

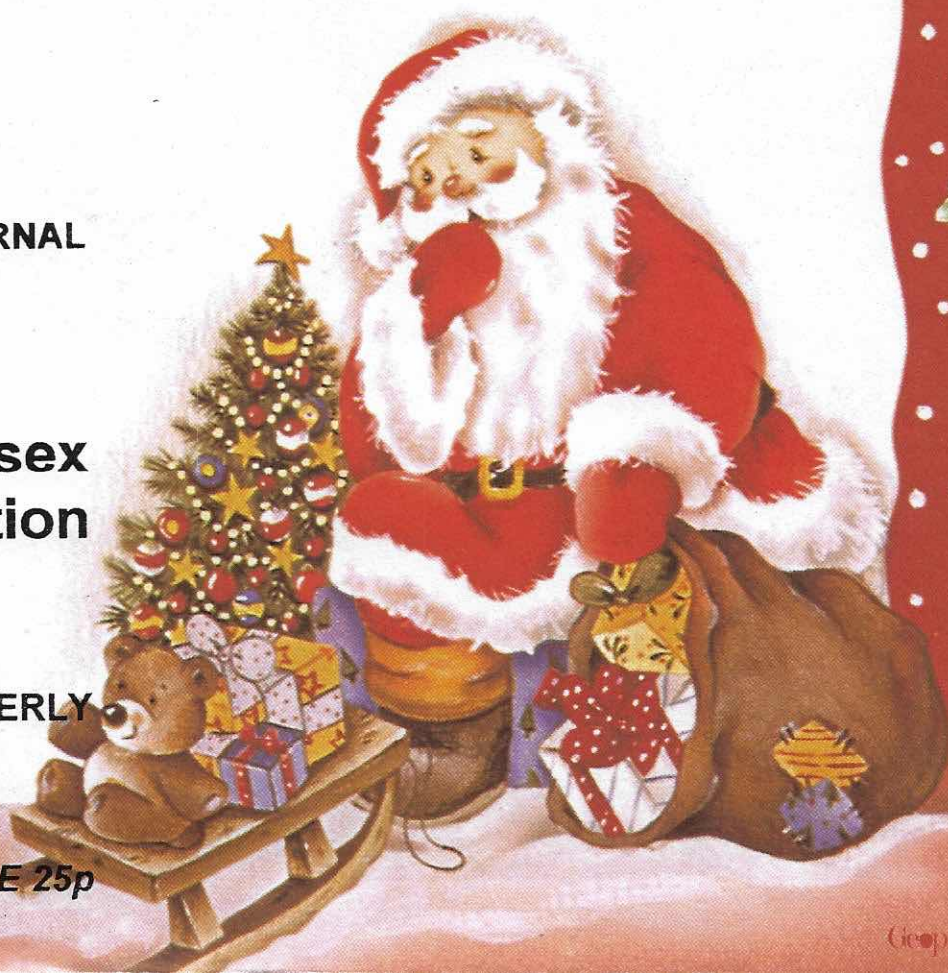
# BONK!

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

**East Sussex  
Cycling Association**

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

PRICE 25p





# ♣ EAST ♣ SUSSEX ♣ CYCLING ♣ ASSOCIATION

\*\*\*\*\*

**President Richard Sutton**

**New Series No. 89**

**Winter 1999**

---

Secretary: Mick Burgess, 7 Sandridge, Crowborough TN6 1JE  
Treasurer: Mick Kilby, 11 Sherbourne Road, Hove, BN3 8BA  
Consultant: Roy Humphrey, Ridgewood Rise, Highview Lane, Uckfield TN22 5SY  
Editors: Maurice & Esther Carpenter, 10 Maplehurst Road, Baldslow, St. Leonards on Sea TN37 7NA

---

## EDITORIAL

The past year has been pretty good for ESCA but has it really been any different than usual. The handover from Roy to the new officials took time but everything seems to be working smoothly now; a terrific new 100 mile record proves that if you get the top class riders down this way our courses are as good as any; we held a successful reliability trial to round off the season and now look forward to the Annual Lunch in January.

