

# **BANK!**

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

**East Sussex  
Cycling Association**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

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# EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



President Ernie Spray

New Series No 71

Summer 1995

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Secretary and Treasurer: Roy Humphrey, 4 Ebenezer Cottages, Framfield, Uckfield. TN22 5NR  
Editors: Maurice & Esther carpenter, 10 Maplehurst Road, Baldslow, St.Leonards-on-sea. TN37 7NA

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Closing date for next edition of BONK is August 15th 1995

## *East Sussex D.A. Mid-Week Section*

### **Magic, Mystery & Memory!**

Yes! if magic, mystery and memory intrigue you then you'll find all three a plenty on the Wednesday and Saturday outings of the Mid-Week Section.

Certainly there has been magic in our elevenes meeting places recently, three particularly spring to mind. Firstly at Grace Richardson's home on the Weald at Heathfield, the delights on offer attracted so many they filled all her rooms and spilled out into the garden. Sometime later we were again in Heathfield at Len & Jean Steel's bungalow with again a mouth watering array of cakes. Fewer out this time as a slight suggestion of rain kept our fair weather friends at home! More recently we were at Barkham Manor Vineyards where David Kirby had arranged a tour of inspection of the wine making plant - so no surprises really that the Bainbridges and the Christmases opted for the sampling room in preference to David's thirteen and a half mile tour of the Sussex countryside. A final touch of magic occurred after a mid-week ride from steamy Isfield on which most cyclists managed the rough stuff which the leader on the day, Len Steel, had included. Perhaps because of this, everyone seemed to arrive at the lunch stop at different times, just as well as there were over two dozen at the Hare & Hounds, Framfield. The magical highlight was the surprise arrival of nearby resident Roy Humphrey who had been brought along by his daughter, together with his wife enjoying a rare day out. To greet Roy were several cycling friends, including Yub Moore, George Spratt, Ken Griffiths, Jack Dunn, Ernie Spray, Esther Carpenter, Dennis Jakeman and Fred & Thelma Mehew. Good to see Roy making progress towards recovery.

A couple of mysteries lately puzzled us all. The first concerns our intrepid ex sea captain, Tony Palmer, out on a ride led by John Taylor to the Maypole at High Hurstwood. Near the finish John suffered a puncture and as he slowed to stop Tony flew by at speed (as is his wont turning away from the Maypole towards Crowborough, enduring on his way not only a puncture but also braking problems. Some two hours later realising the error of his ways he consulted the stars, or whatever mariners do, to determine the right course for Seaford.) Meanwhile he had missed an excellent lunch by a long way leaving the happy band at the Maypole, including Esther Carpenter, disappointed he didn't show! The other mystery concerns our good friend Mike Rabbetts who arrived at Barkham Manor Vineyard absolutely plastered and knowing Mike you'll hardly believe his story. Since the plaster related to the protection he had to apply to his hands after, according to him, being in collision with the automatic rifle of a young soldier he encountered in the Ashdown Forest!!!

Old memories are being rekindled by Mike Timperley from Crowborough now in semi retirement he

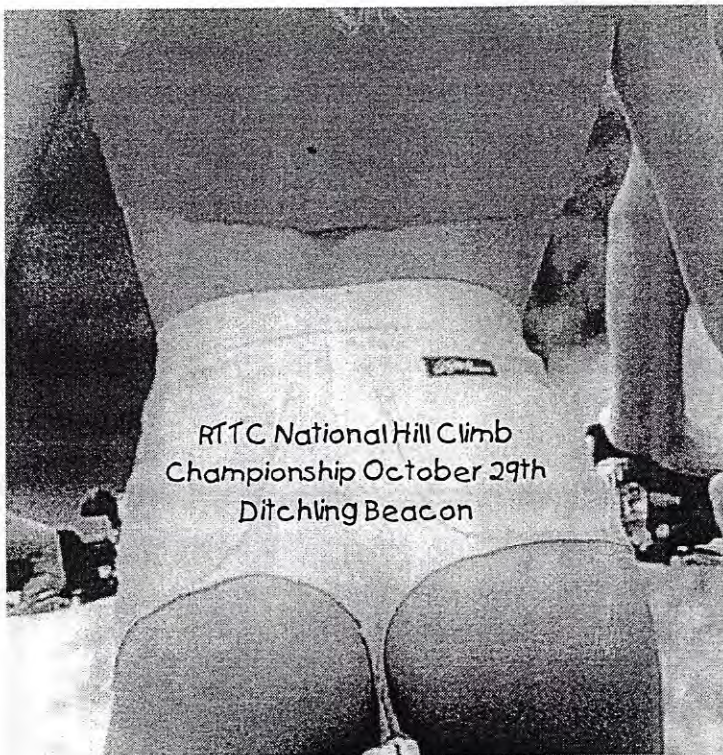
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is able to join us on some Wednesdays and Saturdays. He is an active member of the Veteran Cycle Club and though he is not alone of the Mid-Weekers in being an avid reader of their journal 'The Boneshaker', he possesses some interesting machines and has access to others as well as having some fascinating old catalogues. Mind you, we do have others with an eye to the past in the Mid-Week Section, take Peter Bratt on his Carlton flier still sporting solid tyres (by the way, any takers? I'll let him know If anyone cares to relieve him!)

Adventures like these are the stuff that summer outings with the Mid-Week Section are made of. Numbers out on a Wednesday are occasionally more than thirty, however don't worry, rides are geared to the needs and ability on the day with cyclists free to ride long or short distances and join or leave the group as appropriate. Saturday rides are somewhat more select with fewer numbers enjoying disciplined rides at mutual pace to suit whatever machines are out on the day.

Finally why not join us as the net spreads ever wider with riders from St. Leonards, Bexhill, Punnetts Town, Heathfield, Crowborough, Tunbridge Wells, Buxted, Eastbourne, Seaford, Brighton, Southwick, and the champion of them all, Ian Jameson, usually on an Evans, from Ruislip in Middlesex. If anyone cares to beat this we'll be pleased to welcome them.

