

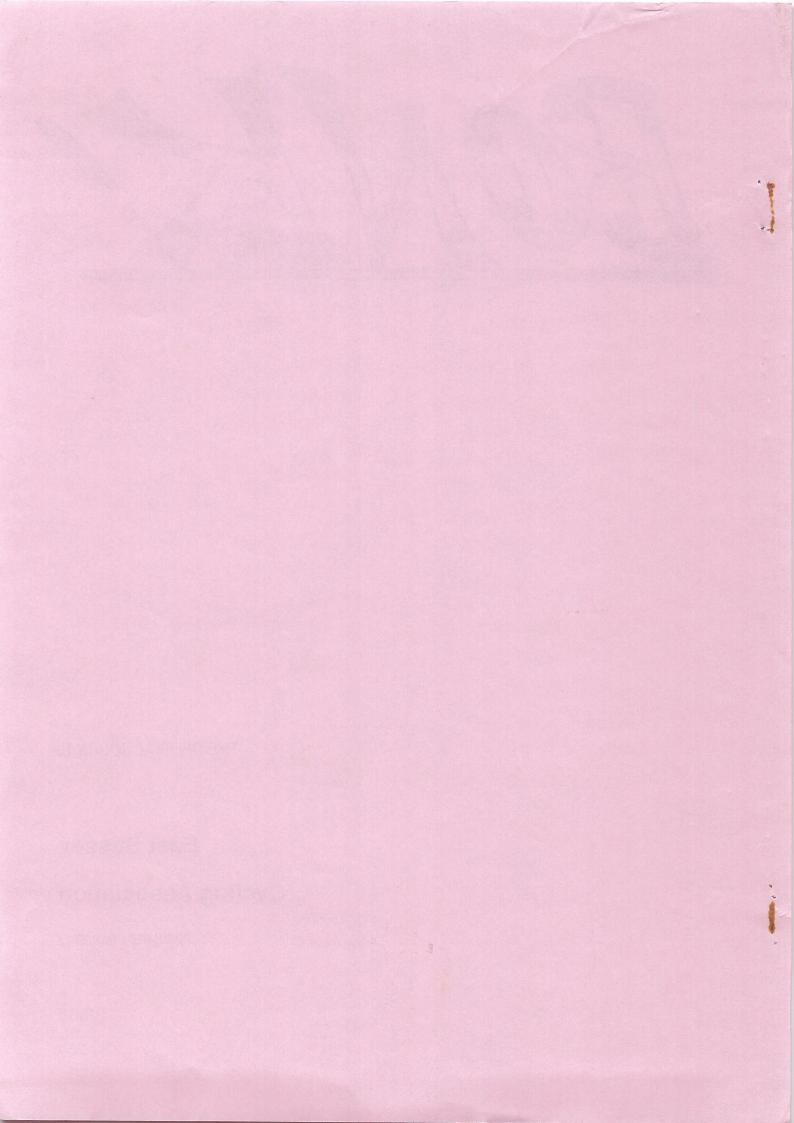
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

East Sussex Cycling Association

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

President Alan Limbrey

New Series No. 82

Spring 1998

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EDITORIAL

The editorial, which has been replaced in latter editions by an index, returns by popular request! There's no accounting for taste and I hope the person who begged for its reinstatement enjoys reading the few words with which I shall endeavour to fill this space. The word 'I' is used literally - Maurice has escaped to Majorca on a 'Saga Singles Holiday' and this is a 'one person production edition' of Bonk.

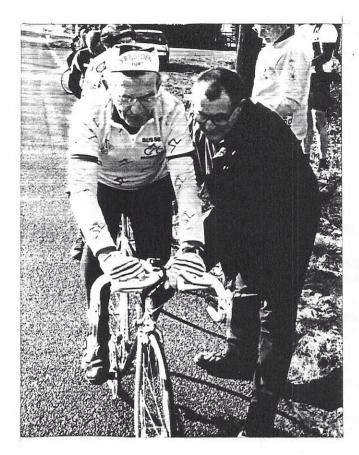
At the last management committee meeting there was a discussion about the future of Bonk and previously club secretaries had been circulated for their opinions. Maurice and I now find that we will be able to continue with Bonk, God willing - nothing's certain at our age - for another couple of years at least after 1998, and subject to approval at the A.G.M. will carry on as usual.

Both the discussion and the questionnaire generated input. The kind comments which appeared in the Excelsior notes have been reproduced at Dick's insistence and the criticisms made at the meeting were taken on board. Charles Robson produced a very detailed analysis of contributors over the past seventeen years, which encouraged me to read the back numbers, and it's interesting to note that although I whine every year about lack of contributions, we have in fact received a large variety of material and I thoroughly enjoyed re-reading old copies. The main problem seems to arise with distribution - in the old days it was fairly certain that at least one person in each member club would be at the event chosen to pass on the parcels of Bonk. In recent years the system has broken down and I am working hard to overcome this. Several people have offered to help with this aspect of the exercise and it should ensure that everyone gets a copy while the news is topical. In future late copy will be held over until the next issue - delay in receiving club notes and consequent late publication is also a major factor in late distribution.

I am hoping to print Charles' register of past contributors at the end of this edition. If you are still alive and reading Bonk and can find your name listed, another article will be gratefully received.

Esther

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS



It is an honour to be the President of the East Sussex Cycling Association for the second time. Although I am not sure about it when I think of being number 1 in the Hardriders. Over recent years the hills seem to be getting steeper and longer. I will be lucky to get inside 1h 15m - but I will finish. But you never know it may snow!

At this time there is some doubt about the future of BONK. I am sure we would all miss it very much. But the future of BONK is in your hands, yes, YOUR hands. Articles need to be written and sent in to the editor. Please make sure something is done to ensure its future in some form. We are, of course, indebted to Maurice & Esther for all the time they have given on our behalf to produce BONK for many years.

It would be nice to resurrect a social event in the summer, such as the picnic, but we have failed in recent years, so any suggestions.

ESCA is one of those organisations which, without the unceasing efforts of a few, such as Roy Humphrey and Mick Burgess, etc., would not exist - and then where would we be.

Finally, I did mention at the Lunch that you do not need to ask permission to pass the President this year, but a little push would be most welcome.

Alan



MID WEEK SECTION

C.T.C. EAST SUSSEX D.A.

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Sunday May 31st 1998

50mile/50k rides in the morning (optional)

Tea Party in afternoon

H.Q. Upper Dicker Village Hall

all past and present members of the C.T.C. welcome

for more information contact

Iris Stevens

☎ 01323 844703

Esther Carpenter

2 01424 751581

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☎ 01323 507327





SUMMER EDITION

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ALL CLUB NOTES, AND OTHER ARTICLES FOR BONK, TO US BY MAY 30th FOR DISTRIBUTION AT THE THE 50 ON JUNE 14th

EASTBOURNE ROVERS , PHOENIX CYCLES

There's not a lot to write about this time because nothing's happening. Let's see if we can upset some people instead.

