

ESTHER.



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

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**East Sussex  
Cycling Association**

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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EDITORIAL

Rather a sour note crept into the Association Lunch in January when five members of the Central Sussex C.C. decided that the missile throwing was an affront to them and, at the end of the meal and before the prize presentation, walked out. They had been sitting next to, or in close proximity to, most of the transgressors for over an hour and a word earlier on would probably sufficed to stop the irritation. Personally we thought that with the absence of so many members of that Club, the behaviour was much less high spirited this year. Certainly in the past our sons and Mark Atkins have been the ringleaders in any mischief but were encouraged and supported by many others of all ages.

It might be as well if the matter were to be discussed at the A.G.M. and guidelines for future behaviour set out to avoid any more unpleasant incidents.

Maurice & Esther

The Club finished it's season's programme with the ever popular Egg and Bacon 25, held in 1984 for the thirtieth consecutive time on the Shermanbury/Twineham/Cowfold circuit. Eighteen riders took part with Mitre's Royal Navy man, Mike Marchant, proving a clear winner. Arthur Linnington's son, Paul, who we have not seen in action before, was a good second. Pearl Wells, Ivy Sladen and Margaret Harkness, assisted by Amy Burley, coped manfully with the task of providing about twenty five well cooked breakfasts using the cooking facilities in Pearl's caravan. Once again the weather was kind to us.

A new venue was tried for the Club's 90th Dinner, Langford's Hotel, Hove and sixty four past and present members enjoyed a very sociable evening. 24 Hour rider from the fifties, Mike Hayler, was present along with his wife, Jean. Mike and family now live deep in ESCALAND (Eastbourne) from where he commutes daily to London with his job at British Rail. Another 'blast from the past' at the Dinner was Len Hartley, now residing at Basingstoke. Len was also a familiar figure back in the fifties with his famous tea-waggon out at the races. Collecting the lion's share of racing awards was junior Steve Johnson who has had a rewarding year getting his 25 time down to a 1.1.0 and finishing runner-up in the junior competition at the track. We hope to have three entries in the White Hope Sprint at Herne Hill on Good Friday - Steve, Bob Merrington and Trevor Welch. All are now training under the guidance of former London trackman, George Povey, who joined us last year. A butcher by trade he is not averse to giving his charges the 'chop' if they step out of line so we await developments with interest.

Another rider to pick up awards was Nick 'Gonzo' Burley, perhaps one of the most colourful characters in the Club in recent years. Apart from competing on the track for the first time he has taken part in cyclo-cross, H.P.V., trike riding, time trials and the London to Brighton fun ride. An expert mechanic, he has held maintenance sessions at the clubroom as well. Nick's sister, Caroline, took the Jim Payne Trophy for the fastest schoolperson at 10 miles.

To round off the Xmas festivities, Nick organised a ride to the Rifleman Inn at Warninglid on December 30th where eighteen members enjoyed a few beers and ploughman's lunches. Bob Merrington just beat Bill Sladen in the freewheeling contest that followed and was presented with a pewter pint pot.

Noted trackman of the fifties, Dave Cottingham, has recently returned to Sussex and he is living at Bolney. Early retirement from the Midland Bank, or was it Barclays? has prompted Dave to invest in a new racing machine and he is threatening to ride in some V.T.T.A. events this year. Another of our vets and star of yesteryear, Arthur Linnington (also retired) is planning a similar venture also mounted on a new light-weight.

The first Club event is the Hardriders 24 on February 24th at Small Dale.

Low Gear Len

We'd just got used to receiving all sorts of tatty scraps torn out of newspapers now we're being sent titchy little bits torn off calenders so that we can reprint the sagacious comments on the bottom. Thank you, Overshoes, some of them are very fitting.

The thought for January 31st was: 'Some men are born clever; others just believe what some woman tells them.' (No comment!!)

We move on to February 6th when we are told that 'it is good to be sensible, but it is better to be heroic.' (For some reason Matthew R. came to mind. He's not heroic, just reckless.)

We're saving January 30th for Charles Robson in the 24. 'Apparently life is a malady, Charles, in which sleep soothes us every sixteen hours!'

Are there any candidates for February 13th? 'Some electrify people with their speeches - others gas them.'

## PRESTON PARK TRACK

I was approached recently by Brighton C.T.C. D.A. and asked if I could write a short history of Preston Park track. Having attempted to do so I wondered if it would be of interest to readers of BONK.

My Club still has minute books dating from 1900 and the track was evidently in frequent use by then. I believe it was built in the 1890s with a cinder surface that remained in use up to the late 1930s.

In the early part of the century, track racing was evidently less formally organised, with no mention of the N.C.U. (forerunner of the B.C.F.) which was already in existence by then. Track events were being organised with three weeks notice, with handicapping by any non-racing member. In 1905, however, we find an argument about who should handle applications for use of the track. The 'Brighton Cyclists Club' were proposing that all applications should be made through the N.C.U. centre rather than by individual Clubs.

After this regular mention of N.C.U. matters occur, with various members of the Club being appointed as N.C.U. officials. Attendances were evidently larger than today with arrangements being made to buy 1000 admission tickets and 10000 handbills for the Easter, 1905, track meeting. The organisers had their priorities well in order, for the arrangements also included provision of two bottles of whiskey for the officials.

1910 brings the first mention of track meetings organised by 'the amalgamated Brighton Clubs', perhaps the first stirrings of the Sussex Cycle Racing League. Mention is made of Clubs such as 'Primrose', 'Prestonville Wanderers' and 'Brighton Cyclists Club'. Regular Club events were being held on the track at this time, very road events being mentioned, although Clubruns were held several times a week. I believe that around this period motor paced events were being held around the track and after one particularly spectacular crash, motors were banned from the track and a Council bye-law introduced which is still in force today.

By the 1920s Club events had largely become road time trials but track meetings organised by the Brighton Clubs were still held at Preston Park with most events being Club races with the occasional inter-Club event.