### Baggy shorts



### HUSBANDS

*Does your wife moan because you leave smelly piles of clothes on the bedroom floor? Does she moan about other smelly things you leave around? Does she moan because you never take her anywhere? (Other than to the local bike shop to use her credit card to buy your new tri-spoke wheels). Surprise her by taking her to the Kings Head, East Hoathly for Sunday Lunch, November 19th. And why not take in the fresh air beforehand in the reliability trial - details from Charlie Robson*

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## **SOCIAL CALENDAR 1995/96**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 13TH**  
**R.T.T.C. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 12 HOUR**  
**KENT**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH**  
**R.T.T.C NATIONAL HILL CLIMB CHAMPIONSHIP**  
**DITCHLING BEACON**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH**  
**E.S.C.A. RELIABILITY TRIAL**  
**DETAILS FROM CHARLIE ROBSON & ESTHER**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH**  
**SURREY/SUSSEX V.T.T.A.**  
**AGM**

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 20TH 1996**  
**EASTBOURNE ROVERS ANNUAL DINNER,**  
**AFTON HOTEL, EASTBOURNE**

**SATURDAY, 27TH JANUARY 1996**  
**1066 LONGMARKERS ANNUAL DINNER**  
**YELTON HOTEL, HASTINGS**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH 1996**  
**SURREY/SUSSEX V.T.T.A LUNCH**  
**BEARE GREEN - DETAILS FROM ESTHER**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH**  
**BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR C.C.**  
**75TH ANNIVERSARY**

Ladies! Do you sometimes wish that you could forego cooking on Sunday evenings? Even once in a blue moon? For a man whose appetite is honed to starvation by long, hard, fast miles?

Then get out your diary (or better still get out his) and against November 19th boldly write 'Kings Head, East Hoathly. Reliability Trial Lunch; book for two!'

Closing date for next edition of *BONk* is August 15th 1995

*Mid-Week Section Meet the Boys No.1*

*Peter*

Peter is just one of the interesting people you will meet if you ride out with the Mid-Week Section on Wednesdays.

Thespian, artist, writer, bon viveur, wit, adventurer, these are a few of the many facets of this charismatic man.

He is proud to admit that he is an alternative and possibly that is the reason why he usually arrives at the lunch time pub accompanied by the ladies of the Section.

A retired engineer, he built his bike from a fascinating collection of components accumulated over many years and from a variety of sources. A glorious moment occurred recently when happening upon the local group of V-CC members at a roadside eating house, he was invited to join them.

Hopefully these brief biographical notes will have whetted your curiosity. If you want to meet this rider remember, the Mid-Week Section runs list will help you to find him.



*A Saturday Girl*



Mid Week Section

***For details of Wednesday rides.  
Contact: Esther Carpenter***

**Also Saturday rides.**

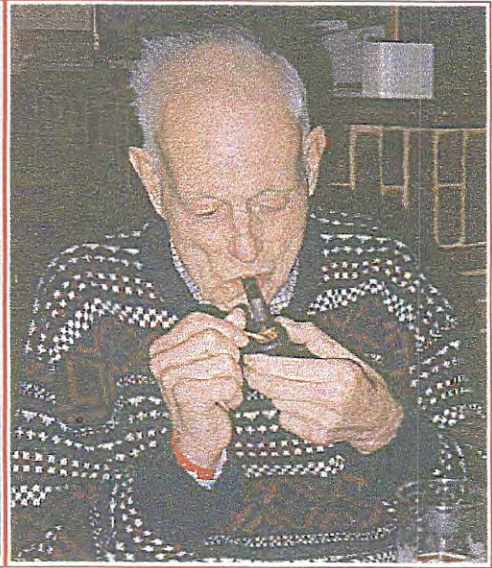
**See Section list for details of elevenses and lunch venues. See Esther for details.**

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Picture Page - Photography by Charles G Robson



Roy, Esther and Mick Rabbetts in the Hare and Hounds at Framfield .  
April 1995.



Roy "lighting up" in the pub.



Jane (bag lady) Lade, Roy Humphrey and  
Richard Blackmore at the hard-riders.



Dick Jones at the start.



Ernie Spray, the bionic man and  
President of the Association, about  
to start in the hard-riders in the  
traditional No1 position.

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## *Lewes Wanderers*

Increasing age sometimes leads to mental problems. Those affected act irrationally, to the dismay of loved ones and the astonishment of all. Here are a couple of case studies.

Earlier this year Mick Burgess was in firm control of all his faculties, renowned throughout Escaland for his no-nonsense, essentially sensible approach to life. Then he had a significant birthday. Did he reach for slippers and armchair? No! He declared his intention of riding both the SCA and ESCA hundreds in 1995. This is something no rational person of mature years attempts, especially in a year when both events are on the ESCA hardman's course. Mick has come up with some tale of "training for a ride over the Alps and Dolomites with Horry Hemsley" but medical advice is being sought.

Then there's Ken Stevens, once prominent on the ESCA racing scene. As soon as his knees began creaking some years ago, he sensibly decided to do a bit of gentle touring instead. He has been heard to lecture others of his age who are still racing, on the theme of "You must be off your head!" It comes as something of a shock, therefore, to find his name on start sheets once more. He's got himself a racing bike, with all the latest new-fangled gear, and has got down to single figures over 25 miles. Iris is understood to be contacting Racing Vets Anonymous.

But there is still hope for our Senior Citizens. The unusual feature of changes in Ian Landless, for instance, relates to his physical, rather than mental, condition. He had been fighting the ageing process, with moderate success, by roasting his body in the Spanish and Portuguese sun. But just when the word was going round that "old Ian is not the man he was", the cycling and medical worlds were astounded by news that he had ridden a lifetime's best '25'!. His 59-23 in a Mitre club event at the great age of 55 is cause for congratulations. Or has he been drinking double-strength cocoa at bedtime? Actually, Bob Comben had earlier provided the first clue to the impending sensation by complaining that Ian had caught him in a club 'ten' "and he wasn't even using tribars!"

By the time this issue of 'Bonk' comes out, incidentally, we will have gained two new vets: Peter Roberts and Chris Hill. Peter has had to let racing take a back seat while he gets his new bike shop under way. (In-Gear 107 High Street, Uckfield - Advert.) He could usefully do a deal with Chris for the supply of inner tubes/tubs if our record-breaking puncture victim continues to be deflated.