The Club Dinner went well thanks to Clive (Edgar) Willis. During the Prize Presentation, a special award was presented for the most moo-ving talent. Colin Jones won this with his Oscar winning performance in one of the evening series 14 mile circuit events. When being approached by a herd of cows coming down Hooe Hill, instead of carrying on like a lot of the others, he decided to call it a day and turn round. It was eventually decided that the event should count as more riders got round than didn't. Clive Willis moved up an extra place because of this, finishing just ahead of Colin. Colin received a lovely trophy of a cow on a wooden stand. Well done Colin!

The Club's first event of the season is the early morning 10 mile time trial. This was held on Sunday, 22nd February. Last year's winner, Shaun Reed, who stormed round with a 23 minute ride, was absent. After a lover's tiff during the week, he chose to cement his relationship with a long weekend away with his gay lover. That's what James Dear told me anyway. Steve Willis was also absent. The poor love-sick boy has decided to miss out because he doesn't want to be beaten again by James Dear. James says what Steve needs is a good woman, or James dressed up as a woman.

Jane Lade turned up at the time trial and said "Where is everybody?" Eventually riders turned up. The event went well with 22 riders turning up. Two "special needs" people had to be disqualified, because they are too tight, or just stupid. Stuart Medhurst and Katy Oxborrow get yourselves sorted out! The season is here. Membership subscriptions are due on the 1st January or before you race.

"O'DEAR" JAMES DOES IT AGAIN!

James (let your hair down) Dear took the honours with a great ride for this time of year turning in a 23-23, but he wanted to do a 22-00. Glenn Cook took second with a 23-35 and fat boy Simon Prior was third in 23-53.

Jon Sharples (Duracell Bunny) was fourth with a 23-55. Last year's Boy Wonder ex World Champion Alan Rolfe took fifth place with a 24-00. Alan push a little harder on the pedals and you'll be doing 23's.

Colin Jones, showing he means business this year, took sixth place in 25-33 ahead of Lloyd Grayston (25-47). Mountain Man Tim (Skeleton) Wells managed a 26-13. We've heard he's taken time out doing advertising for Eastpack (Skeleton climbing a mountain with an Eastpack backpack on his back!)

Clive Willis slipped down the finishing order coming ninth in 26-38. Next was Boyd Johnson (27-08), followed by Max (I can ride at 35mph) Norrell (27-25), Paul Simmons (27-37), Stuart Davis (27-52), Andy Stobbart (27-55), Paul Charlton (28-26), Dave Cox (28-29), Chris Berryman (30-18), Andy Parsons (30-45) and last man Mark Dixon (32-41).

Private time triallist Steve Holland stormed round in 24-42. His first 10 mile time trial for twenty-five years. Good ride!

Well done everybody. Thanks to Jane and Graham Lade for timekeeping, John Godwin for pushing off and Mike Archer for marshalling at Little Common roundabout.

Some more gossip!

Jane Lade was seen in Eastbourne during the week bent over looking at Ray Prior`s wheels on his red Phoenix van. Was she planting a nail in the tyre because later he found he had a puncture. The truth is that Jane actually plucked up the courage to tell Ray that he had a puncture in his front tyre after Ray had had a busy day at work! Ray just had time to change the tyre before it got dark. "Thanks" Jane from the others that didn`t have the courage to tell Ray and also thanks from Ray.

Club Handbooks are out and available from Simon Prior on Monday Clubnights or at Phoenix Cycles. Thanks to Charles Robson for doing the handbooks yet again. This year's handbooks are in colour (just the covers) for the first time in the Club's history. Charles tells me that special black and white ones will be available on request.

Jon (Duracell Bunny) Sharples, Club Best All Rounder, is on the front cover together with James Sutton, Surrey League Champion. Jon has already been asked for his autograph!

Steve Willis has retired from racing selling his time trial bike to his Dad. We 've heard he 's taken up roller blading with Paul Delani.

In March some Club Members are off to Majorca Training Camp. Shaun Reed and Paul Delani are going for two weeks to get some extra miles in.

Charles Robson has been seen out training. On Sunday he was passed by the remains of a Club run which went out after the 10 mile time trial. Charles calls his training "Featherstone Miles" because he's out to surprise Harry with a new look faster, fitter Charles. He cycles with a picture of Harry in front of his handlebars and spends all day trying to catch him. Good training method.

"The Three Amigos" Andy Parsons, Andy Stobbart and Stuart Medhurst have been out doing some miles this year as they have been giving everyone a hard time on the Club runs. Even Fat Boy Steve Bowles has been out training at last! He has been giving everyone a hard time on the Club runs - a hard time waiting for him!

Mark Cruttenden is walking about (after his accident last year). Now he's hoping to start turbo-training soon. Hope all goes well Mark.

Just a quick one to finish. Paul Charlton and Colin Jones have let out the secret why they do triathlons. They like watching the young girls running in their tight fitting swimwear. Clive Willis tells me he`s been round to Colin`s to watch the video Baywatch Tri`s!

That all folks. See you in the next issue!

EARACHE



ROVERS PRESIDENT GRAHAM LADE AT THE HARDRIDERS BEING ASSISTED BY HIS DAUGHTERS SARAH & NICOLA

SUSSEX NOMADS

Well it's here again - that is, the racing season, we have the handbooks and plans are being made for the summer. Many people ride the same events year after year so it is no surprise to meet friends at the various H.Qs. We, the Nomads, are no exception and plans are being laid for excursions here, there and everywhere. 'Here' means Sussex and E.S.C.A. events and, of course, other events around the County. Although some people think only of 'E' this or 'H' that, who wants to leave home at ungodly hours when it's still dark

Our plans this year includ some non-racing events, namely the Worthing 200k, etc., and of course trips to France for the Route de Cidre (May 1st), les Archers (May 16th - 18th) andd the Three Valleys. The year would not be complete without the 'Duo Normand'; sometimes racing can spark a good Nomad social weekend.

Already this year we have had two very successful events, namely the Dinner and club '5'. The Dinner was held at St. Catherine's Hotel in Hove, where about forty five members, girl friends, mothers, fathers and guests had a very pleasant evening. The food was excellent, hot and served quickly, cross toasting was as usual good fun as were some of the jokes. A raffle was held and half the money collected was paid out in prizes. The prize presentation was a bit of a BOORE but they both deserved the awards they received. We have already booked next year's Dinner, the date being January 22nd, 1999 and the cost will be as little as possible. Those not there will be the losers!