The dread word "amalgamation" officially entered ESCA jargon this year but do we need to amalgamate? and what benefits will there really be? One set of officials you say! More money to spend! A bigger voice! Might it not be that the current officials will decide that a new organisation needs a new administration? Where will that leave us, we all know how difficult it is to fill positions once they become vacant. We're lucky to have hardworking people putting in effort for our Association. As for a bigger voice, the only voices that will be listened to are those of our governing bodies. Think, too, of the practicalities of administering one organisation covering the whole of Sussex, 100 miles or so from east to west and from 20 to 30 miles north-south. If the S.C.A. is as well run as ESCA, then riders can only benefit from two Associations, For the moment the issue is dead. It seemed at the A.G.M. that no-one really wants a merger, let's hope this is an end to the matter and we can look forward to evolving our sport naturally as has happened through the years of its existence.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

Maurice & Esther

## EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION - General & Racing Secretary's Report (1999)

I will start with the General Secretary's report.

- ▶ 1999 saw an addition to the Association's numbers by one club - V.T.T.A. Surrey/Sussex.
- ▶ The 1998 Annual Lunch and Prize Presentation was held at a new venue, The Roebuck, Laughton, the move from Framfield being necessitated by the lack of affordable or willing outside caterers. Seventy five people attended including the majority of the award winners. This was pleasing because the event is about them. The 1999 awards lunch will be at the same venue on Sunday, 9th January 2000 at £10.00 per person (only 50 pence up on last year).
- ▶ The management committee met twice during the year.
- ▶ A letter from the Sussex Cyclists' Association was received suggesting closer co-operation, and in October four members of this Association (M. Rabbetts, M. Burgess, K. Atkins and R. Blackmore) met an S.C.A. delegation at Sayers Common. The only tangible result of the discussion was the item regarding the conditions for our Association's B.A.R. competition for next season. On Sunday last (14/11/99) I attended the A.G.M. of the S.C.A. After some discussion that meeting decided that due to lack of response from clubs and the low attendance at the meeting, a line should be drawn under the matter. This was agreed.

Now the racing year.

- ▶ 1999 saw a drop of about eighty entries over 1998. The most noticeable of these were the hardriders down by thirteen; the two up t.t.t. down by forty six; the 100 down by sixteen (1998 had included the S.C.A. championship as well) and the end of season 25 down by sixteen.
- ▶ Eastbourne Rovers continued to dominate the team awards with various combinations of riders.
- ▶ The Points Award went to the President, Richard Sutton (V.C. Etoile) the first time I think this has happened and he missed being B.A.R. by only .041 mph.
- ▶ The Senior and Veteran's B.A.Rs. went to Dave Pollard (Lewes Wanderers).
- ▶ Good to see new names on the Ladies B.A.R. (Angela Nainby - East Grinstead) and the Junior B.A.R. (Keith Newsam - Eastbourne Rovers).
- ▶ I suppose the ride of the year in one of our events, although not by an Association rider, was in the 100, won by Nik Gardiner (Mid Oxon C.R.T.) In 3.49.40.
- ▶ The programme for twenty hundred is the same as in nineteen ninety nine but hopefully with the hardriders moving east to the Ruslake Green/Bodle Street/Ashburnham area. A course has been more or less agreed but details of a headquarters require confirmation.
- ▶ Those who read Cycling weekly and other bits and pieces will be aware of people asking/suggesting changes. If you want changes, between now and July twenty hundred is the period to ask for them. Should all our events be open? Should standard distances be scrapped? Should we make our courses more 'sporting courses' orientated? Do not leave it until after July as it will then be too late to put things in place for the handbook deadlines.
- ▶ My thanks to our dwindling number of timekeepers, we really do need some more; all the marshals who turn out on the bad days when some riders don't; Charles Robson for his course and computing skills without which my task would involve much more work.
- ▶ Talking of Charles, next Sunday sees the reliability trial again. This is an event which must take a lot of time and trouble but it is enjoyed by many. Thanks Charles.

Now all that remains is - here's to the new century. The old came in on some odd looking machines and goes out on some odd looking ones, but the clothing is lighter and brighter.

Best wishes and good riding in the new century.

Mick Burgess (General/Racing Secretary)

# LEWES WANDERERS C.C.

Well, well, rumour is rife with the Wanderers. There is a new club/team forming to carry the name of IN GEAR CYCLES or similar. The main mover is Pete Roberts from his stronghold in Uckfield High Street. Who is leaving and who is staying in the Wanderers is cause for much discussion. Is membership by invitation only? Or can anyone join? Will it cater for rising young stars? Shall we see riders from other clubs flocking to the new banner? Will the new team sweep Eastbourne Rovers off the Escaland heights? The only sure thing is time will tell, roll on the new season.