At the other end of the age scale, John Limpus and Shane Faulkner & are fulfilling earlier promise. John's second place in the Reading CC '25' was achieved with a pb '57' and at the time of writing Shane had got down to a '55'. If John Baxendale continues to improve at his present rate he, too,

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will be a force to reckon with in ESCA events. Some of their seniors failed to set a good example in the SERC '25' in June: four entered, two DNS and two DNF (a puncture and a disintegrating brake). On the other hand, Tony Gale and Tony Longhurst overcame mechanical problems to complete their final qualifying randonnee (600km.) in preparation for the Audax classic Paris-Brest-Paris. After 90 miles of the route from Windsor to Chester and back, Tony G. broke a crank. He rode ten miles one legged before discovering a helpful Halfords man. A new crank was supplied and fitted for 8.99. All this preparatory effort seems to have been inspired by that PBP veteran Geoff Boxall, who has been filling the two Tonys minds with tales of the massages he enjoyed at the hands of beautiful French women. Geoff recently helped to organise another randonnee in aid of firemen's charity. It attracted a record entry of 250 + and produced for Rose Hills the potentially embarrassing award of "Senior Lady" entrant.

And now, back to the obsessional behaviour of another Senior Wanderer. When the Stevenses and the Wimbles took Pete Burberry with them on a mountain-bike expedition to his beloved Mid-Wales, they showed signs of nervousness in Pete's presence. It seemed as though they were waiting in trepidation for him to explode into some kind of emotional outburst. When it came, the tension eased and the rest of the trip was enjoyable. "Look!" shouted Pete, pointing excitedly to the skies. "There's one!!" It was, of course, a rare red kite, in one of its last breeding sites in Britain. Nowadays, this is the only kind of bird which excites Peter's interest. That's another of the penalties of ageing.

Anonymouse



### Surrey/Sussex Group

*Feckless and flatulent, or just flatulant. We don't care - as long as you stand down wind.*

*Join the local group of the V.T.T.A. and meet like minded and bodied people.*

50p joining fee, £5 subscription. Contact:  
Group Secretary, Esther Carpenter

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# Kent Cycling Association 12 Hour Time Trial Newsletter



Event Organiser: Esther Carpenter, 10 Maplehurst Road, Baldslow, St.Leonards-on-sea, East Sussex TN 37 7NA

## R.T.T.C CHAMPIONSHIP 12 HOUR ON KENTISH ROADS. WILL YOU BE THERE? AUGUST 13TH 1995.

### MOBILE TELEPHONES

Mobile phones are needed, please, for use on the finishing circuit. If anyone has a mobile phone that they would be willing to lend would you please contact Esther. The KOA will reimburse all call costs incurred during the day.



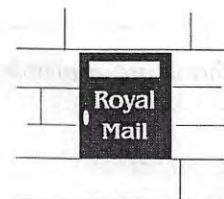
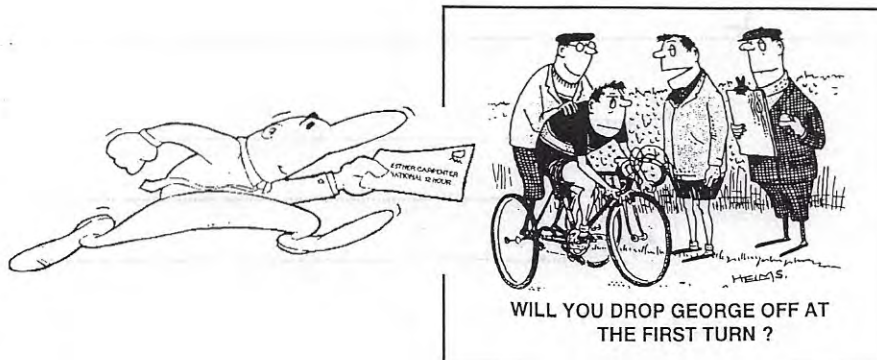
Thanks to the people who have offered to lend them so far.

Brian Jones, who is well known in the area as "Kimroy Photography", will be out on the day snapping every competitor. Kimroy are well known for high quality results and competitive prices.

### ENTRIES

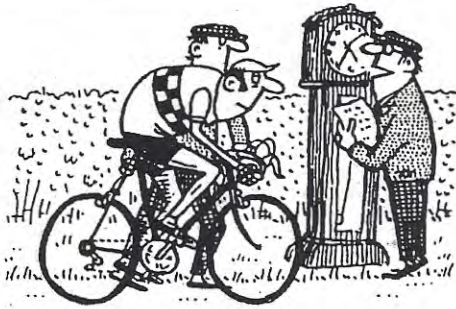
Entry forms were received from Trev in Manchester on Tuesday afternoon, 16th May. The first batch were consigned to potential competitors the following morning by second class post and on Saturday 20th May, the first completed form (from Peter Lowe S.F.A.) arrived on my doormat. If you have not received a form and would like one, contact me at the address above.

**REMEMBER, they have to be RETURNed to me BY JULY 18TH**



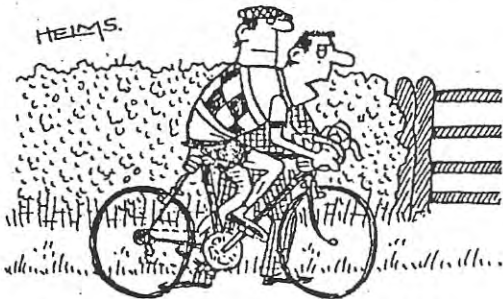
Closing date for next edition of BONK is June 1995

**R.T.T.C CHAMPIONSHIP 12 HOUR ON KENTISH ROADS.  
WILL YOU BE THERE? AUGUST 13TH 1995.**



IF MY EYESIGHT GETS ANY WORSE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP

Open All Hours  
Ron, Veronica and Jackie  
Hayward's refreshment stall at  
Bethersden Village Hall



WHAT AN EVENT! LAST YEAR THERE WAS NO  
PUSHER-OFF, AND THIS YEAR NO TIMEKEEPER



**JOY at the '12'**

*Whilst a member of the legendary Medway Wheelers, Ken Joy was the British Best All Rounder Champion for four years from 1949 to 1952 and a member of the victorious team from 1948 to 1952. As he won the National '12' Hour title, breaking the National record on both occasions, in 1950 and 1951, it seemed appropriate to invite him to present the Championship awards at our event this year. He has graciously agreed to perform this duty and we hope he will spend an exciting day with us.*

*Nick Jackson, who was another of that fabulous Medway team, has marshalled in the KCA '12' Hour for a number of years and will be an important member of our 'Team' again this year.*



Entry forms are available from

Mrs E Carpenter  
10 Maplehurst Road  
Baldslow  
St. Leonards-on-sea  
East Sussex  
TN37 7NA

Name .....

Club .....

Address .....