Open meetings were still being held, as one meeting noted in 1930 that a track booking had been handed over to the N.C.U. Mention was made of track meetings held in conjunction with Brighton Excelsior and Brighton Stanley Clubs. Crowds were evidently still large, with orders for 5000 handbills being authorised by the Club committee.

The May, 1933 committee meeting reported on the formation of the Sussex Centre Racing League and someone was invited to the clubroom to give an address on track racing to 'increase interest in this branch of the sport', so perhaps a decline in interest was happening.

In 1935 correspondence is reported between the Club and Brighton Council about lack of progress on repairs to the track, similar events occurred in 1984.

In 1937 the S.C.R.L. promoted five Open meetings which included some events for League members only.

I was not able to find much else of interest up to the start of the war other than the fact that track racing and the S.C.R.L. were continuing at Preston Park.

Neglect during the war rendered the track unusable immediately after the war and the Club declined to promote an Open meeting in 1945 because of the condition of the track. In 1947 however, the condition of the track was reported as 'fair' and racing was in full swing again.

When I started to attend the track after school in the late forties, unless you were at the park by 6.30 it was impossible to get a space next to the track. The same conditions applied when I started to compete in 1949. This was the period when Reg Harris was making cycle racing a nationally known sport for the first time. During this period all the world's top riders were regular visitors to Preston Park. Most of the major meetings were promoted by George Woodhams of the Brighton Stanley Wanderers or Charles Turner of the Mitre. Visiting riders included Reg Harris, Sid Patterson (world sprint and pursuit Champion in successive years), Arie van Vliet and Jan Derkson, all World Champions, and many others. A series of meetings sponsored by Dunlop brought large crowds to the tracks in various parts of the country. On the day of the Dunlop Meeting in Brighton the attendance at Preston Park was 6000, 1500 more than Brighton & Hove Albion had on the same night. Note, Dunlop made tubulars in those days, the only ones in the U.K. market at around £3 each or £36 in today's funny money. I have a press cutting from June 1949 reporting a 7000 crowd at the Whit Monday meeting and crowds of

this size were common. Prizes, in days of stricter amateur definitions, usually consisted of clocks, barometers, etc. The value for major events of £10 or over was considerably larger than today's prizes. The large gate takings being adequate to fund the promotions without today's battle for sponsorship. Club membership and track racing over this period was affected by the loss of members to National Service, many of whom did not return to cycling on 'demob'.

By the mid 1950s the advent of television and decline in the numbers of active cyclists saw a gradual decline in numbers at the Park, and the fall of several Sussex Clubs. At one time there were seven Clubs in Brighton and district and Clubs at Lancing, Shoreham, Horsham, Uckfield, Haywards Heath and Tunbridge Wells (2), all competing at Preston Park.

At this time the track had a gravel surface and dressing room corner had a saucered profile with the inside of the track being nearly flat and with the banking starting about three feet from the inside of the track, crashes were frequent, as if you were flat out round the last corner you couldn't go down the banking, only up, if anything happened in front. I, among several others, twice ended up in the crowd. Fortunately there was a crowd which tended to soften the fall. St. John's Ambulance and the casualty ward at the Sussex County were kept busy and a number of liaisons were formed with the nurses at the hospital.

In the mid 1950s the track was extensively reworked. Dressing room corner was raised about three feet and the banking reshaped. The surface was converted to smooth asphalt. This made the track the fastest it had ever been and track records were set, and, particularly for the short distances, they survive 'til today. Unfortunately this coincided with a fall in the numbers of both riders and spectators which has continued up to the present.

We had to wait until 1972 for another visit by a World Champion when Hugh Porter and Gordon Johnson competed at the 'Fyffes' sponsored Mitre promotion at Preston Park.

In the last three or four years the number of riders has increased to near 1950 levels but the riders concerned are mainly all-rounders with few track specialists. In my opinion this has detracted from the quality of racing particularly in sprinting.

I hope my ramblings have been of interest and that some of you will be regular visitors to the track in 1985 if the condition of the track permits racing.

Ken Wells

#### RELIABILITY TRIAL

An Association Reliability Trial will be organised on the morning of the 1985 A.G.M. The Promoter will be Charles Robson backed up by loyal friends. Details of the course will appear in the next issue of BONK. If you would like to help in any way to make this event a success contact either the winsome promoter or the BONK editors.

## SOUTHBOROUGH & DISTRICT WHEELERS

I can now exclusively reveal to BONK readers the identity of our Mis-Anony-Mouse, it is none other than young Gillian Dunford, long suffering daughter of that debauched woman, Joyce!!! Gillian is gently bowing out of her duties as Club secretary and BONK writer in preparation for her forthcoming marriage to her young man from the Rodney, Ian Draper. I'm sure all her BONK fans will join me in wishing her every happiness and success for the future. We're all hoping that she will persuade the young fast man to don the red, yellow and black of the Southborough as he had some good placings last year in time trials!!!! I suppose it's the only way that poor unsponsored Clubs like ourselves can poach riders nowadays!!!

The Club Dinner took place at the Sceptre Hotel in early November and Guest of Honour was that well known Crowborough man, Mick Burgess but he was completely upstaged by that other not so well known Crowboro' man, Terry Collins. Just hours before departing for his date, Terry decided it was time to do all those small jobs that he'd been meaning to do for some time. The net result being that he arrived halfway through the desert course and it took a lot of fast eating to catch up in between getting up and down like a yo-yo as he was the butt of most of the cross-toasting!!

The other main event of consequence to ESCAbods was the decision at our A.G.M. to concentrate on being a stronger Club locally. Only events in Kent and Sussex now count towards the Club Championship. It seems to have had the desired effect though because at the time of going to print no less than ten members have declared an interest in riding the local B.A.R. Competition so you'd better watch out as the 'team' will need plenty of preparation. Indeed, the team includes Warwick who obviously will have to travel widely to get in shape. Most publicans in the south have yet to be warned so perhaps BONK readers might help out and spread the word. I'll report in later issues the rest of the infamous ten.

