keith Butler to do that one as he is an orienteering expert and we did get it wrong two years running. Unfortunately Keith overslept, but I did go out just to make sure and was able to do the turn myself, otherwise the East Grinstead would have crept away in shame, never to be seen again.

Our club dinner and dance ?? is on Saturday Dec. 8th at the Ashdown Golf Hotel. Tickets £2. 50 from Terry Collins at 21, Park Crescent, Forest Row; Tel. Forest Row 2663. It will be the same disco' with a dancer. Not everyone's cup of tea but we all like our dinners as they are, even if it is rather difficult getting up and down the stairs to the loos after a little too much drink! There were highly hilarious stories about happenings down the gents and ladies loos going around after our dinner. Come to think of it I wonder if that lady ever did manage to get back up the stairs, or is she still sitting down there in the shower! We all had a spontaneous celebration the other week, with a nosh-up at the Old House at Home, Dormansland. No one knows what we were celebrating, but who cares, we like celebrations. It is still being suggested that we have a monthly not annual dinner. Oh yes, talking of dinners, we don't know yet who our guests will be. Crow had suggested Crow, and the rest of us are waiting for someone else to have a brainwave.

Keith and Marilyn Butler are now in Zambia, and Trevor Budgen and wife Sylvette moved in to Keith's house the same day as Keith moved out. It's alright, Keith does know about it. Not much has been seen of Budgie since the great day; even that occurred in France so we only have Budgie's word for it that he really has taken the plunge. We are all still in a state of shock, and keep muttering "Budgie married?". No doubt he will emerge one day and visit us down club room again. Now he is married I don't know what I shall find to write about in my Bonk notes. Now I know how the reporters felt when George Best disappeared from the scene. Mind you they have Princess Anne, then we have Ray Lunn, Continued Overleaf

but I couldn't put all those stories in Bonk; even if I did you would never believe them. Ray has the others boggle-eyed with his stories of accomplishment: all that and he races as well! More news in the pipeline: - Dick and Barbara Marchant are expecting more than a turkey this Christmas, and Eileen and Bob Smith are looking forward to a happy event in early March.

With Marilyn and Keith off to Zambia, we had a special meeting to elect a new president. Lined up for the office were Mrs Molly Sale of Woodgate Dairies, and Jim Orbell, already mentioned in these notes. Just as we were poised with pen and paper to vote, so Keith puts my name forward; and guess who's the new president, by just one vote? I feel honoured although some of the boys did say afterwards "I only voted for you as you were the only one we knew". Anyway they have me now, until the next A.G.M. at least. I cannot end these notes without a word of congratulation to Richard Smith of Brighton and his great ride for the Schoolboys National Pursuit Championships. Well done Richard from all of us in the East Grinstead, and all the best for next year as a junior. Well that's all I have got to say; I always am one of few words as any of my club mates will tell you.

VAL

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

The Myatt family van is always breaking down, and has caused Steve a few DNSs in road races this year. Asked why he hasn't enlisted the aid of a certain Seaford mechanic, Steve sadly commented, "I don't think that even he could do anything with it".

Paul Lipscombe did his best to make an impression (end of Geoff Boore's interview last time) in Preston Park track when he came off rather heavily! A typical cyclist's recovery saw him out on his bike a few days later despite fears that he wouldn't be around for weeks.

Steve Myatt had a lucky escape at East Hoathly while riding out to the September 25, when a car's front suspension collapsed and it missed him by inches as it slithered past. The cynics might comment that it's a change for the vehicle to be at fault!

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Promoting Club</u>
March 3rd	Hardriders	Brighton Excelsior C.C.
April 7th	2-Up Team T.T.	Southborough & Distr. Whs.
April 28th	25 Miles	Central Sussex C.C.
May 11th (Sat.)	10 Miles	Eastbourne Rovers
June 9th	50 Miles	Brighton Mitre C.C.
June 22nd (Sat.)	10 Miles	Southborough & Distr. Whs.
June 30th	100 Miles (Open)	Lewes Wanderers C.C.
July 28th	25 Miles	Eastbourne Rovers
Aug. 11th	50 Miles	East Grinstead C.C.
Sept. 15th	25 Miles (Open)	Eastbourne Rovers
Oct. 6th (a.m.)	Open Hill-Climb Hartfield	Southborough & Distr. Whs.