Closing date for next edition of BONK is June 1995

## *Hastings and St. Leonards CC*

Ernie Spray successfully completed one of his Presidential duties, as tradition demands, by being the first rider off in the ESCA hard riders. He was third counting member in the winning team when the event was first run in 1947 but had no chance of repeating the result since only one other Hastings member had entered this year. New lad Nick Rudkin performed well in his first attempt at time trialling, being placed 17th overall and second vet. Nick says that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which indicates he has the requisite masochistic trait that is often considered essential for competitive cycling.

The best individual performance of the year so far has been produced by seasoned campaigner Vic Butler. Vic usually plans his season to peak later on in the year with some of the longer distance events. This year work commitments have taken him away to South Africa until November so his training regime and not having to tailor hi training for endurance has resulted in some of his best times for several years. His 24.01 '10' and 2.01.24 '50' were good but his best result was a 57.53 '25' which was his fastest since 1965. He also found time to partner VC Bayeux's Keith Evans on the tandem to record a 59.07 '25' on a Kent course. Vic is not sure if he will be able to do any riding when away but has packed a pair of cycling shoes and shorts just in case.

For the first time in many years the club has a juvenile girl member actively racing. Emma Warner is already an experienced triathlete and for her age group one of the best in the country. After joining us on a number of steady club runs over the winter she entered the ESCA April 10 for her first taste of time trialling. She rated the experience and has since ridden club events, lowering her time to 29.27. It is believed that no under 16 girls have broken evens before so this is likely to be confirmed as a club record. Emma has already moved into the under 18 age group so her next target must be the 10 record of 28.04 set by Esther Rolleston (as then was!) in 1955.

The club's most consistent road man, has been Steve Holland in his first full season of serious road racing. So serious that he has even started shaving his legs! He has been one of the top local middle distance runners for years but is now putting most of his energy into cycling. He has just joined the veteran ranks but regular longer faster winter club runs have given him the legs to last the distance and still be competitive at the end of 2nd/3rd category Kent League races. Jon Sharples has been racing with Steve but having missed a lot of the winter training is finding the longer races hard work. However, give him a shorter race and the chance of a sprint he will be there as he demonstrated in finishing second, by half a wheel, to Steve Willis of Eastbourne Rovers in the first evening event of the summer on the Ashford closed road circuit.

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Ten club members completed the first 1066 Country Randonnee organised by the recently formed Hastings and Rother CTC section. There are grand plans for developing the event over the coming years so sponsorship has been sought and received from Hastings Borough Council and Marshall Tufflex Windows Ltd. Over 170 entries were received before the event, including 12 Belgian riders who arrived in style on a luxury coach and three from Holland. A scenic route was planned taking in many of the attractions of 1066 country, starting and finishing at the admirably equipped Sea Cadets Hall in St. Leonards. The ride was predominantly on quiet country lanes with check points at Rye, Bodiam Castle, Battle Abbey and Pevensey castle. Included in the very reasonable entry fee of £2.50 were drinks at the last three controls with cake and fruit at Bodiam and Battle in addition to complimentary teas and coffees at the HQ. More than 140 riders enjoyed a dry start but the weather soon took a turn for the worst and the faster riders were particularly unlucky to get caught in heavy rain whilst traversing Pevensey Marsh on exposed lanes. A handful of riders decided to take a short cut back to the HQ from Battle Abbey but 136 brave souls completed the full 106.6 km of a superbly organised event. A bigger and better event, including the option of a shorter ride is being planned for inclusion in a series of European randonnees so come along and give it a try next year.

Chris Parker.



## BONK ADVERTS



### *Enjoy Spectacular Shows. Enjoy Good Food.*

*We have the social event of the year for you. Madonna, Pamela Anderson and the Chippendales eat your hearts out.*

***This is an event that only the select can enjoy.***

*Sunday, November 19th.  
See social calendar for more details*

### RALEIGH RECORD SPRINT

21" 501 Frame 12 Speed

AS NEW

01323 892357 - SEAFORD

*Aero Sport Disc Wheel with 19mm CX Tub. COST £480. SELL £220*

*26" Trispoke Front Wheel with 19mm CX Tub. Unused. COST £350. SELL £180*

*26" Pete Mathews Fianni CXL. Front Wheel 20 bladed spokes. Suntour Superb Pro Hub. Continental Tub. COST £200. SELL £100.*

*Complete 223/4" Cliff Shrub Columbus SL Frame. Low Profile. Campagnolo C.Record throughout. Time Titan pedals. Cinelli bars and stem. Profile Tri-bars. COST £1,250. SELL £600*

*Contact Chris Kitchenham if you are interested or would like further details. ☎ 01424 755208*

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## *William Hickey*

It was nice to see Roy back in the saddle on a coldish morning in March, with Sir Charles recuperating from a short vacation in the Eastbourne general; it was as you were' at the Fairwarp Hostelry, the Excel were busying themselves in the kitchen preparing the obligatory cakes. The lovely and delectable Judy insisted that I try the bread pudding which curiously enough was very much improved to what was being offered in 1994, on a scale of 10 I feel that a 7 in this case was appropriate. I had paid the Bike Store a cursory visit on the previous Saturday; once again the Worthing were sticking things on the slate, this time it was Jeremy Wootton, no wonder poor old Andy had to ride the event simply to mingle with the riders afterwards to see if he could secure some outstanding 'slate' money. I'm not sure if he could face the ravages of time on his own as both Mrs. Rottweiler and Junior were seen cavorting around the hall. This time Rocky Junior had ceased his kicking but was able to produce some well rehearsed lines previously picked up at the Bike Store giving the distinct impression that he had now fully memorised precisely what to say when he met me. I would however be grateful if the result board could be improved upon. It was stuck up on the wall at the far end, so in order to get a clearer view we all had to perch on the stage like parrots to comprehend the various writings scrawled across it. It must have been bad since Brian Button was seen hurriedly moving out of the car park without staying on for the Excel leftovers.

So what's in store this year? It would be a nice change to stop the portable traffic light brigade. It seems that the slightest indentation in the road now results in the obligatory lights going up, irrespective of where. Clearly they are designed to cause as much confusion and inconvenience as could be devised. And speaking of Council's waste. Notwithstanding that every inconspicuous road junction must have a roundabout, we get the quite appalling expenditure being incurred and in making them look like a cross between a circular brick wall and Chelsea Flower Show. If ever there was a case of mis-spent taxpayer's money this is it.

I see the cost of Club dinners is once again creeping up. It seems the days have long gone when you could spend a tenner on a good evening and still have change when you got home. Spare a thought if you live in the vicinity of the metropolis. The average price now, I suspect, is between £15/20. No wonder the Club dinner is getting difficult to cater for.