The racing season should have begun a few days ago but the ice and snow made the course rideable but not for road racing. Ridges of ice around much of the course was considered dangerous and after much heart searching on the part of the officials it was decided to cancel the event. It is hoped to run the event on Sunday, July 7th, instead.

On a lighter note, Rob Chapple of 'On Your Biker Limited' paid a sales visit to the clubroom recently with a large array of equipment. As members began to drift a way he put his goods in the car. One item was a large bin full of saddles and other bits and pieces and this he put in the front passenger seat and did up the seatbelt, much to the amusement of the onlookers!!

The recent cold spell had it's affect - a Club committee meeting was preceded by mopping up the floor when, much to the chagrin of our resident plumber, Ron Hayward, a pipe burst.

The spate of accidents reported in the pages of this magazine continues. A clubrun led by Peter Crofts was mown down by a motorcyclist on a 1000cc machine. Bill Bailey received a broken nose for his trouble and Joanne Ansell a hairline fracture of the skull. Happily both are now well on the way to recovery. All six riders were brought down in the collision and all the bikes were write-offs, including Pete Croft's racing tandem. The matter is still being investigated by the police and charges may yet be brought against the rider. The accident happened on the hill out of Groombridge onto the forest. The motorcyclist was coming down the hill when he lost control due to excessive speed. To make matters worse, it was only his first outing on the new machine!!! We all hope he is banned but he'll probably get off scot free.

That's all for this issue.

Overshoes

Dennis Neeves (Ol' Neevo), is selling his perfumed balls off at half price. He says "they weren't a good line. Everyone wants to sniff them but nobody will buy." Perhaps they'd make a nice wedding present for Ian Burgess!

## EASTBOURNE ROVERS C.C.

Well, here we are again after a year in the literary wilderness, M. Brocation writes again and will be smothering you all with the latest rumblings from the Rovers. I haven't been idle these past twelve months, in fact I've saved up for a new pencil. Some say it isn't my pencil that's worn out but the lack of lead in the old one, still that's another story and on we go.

Several members decided that life needed a boost and together with John Pratt spent a day chasing their tails at Calshot. It all seemed a bit boring as nobody managed a lap on their bums as is usually the case. Despite the heat from the Deryn's exhaust, Steven Willis reported that it was as cold as ever. It's the only indoor Sports Centre I know with an artificial ski slope covered in real snow and badminton players who have a job to find their shuttlecocks! Despite the cold, SARAH LADE took to the track like the proverbial duck and almost beat her mother, Jane, in one of the pursuits.

Mentioning Steven Willis reminds me to tell you that he has completely recovered from his nasty Q10/19 accident and is giving us hell on the Sunday clubruns. His father, Clive, is looking to build on last season's achievements which included several good rides and going under for the first time with a 57.

Christmas Day dawned bright and cheerful, inspiring a dozen or so riders out for the Club's 8.8.m T.T. Unfortunately, ten minutes before the off it rained, which put a damper on most people's enthusiasm and caused Brian Holt more problems than most, his vision was somewhat blurred due to multi-coloured dye running into his eyes from his punk make-up and hair-do. We think his vision problems were brought about by earlier yuletide toastings! Ray Gearing looked superb on his tandem trike, Esther provided the enthusiasm from the rear but together they had their work cut out to overcome the drag created by miles of this and that, mainly that, which decorated every conceivable corner of the trike's frame. Despite everything, they managed to get round in a reasonable time and rode off with the fancy dress prize. Other riders took it more seriously; Charles Robson sported skin hat and shorts and shot off down the road in a businesslike manner. Maurice and Time Carpenter completed the course in their distinctive styles, whilst keeping it a family day Ray Prior gave it all and Simon, despite complaining of festive bells ringing in his head, gave it some wellie and made himself feel even worse. Not to be left out of the family occasion, Jane and Sarah Lade rode yet another tandem to good effect, winning the ladies prizes. Jim Fuller thought it was about time he rode his ROBERTS LOW PROFILE, compliments of the Prudential Assurance Co. Ltd., and determined not to make himself feel sick for the rest of Christmas Day as in previous years, managed to win with a 23.43, beating Charles, 24.12, into second place, closely followed by Simon, 24.28.

Andrew Purser has taken delivery of a new frame and hopes to put it to good use as a junior this season, hopefully in road races with a few time trials to sharpen up his speed. Last season brought him the Club's Junior B.A.R. Championship. Unfortunately his dad, Mick, is suffering from the big gear pushers complaint, varicose veins but after a recent operation hopes to be charging about with the best of them fairly soon.

Dave Pickard can look back on his first full season with satisfaction. He even won the Club's early season 10, which shook a few Club members but their prayers were answered because due to a house move and his wife, Ann, presenting him with a son, Dave found it difficult to get in his five hundred miles each week!

What can be said about Cliff Sharp? He's just completed his 21st SEASON and once more walked off with the Club's Senior B.A.R. Championship. He also holds most of the Club records up to 100 miles which spread way back to 1967. Surely there's a challenge for the senior Club members, and talking of records the Juvenile and junior records go back a bit, the most recent amendments were brought about by the Jason Carey/Tim Fuller rivalry in 1982, bringing the figures down, for example, to 59.26 and 22.26 for the juniors and back even further, the 50 record has stood since 1975 to S. Chapman at 2.11.18. Come on, you younger herbs, let's be having you!!

I had better stop writing; the snow has cleared; the reliability trial is here and, blow me, why am I getting nervous? Oh yes, the dear old ESCA Hardriders is lurking around the corner. It puts me off a bit riding slalom on the way to Horam amongst the newspaper getters, still, makes one pay attention, doesn't it? Have a good season.

M. Brocation



Finally for this time, we have three 'off sick' at the moment. Ron Ewart thought he had enough problems with laryngitis then a rock started rattling around in his kidneys. Paul Lipscombe had an operation for a trapped nerve which seems to have caused more problems than it cured. Get well soon both of you; I need your back wheels - desperately! The third get well soon to Les Shrubbs, making a recovery after his car accident. It was great to see you up and about at the Dinner Les, don't overdo it!

