

BOMK!

SPECIAL
RELIABILITY TRIAL ISSUE
RESULTS REPORTS PICTURES

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex
Cycling Association

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EDITORIAL

It's rather disturbing to note the amount of feeling that seems to be appearing in the cycling press, and now in the R.T.T.C. report, against long distance events. The sport of cycling would be sadly diminished if 12s and 24s were abolished, and how long would it be before 100s followed. Any fit person should be able to ride a bike for twelve hours and do an acceptable ride and with a little specialised training a lot of extra miles can be added to a previous personal best.

Once again at the ESCA A.G.M. the question of the Association 100 was raised - there aren't enough events locally for us to be able to afford to lose one at this distance. The longer events are concentrated into such a small part of the season that the choices are really very small, although at first sight in the handbook there may be appear to be a lot of longer races.

Long distance racing is fun, both for the helpers and riders, and don't let anyone say anything different. The sense of achievement at finishing a 12 is far beyond that of riding a 10 or even a 50.

Now it is time to wish you all a very happy Christmas and plenty of new year miles and smiles.

Maurice & Esther

CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Sir,

In the current issue (No. 46) of BONK, William Hickey describes the ESCA 100 as a "ludicrous event", and recommends that ESCA "opt for an alternative event" on the grounds of the low entry (29).

I for one, enjoyed riding in this, my first 100, and despite the grovelling demanded at the time, I am looking forward to the 1989 edition.

Ending events because of dwindling "low" numbers is a very poor reason, notwithstanding the financial losses, disproportionate amount of work and numbers of marshals required for only 29 riders - the ESCA hillclimb attracted only 25 riders, so perhaps that should be scrapped as well!

Once events like the 100 go, it is very much harder to reinstate them, after all, if it is there people may ride it, especially with some in-Club encouragement, whereas trying to revive a defunct event requires a lot of extra effort, determination and cost, as British Rail will no doubt discover when they activate their plans to resume another local service that disa-peared some years ago, namely an Uckfield-Lewes train service.

Hickey states that "there are dozens of similar events up and down the country" but the Handbook lists only four on Q and G courses (S.C.A. on G962. 10.7.88; S.C.C.U. G566. .7. ; .C.A. on G865. 24.7.88. K.C.A. Q100/3. 4.9.88) that do not require driving to Dorset or halfway round the M25 and beyond to reach the start, not many really, for the whole season.

Yours,

Nick Hamlyn
Lewes Wanderers

CHAMPIONS 1988

Ladies B.A.R.	Miss A. Winchester	Eastbourne Rovers C.C./Phoenix Cycles	22.377mph
Junior B.A.R.	K. Parvin	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	23.503mph
Vets B.A.R.	A. Limbrey	Sussex Nomads	+ 2.505mph
	R. Taylor	East Grinstead C.C.	+ 1.414mph
	I. Landless	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	+ 1.379mph
	M. Burgess	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	+ 1.370mph
	J. Brimm	Brighton Excelsior	+ 1.124mph
	R. Settle	Crawley Wheelers	+ 1.009mph
Senior B.A.R.	S. Dennis	East Grinstead C.C.	25.018mph
	P. Davies	Brighton Mitre C.C.	24.328mph
	J. Pelham	East Grinstead C.C.	23.608mph
	P. Gibbons	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	22.787mph
	S. Collins	Brighton Mitre C.C.	22.682mph
	P. Baker	Hastings & St. Leonards C.C.	22.655mph
	M. Bartup	Sussex Nomads	22.256mph
	R. Taylor	East Grinstead C.C.	22.191mph
	J. Brimm	Brighton Excelsior	22.060mph
	K. Taylor	East Grinstead C.C.	22.020mph
	I. Landless	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	21.797mph
	A. Limbrey	Sussex Nomads	21.742mph
	Miss A. Winchester	Eastbourne Rovers	21.731mph
	M. Burgess	Lewes Wanderers C.C.	20.896mph
	R. Settle	Crawley Wheelers	18.873mph
	A. Kraft	Brighton Mitre C.C.	18.699mph
1st Team	East Grinstead C.C.		23.605mph

We have decided to delay our report on Sussex Clubs until the New Year, this will allow the writer more time to speak to those members whose Clubs fail to contribute to the Association magazine.

Probably one of the most contentious criticisms to emerge after the running of an event is the old chestnut of marshalling - or rather the lack of it. It was therefore amusing to learn once again that more Lewes Wanderers riders have succumbed to this malady. Last year that evergreen veteran, Ron Rogers, endeavoured to explain how it was that he went off course on a roundabout on the P201, with a loss of anything between five and ten minutes on his actual time. The fact is that Ron had had the course explained to him in detail the day before made absolutely no difference. The slight variation here is that it was not essential for a marshal to be sited at that spot. Some six weeks prior to this event Ron had once again failed to finish due to marshal absenteeism! We turn once again to 1988, where this time Graham Seymour managed to set a Club individual record by going off course in successive weeks. Derek Agg, not wishing to be alone, also managed to emulate Graham and finished up with a personal worst for a '25'. Two years ago yet another Lewes rider went off course with just under a mile to go. Since an under the hour ride was "on the cards" his chagrin can be better appreciated. We unhesitatingly award the Lewes Cycling Club the 'Away Day' Trophy for 1988.