Speaking of the community obligation, I find it totally incomprehensible that hardly a public toilet in this area is properly maintained. That is of course if you can find one. I don't know what it is but universally the state of these places is nothing less than a national disgrace. The majority of the loos in Sussex are too awful for words and yet the task of keeping them in order is comparatively simple. Shutting them up at night is probably a prerequisite. Maintaining them during the day should

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be as important as sweeping streets or dealing with the refuse, yet countless times I come across inadequate facilities, smashed or unclean cubicles; most of the areas have no proper ventilation or odourisers as used in the States. Vandalism can be stopped completely by making the locks smashproof and security locked. I doubt whether the riff raff element practice their vandalism during the hours of daylight. A few notices and rewards offered would not come amiss, alternatively do away with the traditional loos and put in kiosks and in areas which can be surveyed. It is outrageous that we should have to put up with these continued offensive conditions.

Perhaps any Council official reading these complaints could put it squarely in front of the people responsible for attending to these public facilities.

And now for the roads. I should welcome some information as to who and how it is decided to resurface the roads. It seems to me that there is no cohesive policy as to who does what and when.

Two examples spring to mind. The road surface on the Drusillas/Selmeston length which is being dug up, and the Lower Dicker area from Golden Cross to Boship. Both of these areas are awful. They are criss crossed with divots, sunken drain exposure, periodic pounding, poor camber and now pinch points or middle road platforms. Absolutely nothing has been done to expedite a proper road surface even there has been ample opportunity in the past, yet certain 'B' roads I travel on have an expensive tarmac skin and yet there was never any need for the roads to receive this attention as their use is minimal. Since our courses are also based on a surface constituent I find it difficult to comprehend their anomalies. Perhaps once again a spokesman could enlighten me as to what it is that is considered essential for a road to receive a new surface.

On the grapevine I hear that there are moves to re-instate the University '10' course now the road surface has been thoroughly improved. There is the need to find a satisfactory start and finish. Provided this is possible and subject to complying with all DC requirements we could once again have on our doorstep the fastest 10 course in Sussex, or even the South Coast. We hope to have specific information by the middle of 1995. What is clear however is that the course will be marshalled and no warm-ups on any part can be approved.

We welcome back to these shores Ronny and Jill Rogers and Ian and Julie Legless after a three month training programme in the Algarve. This brings memories flooding in concerning the day that the Lewes shanghai'd me in or around Vilamora. This was the year when poor old John Coe saw a little more of the Road to Lisbon' than ever Bob Hope or Dorothy Lamour. We were all treated to some expert bike handling by the spirit of yesteryear, i.e. Keith Parvin but he was found woefully short when it came to choosing gold in the local soukh, and whatever happened to the waitress in the cafe opposite the yachts, virtually all the Lewes made a pilgrimage before breakfast, after dinner

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and before curfew. Those were the days when a ten day trip cost you 9S - plus a few quid to spend on food.

This year the Lewes have invited me to go to some short criterium in Minorca. I am particularly that there are no hills and no mountain ranges to scale, one domestique has been assigned to me. he has been vetted and assures me that he will constantly protect me. Needless to say he is not from the Lewes and is quite happy to serve under me provided the money is satisfactory.

Horrors of horrors the E.S.C.A's worst nightmare has arrived, the S.C.A. are about to transfer their courses over to the E.S.C.A. territory (surely an S.C.A. nightmare! Ed.) as an aperitif. 1995 kicks off with a double whammy, yes, both Sussex 50s and 100s are being held over the Dicker (where no vultures fly). What next, joint dinners, a single BAR and we all know what the final accolade is? Don't we Ed.

William Hickey

### *Message from Roy*

Roy Humphrey would like to thank all those people who sent cards and get well messages and visited him while he was ill and he also expresses his gratitude to the officials who kept the Association business in good order in his absence. In particular he is grateful to his younger daughter, Janet, who was instrumental in maintaining his contact with cycling affairs.

### **JUNIORS**

Remember that you need to record times in two 10 mile and two 25 mile time trials to qualify for the E.S.C.A Junior Championship.

Qualifying rides must be done in the E.S.C.A. or Eastbourne Rovers (open) events.

You have time to qualify even if you haven't already competed in a counting event. The remaining dates on the calender are

Eastbourne Rovers 10	August 19th	Eastbourne Rovers 25	August 20th
East Sussex C.A. 10	September 16th	East Sussex C.A. 25	September 17th

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## *President's Page*

When I was offered the honour of President of the E.S.C.A. , I was asked if I knew what the position required me to do. I knew that I was expected to be no.1 in the Hardriders T.T. in March but I didn't know about the magnificent collar and badge of office.

I had hardly accepted the President's collar at the lunch when Val asked if I would be no.1 at Fairwarp. After I had agreed, I was advised either just to cross the line or at least climb the first hill to get a time at the prime and then hide behind the ice cream van near the 'Y' junction.

I considered all the advice and then tried out my hill climbing on the steep hills around Hastings. I stripped my cycle and dug out some equipment I last used forty five years ago and thought 'I'll have a go''

The weather on March 5th was not as sunny and frosty as it was for the first hardriders, but it was cold as many of the spectators found. I collected my no.1 and fastened it to my jacket - we never had numbers to wear at Ashburnham but shouted our numbers to the timekeeper.

Start time neared and I arrived at the line to be greeted by Roy - nice to see him, Jane with the watch, the pusher off and several photographers all wishing me well and I was off.

I wondered how far I'd get before no.2 caught me - I think I made the first hill O.K. and a cheer from Mick Kilby at the prime. On to the exposed 'Y' junction with the cold wind where Esther was doing her impression of Percy Bliss (or was she just keeping warm?).

There was Charlie's ice cream van - I felt good and anyway it's easier now with perhaps some downhill - don't have to twiddle a low fixed gear as I did in '47. several riders are now regularly passing me and at last I pass a cyclist - it was Warwick going the other way.

I was advised this course was lumpy and they weren't kidding. Groombridge turn arrived and it was about here that Heather and Mick passed me with encouraging shouts. Through Hartfield and turn south and now it began to hurt! Twice I was tempted to walk but first there was Mike Rabbets to revive my flagging spirits so I couldn't let him down. When I was out of sight of Mike I was tempted again but this time there were Ken & Iris to uplift me and I could see an ice cream van (at this time I didn't know there were two) but I did wonder why it was on the other side of the road.