Rambler

#### C.T.C. - EASTBOURNE & HAILSHAM DISTRICT SECTION

'Brrrr' it's been cold, hasn't it. But my saga this time begins with a very wet Sunday in December, in fact the day of the D.A. District Lunch at Alfriston Youth Hostel. I was leading the run scheduled for that morning and I rode to Hailsham sure that no one would brave the elements on such a day. Instead six soaked souls arrived and followed me in the rain and through the floods on a circular route to Littleington for a pre-lunch drink; the 'inmates' of the pub regarded us with incredulous stares. The Lunch was splendid. We had Maurice Carpenter and Charles Robson as guests and Bill Collins and Roy Humphrey were in fine form when the cross toasting started. Everyone arrived home safely, so I'm told, although it seems that some cyclists found the kerb had developed a nasty habit of jumping about! Perhaps the homemade wine was responsible.

For the next few Sundays it rained and each day we managed an outing, one of which saw us on the sea wall from Seaford and Newhaven and then on to Rodmill when we decided 'enough was enough' and turned for home. An innovation was the ride on New Year's Day which proved successful. Lunch was at the 'Laughing Fish' at Isfield where we found the food very good and what's more it didn't rain. Our annual ramble in January took place in the snow and fourteen members and a dog enjoyed an exhilarating walk led by Dot Collins and Daphne Lambert. Since then the brave ones have been out each Sunday in freezing conditions and, although there have been a few spills, nobody has broken anything. Unfortunately the cold weather forced us to cancel our New Year Lunch but it's been re-arranged for the second Sunday in April.

We did, however, manage to hold our Section Slide Show and Tea recently and we were pleased to have with us our friends from the Seaford and Newhaven Section and everyone seemed to enjoy the wide variety of slides shown. The tea provided by our ladies was, as usual, superb. On a sad note, though, we were sorry that Jane Lade and Ted Jarvis could not be with us because of illness - Ted had just returned home after a short spell in hospital whilst Jane was in the Eastbourne District General Hospital for a minor operation. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

Saturday, November 2nd seems a long way off but it will soon arrive. Note your diaries that this is the day that JACK & GRACE COTTON of the Bristol D.A. are coming back to Polegate to give another audio visual slide show. One hundred and twenty came last time and it's an evening not to be missed. More details later. Before this we have another special social event in the form of a tea at Wannock village to celebrate Bill Collin's 80th birthday. It's on Sunday, August 18th and again further information will be given anon.

Tourist

Why can't a bike stand up on it's own? Because it's too tired (two tired).

When he was under the influence of alcohol recently Neevo talked wistfully of matrimony and described the woman of his dreams. When he was asked how old his ideal woman would be he said, "Not too old. Sixtyish would be just right".

## CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

I know you all spent ages thumbing through the Christmas BONK looking for my usual gripping tale.....sorry! I missed the Editors deadline. So, let's catch up on the news.

Gary Moore achieved a life-long dream when he spent most of last year living and racing in and around South Holland. Riding as many as four events a week Gary saw a variety of racing from 90Km circuit races to 150Km open road races. The riders on the Continent have a greater variety of road conditions than their English counterparts, many races have a selection of tarmac roads, dirt tracks, pave and the occasional tramline. After his seven month European trip, Gary is sold on continental-style racing and is saving up during the winter to finance his next trip abroad. He has already made tentative plans to live in the same area of South Holland with a farming family.

Central's open Hillclimb was held on the 20th October and attracted thirty riders, not at all bad for an inaugural event. The climb is Kidd's Hill (or 'The Wall') 1525 yards and the event was won with 3m 36s by Steve Marchant 'just warming up for the National the week after' when he came second with another marvellous ride. A very windy day, Ken Atkins and I had difficulty hanging on to the timing paperwork at the finish line and half of my cup of tea got blown away rather than swallowed. Talking of tea, many thanks to Bill Shoulders for laying this on at the event.

Ron Ewart's Saturday morning rambling season is drawing to a close now and what a huge success they've been once again with somewhere between ten and twenty riders thoroughly enjoying themselves every week. The 'season' is usually around twenty weeks long and each run is guaranteed to include a memorable event, sometimes bordering on the catastrophic. To remind you of just a few highlights, including the elevenses destination:

Mark Cross (Gay Bowers) Ron has Bonk par excellence having been to the Vision-Hire annual rave up until 3 a.m.

Newlands Corner Bert Griffiths fell off changing gear, brings down Kevin Bramham, too!

Worthing (Macaris) Tear-up along seafront, Bert Griffiths (again and at his age) decides safest to ride on pavement.

Ditchling all caught in monsoon when almost home, find racing capes definitely not waterproof.

Midhurst (via Bexley Hill, naturally) - young Kevin's chain breaks on the steepest bit.

Basing Tea Cottage whilst waiting for Mac and Stephen to repair punctures young Kevin falls off bike whilst stationary with one foot on the ground! Rear mud-guard smashes to smithereens and is attacked by passing dog whilst horizontal - not Kevin's day!

Arundel via Bedham AND Bury hills. Eight punctures and Paul Lipscombe deafens everybody in the cafe with the old 'how do you sell a deaf man a rabbit' joke.

The Dragon Christmas ramble, Turkey curry all round, especially Adrian. Huge pub cat nearly amputates Rod Laker's finger and then cons me into giving up all the cream on my xmas pud...

Nutley farm shop where meet Jake, the rather large black German shepherd dog who decides to come on the ramble at the back of the bunch. Pete Cox the only one brave enough to drag him back to the cafe.

Thanks for organising it all, Ron.

Another highlight during the winter is, of course, the Club Dinner. This year's, the 54th, was held, for the second year running, at the Red Lion in Ashington. This excellent venue is very popular and the seventy five members and guests enjoyed trout (with a few bones!); Steve Payne (Sports Editor, West Sussex etc..) as the main speaker and a fine response for the Club by Kevin Bramham. Steve's task at the prize giving was relatively simple with Paul James (4), Paul Lipscombe (3), Colin Tamon (3) and John Yates (3), taking most of them. Stephen MacLagan took the Junior Championship, Claire Teague the Ladies Trophy, Joe James the Challenge Cup and Tim Goddard the 10 Series Cup.