Note All events are for both men and women, except the Hill-Climb. Names and addresses of individual promoters will be circulated to clubs in due course.

1973 Best-All-Rounder Competition for the Memorial Trophy

Mens' Leading Positions (Subject to Confirmation) 11 Men, 1 lady

<u>Winner</u>	<u>P. Lipscombe</u>	<u>Central Sussex C.C.</u>	<u>22.980 mph.</u>
25 Miles	1-2-4	50 Miles	2-11-00
100 Miles	4-34-19		
R. Rogers	Central Sussex C.C.		22.869 mph.
25 Miles	1-3-15	50 Miles	2-9-44
100 Miles	4-35-38		

M. Hawes	Central Sussex C.C.		22.447 mph.
25 Miles	1-2-56	50 Miles	2-16-36
100 Miles	4-38-29		

Winning Team Central Sussex C.C. 22.765 mph.

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

TIME TRIAL LEAGUE

1973

	Mar	Apl. 8	Apl. 29	May 12	Jun. 10	Jun. 23	July 1	Jul. 29	Aug. 12	Sept. 16	Oct. 7					
CENTRAL SUSSEX	5	12	18	3	10	13	15	3	28	24	17	2	26	2	4	180
EASTBOURNE ROVERS	22	12	18	20	20	8	12	21	10	8	21	10	8	8	151	
BRIGHTON MITRE	12	6	4	7	9	12	5	7	1	14	1	1	1	1	50	
SOUTHBOROUGH & DISTR. WHS.	3	1	1	2	2	8	5	7	1	14	1	1	1	1	41	
HASTINGS & ST. LEONARDS	4	4	5	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	23	
LEWES WANDERERS	2	2	3	3	3	2	6	4	5	5	5	5	5	5	21	
BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR								3	5	7	7	7	7	7	20	
CRAWLEY WHEELERS										8	8	8	8	8	11	
EAST GRINSTEAD									3	3	3	3	3	3	3	

Winning Team Central Sussex C.C. 22.165 mph.
 25 Miles 1-2-26 50 Miles 2-16-26 100 Miles 4-38-29
 M. Hawes Central Sussex C.C. 22.147 mph.
 25 Miles 1-2-26 50 Miles 2-16-26 100 Miles 4-38-29

- 13 -
 - 14 -

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

10 Miles

Saturday June 23rd G815

1	R. Rogers	Central Sussex	24 - 27
2	M. Colburn	Eastbourne Rovers	24 - 38
3	R. Smith	Brighton Mitre	24 - 54
4	R. Laker	Central Sussex	24 - 59
5	R. Peters	Hastings & St. Leonds.	25 - 64
6	S. Myatt	Lewes Wanderers	25 - 09

1st Team Brighton Mitre (Smith, Goodson, Pearce) 1-15-31

100 Miles (Open)

Sunday July 1st G862

1	R. Travers	Wigmore C.C.	4-31-44
2	P. Lipscombe	Central Sussex	4-34-19
3	R. Rogers	Central Sussex	4-35-38
4	M. Hawes	Central Sussex	4-38-29
5	D. Hook	Folkestone & Distr.	4-39-41
6	B. Hill	Epsom C.C.	4-42-36

Fastest Esca Rider P. Lipscombe Central Sussex 4-34-19
 1st Handicap P. Crowsley S.D.W. (30) 4-19-03
 1st Team Central Sussex (Lipscombe, Gogers, Hawes) 13-48-26

Entrants 34 Starters 29 Finishers 19

25 Miles (Open)

Sunday July 29th G833

1	M. Ryall	Epsom C.C.	1-2-08
2	R. Stapley	Epsom C.C.	1-2-22
3	J. Bear	Sorian C.C.	1-2-48
4	R. Rogers	Central Sussex	1-3-25
5	M. Hawes	Central Sussex	1-3-49
6	K. L. Atkins	Central Sussex	1-4-30