The '5' was held on January 22nd. It was a fine but cold morning and unfortunately the wind was from the N.W. instead of the S.E. so it wasn't as fast as some of us had hoped for., The course is, naturally, ONE WAY, from Pycombe to henbfield Common with a downhill start and only one roundabout. The result was as follows:

Nic Boore (12.13), Geoff Boore (12.56), Richard Harwood (13.12), Tony Kennedy (13.25), Alan Limbrey (13.61), Barry Smith (14.24), Roger Davis (14.28), William Davis (14.35), Vernon Hyde (17.28). Three P.T.Ts. - M. Penfold (12.44) and from Worthing, S. McClelland (13.56) & Miss K. McClelland (17.13).

Next on our list is our 100 miles in 8 hours. Last year it was easy-peasy and eight riders finished in $7^1/_4$ hours even allowing for a lunch stop for soup, etc., at the roadside. This year (March 22nd) we start away from home at Washington so that we can ride over different roads, the route going via Thakeham, Billingshurst and Bucks Green. From there the hills start as we go up to Ewhurst, Ockley, over Pitch Hill towards Shere, round to Peasmarsh and back to Cranleigh. Right again up to Burntwood Common, up a hill I do not wish to think about, back to Cranleigh, when it's flat again, back to Wisborough Green for soup, etc. After lunch it will be an easy tour via Petworth, Sutton, Duncton, Bignor Roman Villa, Bury then back to Washington (not up Bury Hill, thank you). I wonder how many will make it this year, and how many without a little walk through the trees north of Cranleigh. Still, it's all miles ready for 'Ks' at 'L'Archers'.

Our membership remains about the same this year, with some still away at University, studying, they say, this, that or the other? and possibly riding their bikes.

There are plans to ride the road (massed start to we mature people), with the Surrey League and at the Goodwood circuit and of course track at Preston Park. Now there is some racing at Hove Park there should be many opportunities to meet everybody this year.

Most of us are well in the time trial groove now and, apart from the early starts, this is good as there is still some of the day left for other things.

I hope next time I write we will have some good times to report but mainly some good times had!

See you up the road - stay bright.

MID-WEEK SECTION

Fervour for Mid-Week rides continues to be maintained at a high level with our favourite pubs and cafes filled to bursting. Some of our members are so enthusiastic that they will go to any lengths to ensure that they are all present and correct in time to get to the appointed venue - George Lillicrap, for instance, sleeps in his clothes so that he's hot to trot the moment he wakes up on Wednesday morning. A car accident, sustained whilst being driven by a 'lady companion', didn't stop Peter Bratt getting to the Star at Waldron the following day. Peter also turned down an invitation to visit Battle with a visit to 'Whispers' (purveyors to the gentry of knickers and other fripperies) thrown in, so that he could go biking. He turned up at the Six Bells, Chiddingly with a beaming smile on his face and informed us that he "had gone all the way with Jim Stockham". An equally cheerful Jim confirmed this piece of hot news. All I can say is "not a word to Bessie!"..

One explanation for the popularity of our rides could be the thoughtful camaraderie that exists within in our ranks. Roy James, for instance, proudly produced a dead squirrel from a plastic bag and presented it to George. He had found it by the roadside and as it was in mint condition realised that George would appreciate it for his ferrets. However, later in the week a few of us (those with razor sharp minds), including George and Adrian Vieler, were at Horam for a Quiz Night and George invited Adrian home to share his stew; was the squirrel, we couldn't help wondering, the staple ingredient of the recipe?! George is not the only one to stock his larder from the wild, Grace Richardson found a pheasant, another casualty of the road, and hung it in her garage until it was ready for the table, and very good eating it was too.

It is not possible to predict when the rich mix of characters in our group will come together. For instance, John Christmas popped into the bookie's to place a bet and when he came out he found that he and Pat were £700 better off - she had booked a holiday in the travel agent's next door and saved that amount of money for them. And they are not the only free spirits - John and Anita Bainbridge put in a brief appearance at our Festive Lunch and promptly disappeared to a sunlit paradise in their camper van and nothing has been heard of them since. Jack and Mary Dunn wafted off to Largos - our secretary thought it was in Africa! Silly billy. Ken and Iris have just returned from a month's tour of New Zealand, and Dudley and Cherry Cheal spent what they had hoped would be a happy time ski-ing in California. Unfortunately Cherry fell awkwardly and damaged her back quite seriously. She was able to join us recently at Bodle Street and was amazingly cheerful, but it will be some time before she can cycle or even work in her beloved garden. Other invalids are Ken Smith who, rather mundanely, toppled off his bike in Horam and damaged his ankle and Frank Drader who is laid low with unromantic Seaford 'flu.

Surprisingly a lot of local C.T.C. members have never joined us for a mid-week ride but we hope to see as many of you as possible at the special tea party we are organising to celebrate the 50th anniversay of the D.A. Fred Mehew has planned a couple of routes for (optional) morning rides - a friendly 50k and a 50 mile course for the toughies. Iris is organising the food, Upper Dicker village hall has been booked for the headquarters and the date is Sunday, May 31st. No entry fee for the rides and the cost of the tea will be very reasonable. We are hoping that a goodly number of faces from the past will be there so if you have contact with anyone who's likely to be interested please encourage them to come along.

See you there.



E.S.C.A. EVENTS 1998

The following are Association Only events

Sunday April 5th

2 Up Team Time Trial E

Entry fee £8.00

Course S/896

(per team)

Mr. L. Hayman, 25 Chieveley Drive, Tonbridge, Kent TN2 5HG 2 01892 532073

Saturday April 18th

10 miles

Entry fee £4.00

Course G10/87

Mr. G. Lade, 66 Wilton Avenue, Hampden Park, Eastbourne, E. Sussex BN22 9HY 201323 509408

Sunday April 19th

25 miles

Entry fee £4.00

Course G25/89

Mr. R. Dixon, 31 Ashford Way, Hastings, E. Sussex TN37 7BB 2 01424 717376

The following are Open events

Sunday June 14th

50 miles

Entry fee £4.00

Course G50/83

Mr. P. Roberts, In Gear Cycle Sport, 107 High Street, Uckfield, E. Sussex TN22 1RN 2 01825 768192

Sunday July 5th

100 miles

Entry fee £6.00

Course G100/86

Mr. M. Rabbetts, Jarvis Court, Mottins Hill, Crowborough, E. Sussex 2 01892 654422

Saturday 12th September 10 miles

Entry fee £4.00

Course G10/87

10 miles [tandems]

Entry fee £8.00

Mr. R. Venis, 21 Weald Close, Horsham, W. Sussex RH13 6HE 2 01403 265585

Sunday 13th September 25 miles

les Entry fee £4.00

Course G25/89

Mr. R. Blackmore, Ladymead, Snowhill, Crawley Down, W. Sussex RH10 3EE 201342 713272



The 10 & 25 on April 18th/19th and the 10 & 25 on September 12th/13th will have an "overall classification prize" - the more entries, the better the prize list.