On the cyclo-cross scene, Joe James was keeping very fit until a VERY large tree leapt out in front of him - result being some more needlework practice for the staff at Crawley Hospital. Son Duncan (15) is also into cyclo-cross and has gained some

good results in the schoolboys events including wins at Redhill, Addington and Chatham. He rates his third place in the GLC Championships at Crystal Palace as the highlight of his season as he was competing against the strongest riders in the south.

Yet another winter activity has developed (!) on Club nights - table tennis. Enthusiasm has now reached the pitch where inter-Club competition has started. Central had home and away matches against Worthing Excel and as the Worthing lot probably won't tell you, we beat them by one game at each match. Central's players were Paul James, Paul Lipscombe, Ron Ewart, Colin Tamon, Duncan and Joe James and Kevin Bramham. Well played chaps!

It's usual at this time of the year for scribes to make predictions for the coming year so here are a few of mine for 1985:

MARCH. Rod Laker and Joe James sneak inside the hour by two seconds to take the ESCA two up 29.

APRIL. Les Teague and Bill Shoulders do 55m 41s in the SERC two up 24. Kevin Bramham and Bert Griffiths trail in fifteen seconds down.

MAY. Ron, Rex, Mac and Adrian extend their usual holiday by one day and ride to Cape Wrath and back.

JUNE. Paul James breaks comp. record in Central Sussex evening 10.

JULY. Paul Lipscombe wins SCA 100 with 3h 48m 21s.

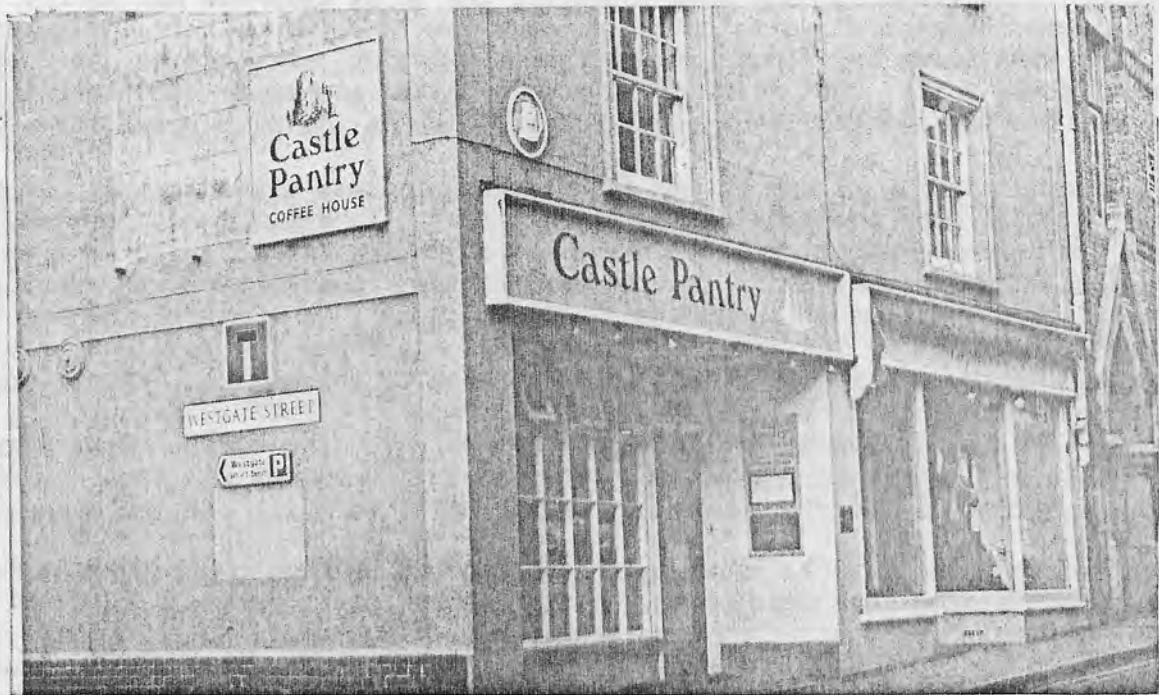
AUGUST. Colin Tamon wins Handicap Criterium and 63 mile road race on Jersey.

SEPTEMBER. All day megaramble to Crawley (Hampshire). Rambles start next month - Ron promises simpler routes.

OCTOBER. Steve Marchant takes Central's Hillclimb for the second year running. Ken Atkins romps up the hill to take second place in 3m 39s. First ramble, Heathfield via Bexley Hill.

Let's hope they all happen!

What does happen these days is that we cyclists get a pretty good deal in most of the cafes that we use. I suppose the Central has well over a dozen on the 'rota' and I, for one, look forward with keen anticipation whenever any one of them is proposed. (Is that why I'm a stone overweight this winter?). Well, Joe James visited a new one for us in Lewes recently and was so impressed with everything about it that he took a photograph and got all the gen and asked me to include it in this article, so here it is.



Mr. & Mrs. E. Pezarro, "Castle Pantry", 146 High Street, LEWES, E. Sussex. BN7 1XT  
Tel. Lewes (079 16) 78328.

CLOSED TUESDAYS (also WEDNESDAYS IN WINTER) OPEN SUNDAYS 11 to 4 extended in summer.

With Geoff Boxall rubbing his hands with glee at the thought of all those moon crater buckled wheels he'll have to mend now that the ice has created so many pot holes, I bring you another instalment of life in the picturesque Ouse Valley and beyond. But before I do, two quick words of apology. Firstly to Esther for being late with these notes (I'm still trying to get Ian Burgess to have her as a bridesmaid in July so that I can make the toast to her). Secondly to Val Stringer of the Excel for forgetting to send off my entry to the Hardriders in time. Luckily a phone call to the Beeding Beauty soon rectified things on the condition that I said nothing rude about her in BONK. So I'll scrap what I was going to write and carry on with an account of the Wanderers' social season.