Onward and there was Charlie's ice cream van with Charlie urging me on to the finish. I'd done it!!

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I passed the timekeeper and wished I'd been a bit faster but I suppose the penalty weight of the President's regalia was to slow me down so I couldn't win a medal this time.

Anyway back to H.Q. for a quick change, a cuppa and one of Vanessa's delightful cakes and a chat with old friends.

Back home I really felt great but don't expect a repeat performance. Thanks to all for their help, advice and encouragement and best wishes to all ESCAbods for a successful season.

Ernie

*Obituary - Mike Ryall*

*Mike Ryall's fatal accident on May 25th shocked and saddened his many cycling friends and deprived our sport of a very able competitor and knowledgeable worker.*

*He was killed whilst cycling on the A3 and is the latest on a long list of cyclists who have suffered a similar fate in all parts of the country.*

*We hope to publish a full tribute to Mike in our next issue.*

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## *Central Sussex C.C.*

I was shocked as no doubt are many others by the news of the tragic death of Mike Ryall in a road accident on Thursday 25th May. Little detail is known at present but by the time this is printed I am sure we will have heard more about the untimely loss of such a fine cyclist and friend who will be sadly missed by the many who knew him.

Now on a happier note. After their quiet wedding in February, Pat & Kevin took a delayed honeymoon in Paris during April. Although they had an enjoyable time I don't know why they chose Paris in April as LE TOUR does not get there until July!! Kevin said it was to reconnoitre the finish to plan tactics. Ken & Barbara Atkins have now become grandparents. Mark & Nicola have a daughter, Jessica Ellen, and apparently all are well and in good health. There are rumours that Ken is sorting out the Kiddicranks to put on the tandem.

Now for some cycling news. A number of Club riders have been active in local events. Mark Sussex has continued to improve steadily and has recorded 1.5 on the Kingsfold course and a fine 24 minute 10 in the E.S.C.A. event.

Kevin Harding and Peter Cauldwell rode the S.C.A. 2-up and Kevin has been active in numerous other events plus his swimming and triathlon activities. The evergreen Adrian Jones has produced two good rides (training for his trip to Minorca with the Lewes in May?) with a 1.5 in the SCCU hilly 25 and a 1.4 on the Kingsfold course. The brothers Awcock took time off from their mountain bikes to ride the E.S.C.A. 25, Don did 1.2.17, John 1.4.56. Dave Jenkins and Geoff Ericson have been testing themselves in a few events as well. In fact Geoff tells me that he had the pleasure of beating Alan Peiper's well know training partner Geoff (NOMads SusSEX) Bore in the E.S.C.A. 25!

With this new found confidence Geoff spent a day riding round the Derbyshire Peaks and Dales when driving north to pick his daughter from university in Liverpool. Be is threatening to produce a brief write up of it for the next edition of BONK.

Evening 10s on the Cowdray Arms/Handcross/Pease Pottage course started in May. The first event fielded eleven riders in all with Peter Cauldwell putting up the fastest time of 24.14. The next event had fifteen riders with Lee Fanner (Regent RC) recording 23.57. Howard Burrell is being chased by his improving young son Andrew. Obviously reaping the benefit of hanging onto dad's back wheel during a week's cycling in Majorca.

That's all for now. - London Lad

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## *Brighton Excelsior CC*

Well here we are with news of some vigorous activity in the S.C.A. Team Championships. We valiantly sent out an 'A' and a '13' team to return with a wing for both and event record for the 'A' team.

A very well done to our lads who returned a time of 3.5925 for the four to count. Namely Jim Pratt with a creditable 58.59, with Chris Lord close at 59.07, Andy Payne with 1.0.27 and Steve Woodbridge, 1.0.52. Our 'B' team won their trophy with Fraser Russell, Andy Attwood and Jim Clewlow, all doing 1.3. something each, a worthy win.

Incidentally being the Excel's 75th Anniversary Year this 'A' team record (under four hours) is 'especially recordable' as we were the first team under five hours 75 years ago.

Also on the track scene at Preston Park this season with Jim Clewlow, Fraser Russell and Mark Radley making their presence felt with Jim getting a second and a few other placings. Fraser did well with a fourth place in only his second meeting, so keep it up lads, you'll be in the frame one day.

Sitting in the Queen's Head at West Chiltington I found myself reflecting on a recent clubrun to East Chiltington, a gem in Excel continuing traditions. We had approximately a dozen out at lunch time, including Ryan, our budding six year old member through to Bert Absolom (our President, aged seventy) all riding and keeping up Club appearances. This run on mountain bikes via the Downs - South Downs Way from Shoreham, through the Dyke to Pycombe, Jack & Jill and on to Ditchling Beacon was one of our off road runs which also took in Black Cap and Street to the very welcome pub, the Jolly Sportsman, East Chiltington. A great re-arranging of their front garden furniture took place on a really great fine day.

Keith Pettifer a newly rejoined member of twenty five years past has returned to the fold and was on the aforementioned run and said "It's just as it was, nothing's changed". A sure sign that with seventy members or so I think we may have the right recipe, keep it going one and all. Our Annual prize Presentation 'Special' 75th Anniversary will feature "Bill Posters Will Be Banned" a special entertainment extravaganza with fancy dress 1920s style - sure to be an occasion for diary and future record. This is on February 10th, 1996 at Windsor House Hotel, Worthing.

See you up the road.

Excelsiorian

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## *Southborough & District Wheelers*

Our best team in the E.S.C.A. 2 up was Peter Fox/Colin Nightingale and it was assumed that Peter had towed Colin round to a 1.1.44 ride. However Colin must have learned the fast man's lesson because in the Kent 25 two weeks later he produced a surprise 1.3.42 on a hard day, beating the other youngsters (I can't call them juniors any more because some have graduated to senior status) handsomely. There was disbelief at the finish but to prove it was no fluke Colin went on to 57.13 in the Hitchin Nomads event to claim the fastest ride any of them have ever done. Imagine his chagrin when, on the strength of a 57 he entered an event on the N4 and was accepted as 'reserve' only.

The rivalry is high. Peter Watson has been under the hour a couple of times this year, beating the others in the process. Brother David has done four 1.0s including 1.00.04. Gareth Robb shines in the hilly events with very good rides in the E.S.C.A. Hardriders, the VC Elan event and, more recently the Redmon 75. He also has 1.00.25 to his credit. Best improvement goes to Mark Nightingale with almost six minutes when notching up 1.2.31.