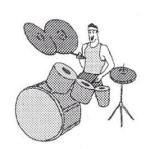
1066 AND ? LITAHW 02

The Annual Dinner of the Fellowship of 1066 Longmarkers takes place in January against the backdrop of a slightly shabby seaside town on the south coast; among the people who attend are representatives from some of the most famous cycling clubs in the area, Belle Vue, Southborough Wheelers, Redmon CC, Catford CC, West Kent RC, San Fairy Ann CC to name but a few. Every year the guests assemble, wondering what the ageing organisers will have in store for them, and

every year they sit down to soup (not tomato) with no onions, roast turkey (used to be beef, lamb, pork or chicken, but they are all off the menu now because of the fear of catching B.S.E., scrapie, swine fever and salmonella), a fine selection vegetables, followed by a tasty little something for afters plus coffee and mints. Always washed down with copious tankards of ale - the mild was very popular this year, they couldn't get enough of it. In fact some of us thought there was an epidemic of staggers going around then we realised that Arthur Coleman and friends had been in the bar since 4 o'clock.



Everything was exceptionally circumspect until the soup plates vanished from the table, which is when the cross-toasting started. All gavils were poised at the ready but I can't remember who got



the first one in. Suffice to say that Gwyneth Holland was well to the fore, on a serious note, taking wine with Tina who, you may or may not know, provided the music for us in the past together with husband Wilf Baker - ex cyclist and a mighty drummer to boot. Wilf was also on the receiving end of a few cross toasts; old sins cast long shadows and it all comes out at the 1066 Dinner. Arthur Coleman's legless escapades, veiled hints of dirty doings at past functions; one after another the assembled throng tottered to their feet and acknowledged foolish deeds that they thought had been long forgotten.

In the interval between clearing the tables and the speeches it was cabaret time. And what a cabaret!! Appropriately dressed in seven flounces of net curtain (75p a flounce if you're interested), white tee shirts and white ankle socks (also in Gwyneth's case, skin tight, multi coloured lycra racing shorts and rumour has it that Pete Wall had a thong). Gwyneth and the Two Petes hit their public with several rousing choruses of 'Nobody Loves a Fairy When She's Forty', Pete Holland whipping up audience participation as he ambled around the tables with the words around his neck on large sheets of paper. The stunned waitresses took skilful evasive action as Gwyneth's flailing wand (a pink feather duster) came periliously close to their piles of crockery.



This was followed by a few dignified moments as the President, Sid Powell, proposed the Loyal Toast. Then it was Wilf's turn to take the floor as he welcomed our visitors. As far as Wilf is concerned the old ones are the best ones and well loved jokes aroused howls of laughter, as did his reminiscences of bygone times, the constant interruptions by clever Dicks and his desperate interpretation of Arthur Coleman's notes which he tried to construe into praise for our guest of honour, John King, C.C. Bexley. Decorum was restored for a short time as John King proposed the Toast to the Fellowship and Ernie Spray introduced Connie Longley, the winner of our Lady's Salver for 1998, and gave a resumée of her cycling career and the work she had done when a member of the Hastings Cycling Club. It was then time to boogie down to the cellar regions where Joyce Oliver was waiting for us with her organ and the barman was bracing himself for the rush as everybody clamoured for reviving drinks - after all, it was a long trek down them steps. Alas, the mild was only obtainable from the upstairs bar and volunteers were sought from among the ablebodied to blunder up and down with replenishments.

Dave & Audrey Morris headed the team of raffle ticket sellers, swooping on unsuspecting punters with several different colours of cloakroom tickets and later on the atmosphere was electric as excited winners collected their prizes, which ranged from a large box of fruit, the mandatory selection of bottles, a Help the Aged diary and a pink feather duster!

It was carriages at midnight - for some. Others lingered in the bar before sauntering tipsily to the rooms they had booked in nearby hotels, looking forward to the real reason for their visit to Hastings - a bracing Sunday morning stroll along the promenade to blow the cobwebs away.

Bystander

Not all cycling club dinners are as carefree as the 1066 but there are some lighter moments. Like for instance when an elderly and much loved vet at this year's Eastbourne Rovers dinner asked the waitress for the condiments. She disappeared into the kitchen and reappeared a few minutes later to tell him that there was a machine behind the door in the gents.

BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR

Well, once again the social season is at a close and the hardriders is upon us. How time flies!

However, on December 21st approximately eighteen rode out on our annual Christmas run to the White Lion at Thakeham. It was the usual success, with traditional giving out of Christmas cards and consuming of many pints (thanks, Bill). Keith P. spent quite a while rallying up enthusiasm for yet another brandy to be consumed, I think he asked me about six times, and they eventually did go home. Thanks to Rick once again for organising the event.

The Club Dinner was on February 7th and was supported by sixty seven; it was as usual pretty hilarious. Unfortunately when the band arrived it seemed as if part of the wall was demolished to get entry for them and several people froze as the wind rushed in. The food was pretty good but a lot felt there was not enough of it. The band was deafening and the building did not afford a place to get away from it. The **best** fancy dress had to be 'pussy cat' Keith Balcombe with 'postman' Su Balcombe. Well done. The beer **was** good, just as well. A lot, however, enjoyed the evening despite the above and I'm still alive, so hope to survive

Re. the production of BONK magazine. We of course learned recently of the problems involved and the seeking of someone to 'carry on' with it in the future - it must continue if at all possible. My main point of raising this subject is not the continuation of BONK but the past. It must not go unsaid that we all owe a very big thank you to Maurice & Esther for the fantastic efforts they have made over the years to produce this magazine - much to the enjoyment of many. Thanks again on behalf of all in the Brighton Excel.

Safe riding in 1998.

to organise a few more.



REMEMBRANCES by Bert Absolon (B.E.C.C. President)

I was recently asked by Dick if I would write a few lines on my time in the Brighton Excel.

I joined the Club on my birthday in January 1947. I was then 22. It's a long time ago but certain things stick in my mind.

One of the first things I remember on joining was going down to the clubroom in Bond Street Cottages, Bond Street, Brighton (it's still there). I was confronted by about thirty members of all ages. I was soon chatting and was invited to play a game of darts. I won't forget that ever. Charlie Richardson (a good all-rounder) was sitting under the dart board, and YES, you've guessed it, one of my darts missed the dart board and hit him in the forehead. He didn't think much of that at the time!!. However we remained friends for many years.