Back in October a Quiz Night was held at the Roebuck, Laughton. Some sixty people participated and the comfortable winners were a team from **THE SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS**. The evening was organised by quizmaster Chris Martin. Good to see a couple of teams from Worthing so far east although they seemed more interested in the food and drink rather than the answers!

Preparations proceed apace for Matt Rabbetts wedding in December. The event takes place in the far north in the shadow of Hadrian's Wall and the logistics are causing his aged father's hair to stand up more than usual. An arrangement has been made for accommodation for a good price for the guests - but what's the betting Paul Gibbons takes a tent and sleeps in it?

Talking of Paul Gibbons, the Annual Tourist Trial was organised by Paul in the Barcombe/Isfield/Chailey/Ditchling area. It was well attended on a bright sunny morning. Peter Baker had daughter Sarah to help him out and Chris Hough was under the care of his young son in a cycle trailer. Winner was Steve Burgess who had an assistant but there is some doubt as to how much use he was as none of the clues involved the consumption of Power bars or High Five drink. Paul Cooper, Dave Nunn and Steve Chittenden arrived at the finish some time after everyone else. Red faces, puffing and dripping sweat you might have thought they had been racing instead of just getting lost. President Sylvia Burgess arrived by car with Mick driving. It's too early to try and pick up brownie points, Mick, they will be long forgotten by the time the season starts.

Club runs have got under way courtesy of runs leader, Graham Jeffs. Reasonable numbers appear at the Uckfield start, fewer at the Lewes end. However the two halves do manage to meet at elevenses where the usual banter leaves some of the other customers looking very bemused.

Good to see that Cycling Weekly have found out about sportif and randonnee events in mainland Europe. A comprehensive calendar of the major events might well encourage more brits to participate. On the subject of Cycling weekly I wonder how many people completed the recent survey they sent out? More to the point did all those who gripe about the sport's only weekly mag do the survey?

Word has just reached me that Horry Hemsley was riding round a course on behalf of London South District when he met a pack of hounds. It seems the old fella needs to put on a bit of weight, the hounds thought it was meals on wheels come to deliver.

Sandra and Chris Hill took a sunshine break in October. Hiring a side-by-side style trike they set off, only to puncture. Good job Chris is so experienced in these matters.

Well the deadline is slipping away, so wishing everyone a merry Christmas and bug free new year. See you all at the E.S.C.A. LUNCH & PRIZE PRESENTATION on January 9th 2000.

BURKE & HARE

# SUSSEX NOMADS

Not a lot to say again this time. We seem to be taking a deep breath ready for the new year.

Some of us rode the E.S.C.A. reliability trial. The morning turned out to be O.K. and we all finished except Geoff, who disappeared home. I think he had flu. Due to unfortunate late arrival of Bonks we were unable to get the entry forms around to members soon enough so we had some members riding who had not entered.

It's the time of year for A.G.Ms. and the Nomads hold theirs at the end of November. We have had a good year all round, with clubruns most weekends even though some Nomads were racing here and there. We do not expect any changes in officials as these seem in short supply, but all the usual things are planned. We expect to ride the Route des Archers again and possible further trips to France. A visit to the Tour de France is definitely on from July 16th to 22nd (see details elsewhere in Bonk).

The next event is possibly ten pin bowling, so if any club would like to challenge us, phone Alan or Geoff. We also have our Christmas 10, complete with mince pies and tea, on December 19th and all are welcome. The club dinner is on January 24th in Hove. Full details can be obtained from Geoff Boore.

Well, that's it for this year. Nothing more to say, except stay BRIGHT and SAFE. Oh yes, one more thing. What a pity the Eastbourne Rovers can't have mudguards fitted to their bikes!!

Regards

Nomadicus

3 New Barn Close  
Portslade  
BN41 2GQ  
13 November 1999

Dear Maurice & Esther,

Can I use your columns to thank everyone for their support and assistance during my stay in hospital?

I've been home for four weeks now and I'm almost managing to get my head around getting up and about in the way that I want to. I'm very lucky with my recovery, but there are still a lot of things that I think I can do but I can't.

I'm hoping to get back on the turbo soon, provided I can get a step through frame, but the only way I'll be seen at events for the moment is as a motorised spectator.

Looking forward to seeing you all next season.

*Ken Moffat*

## QUALIFYING DISTANCES FOR THE EAST SUSSEX C.A. BEST ALL ROUNDER COMPETITIONS 2000

Senior	25, 50 and 100 Miles
Veterans	25, 50 and 100 Miles (on standard)
Ladies	10, 25 and 50 Miles
Juniors	10 and 25 Miles (x 1 of each)

Qualifying rides may be done in events promoted by the East Sussex Cycling Association and also events promoted by the Sussex Cyclists' Association.