Of the older brigade Peter Fox continues to dominate the 25 scene. His string of under the hour rides give a best so far of 54.27, a 58 in the national on a hard course and wins in the Sydenham and Northampton events as well as several second places. Tim Chacksfield has been well under the hour including a 56 almost equalling his PB. Peter Crofts has made a few racing sorties which include fifth in the Worthing 25 (58.49) and third in the West London 50 with 1.50.39! John Watson and Bill MacNay are pushing down towards the hour and Peter Holland is mixing trike and bike with good effect. Peter must beware because Maurice Carpenter has started racing again.

Gill Tree is our only lady racing. She has a 1.5.29 to her credit and will be riding in the National 25 shortly. Steve Warnett and Jim Gowan are regularly road racing with Steve particularly showing well.

On the social front a ten-pin bowling match against the san Fairy Ann was very successful with youngster (Neil Whelan) and oldster (Warwick Dunford) the best Southborough performers. Many had never bowled before but 'Ace' James MacNay demolished all ten pins with his first ball but finished with the wooden spoon after missing nearly all the rest.

The 'Spearth' backmarkers team (Maurice Spear, Graham Seath, Doug Finch, Terry Collins and Richard Barnes) recently rode for charity in a relay from Exeter to Tunbridge Wells. They raised £1,000 for new equipment for Pembury Hospital. Of all days they chose Saturday, 3rd June and it poured with rain throughout the whole twelve hour ride. Poor Maurice was lambasted for organising it on such a dreadful day. Nevertheless they all did their stint and arranged themselves in Club jerseys for

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for a grand finale on the steps of the Town Hall - almost on schedule.

Roamer

*Bicycle Races, Roundray Park, Leeds - By Vernon Scannell*

From far above the amphitheatres green,  
Shrunk by distance, each rider and machine  
Are fused into a single thing alive,  
Insectile. Arched backs and beetle heads contrive,  
With spindle limbs, to move on shimmering ring  
Of fine-spun webs; the starter's pistol stings  
Silence like a Christmas-cracker's snap  
As they surge forward for the opening lap.  
When we draw closer to the track we can  
Dissect each insect into thing and man,  
And, nearer yet, proximity reveals  
The frantic knees, like twiddling thumbs, the wheels  
Sizzling on the labile grass below  
The ram's-horn handlebars, the wheels that show  
How spokes of ice have melted in hot speed,  
A silvery blur. The winner's head, black bead,  
Is lifted, as he rides across the line,  
And, humanized, he smiles. The circled shine  
Of spokes now flickers, ticking down each wheel  
Seen first as fine sliced lemon, then as steel  
An rubber now the spell of speed has fled.  
The other riders finish, every head  
Stays down, seems bowed in misery or shame.  
Every man is numbered, but his name  
Will be restored when evening comes and he  
Puts on his clothes of full humanity,  
Drives home, his bicycle strapped on the roof  
Of car or van, upturned, a trophy, proof  
Of having hunted with the brave; and so  
Its wheels revolving slowly in the flow  
Of darkening breeze, may faintly rhyme with how  
Shot prey's dead limbs might stir; these wheels could swing  
The pendant heart, like some living thing.

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## *Eastbourne Rovers CC*

I am glad to report that we have seen a substantial rise in our membership which was beginning to look very weak a few months ago. This is probably a phase which most Clubs go through from time to time, and hopefully we shall soon see these members racing in the open racing scene as they progress from Club time trials.

Regular readers of the 'comic' will no doubt be aware that various celebrities from the professional peloton have been sporting broken collarbones as of late. Not to be outdone we have one as well now. Graham Lade fell off his bike on V.E. Day. Apparently this was not part of the celebrations that were taking place around the country. You know the sort of thing I mean, street parties with entertainment laid on to keep the kids laughing. However Graham is progressing well and will soon be back in the saddle.

On the racing scene Steve Willis is the man of the moment with wins in the East Sussex 10, a 50 mile road race at Goodwood and his latest and probably best performance when he won the Ashford Criterium event. Our evening time trial series has been well supported so far this year with the occasional appearance of a few Brighton Excelsior riders, including Chris Lord, who turned up just to try out a new pair of wheels on a not very fast night and turned in with a 22.50 in one of our 10s. Obviously they are no good Chris mate, if I was you I would chuck them away and buy a new pair.

As most of you are probably aware, our local 'Cuckoo Trail' is proving very popular with cyclists. So popular in fact that Jet from Gladiators was brought down to perform an official opening ceremony. And if local press reports are anything to go by a right cock up it was as well. All the kids who turned up hoping for an autograph and a glimpse of their hero were disappointed when she was whisked round the back and into a waiting car leaving the Mayoress of Hailsham to perform the opening ceremony and cut the ribbon. This was of course front page news in the local rag. However all was not lost as on the back page there was a postcard size picture (in colour, I might add) of Steve Willis winning the East Sussex 10.

Who were the two out of town women and the male racing cyclists on a training ride through Herstmonceux the other Friday evening? Well your humble scribe can reveal that the man was Peter Keene and the women were Marie Purvis and Yvonne McGregor who is being trained for the World Hour Record attempt.

Rover

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**E.S.C.A. 48 MILE RELIABILITY TRIAL**  
**SUNDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 1995**