On the racing side, for some years after 1947, all riders had to wear black shorts, black racing tops, black socks and black shoes. I can still remember loads of the racing bods - Keith (Bogey) Bishop; Charlie Richardson (Club champion), a good time triallist; Roy Driver and loads of them I won't mention now. Years ago members had to ride on their bikes to an event, and back again after the event. Cars for carrying them and their bikes was out of the question. I remember the times for a 25 were a '4' - bit different to today's riders. Our 25 started at the western end of Deadmans into Dale Hill, along the A23 to Bolney crossroads, left to Cowfold, down to Henfield and along to Muddleswood, left up the A23 again to Bolney, along to Cowfold, left at Chestham Park Corner and finish in Alborne Lane.

The longest event I can remember quite well was a 200 miles in 16 hours. This was held on February 21st, 1954 and was an open event. Quite a few clubs entered - Brighton Excel; Brighton Stanley Wanderers; Brighton Mitre (Jim Payne's father rode); Eastbourne Rovers; Brighton Velo; Lancing Wheelers; Southern Cross and Brighton & Hove Wheelers. This event started at 4.00am from Brighton sea front. each club started at 5 minute intervals. Sit down meals were arranged - Petersfield for breakfast, lunch at Christchurch (I was marshalling there with three others) and tea was at Porchester. As far as I can remember only two or three finished as it snowed very hard on the return to Brighton.

The 100 in 8 was usually held in October each year. I remember one in particular - we had twenty four riding. In that 100 we had five different punctures and one pile-up but all finished in time.

In 1948 (March) we had a 10 mile event. twenty three rode and it was won with a 26.17. How times have changed!!

Over the fifty years I have been in our Club I must have marshalled hundreds of times. One event I always remember was a 25. I was the turn marshal. I couldn't be seen at the side of the road because of the bushes so I stood in the middle of the road. One rider who shall be nameless but was in the Worthing Excel, shouted out as he was approaching me "Get out of the road, there's a cycle race on". What a sauce.

I have never been particularly interested in competing in time trials and have only ridden one 25 and one 10. My main interest has been club runs and touring. I have, however, always been interested in track racing at brighton (watching, not riding).



In June 1953 I became Club Captain and remained so until 1962 when John Roberts took over from me. As Club Captain this meant booking tea places in advance, planning the forthcoming Sunday's clubrun, turning up whatever the weather (including ice and snow), etc. We used to have twenty eight different tea places so each one was used twice during the year. Numbers attending clubruns ranged from four members to forty two. Tea was almost always booked for 5.00pm. A few times we were late, including one when we cycled to Leith Hill and Box Hill, had a few punctures on the way back to Ockley (in Surrey) and arrived at 7.45pm. They grumbled because we were very late but we still got our tea. It usually cost about (old money) 1/3d to 2/0d One favourite place for tea was Boreham Street where, after bread and jam (as much as you could eat) then cakes, we had jelly. Just right for the ride home!

Another time we were coming back from tea at Hooe in a thick fog. I had a very strong lighted dynamo light, and I found out, as word was passed down to me, that we had got a stream of cars behind us who were content to follow us as they couldn't see through the fog.

I believe that on the touring side, myself, Pete Knight, Johnny Palmer and Tom Duckett were the first members in the Club to travel to France for a four day Easter tour.

I organised quite a few tours - Abroad; the Cotswolds; East Anglia; New Forest; York; North Wales; Isle of Wight; Berkshire and some doubt I have forgotten. On the tour in Berkshire nine of us were booked up in a cafe for bed and breakfast. We had booked the night at Aldermaston. En route, which wasn't too difficult, we lost our way in the dark and ended up finding ourselves riding on the Aldermaston Airfield. Eventually we arrived at the cafe at 9.45pm. We were then told they had got rid of our rooms to other people. However they said they had an old caravan we could use, so nine of us slept as best we could cramped up. To add to the 'enjoyment' of the others who were with me the Calor gas affected my bronchial tubes, brought on wheezing and Tom said I sounded just like a snoring tom-cat, and so I 'managed' to keep them awake with the noise. Apart from that we all had an enjoyable tour.

So, thanks for reading some of my remembrances - when you get to fifty years in the Club you too will have plenty of happy times to remember.

B.A.

LEWES WANDERERS CC

Incompetence and indolence was responsible for the absence of Lewes Wanderers notes in the previous issue of Bonk. So as not to deprive our many readers of the missing gems, a lot of old news is included in the following lines. Like a ripe piece of gorgonzola, you'll find it has improved with age.

Those of us who helped Andrew Razzell celebrate his winning a newspaper's Sport's Personality of the Month award were pleased to see that he had managed to persuade his aged grandmother to join in the gathering at the White Hart, Wadhurst. Although she didn't utter a word, she tucked into her free food and drink with extraordinary enthusiasm - and made sure her little dog, too, was well supplied. When someone complimented Andrew on this heart-warming example of the true nuclear family spirit, he said "Grandmother? What Grandmother? I haven't seen her before in my life." Still, we left the pub knowing that we'd done our bit to ameliorate the suffering of the world's hungry masses.

Andrew's award was in recognition of his ride in the SCA 12; but the impact of the free publicity for cycling was somewhat lessened by the brewery man's reference to the encouragement of minority sports "like biking" and the possibility of a future nominee being a tiddlywinks player.

Andrew made a gracious speech, but few other words could be heard on the night because the event coincided with a jazz session in the public bar.

This problem of overbearingly loud music which drowns out conversation has afflicted club dinners and similar functions ever since the foxtrot. Requests to perpetrators to "tone it down a bit" are usually met with incomprehension. We finally dealt with the problem at our dinner in february by following the excellent example set by the Sussex Nomads; we had no music at all. People were actually able to talk to one another without shouting into earholes. One guest asked to be moved from the table next to the one where Geoff Boore was creating a disturbance, but otherwise it was a perfect evening.

Andrew Attwood entertained us with some material which brought a blush even to Valerie Hemsley's cheek; reading from a Scroll of Shame he identified a dozen or so sinners; Steve and Mark Burgess won the East Sussex Cake Eating Championship ahead of Nick & Geoff ("I'm stuffed") Boore; and a few inner tubes were exploded, loud enough to make Isabelle Wimble cry. Simple stuff but a great improvement on a disco.

Some of the prizewinners at this excellent function are scholars of the Peter Roberts School of Excellence. Pete has allowed them no rest between racing seasons. When they're not out there on their bikes in winter wind and rain, they're in a laboratory having their blood and other bodily fluids put under a microscope. This regime certainly paid off in 1997, when our number of team wins was the highest for some years.

lan (Golden Muscles) Landless has unfortunately been unable to attend the school because he has taken to wintering nearer to the equator. However, before packing his gallon bottle of sun-tan oil, he did make good use of his turn of speed to win our tourist competition, which involved knowing such things as the last postal collection on Saturdays from OS No. 530171.

lan has always boasted that he never does any shopping; he regards it as women's work. It has now been revealed that when Julie was in hospital and he had to go to Tesco, he stood forlornly in the aisle like a little boy lost, until an assistant asked if she could help. "Yes," he said. "Can you do the shopping for me?" And she did.