### E.S.C.A. TROPHY WINNERS 1999

(B.A.R. and POINTS in Autumn Issue)

Hardriders Tankard	Steve Dennis	East Grinstead CC
Under 60 Minute Trophy	Jon Sharples	Eastbourne Rovers CC
Veteran's 25 on standard Cup	Charles Robson	Eastbourne Rovers CC
Junior 25 Cup	Keith Newsam	Eastbourne Rovers CC
50 Mile Cup	Dave Pollard	Lewes Wanderers CC
Ladies 50 Cup	Angela Nainby	East Grinstead CC
100 Mile Cup	Dave Pollard	Lewes Wanderers CC
Individual Points	Richard Sutton	V.C. Etoile

#### Team Trophies

Rosemary 25 Mile Shield	Crawley Wheelers
March 50 Cup	Eastbourne Rovers CC
Jenner 100 Shield	Eastbourne Rovers CC
Team Points Shield	Eastbourne Rovers CC
Reliability Trial	Eastbourne Rovers

**CLOSING DATE FOR SPRING EDITION OF BONK**

**Wednesday February 9TH**

# WILLIAM HICKEY

## MILLENNIUM QUICKSTEP

What is stirring west of the Cuckmere? Well, for starters, a positive talk with the proprietor of In-Gear revealed that with a little help from a whole retinue of sponsors the "In-Gear racing Sportive" is due to make its impact on the Sussex scene during the year 2000. It appears that many of the team will come from the 'Looses', Central, Crawley and East Grinstead. This will be headed by a team manager for each discipline. Bikes, clothing, expenses, will be provided; a launch party will be held in Uckfield shortly when the riders will be presented in their new kit. Sole dominance in both road racing and time trialling is the In-Gear plan so watch out for the next bulletin.

G.S. Stella have lost a key player in their racing set-up due to a domestic upheaval. With no new signings this year, Dr. Mark is trawling the local scene.

The R.T.T.C. London South A.G.M. this year proved a little more lively than in previous years, in fact even the usually restrained audience was a little effusive than usual, clearly the grass roots are getting a little more 'twitchy' re. the reluctance of London South to be a little more expressive and decisive in their end of year get-together with the ruling body instead of taking a passive role as in the past.

## WHEN IS A CLUB NOT A CLUB?

If you asked your average clubman for his or her definition of a cycling club, it would in simple terms be a collection of people interested in pursuing a sport under the auspices of freely elected management comprising of your friends. A cursory look at London South's flock of clubs under administration reveals a considerable number of 'one man bands' who I suspect contribute absolutely nothing to the running of cycling generally and I suspect purely pay their Association fees out of self interest, most certainly not to bring in new members or encompass the sport generally. Since they do not promote or perform any aspect of administration I find it hard to understand the reason for the existence. In this area alone there must be at least twenty clubs which in fairness should cease to trade. Alternatively if they are unable to show a number of interested riders the D.C. should politely withdraw their participation. Equally there is no need for Association clubs to affiliate since the existing members are already members of other clubs.

The S.C.A. has a new Chairman. Uncle Les has stepped down and Dr. Mark is his replacement in order to bring the S.C.A. under the final guidance of the G.A. Stella Dr. mark has his chief cohort, Andy Payne, doing the time trial secretary's little number and Andy's wife, Dee, is the treasurer. All it needs now is the Bike Store staff to wade in as co-sponsors and form a grand alliance titled "La Sportive Grand Bike Store V.C." Can the county sustain two competitive bike shops trade teams.

My deep throat contact, Chris martin, has agreed to geve me more updated information on the In-Gear scenario. It would not be proper for me at this stage to publish his comments at the S.C.A. Lunch but I am sure all will shortly be revealed at the Lewes A.G.M. or over a few be vies at the Cooksbridge Friends Meeting House.

In, out and about, prior to the year end I shall take in the Worthing, central and Etoile Dinners to see who is doing what to who and why.

W.(H)



## BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR C.C.

First. It was very pleasing to have a recent visitor to the clubroom in early November - when our 'long lost' KEN MOFFATT walked in, with crutches as yet, but on his feet. There has recently been talk of his interest in a recumbent machine (hand powered probably). Mind you, he always a bit laid back. Well, I'm sure everyone welcomes Ken's return and we wish him well for the future.