The highlight was the Club's annual Dinner-Dance, held this year at Hassocks. Graham Seymour once again came up trumps as organiser, though I didn't think much of the hat he lent the D.J. Some of us had planned to ride to Dorking to meet John Woodburn, who was riding to the Dinner, but that white stuff put an end to that. Not a bad speech by J.W. I suppose but then anything is going to look poor when your other speaker is Mick Rabbetts, who as usual had 'em rolling in the aisles. The cross-toasting was pretty good, too, with chairman Burgess the star turn - just using it as an excuse to have a few more drinks. Our Tone collected an armful of trophies of course and threatened to take a serious interest in road racing this year, which made the Central's representative look a bit worries. Dave Manning somehow managed to get out of making a speech when he was worthily presented with the Junior B.A.R. Cup. Of the Club's two special awards, the Merit Cup went to Dave Sims for his immaculate organisation of our Crit series and the Zonca Bradshaw Trophy for effort and participation went to Mick Rabbetts, who after being knocked down and having his leg broken in February, came back to ride the ESCA 10 in September. Well done those two; their awards are as important as any racing ones.

The first social event of the winter had been another Seymour Special - our annual pilgrimage to Ghent for the six day. Graham, his daughter Georgina, Laurie Leaney, Tony Deacon, his girlfriend Sue and yours truly escaped the November gales to view the Belgian scene. As always, the racing was very weary on the eyes but exhilarating and we even ate in the same restaurant as Tony Doyle's car driver and groupies.

Not to be out done by Graham's organising brilliance, Club captain and male model, Ian Landless, concocted an ingenious tourist trial in November, combining map reading with local knowledge of the area between Horam and Hailsham. The Bridger/Attwood combination swept to victory, with John providing the local know-how and Andrew the back wheel shelter. Biggest disaster of the day was the "A Team" of Barnes/Sims/Green. Either they were never Boy Scouts or Gary was navigating because they got lost and failed the intelligence tests. But then, could you do better answering questions while doing bit and bit 'on the rivet'? By the way, Simon - now on the Club committee - wants to ban touring.

The snow abated just long enough for another Landless extravaganza, the annual reliability trial on a not-too-testing circuit taking in Heathfield, Burwash, Brightling, Pevensy and Lewes. Gary managed to break his chain and Martin White went up the back of Tony Deacon. Keep your eyes off the crumpet, Martin. Nearly everyone punctured.

We had good turnouts at the SCA and ESCA Luncheons, to cheer the Man of the Moment, the Archdeacon himself. The ESCA 'do' was also a highlight for Pete Burberry because he was sworn in as Association President in succession to sex goddess Esther Carpenter, who seemed more interested in embarrassing that poor shy boy, Matthew Rabbetts (I thought he was drunk! Mrs. Ed.) by getting kisses off him whenever she could. Paul Higginson is now BCF Divisional Registrar, which must mean cheaper weddings for Club members. His dad, Gordon, who's no longer allowed out on his bike, is still BCF racing sec. for the county.

Clubruns continued to be popular, though the bad weather chopped attendances. And the Saturday training runs from Lewes, started this winter, proved a success, although an average of only five turned up each week. A doubtful claim fame is that of Gary Sims and Matthew Rabbetts, who on one training ride in January recorded SEVEN punctures in thirty five miles. I pity anyone who beat that this winter!

Late news just in is the first win of the year for Simon Barnes. He beat Martin White, 28.36 to 29.09, to win the 12 mile circuit of Glynde. On a bitterly cold morning, Stephen Owles and Olly Davis - two of the youngest riders - won the first and second handicap awards and the wooden spoon went to Mick Burgess whose feeble excuse was that he was riding 63" fixed with mudguards. AND Ian Burgess dodged the wrath of Our Sally to ride down, round and back - and boy, did I make him suffer!

Tailpiece star this quarter is Mick Rabbetts, who as guest speaker at Brighton Excel's Dinner wanted some support from clubmates. "Oh, isn't Megan going with you, then?" "Yes, but I want someone to talk to!"

With all you husbands endorsing that statement, here's to above freezing temperatures. Up the miners!

Rear End

BRIGHTON MITRE C.C. (Part 2)

Apologies for absence from the famous files, I hope we can remember to supply the Editors with material regularly.

Last season's exploits were fairly undistinguished but we hope that '85 will see an improvement in fortunes for the Club.

Most of last season's riders are available. Mike Marchant, who is at present first claim to the Navy, should be around more this year as he is at present on shore and not gadding about the ocean. We had high hopes of some good results on the track but the present condition of the track may make racing impossible.

Our Open Four up time trial will be run this year by George Povey, on the usual course and we are hoping that last year's large field will be repeated. Headquarters will be at Upper Dicker (April 14th).

The Club Dinner was moved from Portslade Town Hall to Langfords Hotel and was again ably organised by Bill Sladen. The move from the vast open spaces of the Town Hall was made rather more obvious by the size of the dance floor which took up less space than the band. The furniture needed a certain amount of attention before being passed by the machine examiners but a good time was had by all.

Winter clubruns have been limited by the recent weather but a number of social runs, led by Bill, and alleged faster runs led by George, have been held.

A Christmas lunch was held at the 'Rifleman' Warninglid, followed by a freewheeling contest in the pouring rain won by Rob Merrington who had obviously cheated and oiled his bike.

First Club event of the season will be our Hilly 22, one week before the ESCA Hardriders. We can only hope that the weather improves before then. Personally I shall be waiting a little longer before risking my fragile legs.

Finally to report that the lady Editor was introduced to the Surrey/Sussex V.T.T.A. Lunch as an example of the 'Bent Vets'.

Backwoodsman

CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUMMER EDITION OF BONK IS MAY 24th MAY 24th MAY 24th MAY 24th  
MAY 24th. THE REASON FOR THIS IS THAT WE HOPE TO HAVE IT READY FOR DISTRIBUTION  
AT THE ESCA 50.