One of our other great tourists, Tony Gale, recovered from his night of debauchery in Nottingham (as described in a previous issue of Bonk) to win the super-vets category of the autumn Polaris Challenge in Snowdonia. It's a kind of orienteering event on mountain bikes and involves both day and night effort. Tony Longhurst couldn't; partner him because he was recovering from a motor-cycle accident which put him in hospital; he says it hurt him even more than when a pheasant knocked him off his bike in the 1996 ESCA reliability trial.

Tony L. was still convalescing when Paul Gibbons and Tony G. persuaded him to spend a freezing night with them in a tent near Chailey Village Hall, where our reliability trial was due to start the following morning. They wanted him to help test a new sleeping bag for yet another of their outlandish adventures. A restless night followed. Even Tony L's great muscle power succumbed in the morning and he had to suffer the indignity of having to be pushed the final miles to the finish.

The surgeons had earlier managed to truss and pin him up in time for him to take part in a series of events to give Matthew Rabbetts a send-off to his new life in Canada. These mainly involved the intake of large amounts of food and drink by the younger, noisier elements. An exception was made on the following day, when a nostalgic clubrun was planned through the East Sussex lanes. One old chap turned up in the belief that this was to be like a clubrun of long ago; a sedate affair, during which stops would be made to admire ancient churches, or to exclaim with delight at the late/early sighting of a lesser willow warbler or granny bonnet's knapweed. No such luck. Someone gave the command "Let's go!" and off they shot up Uckfield High Street, as if they'd stuffed themselves with illegal substances. They were out of sight before the old chap had managed to get his arthritic left foot into his toeclip.

That's the trouble with the youth of today. Except for such rare instances as the one at Wadhurst, they don't respect old age any more. As the old man sadly puffed his way homewards, he wondered if Pete Roberts might accept a mature student.

Rotrax

WORTHING EXCELSIOR CYCLING CLUB

AUDAX EVENTS FOR 1998

Friday 8th May
The South Coast 400K - Steyning
Organiser Dave Hudson

Sunday 8th November 100K - Petworth Organiser Tony Palmer



The buzz word for 1998 appears to be Audax or is it brevét? It most certainly isn't a reliability promotion. Worthing tell me that since they dropped the name of reliability from their promotions and replaced it with Audax there has been a significant increase in the number of riders. Could it be due to the fact that there is plenty of food, it starts at a reasonable time and goes over unfamiliar territory? Perhaps Sir Charles could reshape his event to accommodate some of the better parts of that type of promotion. Worthing promote some four events through the year; I see the Hastings & Rother are promoting in June. I may try to sneak one in in March provided I can utilise my domestiques for 1998.

January/February are usually taken up with socials, club dinners and the such like. Andy and Vanessa put on another show at Wivelsfield where a packed house welcomed John Woodburn's friend, Ralph Dadswell, giving some hardly audible anecdotes on Glen Longland. The prize presentation was better supported than last year with Dave Shepherd at last finding his way to Wivelsfield. Not so lucky Eastbourne, very much like the reliability reports or unreliability gestures - despite winning a number of trophies there was no official or rider present. It is such a shame when Andy and Vanessa plus the Excel put on an excellent show, quite apart from a large cash/goods infusion which Andy and Martin make available to the SÇA for raffle purposes. Come on Eastbourne, support the Association; if you are prepared to ride the events and take the prizes, some of which are supplied by the Bike Store, then it is not unreasonable to expect your presence at the SCA Lunch. Simon, I am sure, appreciates this, since he was in a similar situation some three years ago.

The Sussex Nomads changed their venue and menu for 1997/98 and put on another superb evening at £12 a head. It must rank as the best Club Dinner in Sussex (with the exception of the 1066!). Dave Stokes invited me once again to the Crawley Luncheon and Prize Presentation at Pease Pottage, always a pleasant, well thought out function! Their newest recruit seems to be none other than Ron Gager, ex Redmon, one time soul-mate of Keith Brock; I cannot think why he didn't join S.N. as opposed to Crawley Wheelers. Alan Hale, the uncrowned king of repartée showed me our table placing. It looked as though it had been drawn up by a five year old, well that says it all! Tony Gould and Sharon Bagley are again challenging to beat W.H. over 10 miles on the Shoreham course. This way I get continuous free drinks at the Crawley Lunch.

I hear the East Grinstead Dinner was budgeted out at £22 - per head, a little too rich I fear for most club folk. For this I would expect an engraved trophy and some free groceries from Tescos.

To conclude the social season, I was invited to the Lewes Wanderers Dinner & Prize Presentation at the 'Riverside', Newhaven, where I shared a table with a clutch of postmen, the Bike Store, In gear and other notable servants who were present. I was subjected to the further humiliation of having to stuff a rock cake down my gullet in under fifty seconds. However it was a nice little evening; numbers were down but I fear this was part of the current trend. For reasons which I cannot entirely understand, clubmen are staying well clear of their own dinners, clearly the organisers must start marshalling their clubmates a lot earlier.

Andy and Martin's new emporium on the Brighton road has some nice touches. New C.T.V. circuits give them a full view of those patrons, who in the past came in for coffee, biscuits and the odd meal. Now you don't know which door to go in through. There is a new workshop which doubles up as a massage parlour, and a boy called Simon hangs about. Quite what his role is I have yet to find out. Young Chris looks smart in an off road vest which he tells me he wears in preference to those old Bike Store blue numbers that put in an appearance some years ago. I did, or rather was invited to do, a quick machine inspection in the upstairs loft department. With some apprehension youbng Chris directed me to a box containing, yes, you have guessed, the next clutch of S.C.A. prizes in the guise of a Corima monocoque. Priced at £1400 plus Bike Store purchase tax and an application form to join the Stella.

I will now turn to the racing side and who will or won't be doing what in 1998.

Brighton Excelsior. Chris Lord has now joined Lewes Wanderers. I can't see anything really happening here this year except that Judy has added a staircase to her hostellry in France.

Brighton Mitre. Robin will spend more time promoting than riding. Perhaps he may manage a '2' but that's about all.

Central Sussex. As before, no new signings for 1998. Howard's children are a year older. John and Don should once again do some presentable times on the good old ESCA course.