1st Handicap G. Griffiths Eastbourne Rovers 55-31

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

25 Miles July 29th (Continued)

Fastest Vet on Standard J. Southerden Hastings & St. Leonds. + 4-45

1st Team Central Sussex C.C. (Rogers, Hawes, Atkins) 3-11-44

Entrants 46 Starters 41 Finishers 41

50 Miles

Sunday August 12th G851

1	C. Sharp	Eastbourne Rovers	2- 1-49
2	K. Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	2- 7-49
3	R. Rogers	Central Sussex	2- 9-44
4	P. Lipscombe	Central Sussex	2-11-10
5	K. L. Atkins	Central Sussex	2-13-14
6	P. Crowsley	Southborough & District Whs.	2-14-04

Lady Mrs C. Laker Central Sussex 2-43-58

1st Handicap G. Green East Grinstead (21) 1-56-38

1st Team Eastbourne Rovers (Sharp, Stevens, Colburn) 6-23-23

Entrants 33 Starters 29 Finishers 27

25 Miles

Sunday September 16th G833

1	P. Lipscombe	Central Sussex	1-2-34
2	M. Hawes	Central Sussex	1-2-56
3	D. Hook	Eastbourne Rovers	1-3-15
4	R. Hughes	Brighton Excelsior	1-4-03
5	A. Jones	Central Sussex	1-4-14
6	K. Stevens	Eastbourne Rovers	1-4-22

Lady Mrs C. Laker Central Sussex 1-19-33

1st Handicap B. Wilkins Lewes Wanderers (10) 57-35

1st Team Central Sussex (Lipscombe, Hawes, Jones) 3- 9-14

Entrants 36 Starters 36 Finishers 35

A valedictory summing-up by Southborough correspondent P.J.Crowsley

Lou was born with the sun in Virgo and died on a continental cycling holiday on July 20th ; two facts that tell us so much. His rise to power graph shows that he started his cycling career by joining the Southborough Wheelers after a spell in the navy in 1948. He soon became 'hooked' on the game, experiencing almost every aspect of it ; and by applying his Virgoan traits of objectivity and analysis in an organisational way, he rose to be club captain in 1950, followed by Genral Sec. Racing Sec. then President in 1959, the year he also became South-East D.C. RTTC secretary and making the RTTC national committee in '67 ; besides which he filled posts on half-a-dozen or so other committees. Many people knew him as S.E. cycling 'law man' and will remember his verbal duels with Roy Humphrey on such world-shaking topics as identical vests in local team TTs. It was this passionate intensity he brought into proceedings at meetings that was also manifest and far less seen in other ways. He cared deeply that younger people should join and stay in cycling because they enjoyed, not only racing, but club running and the social side as well. He had a marvellous way of reaching newcomers and making them feel they belonged ; and his encouragement to riders could make a long - marker feel like a national champion, although his approbation had to be merited. At dinners he was usually far more relaxed, a tankard of beer poised for consumption and a benign smile for everyone - especially the females. He never married ; perhaps no woman could reach his ideal standard, and anyway she would have had to be stone deaf to withstand his snoring. If Lou had a fault it was that he cared too much, for his job which was exacting enough in itself, for Southborough Wheelers, and for cycling in general. He only missed out on caring for himself ; perhaps if he had he would still be with us in the flesh today.

About 120 people - mainly cyclists - attended Lou's cremation at Hawkenbury on July 31st. It was only the eleventh hour intervention by RTTC officials that was responsible for Lou's body being brought back to England, as he had no close relatives. Representatives from practically all the local clubs were present, as well as RTTC, KCA, ESCA and Kent and Sussex Fellowship officials.

Lou Bathurst obit. (Continued)

Thankfully, Arthur Coleman gave an address on behalf of the Fellowship which went some way to counteracting the singularly inappropriate sermon given by the officiating clergyman.