Have you all seen the general escalation of Dinner ticket prices?! we seem to recall that not many years ago £5 was considered excessive. To part with this sum of money most members would probably contribute small amounts each week. The evening would start at 6.30 for 7 o'clock and mainly confine itself to a prize presentation to commemorate the year's efforts, some well chosen words of appreciation for officials followed by a good old fashioned dance. The National Anthem signalled the closure of activities for another year. This is a far cry from today's presentation, albeit on any occasion in this country. Clearly organisers have a most difficult task to perform each year - the average price appears to be some 100% up on prices as recently as five years ago. Numbers have certainly deteriorated, not necessarily because of the price increase. The pace of people's over all activities now appear to dictate the manner in which Club Dinners are planned. Meals must be both economical and possible to serve with the minimum of delay; prizes presented and dispatched with with the alacrity of a parson who is late catching a train; speeches an expedient to be dealt with in less time than it takes to complete an hor d'oeuvre. If dancing is permitted we are usually 'saddled' with a part time trio, totally overpaid who are usually unaware of what tempo means, finish with quite alarming punctuality for refreshments and end of evening activities. There always seems to be an obligatory accordion player, or, alternatively for ransom money, you will probably have to settle for a one man, one price disco, playing a succession of repeat top twenty numbers at the highest tone, since clearly the Dinner organiser has told him privately that all the guests are deaf and need reviving immediately. It also seems that the variety of records played is such that it is virtually impossible to participate in any form of recognisable dancing. Spare a thought, therefore, for your Dinner organiser. He is unable to please a large number of potential ticket buyers and has a thankless job in getting the right venue at the right price.

Going back not a million years we recall with some nostalgia, the old Lewes Wanderers get-together in Lewes, where for a fiver you would get a 'working meal' and have enough over for two or three rounds of drinks and a generous donation to a raffle. Unfortunately those days will not be repeated. However it is nice to remind oneself what end of year prizegivings and Dinners were really like.

Speaking about the fortunes of the Lewes C.C. we are reminded of two recent incidents. Firstly, and once again, the Sussex Nomads have agreed to run yet another ESCA promotion in order to assist Michael. As in previous years it is another classic example of a little Club coming in once again to help the Association. We also hear that Mrs. Sylvia Burgess is lamenting the fact that there may be a shortfall in the sleeping arrangements for a forthcoming Lewes tour. Mr. Ron Rogers, and not Ray Rogers,

has intimated that a threesome would not be unwelcome. Our sources report that even if R.R.'s fantasies were achieved, he would probably go off course in his own bed.

We are sorry to learn that Bill Rayment is now in the process of retiring from the cycle trade. Many clubmen should be indebted to Bill and his family for their expertise and considerable assistance over the years. We hope Bill will keep in touch. Paul Lipscombe, ex G.P.O., has, we believe, taken over the day by day running of the shop, and he has let it be known that anyone cycling over to purchase will receive a cup of coffee and a biscuit.

We hear that Horry Hemsley has made a good recovery from his 'hit and run' accident. Unfortunately the culprits were not apprehended and charged.

We leave it here, and will be reporting fairly comprehensively on the Club scene for the Spring issue.

Safe riding.

William Hickey

C.T.C. HAILSHAM & DISTRICT SECTION

We had an A.G.M. recently which was ably chaired by our President, Bill Collins. The business was conducted quickly and we are pleased to welcome Jeff Stevenson as a Committee member in place of Andrea Winchester, who has moved to Portsmouth - otherwise the Committee members remain the same. Andrea seems to be enjoying both her change of work place and cycling in the new area, which is nice to know. No sooner do one lot of invalids recover than more members "fall by the wayside". Jane Lade has been in the local District General Hospital for some days with back trouble whilst Mike Stannard is also in hospital. We wish them both a speedy recovery.

On Sunday, November 20th our two groups of riders converged on the home of Bruce and Renie Allcorn, who kindly provided lunch for some twenty members. It proved to be a happy social occasion with Bruce proudly displaying his new frame. Thankyou, both, for a splendid get-together. Sundays recently have been grand for riding and we have taken full advantage of the fine weather. Graham Lade led a group to see the vintage cars on their annual London to Brighton trip and on two recent energetic morning rides we went around Mayfield and Witherenden Hill on one trip and Piltdown, Maresfield and Buxted on the other.

Our Section New Year Lunch has been arranged for Sunday, February 5th, 1989 at Stone Cross Memorial Hall. It's a function we all enjoy.

Merry Christmas to all our readers and Happy Cycling in 1989.

Tourist

EAST SUSSEX MID-WEEK CYCLING GROUP

THIS GROUP WAS LAUNCHED RECENTLY AND HAS ATTRACTED A DOZEN OR SO MEMBERS ON WEDNESDAYS. WE MEET FOR ELEVENSES AT VARIOUS CAFES AND RIDE 10 - 15 MILES TO LUNCH AT A PUB. THE PACE IS MODERATE AND THE FELLOWSHIP IS EXCELLENT. IF YOU ARE RETIRED OR FREE IN MID-WEEK AND WOULD LIKE FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT THE SECRETARY/TREASURER - DENNIS JAKEMAN, "JORDANS", 2 MAURICE ROAD, SEAFORD. TEL: (0323) 895552

One of the few cheering sights on the route of the rain-sodden, windswept ESCA reliability trial was Horry Hemsley, back on his bike after the hit-and-run accident which put him out of action in the SCA 12-hour. Many other heroes were on the road that day, of course. One of ours was Roger Gorringer, making a comeback, and one of the few to achieve his time-target. He spent the rest of the day asleep in front of the fire, while the ice slowly melted on to the living-room carpet. (Matthew R. also missed the excellent meal at the King's Head, preferring to go home and watch television: Vanessa Attwood ate most of his food, as well as her own.) Roger and his son Tim are among several newcomers to our Sunday clubruns, one of which starts from Lewes and the other (for the heathenish mountainfolk of the North) from Uckfield. A prominent local businessman, Alan Starsmeare, makes guest appearances with the Uckfield section, claiming that its 12mph average will stand him in good stead in the Surrey League in 1989. This modest speed proved an asset when Wiltshire's Bike-handling Champion of 1947 came off on a manure-covered lane and brought only one other rider down with him. If that had happened on one of the Landless Lewes runs, where eyeballs protrude a long way from their sockets, blood would have mixed with the dung. Of course, both runs get together for elevenses, causing alarm and despondency at such places as the estimable Coral Cabin at Newhaven, where horny-handed fishermen have to fight for their baked beans through a mob of sweaty cyclists demanding double breakfasts. One such local was heard to say to another: "They be quite wealthy, them cyclists. They jumpers and knickerbockers must cost a bob or two." And he was right: in the past few weeks, there have been LWCC trips to Rhodes, where Kevin Bramham was hired to chaperone our young lads not used to the temptations of foreign parts; and to Ghent, ostensibly for "the Six" but in reality to allow Julie Landless to indulge in her unusual fantasy involving Continental guitar players. More about that later.