Crawley Wheelers. Always good for the odd 'one off' event. Again, their nursery is short of sub-hour men; lots of good vets under the guidance of the vbede, Alain Hale. Tony and Sharon have hopes of beating William Hickey! Dream on.

East Grinstead. They've strengthened their team with the very lovely Lisa and 'Iron Man' B.G. Steve gets around this year and Steve Elms will concentrate on time trials, so it's there or thereabouts for E.G.

Eastbourne Rovers. The ace in the pack. Have enough strength to sweep the board ESCA way and Harry Featherstone to give the old 'uns some credibility.

Lewes Wanderers. The 'Fab Four' will continue for another year under the auspices of Pete Roberts. But expect change at the end of 1998. Plenty of boy entrants but may be short of stamina.

Regent R.C. They have lost too many people to come into contention. Rik Taub will probably give his 'Woman in Red' more playing at the local gigs. The lovely Theresa could achieve more personal bests this year and Martin should have a respectable track year.

Sussex Nomads CC. My tip for top placings in road racing, track and hillclimbs. Under the full guidance of John Bennett Nomads have a mixed complement for time trials and track.

VC Etoile. Strictly road racing. As the top Sussex cycle racing club, with the added inclusion once again of Mike Coyle there will be the usual clutch of placings.

Southborough Wheelers. Who knows? They are regular participants in ESCA and Kent events. Good riders are thrown up each year.

Hastings & St. Leonards. Under the watchful eye of the editor. I am not familiar with who and what. However, at the current time their's is a supporting role only. But are nearly always able to complete most distances.

W.H

SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS

The winter has been blessed with fine, mild weather which should have allowed the racing man much good training. This ought to produce results, especially among the half dozen who have just returned from a two week training camp in Lanzarote. Mind you, Mark Nightingale hired a car to drive over the island so that they could all see the sights and Gareth led the evening events to see the girls so I wonder how much cycling was really done.

The new venue for our club dinner at Pembury was successful with many faces from the past in attendance at this, our 65th function. Almost like a club dinner was Ron Hayward's 70th birthday party at Underriver, where over twenty people spent six hours eating, drinking and making very merry in approved Southborough style. By contrast the ESCA luncheon was poorly supported this year and I hope the member clubs can explain the drop in numbers or suggest alternatives for the future.

The ESCA reliability ride was a good day out once the rain had stopped. Andrew Harvey, Stuart Muggridge and Rusty Gordon started late and tried vainly to catch the fast (2hr 5min) group! Charlie Robson's trailer for the event told us that at Fletching you cross the infant river Ouse but on the day the infant had grown up to a sizeable flood. Later John & Peter Watson got most amusement from the mêlée of riders reaching a junction from all directions in an attempt to find their way.

The club A.G.M. saw few general changes though david Watson retired from the magazine editor's post leaving a gap unfilled. Consequently our monthly publication has dropped to a quarterly one with news sheets interspersed.

Martin Dereham won the club touring competition and the freewheel competition (he's a stone overweight!) but his enthusiastic entry to the racing season was less successful. he rode the Invicta hardriders event in east Kent and crashed - ruining a brand new skinsuit after just eight miles of use!

The ESCA hardriders provided the pipeopener for eight club riders with Paul Abraham, Gareth Robb and Colin Nightingale our best three. Les Hayman rode to an inglorious last place. it looks like being a season much like last year.

Roamer



AN EVENING WITH HICKEY & FRIENDS

Now and again I get a real surprise in the most unexpected of ways. I had occasion to call in at Tony and Wendy Killick's emporium. Some hours later I emerged from one of the best kept collections of cycling memorablia anywhere in the U.K. and situated right in the middle of a housing estate. How this had previously escaped my attention I cannot begin to guess. I know Robin Burns had a large hoard of old bikes etc. which went under the hammer in Haywards Heath three years ago when Robin died, a semi recluse having not married, and, I believe, looking after his ailing family for many years. However, Tony's collection is mind boggling and I recommend anybody interested in the history of bikes, components, the life and death of Southern Wheelers, etc. to get in touch with Tony for a private viewing.

As a member of the Vintage Cycle Club and many more old cycling associations Tony has faithfully kept to accumulating virtually every facet of cycling. he has coupled this with a love of railways, steam rollers, bandstands, postcards, club badges, hundreds of lead cyclists, Corgi cars and histories of the more obscure areas of our sport, all neatly stacked up on shelves throughout the house. His pride and joy is a penny farthing in vintage condition, stationed in his front room. It has one of the first front lamps ever made which had an inside tinder box that once lit could throw a ring of light to front and rear. Tony regularly rides this machine for charity and other specialist events.

In the garden he has built a complete 'O' guage railway system that he maintains the year round.

Tony is the author of books on the history of the Southern Wheelers and other aspects of his hobby.

You cannot but gaze in awe at the quite breathtaking amount of effort he has put into a lifetime's devotion to the sport. Providing you give him plenty of notice he will be pleased to give you a guided tour, so I urge every reader to give him a ring.

I mustn't forget that Wendy is also a collectoholic but she specializes in collecting recipes and filling up scores of books. I believe as the painter of the family she complements Tony's creativity when festooning additions to his collection.

In the middle of his sitting room is an exquisite carousel. As a carpenter, before he retired, he clearly spent hundreds of man hours in producing a beautiful fun machine where, for seven hours, you can listen to a bit of history which you would hardly hear now.

I nearly forgot, Tony has amassed some sixty bikes which fill one complete room and his entire attic. They span the period from the '20s up to date. I dare not look into the bathroom just in case the loo had been repositioned into a railway waiting room.

Thank you Tony for a lovely evening.

W.H.

SOCIAL EVENTS 1998

May 31st
Mid Week Section
C.T.C. E. Sussex D.A. 50th Celebrations

November 8th Sussex Cyclists' Association Lunch

November 14th
Eastbourne Rovers Dinner/Prize Presentation

November 22nd E.S.C.A. Reliability Trial

November 29th V.T.T.A. Surrey/Sussex Group A.G.M.

December 30th Mid-Week Section Lunch

1999

January 22nd Sussex Nomads Dinner

January 30th 1066 Annual Dinner/Dance



HARDRIDERS 1998

The Hardriders is always a little different from other racing events. Falling as it does so early in the year the majority of riders are barely out of hibernation and the spectators are loathe to shuffle off the memories of the social season. However, we can always rely on a large gathering of clubfolk being in attendance - in fact it is a fine example of a cycling timewarp!