The Editor adds his personal recollections :- I had personal experience of Lou in most of his many roles and the varying moods that went with them. I might as well be honest and admit that there were times when A.J. Bathurst, RTTC official, was far from being my favourite person : for when doing this job Lou could be over-zealous ; and heavy-handed letters from him resulted in some abrasive replies from me. Fortunately these clashes were few ; and I can say with equal honesty that I found him a stimulating and rewarding person to know in his other manifestations of forthright committee delegate, good-humoured but concerned club president, jovial dinner companion, knowledgeable jazz fan and excellent exponent of ballroom dancing, at which pastime he seemed to enjoy the type of dance music that I play. Even in the sometimes thorny field of time trial promotion, things were not entirely bad ; for I well remember that when, after the 1971 Hardriders which I organised, one of the competitors, A. Bathurst SDW, came up to me and said "A very enjoyable and well-organised event", I knew that I had done about as well as an event secretary can hope to do. Crow has given his opinion as to the reason for Lou's bachelor status. Lou himself mentioned the subject to me only once, when, at the last Lewes dinner, he said that he would like to get married as he did not want to be alone for the rest of his life. If he had lived to achieve that ambition, I feel that the lady of his choice would have found herself in the same situation as impressionist Mike Yarwood's wife, who told an interviewer that she was in a way indulging legally in polygamy. D.N.

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Some people may be worrying about getting fit for end-of-October events on E72 ; but for the Hastings club the social season began at the end of September, when our president, Ernie Spray, led a run out to Ewhurst, where, joined by some motorised members, they ate, drank and were merry. Ernie took the run through Winchelsea Beach and Rye Harbour, where the riders revelled in the luxury of riding three abreast and chatting to one another without having to worry about motor vehicles. Looking back over the second half of the 1973 racing season, Jack, Robin and John have managed to make their presence felt, with Richard Wall popping up from time to time. In the June Esca 10, John got inside 27 minutes, still making do with Dennis's 'town' bike ; and Robin took fifth place. We were disappointed when the latter was among the non-starters in the 100 : incidentally, anyone who finished that event at all surely deserves some sort of a medal. Jack got round in 5-21-24, which put him a comfortable 10 mins. away from the 'wooden spoon' position. Robin was also a non-starter in the July 29th 25, having by this time decided that he had had enough for the season ; but Jack kept the club flag flying by taking the Vets' award with a plus of 4-45. Robin regained some keenness in time for the September 25, and clocked 1-5, with Jack also there doing a 1-11. Robin teamed up with Richard for the Central's Hilly 27, the pair thinking they had done reasonably well until they saw Roach and Marshall's fantastic time. Late racing news is that Jack was our only representative in the Esca Hill-Climb, and rode into a highly commendable 8th place out of 13 starters. As always, various members have taken their turn at marshalling both in Kent and East Sussex ; though one person sunk so low as to put in a deputy at Boreham Strt. for the 100 in order to indulge in a little social activity. Guy Little uses his semi-retired status to get in some mid-week rides some of them in company with our old member Jim Mackie, who we are pleased to see back in the saddle after a seripus heart attack two years ago looked like ending his riding days. Guy has recently had a ride with a Mr Gilkes, an old London CTC member, seven years after they met and said "We must go out together some time". Ted Coussens nearly had to pension off his Raleigh because of difficulty in replacing worn-out head races ; but some were found, and the old faithful that has covered 229,289 miles since 1931 will live to do some more ! Ted remarked ruefully that in the time it took him to add up that mileage for these notes, he could have ridden a dozen more !! That's the lot - - - all the best.....

HASTINGER

No need to guess our lead story. Bad news travels fast, and within a few days most of cycledom knew of Lou's death. Of course, not even cycling club presidents are destined for immortality ; but his sudden death at such an early age left most people and the club in particular with the feeling that the ground had been snatched from under their feet. Robin Howard and Alan Brockington, who made up the Spanish holiday trio, had to bear the brunt of the tragedy : little is known of the tour except that as well as losing a president they lost their bikes, thanks to French railways. The latter was insured and can be replaced.