**COURSE DETAILS**

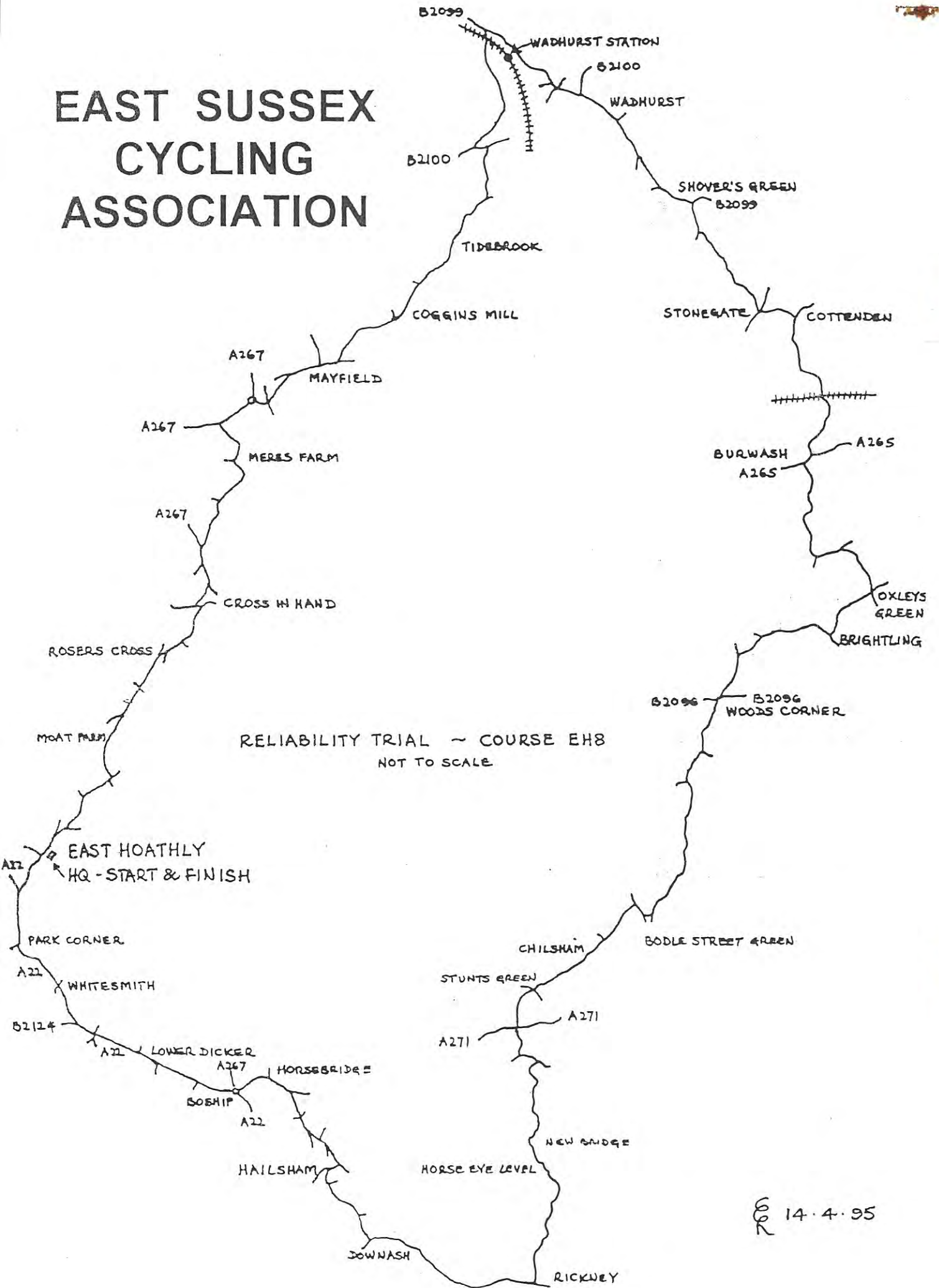
START at the King's Head, East Hoathly (TQ523163). Join the old A22 southbound. At T junction with East Hoathly by-pass, turn left and follow A22 to Boship roundabout (5.41mls). Take second exit, straight on through Horsebridge. Turn right on B2104. Straight ahead at mini roundabout and traffic lights. At the end of the High Street, Hailsham, turn right into George Street. Take first left past Police Station into Station Road (opp. The Victoria, est.1787) (7.68mls). On past the Railway Tavern and pond to take left turn at T junction (signposted Rickney). Just before Rickney, take left turn (signposted Herstmonceux) (10.70mls) to **1st Checkpoint** just past corner (10.72mls).

On via Horse Eye Level you will see Herstmonceux Observatory on the skyline. Past New Bridge Pumping Station to T junction. Turn left and then take right fork (signposted Stunts Green). Halt at junction with A271 (Sussex Trugs on your right) (14.74mls). Straight across (CARE) to Stunts Green. Turn right and almost immediately left into Chilsham Lane. Continue through Chilsham to T junction at Merryweather's Farm Stables. Take right fork and follow Chilsham Lane to T junction, where right towards Bodle Street. Take first left into Trumpett's Lane (opposite Pebsham Hall Farm). At end of lane, turn left and proceed past The School of Phytotherapy (Herbal Medicine) and The Stud. Follow road round to the right (signposted Woods Corner) and then take left fork to Woods Corner. Halt at main road (B2096) by the Swan Inn (20.76mls). Turn right (CARE) and immediately left (signposted Brightling). Take right fork and proceed through Brightling and past Church. Take left turn (signposted Robertsbridge) and ride down to **2nd Checkpoint** by Jack Fuller's at Oxley's Green (23.22mls).

Take left turn at crossroads (signposted Burwash) and on over bridge to T junction. Bear left and then take right fork to Burwash. Halt at T junction by the War Memorial and opposite the Bell Inn (26mls). Turn right (CARE) and almost immediately left (signposted Stonegate). On past Burwash Laundry and over the railway. Take left turn at Cottenden. (Just round the corner is Cottenden Squash Club). At Stonegate bear right (signposted Wadhurst) and proceed to T junction with B2099 at Shover's Green (30.83mls). Turn left and on through Wadhurst (loos on left just before the Greene King). Keep straight on past Wadhurst Railway Station to take first left (signposted Tidebrook) into Faircrouch Lane (33.70mls). Over the railway and up the hill to **3rd Checkpoint** on the left just before School sign (33.97mls).

On past The Mount Camphill Community Centre to T junction with B2100. Left up hill and then right by the Best Beech Inn (signposted Tidebrook). Straight on through Tidebrook and past Coggin's Mill. As you approach Mayfield, keep bearing right and up hill to join the High Street (39mls). Down High Street (loos in car park opposite the Church), take left fork into West Street by stone horse trough. At T junction turn right and immediately left to roundabout. Take first exit (A267). Turn left opposite Moyses Nursery into Meres Lane. Down past Meres Court, take left fork. Keep straight on past Mynos Farm to rejoin A267 by Faygate Boarding Kennels & Cattery. Turn left and follow A267. Take second right (CARE) opposite Horcros. Up hill past windmill to T junction. Turn left and then right by Cross in Hand Methodist Church. Down Fair Grove Road to Rosher's Cross. Bear right and at next junction left into Brittenden Lane. Straight ahead at crossroads and then follow Moat Lane right down to T junction (46.70mls). Turn right up hill. take left fork at top of hill and follow signs to finish at **4th Checkpoint** at the King's Head, East Hoathly (TQ523163) (48.02 mls) (CR-ESCART95)

# EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION



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