Now to road racing. Our two particular stalwart road race competitors have made their mark this year and Graham Wood and Stuart Fahey accrued 82 and 42 Surrey League points respectively. However other members including Lawrence Clifford and Paul Cook also took part in various events throughout the season.

And on to cyclo-cross. Our off road event at Moulsecombe is to be re-instated at Wild Park, Brighton on December 12th with Anthony Rogers and Tom Roberts jointly organising this event. Hopefully it will attract some interest from both competitors and spectators alike, as this is another important facet to cycling sport.

Our 50 in 4. An innovative course for this event has been contrived by Hon. Gen. Sec. Rick Stringer. The event will have come and gone by the time this is published so will report further next time.

Circuit training. Eager participants have been keeping fit over recent weeks with circuit training at our clubroom each Wednesday evening from 8 until 8.30 p.m. There you are Geoff, a chance to lose some lbs. At the S.C.A. Luncheon Geoff was heard to say that he needed to lose a stone. All I can say is, it must be a big one!

Turbo training (rollers). Three sets were up and running recently at the clubroom. Thanks to Andrew, Roy and Sally for implementing and organising this. Several members did heartrate trials co-ordinated by our coach, Roy page.

Club events. Chris Lord surfaced and did some creditable rides in evening 10s, namely 21.42 in June followed by 21.57 later in August. Two of our newer members have made their marks, with Tim Holmes 58.58 and Stuart Fahey 59.55 in our 25 mile event. Both riders have performed well throughout this season's evening events. Charlie Parsons has been very steady with 10 times of 23.10; 23.03; 23.27; 24.52; 23.23; 23.41 to mention but a few. His brother Peter runs him close in 25.55; 25.19; 25.31. Our new junior Paul Harvey has done well, improving from 30.03; 30.07 to 28.46. Karla Notton also improved through 30.01; 28.35 to 27.10. Well done. Sally Page also did well with 10 times of 30.22; 27.47; 27.34; 27.39 and 27.59 steady. Keep it up. Mike Murray also did a string of 23s - 23.42; 23.43; 23.18, constant effort. Well that's only a few. All other competitors are to be commended for taking part in the club events. No less credit to those not mentioned. Our sincere thanks to Sue Balcombe for timing all these events and many more round the county.

National 24 Hour. Mike Hayler and all his helpers are to be congratulated for the success of this event, which is a mammoth task - well done. Our own rider Keith Balcombe finished the event with 343.526 miles. Well done Keith.

Bike Store. The Bike Store remains ever faithful to our club, now in their 'new' shop, 65 Brighton Road, Worthing. Why not pay them a visit.



S.C.A. Luncheon. Vanessa & Andrew Attwood and their team of very able helpers provided us all with an excellent Lunch on behalf of the S.C.A. ON Sunday November 14th at Wivelsfield. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work. On a less hearty note it would be nice to see a few more prizewinners attending. More than twenty five were absent! However it was a good social occasion enjoyed by all.

On a sadder note. We were devastated to learn that 31 year old Fraser Russell was found dead in his tent whilst on an archaeological dig in Spain. Fraser had stopped competitive cycling on advice from his doctor a year ago - having suffered occasional blackouts. Our sincere sympathy goes to his family and girlfriend



Lastly, our Annual Dinner. This will be on Saturday, January 19th at Shoreham Airport Lounge with " Bill Posters Will Be Band" providing excellent entertainment. Tickets are £17.50, available from Dick Jones (01273 770047). Book now to avoid disappointment.

All the best for 2000. See you up the road.

Excelsiorian.

### ***TOUR de FRANCE 2000***

***Sunday July 16th to Saturday July 22nd***

***Cost approximately £250***

***which includes***

***Jerry fare; mini-bus; fuel; road tolls; b & b formule 1 hotels  
(does not include your food, etc.)***

***See***

***Stage 16 Morzine (Alps)***

***Stage 17 Swiss Mountains***

***Stage 18 German stage***

***Stage 19 Individual Time Trial***

***Details at this time are provisional. Deposit required - £30 before  
2000***

***Details - Alan Limbrey 01273 558511***



# **SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS**

The racing season faded away this year with hillclimbers supporting club events only. Nine riders contested both climbs (one on Kidds Hill, one on Yorks) with Gareth Robb again dominant. Dave Bentall took second each time and young Charles Corrie showed very well. The year's last 10 on Tonbridge by-pass gave Jimmy George a convincing win by over a minute. This was his last Southborough event as he has now left to join Renners R.T. He rode for them in Belgium and won a time trial there in October.