Our clubroom is in use on Friday evenings although the sewerage link-up and much interior work remains to be done. With the racing drawing to a close, another "Great Leap Forward" seems poised for the autumn. Few would disagree with the statement that the major factor in this year's season has been the exceptionally fine summer. Cyclists, like flies, abound in such conditions, and thus do race results ; far too many to encompass in this report anyway. There can't be many people who haven't clocked a personal best sometime in '73, which is hardly surprising with the proximity of the Tonbridge by-pass track (see letter). Despite the onslaught of high mph from all and sundry, Malc Withers has reigned supreme, winning all but two early season events ; and Bob Liddiard has been comfortably positioned in second place. The inter-club 10 and 25 mile events with the 'Fairies' were both most exciting. With the fastest team of 6 riders to count, we lost the 10 by 47 secs. and with a field of 36 plus 'privates' it was more like an open. The Fairies took the first three places in the 25, but we packed in the next six, which led to another cliff-hanger result which we got by 49 secs. ! We now have our own classic place-to-place event with the Tonbridge to Hythe, held for the first time on a hot June 17th, and chalking up yet another win for Malc, who rode through the field to a 1-49-22. Alf screwed Bob for second place by 40 secs. after the latter had walked the final hill. Ladies racing, apart from La Burton, and Hilary Nickless's bra', gets little coverage, if I may use the phrase ; so we are glad to report that our team - yes - team of Mesdames Peachey, Smith and Obbard have smashed the long-standing ladies' club 10 record. Furthermore, Val Peachey has risen to even greater heights with a record 1-6-13 (admittedly on the Q25/3), and a new 10 record which was reported in the local press as a 23-11, thus giving many racers sleepless nights until the mis-print was revealed and the time was found to be some 3 minutes slower !

Cont. Overleaf

Southborough and District Wheelers (Continued)

Before leaving the short distance scene, it's interesting to note that our 25 mile championship had 17 finishers and the 10 mile no fewer than 27! Malc had the sub 23 minute class to himself, but I've just heard that Ian Woodman has just produced a 22-47, which will oust Bob from his second place. Crow's attempt to make the 25 mile 'big time' came when by accident he entered the Worthing Campag' 25 "To make up the team", then found he was the only Southboro' entrant (It's the B.O. you know). His surprise 1-4-22 earned him 86 Campag points. Disillusionment followed quickly for the next rider in a Campag 25 to get 86 points had to do a 57-45: so he will stick with his 86 points and invest in some Neeves-Campag' trouser clips. Pete Webb's 1-19-44 has been the only 30 mile ride this season; so moving to 50 miles where Malc's 2-3-38 in the Southend & County event was 9 mins. too good for Alf's 2-12 on the H35. Rita Coe's Esca 50 in June had its fair share of gremlins. The Polegate marshal was A.W.O.L. causing Alf and Arthur Smith to sample the many delights of that village instead of rushing off down the A27; then the same two plus Pete Wall had to struggle through that horrific multi car crash at Whitesmith. Crow had a 'clean round' and not surprisingly led in with a 2-15 after a race-long battle with Alan Limbrey. Come Val Baxendine's 50 in August and we were used to the hot weather; and it was nice to see such a good E.G. team grace the field. Again it looked like a battle with my minute man as I edged nearer to John Blackman and got the gap down to 10 secs. at 45 miles: however, the curvaceous leg had the finishing power and he sailed away as I struggled down the Dicker. My 2-14-4 did ensure that for once I beat Bob, whose first 50 yielded a '15-49. Geoff W. made our third team place with a '19'; Ian Woodman's first 50 was a 2-21-33, followed by Robin's 2-23, while Roy Harrison indulged in touring to the tune of 2-33. The June Esca 10 was, as with so many other events this season, like riding rollers in front of an open furnace door! The SDW team of Crow, Dave Austin and Lou, (It must have been one of his last races) netted 6th team place. Remember the cold, damp Esca 10s of 1972? Jokes about the 100 having rain or gales and usually both came really unstuck this year, as the extreme heat caused the event to be re-named the 'fall-out 100'! The Central had enough strength in depth to lose three good riders and still walk away with the team: the same couldn't be said of the Rovers. The final 20 miles to and from Beddingham will not easily be forgotten, and rank with the suffering in the final Esca 12 hours - a real duel in the sun!

Southborough and District Wheelers (Continued)