P.S. THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE SUMMER EDITION IS MAY 24th!!

When we received an invitation to the C.T.C. Lunch at Alfriston we thought at first that we would have to refuse as Esther had a prior engagement. However, when we told Iris, her response "Oh GOOD. Now I shall be able to behave exactly as I want to without it appearing in BONK" convinced us that one of us should be in attendance, so I gladly said that I would go along.

It certainly was a very, very good 'do'. We had turkey with all the trimmings, followed by Christmas pudding with all the trimmings, followed by mince pies. Not only was the food delicious but there was so much that it couldn't all be eaten. The wine makers had all brought generous samples of their craft along and the addition of a barrel of beer ensured that everyone got very jolly.

The crosstoasting was very revealing, although I would like to make it clear to Ken Stevens who took wine with my 'wife' that Charles Robson and I are just good friends and he only escorted me because I'm not used to going out on my own. Bill Collins and Humph had a wonderful time as they will go anywhere for free booze. Bill tried to explain that tales about his meanness had been put about by Humph to draw attention away from his own parsimony. Ray Gearing asked if anyone had ever had a drink from Bill but there was no response, although Bill said that he had spent £10 at the Kicking Donkey at the last Fellowship Meet, and Esther tells me that at the Trike Lunch Bill asked her what she would like. She told him but had to settle for a glass of cider! Mention of Humph reminds me that there was talk of him making a comeback. He's trying out a new bike and awaiting Sean Yates' arrival with a contract for him to sign then it's going to be all 49 minute 25s in East Sussex in 1985. Roy's so torn between being an ace rider and keeping his ESCA Sec's job that he's been attending evening classes for reading and writing during the winter so that the job won't be so time consuming and he will have more time for training. Actually, when Humph saw me making notes he tried to tear the paper from my hands and when Esther arrived to take me home he was almost on his knees to her. (Don't worry, Roy, I type the notes and I've expurgated them!!! Esther)

Somebody was seen to be studying a copy of BONK and was crosstoasted for reading about Irises sex life, whereupon Iris cast a terrible slur on the Editors integrity, accusing us of making up stories and printing things that aren't true. Still, what more can you expect from a woman who had been soliciting men and taking money from them almost as soon as they arrived!

By the time we were halfway through the meal, Ray Wickens informed me in confidence that his dear wife had had a skinful and would be snoring her head off by the time they got home. This is a daily occurrence and he regularly finds her in that condition when he gets back from work.

For all those people who don't believe that there is life after death there was proof of it's existence in the presence of Crow, who apparently materialises in special places at certain times. Which brings me to Dot Collins, who confided that she'd had a lovely time kissing all the young boys - a treat she denies herself when she's sober.

All too soon a very pleasant function drew to a close, with Yub promising to fortify his next lot of wine with medical alcohol and not meths. Roy wobbled off down the road, pipe in mouth, his following car hooting at him every time he dropped below five miles an hour. Esther thought it was so funny when he nearly hit the kerb as he waved his fist that she nearly hit him when he veered into the middle of the road again.

It was all great fun and I'll do anything, Iris, if I can come again next year.

Maurice

Evidently the stories about Iris are not true, as people with good eyesight will notice a marked resemblance to her in the accompanying cartoon.



(The Editors of BONK thank C.R. Press Cuttings Agency for supplying this item and acknowledge his enthusiasm for this publication even though he hasn't honoured his contract with a contribution on Cafés this time)

As I write the days are getting both longer and warmer. A welcome change after some of the abysmal weather we suffered since the year began.

Strangely, Don Lock managed to pick the warmest Sunday of the year for our reliability trial on February 3rd. There was a good turn out for both the 50 Km and 100 Km. The short distance group had Bury Hill and either Whiteways or Long Furlong to contend with, whilst the longer journey included Harting Hill. It was an enjoyable day and I pass on thanks from all the riders to the organisers, checkpoint marshalls and timekeeper.

Our racing season commenced on February 23rd with a 10 mile medium gear event at Washington followed next morning by the two circuits of Long Furlong-Clapham-Findon (18 miles). If anything was designed to prove how unfit you are, this is it.

Brian Cox is running a 100 Km and 200 Km randonee on March 24th, starting at Washington. Details from Brian who lives at 15, Greenwood Close, Bognor Regis, W. Sussex. (865704).

On the subject of forthcoming events, please see page 191 of the RTTC Handbook. I hope you will all be including the event mentioned, in your programmes for 1985.

It seems strange that at a time when 'bikies' are taking more and more to reflective strips, anklets, Sam Brownes, bibs, etc, other road users seem to be getting less safety conscious. I've noticed more and more vehicles moving around on sidelights. Principal offenders are vans, lorries and buses. What use our reflective gear if the idiot coming up behind you is driving on side/parking lights. I wish the police would have a blitz on such drivers.

Mind you, there are people in our ranks who let the side down when it comes to safety. A recollection from early last year is when I was standing by the humpback bridge at Arundel station during the SCA 2 up 25. Two V.C. Toilet riders came along; as they reached the top of the hump, the one at the rear decided to go to front. Not only was it a silly place to do so but he didn't look round to see what was behind him. He pulled out about four feet and in doing so nearly went under the wheels of a car. Luckily the woman driver took evading action, thereby avoiding a nasty accident. She then gave a short beep on her hooter to let the rider know she was coming past. The thanks she got from one of the riders was four or five V signs and a torrent of four letter words. These actions will hardly endear motorists to cyclists. At the end of the day I suppose we have to accept that there are faults on all sides, not all drivers are 'sinners' and not all bikies 'saints'.

I wish you a safe, fast, injury free 1985.

Major B.