As for the racing season of blessed memory: Peter Gates won the senior BAR and Keith Parvin the junior, in his first season. Ron Rogers continued his monopoly of the vets' BAR and Paul Gibbons seems to have won the most trophies, rounding-off his season with victory in the club's Circuit of Chailey. Our recruit from the Artists CC, Nick Hamlyn, was prominent in this event, and so was the handicap winner, Pete Hills, who has developed into a racing man during 1988 under the managership of Hazel Burberry. It's love that makes the wheels go round. It's been a good year, too, for Neil and David Hunter; for John Coe; and for Keith Payne, who gradually got his 25 time down to reasonable proportions and would do even better if he didn't waste time smiling and speaking to friends round the course. If Savage Seymour can make it, so should Killer Keith.

PS: And Keith Parvin has also won the ESCA Junior BAR. Congratulations!

AND NOW THE COMMERCIAL:

Lewes Wanderers C.C. proudly announce that

CAKES THE 1989 *ESCA CAKE-EATING CHAMPIONSHIP

will be held on Saturday February 18th at the Black Lion Hotel

Patcham.

CAKE

CAKES

cakes!

CAKE

CAKES

cake

CAKES

FREE ENTRY

CAKE

to all holders of LWCC dinner tickets!!

cake

CAKES

Details from

the Hon. Event Secretary
Michael Rabbetts
Jarvis Court, Jarvis Brook
Crowborough (tel. 654422)

CAKE

CAKES

CAKE

CAKE

cake

CAKE

*ESCA = East Sussex Cake-eating Association

CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

I don't know how it happened, but I just blinked and the Rambling season has come round again. It must, I think, be something to do with the ever advancing years and the way I now take much more time to do everything - especially on the bike, as my times this year have shown ! Anyway, the Rambles have settled down to a new format, with Ron taking a steady group from Crawley and Adrian Jones leading the super-fit from "The Fountain" at Handcross. Everybody makes for the same caff and, with a considerable amount of luck, we all arrive together. Last week it was the Basing Tea Cottage and the timing was impeccable as well as the food and drink. It was one of those mornings where the roads were still wet from overnight rain, so we all looked as though we had a very nasty attack of muddy measles and I believe the puncture count got up to around six or seven. Today's jaunt was planned for congregation at "The Post House" at Offham (I have only just learnt that it's pronounced "Oafum"), but the silly B was shut ! So we missed the other group, I suspect by just a minute or two, and decided to press on to our lady-friend in the Ditchling Tea House. A great welcome as usual, but Kevin Bramham let us down badly by insisting on reviving his Yorkshire youth and having cheese with his fruit cake ! He'll be wanting to have bonfires on Club Runs next !

THE CENTRAL SUSSEX DINNER IS ON JANUARY 14th AT THE GOFFS PARK HOTEL, CRAWLEY - BARBARA ATKINS FOR TICKETS.

Nine Central Sussex riders have been involved in Surrey League promoted races this season and Gary Moore finished near the top of the list in 13th place with 108 points. Trevor Mairs gained 73 points, Bryn Reeves 45 and Colin Tamon 42. The Club finished a very creditable 6th overall out of 51 participating clubs. Gary Moore has regained his first cat. licence.

THE CENTRAL SUSSEX DINNER IS ON JANUARY 14th AT THE GOFFS PARK HOTEL, CRAWLEY - BARBARA ATKINS FOR TICKETS.

We get splendid coverage every week on the club's activities in the "West Sussex Times", but the article in the August 19th issue had the most splendid mis-print - it went like this :- (about our man Geoff Ericson)

Geoff Ericson took part in one of the most gruelling events in the Sussex cycling calendar on Sunday - the 12 hour. Competitors have to travel as many miles as possible during that time and the course covers most of West Sussex, including a fair selection of climbs. Geoff took part in the same type of race eight years ago and he soon began to relive the agony. He hit the dreaded "wall" after 11 miles and was forced to dismount and take a brief rest before continuing to the finish to find he had totalled 208 miles.

Yes, it did say eleven miles ! Come to think of it, I haven't seen Geoff for ages now, so I guess he's getting some training miles in.

THE CENTRAL SUSSEX DINNER IS ON JANUARY 14th AT THE GOFFS PARK HOTEL, CRAWLEY - BARBARA ATKINS FOR TICKETS.

England internationals Barrie Clarke and Dave Brooker showed us how it should be done in Central's cyclo-cross meeting at Faygate on November the 5th. The final result was a close thing between the two of them, but Clarke eventually pulled away and Dave came in just 37 seconds down. Steve Dennis hurled his mountain bike round the course to come in fourth just behind Chris Neale (Surrey Roads). Central rider Gareth Sear, riding in his first open event, had a very tough time, battling against the course, his opponents, a puncture and a damaged wheel to pick up fourth place in the Junior section. As with everything he does, the event was superbly organised by Joe James. Here I end with a touch of sadness, because by the time you read this, Joe will have left us - having moved to Herefordshire. I speak for all the Club by taking this opportunity to thank Joe most warmly for everything he has done for us. He has given tireless support and has always been a marvellous ambassador for the Club. Thank you Joe, from all of us and all the very best to you and Carole in your new home.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS !

The racing year of 1988 finished with some excellent results at the Brighton Track League. The Eastbourne Rovers Cycling Club were the team winners with Nick Smith, Simon Prior and Steven Willis gaining the most points overall. They also received the Strudwick Trophy. Steve Willis was the overall winner, the 20k winner and the B.C.F. Champion. He also gained the Charles Turner Memorial Trophy.

On the 9th October the Club's annual hill climb took place at West Firle. Gavin Smith was the fastest senior with a time of 5.09 minutes. Graham Lade was fastest vet with 5.34 minutes. Fastest lady was Debbie Springett with a 7.32 minute time and fastest junior was Sarah Lade with a time of 8.42 minutes.

On the same day Andrea Winchester rode the autumn '25' middlemarkers time trial promoted by the Sotonia C.C. in Hampshire. Despite the cold wind and pouring rain she delighted herself by doing a personal best of 1.3.14.

Congratulations also go to Cliff Sharp who is the Club's 1988 senior Best all Rounder with an average speed of 23.791 m.p.h., Charles Robson is the 1988 vets B.A.R. with an aggregate plus of 47m 19s. Andrea Winchester is the 1988 ladies B.A.R. and her average m.p.h. is 23.830 and Paul Delani's average of 23.600 m.p.h. was enough to win him the 1988 junior B.A.R.

On the less serious side the Club has participated in some social events too. On the 2nd September the Beuzeville Velo Club-Cyclotouriste visited Eastbourne for the weekend. A ride was organised on the Saturday for the eleven French visitors and the evening they were entertained at Richard Thomas's house with Mrs. Thomas providing a splendid feast. On the following Thursday our hospitality was reciprocated and Graham Lade, Ray Wickens, Julian, Jon Cooper, Richard Thomas, Mick Burgess and myself set off to Beuzeville. The first night was spent in a hotel in Yvetot. We were allocated three bedrooms with three double beds and a single (I being the only female claimed the latter despite offers of company). Matchstickman Thomas informed us that him being so tall and most beds being so short he has to sleep diagonally. Does this explain why Jon was found sleeping alongside on the floor the following morning. Was he pushed out?

It seems that connoisseur Raymondo spent the next night with his host sampling the French wine and alcohol. He nearly missed the coach trip to Paris for the start of the 200Km Paris-Honfleur Randonnee, the purpose of our trip. At 2 a.m. Saturday morning we had Ray's bike loaded on the trailer but no Ray. With minutes to spare he arrived and on greeting him he responded in a highly pitched voice, "I'm pi.sed!". Still the ride sobered him up. Jon Cooper was still recovering from his racing accident and spent the afternoon in the company of four young French ladies (nothing unusual) being driven around the latter part of the route watching the cyclists arriving back to Honfleur.

The last evening of the "tres bon weekend" was spent in a French restaurant. We had fun decoding the menu and whilst eating our steaks we were beautifully entertained by Mick Burgess telling stories of rigor-morticed corpses that he had found during his career as a policeman.

The general concensus is that Richard Thomas with his awfully exaggerated French accent could play a splendid part in the BBC series "Allo, Allo"!

It seems that some fun and frolics were also had at Calshot back in November when the Club sent forth some riders to compete at the track. Super-speedies Steve Willis and Duncan Geals were beaten in a two lap pursuit by two crusts consisting of Simon Prior and Nick Smith. Mark Gibbins performed some acrobatics by trying to ride round with one leg. Both Robert Light and Paul Delani rode well fortheir first race of this kind and the vet Ray Prior went for a spin too.

Club night: at Stone Cross has been well supported this winter. Graham has been organising the circuit training which provides non-participants with an amusing show watching sweaty, red faced Club members heave themselves off the floor from doing fifteen press ups to continue with twent sit ups, etc. His wind-down game of tag has been changed by the younger members of the Club into their form of kiss chase.

Don't forget bookings for the Annual Dinner, Dance and Prize Presentation on Saturday 21st January go to Mrs. Jane Lade.

BRIGHTON MITRE C.C.

Apologies for missing the last edition, closing date passed while I was busy with an open event.

This year, in spite of a somewhat undistinguished summer the Mitre has done fairly well. Our active numbers are still small, but we have lucky with new members, with some first class performances from riders in their first season.

ESCA events have seen some successes with three 1st places, and 9 other places in the 1st three.

Peter Davies recorded personal bests at three distances, 55-48 for 25, 2-2-24 for 50, and 4-16-34 for 100, has gained some road race placings including a 1st in one of the Lewes crit series.

Stuart Collins also achieved personal bests with 57-57 for 25, 2-14 for 50, and 4-53-35 for his first 100 in the ESCA event, and a new club 10 record of 21-39 on the Falmer course.

Newcomer Simon Tully took the Junior BAR with a 10 time of 23-24, and a 25 time of 1-2-31. Simon has also won a Surrey League Road race, and has taken 5 club trophies and our Open Junior and Ladies 25 in his first season. Our other new junior, Paul Thompson recorded 24-40 for a 10, and 1-5-26 for a 25 on steel high pressures for 2nd Place in our Junior BAR.

New member Andy Green, who joined during last winter, has managed 22-58 for a 10, 1-2-49 for a 25, 2-16 for a 50, and won the handicap in his 1st 100 in the SCA 100 with 4-39-1 in his first season of racing, and has competed in a number of Road races getting among the prizes in Surrey League events.

General secretary Bill Sladen has also been riding his bike to some purpose including a sponsored ride in full Raleigh/ Banana gear for a RAF charity.

We should have a reasonable representation in the Reliability trial, although I don't think I will be able to manage 48 miles in my present state.