Attempts to catch Rick Stringer just 20 yards were totally unavailing, and we both later admitted to struggling up Selmeston Hill on our 63s as there was nothing lower. My thanks to Stan and Edna for sponging me down at the finish - the first few pints must have turned to steam! That 100 has thinned out the number of B.A.R. finishers considerably; and with Rick Stringer and Paul Lipscombe still to ride a 25, the position with one event to go is still excitingly fluid. Things appear to be the same in the points league, in which Southboro', Lewes and Hastings are scrapping for 4th place. Reverting back to shorter distances for a mo' (this sort of thing happens when you write Bonk notes at 1-30 am), the July Esca 25 was the epitome of the 'dead' morning; still, grey and lifeless. Most of the riders seemed to drop a couple of minutes; and the winning '2' by Stan Ryall was hardly outstanding. The Crowsley-Blackman 'needle' match was fought as usual - 9 seconds to the former this time. Crow's '5' and Don Robb's 1-10-23 had no third rider for the team. Club riders have been involved in two 12 hour events: for the Kent event we had the company of the Lewes Wanderers, attracted no doubt by the food. (Who ate three scotch eggs and five tomatoes at a feed while hos clubmates changed his tub?) We lost Alf early on with cramp - yes it was very hot again. Jacko never got into his stride and Robin found he had too few miles in his legs so we were down to three. Arthur Smith rode into 215 at his first attempt, Crow's 221 included lost time at a third of the distance when spare tubs and pump failed, and Malc did a personal best at a shade under 230 for 8th place. Congrats! to John Honeyball on his debut at 12s. I refrained from mentioning the Esca Grand Tour record attempt after Pete Burbery had finished. Bob thought he'd like to try a 12 so at 18½ years and with a 79 fixed he joined Ron Hayward in the SCCU 12. Crow did the feed and watering bit. No one was optimistic about Bob, especially when he went off course twice in the early morning rain. However, he rode strongly as the day turned into a hot afternoon. The finishing circuit battle saw Ron do his best for many years with 217½; but Bob's 231½ took him to 6th place, fastest novice and first handicap. It also toppled Malc's 12 hour crown. This now reveals an interesting position in the club B.A.R. for while Malc with his 58, 2-3, 4-32 and 230 is secure at the top, Bob only needs a 4-55 to make 2nd place. Ron and Crow are only 0.17 mph apart, and if Arthur could bring his 25 time down he could also be very close. Alas Alf, Robin and Jacko have not finished a 12.

Continued overleaf

Southborough and District Wheelers (Continued)

There's the Norwich 100 at the end of September, and Ron is frantic for a fast 50, so, read the next thrilling instalment.

In the 'hatched, matched and dispatched' section, the latter is mentioned elsewhere. This quarter's marriage is Geoff Withers to Sheila : very quiet it was too, nobody knew till afterwards. The 'hatching' prerogative seems to belong to the 'Grinstead club ; they're always up to that sort of thing : perhaps their TVs keep on breaking down ! (Try to get them into some of these 12 hour events you've been writing about - that should reduce their potency for a few days at least. Ed.)

A club dinner in August ? Yes, it's true, for those who have potted round the pastoral lanes of the East Grinstead 10s (as opposed to you-know-what), a celebratory dinner was held at Dormansland (that's in Surrey) to close the season. Twenty people attended and enjoyed an enormous meal and watched Steve Happlethwaite sweating to finish his T-bone steak. Now we heed the Editor's advice to keep March in the social season, we may start a slogan, "No Racing When There's an R in the Month". Maybe not. Finally, our club dinner is at the Rose and Crown, Tonbridge on December 8th. Clashes with East Grinstead - amazing, isn't it ?

CROW

EASTBOURNE ROVERS C.C.

At the time of writing it is clear that the long hot summer is indded over (so you know these notes were written late once more), to the relief of at lwest one Rovers' racing man, who has been blaming heat for his worst racing season in years. Maurice also has plenty of other excuses, as you might expect from a chap who spent his formative years, racingwise, under the tutelage of the great Agg, who was never short of them ! Our attempt to gain further Esca B.A.R. successes after our 1-2 last year came to an abrupt end in the 100, when, like many others, both Maurice and Ken failed to finish ; Mo again blaming the heat and Ken saddle-soreness. Congratulations to Paul on his B.A.R. win, despite trouble in certain events. Whereas the 100 further undermined Mo's form and enthusuasm, it seemed to help Ken on to greater things ; for twice in the following month he beat the hour on E72, the second ride a superb 59-2 in the far from superfast conditions of the Clacton 25 on August 4th.