The 1998 Hardriders lived up to our high expectations. The change in course, due to roadworks, was well handled, no chance of anyone getting lost. Just to make sure Dick Jones toured the route in his staff motor. The icy wind cut across the car park at the top of the hill but the usual crowd gathered at Kingstanding to enjoy the synchronised harmony of cars and bikes crossing the junction there. Ken & Barbara Atkins were among the celebrities at that point both recovering from Ken's retirement party which started on Thursday and finished (only just) on Friday!! Madam Editor was also in evidence and for an awful moment I She was shrouded, very "à thought she had flipped. l'Arcati", in brown velvet but explained that she had left her seaside home in warm sunshine and had dressed accordingly. The velvet curtains were kept in the car to protect her bike. Val Hemsley was well wrapped up as she waited for Horry to breast the climb - interestingly he was wearing a bandana in Nomads colours, at least that was how it looked as he sped past. Previously a sigh of relief had greeted our 1998 President, Alan Limbrey when he arrived, not quite in the number '1' position in which he had started but pretty good all the same.

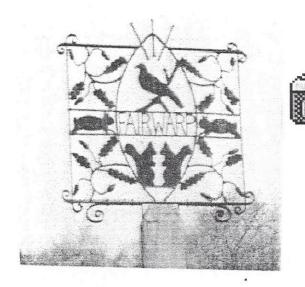
There was a buzz when Stu Greenway arrived and the question on everyone's lips was "why is Stu riding today?". Well I can tell you. It was the fortieth anniversary of the Hardriders event which Stu had won in a record time. Forty years ago! That must make Stu.? somewhere in his sixties?? Never - he looked as boyish as any of the young lions who followed him.

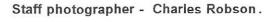


The crowd waited for the return of the early starters and gradually returned to the event H.Q. Surely a dream come true for the Excel! As the village hall had been double booked they were able to persuade the landlord of Fairwarp pub to let them use his premises.

After chatting to a number of personalities - Robin Johnson was there; Roy Humphrey escorted by Sir Charles; last year's President Les Hayman (he hadn't done a very good ride and I wondered if he was still recovering from the Presidential kiss at the lunch but he told me he had punctured); Geoff Boore, Mike Rabbetts (ESCA Chairman) and loads of others, the result was finally announced. Mark Jones had beaten Steve Dennis into second place, won the prime and led his club to team victory. All over for another year but what a jolly start to the racing season.

Easyrider





Hardriders 1:3:98

P. 2 Alan Limbrey

P.18

P.21

Graham Lade & daughters
Colin Nightingale/Gareth Robb/Gill Tree
Stu Greenway
Mike Rabbetts/Roy Humphrey
Peter Baker/Robin Johnson P.22 Les Hayman/Richard Blackmore

Dick Jones











The following letter was sent to 'Bonk' from the original recipient. The story so far (we presume, my dear Watson), is that a pair of badly mangled wheels were taken to a wheelbuilder of high repute for repair. The letter is self explanatory.

221b Blackness Street 28/2/94

From the evidence it is obvious that the owner has been around for many years, for Super Champion is a marque from the past, whereas Mavic MA2s are in current production. The presence of a 5 cog block still in use substantiates the above. Campagnola hubs would indicate a person of means and the fact that they are of obsolete pattern implies thrift. The owner also needs spectacles, otherwise he would be able to avoid the holes in the carriageway which have rendered said Super Champions, MA2 (and Weinman) beyond the skills of even the finest wheelbuilder. All the wheels are 36 hole therefore the rider is not physically light, a small racer would probably use 28 or 32 hole. They are of traditional design and construction, the owner appears to have a conservative outlook. The spread across the block implies male ownership. Few of the ladies cycling in the Crowborough area would want to regularly climb the 800 feet back to their homes on such a miserably inadequate freewheel.

To sum up, there is no reason why the said hardware could not be restored to pristine condition provided that is, that NEW RIMS, some NEW CONES and 72 new SPOKES were considered prudent.

The other hypothesis is that the Egon Ronay of wheels is in the area and the wheels are offered as a test. If that is the case the next time you go to work I suggest that you ask the great wheelbuilder in the sky to help because MIRACLES are beyond this humble mortal.

Sherlock Spokes

SELLING FAST but a few copies still available.

"50 YEARS OF E.S.C.A." by the celebrated Crowborough author MICHAEL RABBETTS.

Some readers comments: "Disgusting, Should be banned!" "Scandalous." £1.00 only inc. p&p

ROY HUVPHREY also has ESCA badges for £1.50. Buy both for £2.50

...FOR SALE...

23"CONDOR. DARK GREEN. CAMPAGNOLA HUBS. CINELLI STEM/SEAT TRIATHLON BARS. ALMOST UNUSED 201825 732166

Flat 3 Mora Soomaree Court, 64 Shelley Road, Worthing BN11 4DF Telephone & Fax: 01903 205308

February 13 1998

Dear Mike,

Your letter regarding the future of 'BONK' has been passed on to me for reply.

I believe that it would be a sad day for the sport if the magazine were to be discontinued. The Association would also lose a valuable means of selling the sport to non-club members.

Regarding the comment that less than half of the member clubs contributed items for publication: Many years ago I did submit a couple of contributions on behalf of the Etoile, neither of which were published. I had the impression that this was because most of the club's racing activities were in BCF events, so naturally I didn't bother to try again. Perhaps more contributions would be forthcoming if clubs and individuals could write about all aspects of the sport of their own choice, a policy I try to follow with my own club's magazine?

I do sympathise with Bonk's editors in their efforts to get clubs to submit items. As you know, I write a weekly cycling column for the Argus which has a potential readership of a quarter of a million Sussex residents. The scope for Sussex clubs and associations to get publicity for the sport and their own activities should be obvious, yet barely a third of all Sussex promoters, no matter what type of events are involved, seem to consider the question of publicity for their promotions. ESCA promoters are no different from the rest, although if everyone was as diligent as yourself the sport would benefit immensely. Some riders and promoters are on the ball and appreciate the value of publicity, while

some clubs appoint promoters who seem to have no press and publicity skills whatsoever.

My present cycling jobs would prevent me doing anything on a regular basis, but I hope that BONK will survive. I could contribute the occasional article or report.

Buan Atutton

VC Etoile Press Officer

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NOTE: The foregoing 8 pages of analysis are NOT 100% accurate but give a reasonable picture of Club and Individual contributions to BONK over the last 17 years. Some of the contributors shown above will have also been responsible for some of their Club contributions.

The purpose of the analysis is to show how successful BONK has been over the years, apart from being a unique source of information concerning the doings of ESCAfolk. The future of BONK depends upon your enthusiasm and CONTRIBUTIONS in the shape of articles, pictures, puzzles, gossip, results, competitions, presidential addresses, founder's notes, cartoons, travel stories, training programmes, forthcoming events, letters to the Editor, etc., etc., etc. All you have to do is WRITE and send your contribution to The Editor, 10 Maplehurst Road, Baldslow, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex TN37 7NA or fax on 01424 751581.