SOLUTION to CYCLING CROSSWORD by BLACK HAWK

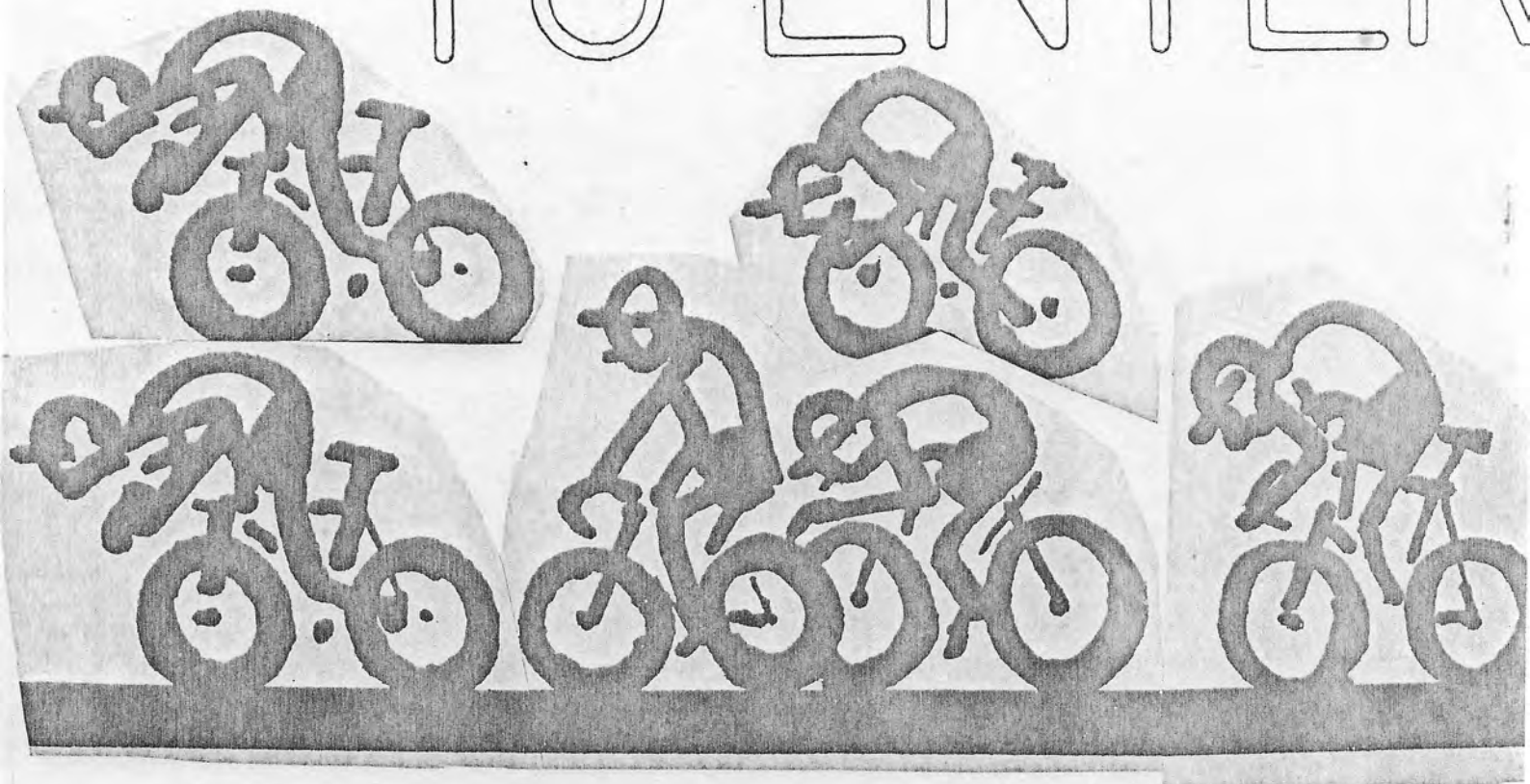
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N	/	P	/	R	/	S	/	I	/	<sup>9</sup> P	/	N	/	A
<sup>10</sup> D	U	R	R	A	/	<sup>11</sup> E	X	C	E	L	S	I	O	R
/	/	I	/	K	/	D	/	E	/	U	/	F	/	/
<sup>12</sup> S	U	N	S	E	T	/	<sup>13</sup> P	R	E	S	T	O	N	/
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I	/	/	/	<sup>18</sup> L	O	O	S	E	N	S	/	/	/	V
<sup>19</sup> E	S	<sup>20</sup> T	H	E	R	/	U	/	U	/	<sup>21</sup> A	<sup>22</sup> P	S	E
S	/	O	/	A	/	/	E	/	<sup>23</sup> F	/	R	/	R	/
/	<sup>24</sup> B	U	R	G	E	<sup>25</sup> S	S	/	<sup>26</sup> R	O	V	E	R	S
/	/	R	/	U	/	E	/	<sup>27</sup> E	/	B	/	R	/	/
<sup>28</sup> C	R	I	T	E	R	I	U	M	/	<sup>29</sup> O	V	A	L	<sup>30</sup> S
A	/	S	/	S	/	Z	/	I	/	F	/	C	/	A
<sup>31</sup> R	T	T	C	/	<sup>32</sup> H	E	A	T	H	F	I	E	L	D

Congratulations to Dave Dunbar (Eastbourne Rovers) who sent in the first correct solution and received the £1 prize.

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# STILL TIME TO ENTER



\*\*\*\*\*  
\* EASTBOURNE ROVERS SUNSET SPRINTS CRITERIUM SERIES \*  
\* \* \* \* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

DATES: Thursdays 4th 11th 18th July 1985      START TIME: 19.15hrs  
CATEGORIES: 3rds and Juniors      EVENT HEADQUARTERS: Rushlake Green Wall  
CIRCUIT: Rushlake Green, Warbleton, Cowbeech      DISTANCE: 32 miles  
PRIZES: For top ten overall, winner of each event, primes every lap,  
also special awards for best veteran and best 16-year-old.  
Details of prizes on event entry-form and in race programme.  
ENTRY FEE: £5 for all three races      CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: 13th June 1985  
ORGANISER: Gavin Smith, 56 Harmers Hay Road, Hailsham, East Sussex, BN27 1SU  
Under the rules of the British Cycling Federation.

STILL LIFE

TO ENLIGHTEN

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