Social events have of course included our annual Egg & Bacon 25, which has been run for over 30 years, and I am reliably informed that we have only had one wet morning in that time. This year saw a warm dry morning with 15 riders, Peter was fastest with a 1-5, but cheated as he is a vegetarian and did not consume the full fried breakfast, Steve Harkness was second and Brian James third. The Event HQ is the picnic site just south of the Bull at Shermanbury. With two caravans being used for food preparation, and Fred's gas fired barbecue going full blast, the smells wafting down the road must have been a distraction to other road users.

Club Dinner is at Langford's Hotel, Hove again, but has been moved to January 21st. Organiser is Bill Sladen. Live music again, and a good evening is forecast.

Annual General meeting is on Dec. 2nd at the Withdean Sportsman, with all posts having volunteers in advance. Bill is retiring as Dinner organiser, and I am packing as time trial sec, Margaret Harkness is expected to replace Bill, and hopefully we have persuaded Alan Morris to replace me, so all ESCA forms to him please at 82 Dudley Road, Brighton.

1989 promotions are a repeat of this years, with a Surrey League RR at Ringmer in March, organised by Peter, the 4up T.T.T. in April on a variant of G838, and the usual Open 25 in October on G 838.

Our present members are doing their best to increase membership. Peter and Judith have a new daughter, and Steve and Dina Harkness have a son. Fred's daughter Julie, not to be outdone has made Fred a double Grandad. My grandson has his first bike.

Track representation was not as strong as we hoped, Stuart was the most successful, finishing 10th in the SCRL league. Simon, Andy, Peter and Steve Harkness all rode intermitently, interupted by Studies, work and other mundane things.

One membership loss was Frank Allen, who has departed to live in Devon, and is currently trying to come to terms with the Devon hills. Before he went Frank defended his club track handicap championship, but was out of luck this year, the title going to Steve Harkness.

K. Wells

THE ASSOCIATION LUNCHEON AND PRIZE PRESENTATION WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY JANUARY 8th, 1989, AT FRAMFIELD MEMORIAL HALL, FRAMFIELD. THE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AT 1.45 p.m. AND THE COST IS £6. 30. A MAIN COURSE OF STEAK AND KIDNEY PIE WILL BE SERVED.

BOOKING FORMS ARE IN THE HANDS OF CLUB SECRETARIES AND BOOKINGS CLOSE ON TUESDAY JANUARY 3rd.

RON FEEBLE, sorry, RON KEEBLE WILL BE THE GUEST SPEAKER AND GEOFF BOORE WILL BE THE SUPPORTING SPEAKER.

WILLIAM HICKEY WILL BE PRESENT TO SIGN COPIES OF BONK.

DON'T MISS THIS, THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!!!

POINTS COMPETITION RESULT 1988

INDIVIDUAL

Name	HR	10	25	50	25	100	50	10	25	HC	TOTAL
STEVE DENNIS	20	-	20	20	-	20	20	20	20	16	156
S.D. Collins	18	19	18	8	20	13	5	18	17	19	155
P. Davies	19	20	19	18	19	19	18	-	-	-	132
P. Blackmore	17	16	-	-	-	-	16	17	14	-	80
P. Gibbons	8	-	-	16	6	16	-	13	4	-	63
B. Phillips	-	-	-	-	-	-	19	19	19	-	57
R. Shipton	-	-	17	-	18	-	-	-	18	-	53
R. Taylor	-	13	-	14	-	5	-	15	5	-	52
J. Pelham	-	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	16	18	51
J. James	-	15	14	13	-	-	-	-	3	-	50

CLUB

	HR	TTT	10	25	50	25	100	50	10	25	HC	TOTAL
EAST GRINSTEAD	16	14	8	13	14	4	17	30	26	25	23	190
Brighton Mitre	15	7	18	16	6	18	8	7	6	5	7	113
Central Sussex	-	4	3	7	18	3	-	1	-	2	-	38
Lewes	-	1	-	3	5	4	8	3	2	4	6	36
Worthing Excel.	-	-	-	5	-	12	-	3	-	8	8	36
Brighton Excel.	7	-	13	1	2	2	5	-	2	3	-	35
Eastbourne	2	10	2	3	2	2	6	3	-	-	-	30
Crawley	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	4	-	1	-	13
Hastings	-	-	3	-	-	-	6	-	2	-	-	11
Southborough	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	3

Once again we are indebted to Stan Shirley for keeping the "points book" and working out the scores.

Congratulations to the individual winner, Steve Dennis (a talented youngster if ever there was), and the East Grinstead Club for winning the team competition.

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION - 1988 RELIABILITY TRIAL

The 1988 Trial was an overwhelming victory for Worthing Excelsior with 19 successful riders. Worthing have now won the Shield every year since it was presented in 1986. The expected challenge from Lewes, Eastbourne and East Grinstead never materialised.

The complete list of riders who completed the course is given below. An 'S' against the name indicates that the rider was on the start sheet and an 'L' indicates a late entry. An 'OK' indicates that the rider was a qualifier for the Reliability Trial Shield. As the weather was so bad, all riders completing the course will receive a Certificate. Out of a total of 84 riders, 20 did not start and 17 did not finish. 64 riders reached Check 1, 61 reached Check 2, 53 reached Check 3 & 47 finished.