Eastbourne Rovers C.C. (Continued)

Cliff incurred a late start in this event, and only 'ambled' round for an actual '58' ! Ken had a best-ever season in 1972, but to beat the hour after 25 odd years of racing must make '73 another best ever, especially as he has ridden a string of '0's since. Cliff has been forced to retaliate spectacularly to retain the spotlight, and has done so by setting new club records at 10, 25 and 30 miles of 21-55, 54-58 and 1-7-19. His 50 and 100 times have unfortunately not been good enough to retain his CTC Best-all-rounder prominence ; but this has certainly been due to copping a bad morning at every attempt at a good 'un. Despite Cliff's excellent short distance riding, the impossible finally happened in August in the last evening 10 when Terry Leach, fresh from a 1-0-31 P.B. and second place in the windswept Southboro' 25, inflicted a 3 second defeat on Cliff over an equally windswept Pevensey Marsh, having previously dramatically lowered his 10 time to 23-11. Terry's fine riding this year has been somewhat hidden in luckless road races rather than in time trials ; but his name has certainly cropped up in 'Cycling' to tell the rest of the club what he's up to ! His aggressive riding has also been in evidence at Preston Park where he collected the Sussex 15km Championship, breaking away at the start, with Maurice and Graham blocking so furiously that the Great White Chief nearly imposed life suspensions ! There has been a season-long battle for supremacy between Steve, Peter and Gareth, our three 15-year-olds, with Steve now clearly leading with 24-53 and 1-5-37 in this his second season (It took me 8 years to break 25 mins.). Peter and Gareth are however both inside 1-10. Peter is the exception in not having a £100 'iron', which is perhaps a further comment on the age : indeed Peter even lost the use of his racing iron at one stage when it was confiscated by his father until the stable of mongrel machines was reduced by one enforced sale to pay off some of Peter's many debts ! Our evening 10s have attracted very good support, not only from the club's riders, who have only occasionally been seduced by the Southboro' drag-strip, but also from other clubs. Mention was made in the last issue of Crow's state visit ; but pride of place must go to Keith Dodman of the Worthing who twice rode as an interlude in 100 mile training bashes ! Early on we even had the mighty Boore, no doubt gaining a sneaky advantage over Ron Ewart ! Another club member has been the vistim of an ifiot motorist, this time newly-recruited schoolboy Ray Gearing was unable to avoid a car which turned across him, and recieved severe facial cuts. At least on this occasion the police prosecuted and obtained a conviction ;

Cont. overleaf

Eastbourne Rovers C.C. (Continued)

so Ray will probably receive damages. This happened when he already has two broken fingers sustained in a collision with Peter ! These notes have taken so long, the weather seems to be improving again (perhaps it's spring - it feels like I've written all through the winter) ; so I think I'll take another weeks holiday (That'll make 'em jealous - sound like I get months and months). Perhaps a bit of practise for the intricacies of the Touring Competition would be an idea. See you there.

THE MOOR

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

The former 'Iron Man' later 'Tin Legs' Grover, home on leave, was asked to come out to some events, but said "They're only interested in bods who did things". Such as performing a yoga exercise in one Esca 50 and swiping the handicap to boot !

Malc Withers' 230 miles in the Kent CA 12 hours was no mean feat in view of the fact that 20 minutes before he started, Dawn was heard to say to him "Shut up and get your clothes off" !!!

East Grinstead may be bottom of the league table, but with the recent election of Val Baxendine, who would dispute that they have the dishiest president ?

Who was the Eastbourne rider who showed up at the Sussex 25 champs. obviously out to set the A23 on fire ; sporting Campag this that and everything else (Cliff observed "He's even smiling too") ; did a warm-up ride of umpteen miles, then clocked a 1-5 ? ?

While marshalling the Lewes road race in June, Copper Burgess directed a motorist to Blackboys, then took a note of the registration number, saying that a stranger heading for Blackboys at that time of day must be up to no good. Talk about suspicious minds !!

We wouldn't say that Cliff Sharp wins lots of prizes ; but Mrs Cook nearly fainted recently when he offered to pay for some equipment with yer actual money !! Trouble set in early with Sharpmobile 3, so clearly something had to be done ; even so his clubmates were surprised when, near the Dartford Tunnel, they spotted Cliff waving regally from the plush interior of a gleaming 'J' registration van.

There's no excuse for anyone who causes a fire at Alfriston Youth Hostel : the 'No Smoking' notices are in twenty-three languages, including the sort of middle-eastern scripts that look as if a fly had dipped it's legs in ink and walked over the paper !

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