4 HOUR GROUP

A Tarry	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-16	S	
G Watts	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-34	L	
A&V Attwood	(T) Lewes Wanderers CC	3-34	S	
G Boore	Sussex Nomads	3-40	L	
M Rhodes	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-40	L	
A Palmer	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
P Toppin	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
C Toppin	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
K Harmer	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
R Douglass	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
D Stepney	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
P West	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
S Lucas	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
J Lucas	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
R Shipton	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
V McClelland	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
D Lock	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-52	S	OK
E Owen	East Grinstead CC	3-52	L	
D Wells	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-52	S	OK
R Gorringe	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-52	S	OK
D Hudson	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-55	S	OK
S McNamara	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-55	S	OK
C McNamara	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-55	S	OK
A Edwards	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-55	S	OK
M Slater	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-56	S	OK
A Slater	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-56	S	OK
A Stepney	Worthing Excelsior CC	3-56	S	OK
K Miller	Eastbourne Rovers CC	3-56	S	OK

3 HOURS 25 MINS GROUP

M Bartup	Sussex Nomads	2-56	L	
M Rabbetts	Lewes Wanderers CC	2-56	S	
J Blackman	Eastbourne Rovers CC	2-56	S	
D Hunter	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-01	S	
B Fowler	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-04	S	
M Cross	Eastbourne Rovers CC	3-05	S	
A Limbrey	Sussex Nomads	3-07	L	
I Stewart	East Grinstead CC	3-22	L	
H Parsons	East Grinstead CC	3-22	S	OK
J Preston	East Grinstead CC	3-30	S	
A Cox	Lewes Wanderers CC	3-35	S	

3 HOUR GROUP

S Blackmore	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
P Harris	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
S Dennis	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
A Rockingham	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
K Taylor	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
R Taylor	East Grinstead CC	2-46	S	
C Robson	Eastbourne Rovers CC	2-55	S	OK

SHIELD QUALIFIERS - WORTHING 19, LEWES 2, EASTBOURNE 2, EAST GRINSTEAD 1

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION - 1988 RELIABILITY TRIAL

Two weeks of really nice sunny weather preceded the ESCA Reliability Trial and so it was with some degree of disbelief that I listened to the weather forecast for Sunday. It was raining when I left Eastbourne at 0730 but on the way out of Eastbourne I passed a little grey-haired lady, certainly over 70, running along King's Drive and I thought to myself, it's not so bad, it'll be sunny by 0900 at East Hoathly.

Alan Hughes, our landlord at the King's Head (Halland 238), who only got to bed at 0330, was, I am sure, not too enthusiastic at being brought to his front door at 0815 by the organiser wanting to know where the loos were, but he put a brave face on it and opened the small door for us.

First person to arrive was Ken Griffiths, resplendent in his personalised marshalling jacket, who helped with the car parking before going off to Check Point 1 at Barcombe Cross. (Please remember you Event Promoters, Ken really enjoys marshalling, especially at Boship roundabout, as he lives only yards up the road!)

The first cars began arriving, then Roy Mr. East Sussex Cycling Dr. Who Humphrey rode in from Framfield and in minutes had converted the nearby telephone box into an ultra modern computerised office! He took late entries and simultaneously sent off riders at the right time.

At 0900 a massive group rode off down the road, pursued 2 or 3 minutes later by Richard Shipton. Looking round, there did not appear to be any riders left for the other two groups, but gradually they materialised and the next group went off at 0920.

Nobody left, I thought, just me to go off at 0930, but then seven other riders appeared like magic led by Commander Grinstead on a very smart mountain bike. In a kindly way they let me go off first. I went through Barcombe ahead of them and already the first casualties were beginning to appear. On towards Piltdown and the fast lads (I'm sure some of them were a little older than lads) went by whilst we were passing others recovering from punctures. At Nutley, Sylvia Burgess was completed surrounded by riders. Isn't it nice to be so popular!

On across the Ashdown Forest my friend Kenny Burnett - speedway photographer extraordinaire - popped up again taking more photographs. He was using a fast colour film but, unfortunately, due to the very murky weather, these did not come out too well, but you'll see them on the display at the ESCA Lunch & Prize Presentation on Sunday, 8th January.

By this time I was wishing I had a mountain bike and wondering which idiot had got out this dreadful course! It was a relief to reach Wadhurst and to know that for a few miles at least the going was easier. The Check Point at Stonegate was manned by Tim & Toby Carpenter suitably dressed in dark clothes so that they could mingle unobtrusively with the Church-goers. By now the rain had turned to sleet had turned to snow and I had lost the use of my left leg due to exposure. Walked up the first bit of Witherenden Hill and then re-mounted to catch my Clubmate, Malcolm Cross, with whom I had been riding since the Forest. It was very nice to emerge in a flurry of snow at Burwash Common knowing there was only one more hill before East Hoathly. Pressed on through Heathfield to reach the Chapel at Cross in Hand with enough time in hand to reach the finish inside three hours barring accidents.

Swooped down through the lanes with the snow driving into my face. Up the last hill, round and down to East Hoathly to check in with Dr. Who in his little red office. What a relief to get to the stove in the pub and get changed into some dry clothes! I think some of the 'ordinary' customers in the pub must have thought we'd escaped from a mental institution! Next day I'm back in the office sweltering in the sunshine and wondering if I dreamt it all.

Epic deeds of courage and endurance have inspired poets through the ages. The ESCA Reliability Trial of Sunday, November 20th, 1988, was just such an event, involving as it did 60 heroic men and women - 14 of whom failed to return. Of those who did, 28 achieved their targets, and 19 were from Worthing Excelsior - whose triumph is recorded for posterity by the poet Shortfellow:

The rain and sleet were falling fast
As from East Hoathly village passed
Some men, who wore 'mid snow and ice
Blue jerseys, with the strange device:
Excelsior!

Lucas and Palmer, Douglass and West,
Riding their bikes like men possessed,
Led the way towards Barcombe Mills,
Soaring like Millar up the hills.

Stepney and Marshall, Topping and Lock
Took a wrong turning while passing The Cock
But onward they rode, ignoring the roar
That came from the mouth of a wild Nomad Boore.

"Hang on," he cried, "my fingers are numb -
"I've no gloves on my hands nor pants on my bum!"
But onward they rode, to stop at the check
Where Sylvia stood, icy rain down her neck.

"You look cold, lovely maiden," the Wild Boore said
And bought her some coffee, for his heart had bled;
Then onward they rode, their minds in a whirl
At this miracle wrought, for the sake of a girl.

Onward and upward, into the gale:
Faces all frozen, stung by the hail;
Over the forest - where they were passed
By men from East Grinstead, going too fast.

The Taylors and Blackmore, Harris and Dennis,
Their chains on the big rings, eyes full of menace,
Determined to cause some discomfort and pain
To the man who had brought them against wind and rain.

And on Witherenden mountain God answered their prayer,
For **Robson** the Rover got off in despair
And blamed "a bad leg" for having to stop,
While veterans like Douglass rode right to the top.

Onward and upward, into the snow,
Unaware of the fate of Wanderer Coe,
Stranded, alas, when a gear-sprocket stuck
But hitched a lift in a friendly truck.

And others succumbed in the sleet and ice:
Ben Hockett gave up when he punctured thrice;
A Rover turned back when his whiskers froze
And Shortfellow abandoned with frostbitten toes.

But as temperatures kept falling fast,
Into East Hoathly village passed
Brave men, who wore 'mid snow and ice
Blue jerseys with the proud device:
Excelsior!

PS: What's more, it was the Worthing Excel's annual dinner the night before.



Left - Clocking on at the East Hoathly "Tardis".

Below - "Do your best, Dad, and DON'T WORRY".



Below - President Lock in a determined mood.



SUSSEX NOMADS C.C.

There is a lot to write about this time but I don't know where to start, so I think it will be best to start like a '25', i.e. in a big rush and sort things out as we go along.

Today (Sunday, November 27th) we froze on our clubrun but at least it was nice and bright, not like last week on the ESCA Reliability Trial when one needed to be either very dedicated or bog stupid to ride. But say no more, I enjoyed myself. Riding over roads a little out of the Nomad area was nice, also riding almost SOCIALLY with riders who one normally only races against, was pleasant, but the weather! Cold and wet, then snow, thank goodness once we turned south (or was it south west?) it was fairly easy but still it was NICE to stop.

The Nomad season was different this year, to say the least. Geoff lumbered around various '25s' on his low profile - bike, that is - and got down to a short 3, and it is rumoured he was best vet. in a middle markers '25'.

Vernon has enjoyed his riding, with at least one vet's prize coming his way before he and his wife Phyllis went to China on a two week holiday which Phil won in a competition. Geoff said he would not go to China under any circumstances as there are no Little Chefs over there.

Talking about the said BOAR, the new SMALL PROFILE one, now just less than twelve stone by the time he is seen at the Lunch in January he should be normal, in size anyway!

Keith Chandler had a short but successful season, with three personal bests: a 24.01 for a '10'; 1.1.35 on P201 saw him get fourth place and finally a 59.44 on the E72 and yet another fourth place. It's really nice having him back with some form.

The Nomad 'find', certainly since we became the Sussex Nomads, must be Mark Bartup. A novice cyclist, he started off with a 1.9. on a hard East Sussex morning, came down quickly to 1.3. and 1.2. and finally 59.46 on the Bognor course plus the same amount of effort in 10s getting him down to a short 22.

After a struggle of a season, Alan is not looking forward to being smashed on clubruns having had things very much his own way in recent years.

Finally, apart from wishing everyone a healthy and successful season in 1989, I would like to give notice of the Nomads ANNUAL DINNER and PRIZE PRESENTATION. AN EVENING OF CONVIVIALITY, NOSTALGIA and A GLASS OR TWO. THE VENUE IS THE HICKSTEAD RESORT HOTEL, Nr. BOLNEY (A23/A272) TICKETS £10.50. All details from ALAN LIMBREY on BRIGHTON 558511.

Limbo

Roy Humphrey and Bill Collins were planning to travel together from Eastbourne to Hastings by train to go to a cycling lunch. When Roy asked Bill where they should meet, Bill replied "Well, what about the gentlemen's closet at the station?". When Roy arrived he made straight for the men's lavatory and lo and behold Bill was waiting for him as arranged.

Frozen assets

AFTER a spate of indecent exposures in quiet Dunblane, Chief Constable Ian Oliver of the Central Scotland Police, has told the Stirling Observer: "I am not too concerned. They tend to drop off in winter."

AN 80-year-old pensioner has donated his prized collection of 150 pre-war condoms to an Eastbourne museum - he told the curator he doesn't need them anymore.

BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR C.C.

ANDREW AND VANESSA ARE HAVING TROUBLE IN BED.....(he gets so hot she has to go downstairs and make a cup of tea). They are now trying SINGLE BEDS, his with a light-weight duvet and hers with a winter weight which should have them both arriving as fresh as daises on clubruns. Do other wives find that the active cyclist doesn't feel the cold indoors? One wonders if "Piggy Malone" is one of the hot blooded veterans...as guest speaker at our Annual Dinner perhaps he will enlighten us? Vanessa was quite excited at this news and revealed that he had her in fits in Majorca. As he tends to wear most of his 'rave gear' at early season events, such as the ESCA hard-riders. I shall personally be interested his attire, bearing in mind the BLACK LION, PATCHAM is a respectable venue. Vanessa has stuck her neck out and organised our Christmas lunch at the Pelham Arms so watch out for 34 plus decorated cyclists in the Lewes area on Sunday, 18th december. Any members not yet booked in for this festive treat should contact Charlie Chandler with a deposit.

TOM ROBERTS, a real SMASHER at table tennis, is fighting his way through to the finals of the Club Championships. The competition, organised by Charlie with Tom's help at handicapping has been so well supported and created more interest than for years with even the feeblest being able to compete. Hopefully the winner will be established in time to have their cup presented at the Annual Dinner.

BEN MERRICKS should be the recipient of a new trophy donated for award to the juvenile who has put up the most creditable performances during the season.

PETER FRAY is BEST-all ROUNDER (I'm sure Barbara would agree) whilst the mysterious John Brimm takes the Veteran's BAR. Stong TOM wins the HILLCLIMB cup but we must wait to find out how the FAST MEN were at the shorter distances.

Everyone is so clothes conscious these days and they all look forward to the arrival of Richard Smith at our clubroom on Thursday nights. Has anyone else noticed how those fluourescent jackets he sold reflect to give your nose/cheeks and eyes a ghoulsh green flair? New clothing designs, etc. will be a major item on the agenda for discussion at the AGM on Thursday, December 1st, 1988.

Apart from the mass exodus for the National Hillclimb Championships in Lancashire, runs have been well supported most weekends and the 50 in 4 Reliability Trial even attracted some of the leaner faster breed in the shape of Nick James, Vernon Smith, Irving Bartlett and Richard Smith. Vernon was a great asset, pushing one of our newer members some of the way. All who started qualified. Most of the Clubmans' Trophy competitions were run-off on a cold morning with freezing fog down on the coast. By the afternoon the sun was really warm. The sun was not the only thing shining - so was Leon's smile as he won most of the events which added to his attendance points throughout the year should gain him this prestigious trophy.

Ropey Rider

Dick Jones, quaintly nicknamed "Gramophone" I learn from the Excel's notes, is the ESCA President for 1989 and Ropey Rider promises, in a postscript to the notes, to 'do something on him' for the next BONK.

The closing date, incidentally, is February 25th and distribution date will be the Hardriders on March 5th.

CHARLES ROBSON HAS KINDLY OFFERED TO BRING HIS DISPLAY BOARDS TO THE LUNCH AGAIN THIS YEAR AND WOULD WELCOME MATERIAL FROM ALL CLUBS. ONE SUGGESTION IS TO HAVE PHOTOS OF EACH CLUB'S CHAMPION TOGETHER WITH DETAILS OF HIS RACING PERFORMANCES. CLUB B.A.R. TABLES WOULD ALSO BE OF INTEREST AND PHOTOS OF OTHER CLUB ACTIVITIES WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE. MATERIAL MUST BE RECEIVED, EITHER BY THE EDITORS OR CHARLES ROBSON AT 39 WINCHCOMBE ROAD, EASTBOURNE, WELL BEFORE JANUARY 8th, AS IT TAKES A LOT OF TIME TO PREPARE.

AND FINALLY, THE ASSOCIATION A.G.M.

The Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday, November 23rd, was well supported this year, and delegates voted in one or two changes.

The subscription for 1989 will be £3, the £2 affiliation fee has apparently been unchanged since a time early in the Association's history it was reduced from two guineas!

The Annual Luncheon has already been mentioned, but it is worth repeating that it is to be held on January 8th. Regular attenders will know that a very good meal is enjoyed in convivial company and it is function worth attending.

The RELIABILITY TRIAL will be on NOVEMBER 19th, 1989, and you will be receiving constant reminders throughout 1989. Charles Robson is chief organiser vaguely assisted by me, Esther.

Qualifying distances remain the same for the Championships and will be printed in the next edition.

Stan Shirley retired as Chairman after several years service. Rumours are rife that he is to make a racing comeback. We shall see. Stan left the meeting with the grateful thanks of the delegates ringing in his ears. Michael Rabbetts (author extraordinaire of a book celebrating the De Laune Centenary, which actually occurs in 1989 but is on sale NOW), is our new Chairman. Please try and keep GEOFF BOORING in order!

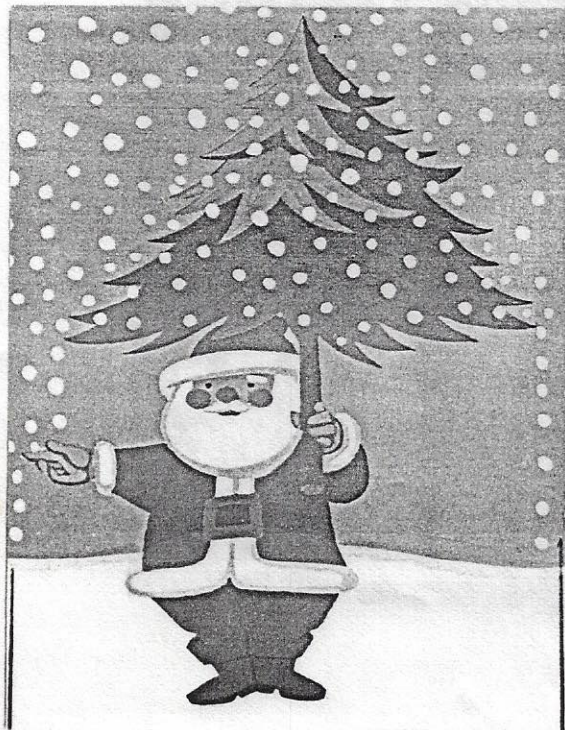
Roy also gave notice that he will not be able to continue as Secretary forever and it might be as well to start a bit of brain racking to find a substitute. Whoever it is, they'll have to be good, we've got used to a high standard.

It was also decided that it would be a good idea to have a diary in BONK of all local events, Dinners, Races, Reliability Trials, etc., and a form will be sent to all Club Secs. for completion AND RETURN (or woe betide you and a curse on your tubulars). I notice that there are three, yes, three, Dinners on January 21st, for instance.

Roy has sent an accurate report of the A.G.M. to all Club Secretaries.

Esther

Can this be Ken Griffiths marshalling at a Christmas event?



MERRY CHRISTMAS

MISS OWENS (EAST GRINSTEAD C.C.) GETTING PSYCHED UP BEFORE THE RELIABILITY TRIAL (which is on November 19th in 1989). She really enjoyed it once she got going.



A LITTLE GROUP OF HAPPY COMPETITORS WAITING TO START.