The weather interferred with the club programme at the end of the year as it had at the beginning. One Saturday 10 was washed out altogether and rain and gales caused the Touring Competition to be cancelled although five brave souls reached the start only to agree with the decision.

John & Peter Watson went to France to take part in the Duo Normand which was as enjoyable as ever. Terry Collins and Geoff Abraham went to France to stay a few days during which they road a randonee event. Peter Fox made a rare excursion from his Norfolk home and joined John Watson and a friend to ride the whole Southdowns Way - west to east. Peter Crofts is in the Phillippines leading the first C.T.C. party to visit there.

Nine club members attended the first Lunch of the social season - the Kent C.A. at Aylesford. The traditional warm up at the "Little Gem" beforehand saw some tarnished reputations when the Haymans turned up too late for a drink (they had attempted some rough stuff along the Medway towpath when the river was at high tide!) And the Dunfords left too early when they misjudged the sitdown time at the Lunch.

The mini road races which masquerade as Reliability Rides have begun. The 100k one in kent had fine weather and trouble free rides for most of those who started. Entries were well down on the three hundred plus of previous years. Southborough again provided most finishers in the four hour bracket with Martin Derham the first back - showing a fine turn of speed now the racing season is over.

Roamer

## **Two-Up Time Trial - 9th April 2000**

This event will again be held on the Hailsham-Polegate-Ninfield course. Each year I have one or two entries which I cannot accept because they don't conform to the rules of either the R.T.T.C. or the Association. Do enter next time - it's a good event and has attracted over a hundred riders - but please remember the following points.

- ◆ The event is open only to member clubs of the Association.
- ◆ Both riders in the team must be from the same club.
- ◆ Riders must wear matching tops.
- ◆

See you there.

Les Hayman

**EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION**

Ever since I rode my first time trial in 1949 - the ESCA 100 - I have been an ardent supporter of the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION** and its co-founder and leader Roy Humphrey, who steered the Association safely and surely for 50 years.

This year's AGM was the most depressing that I have ever attended. The reasons for the existence of the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION** are as valid now as they ever were, but there are those with merger fever that want to do away with ESCA just by a show of hands.

What we need is another leader, someone in the Humphrey mould, who can make us proud to be ESCAbods and get stuck in to making our Association the best in the country (Yes, I did mean country not county!).

Can you really read "Fifty Years of ESCA" and not be proud of the achievements of ESCA and Roy? Do we really want to lose such a jewel? Already there are those that are hammering nails into ESCA's coffin hoping that the body will soon expire.

At the AGM it was decided to include Sussex Cycling Association promotions in the qualifying events for the East Sussex Best All Rounder Competition in the 2000 season, so you will have the ludicrous situation of possible winners of the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION'S** Senior and Veterans BAR's neither of whom may have ridden a single ESCA event! This surely makes the ESCA BAR's pretty meaningless?

When I gave a trophy for the ESCA Vets BAR in 1984 it was for the winner of the ESCA Vets BAR, not for some rider performing in West Sussex.

Why do I get the feeling that there are people intent upon a slow and agonising death for the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION**? Why are there not more people like me who are proud of what we have in East Sussex and will stand up and be counted in the battle not just for the survival of the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION** but for its flourishing example of how an Association should be in the next millennium?

Luckily the qualifying conditions for the **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION'S** Points Competition were not an agenda item, so presumably it will still be based just on **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION** events?

I will finish this letter by congratulating our outgoing President, Richard Sutton, on his superb performances this year and wish President elect, Tony Palmer, a happy and positive year in 2000. Let's hope he can lead us out of the mental home and back to sanity!

Yours sincerely,



Charles G. Robson

A supporter of **EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION**

## EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION - 1999 RELIABILITY TRIAL

There were 117 entries for this year's Reliability Trial, 10 less than last year, but the lack of an entry from 21st Century Airports accounted for the difference. In spite of the lower entry, 100 reported to the start - 7 more than last year - and 81 riders completed the course in the right time - 17 more than last year.

A big entry from Eastbourne (36) and Lewes (27) ensured a battle for the Shield, but the potential challenge from Crawley and Worthing did not materialise. There were 4 ladies, one on a mixed tandem.

Eastbourne retained the Rally Shield with 30 successful riders and Lewes were runners up again with 25 successful riders. 4 riders did not record a time and there were 5 that were too quick and 10 that were too slow. You will find the full result elsewhere in this issue of BONK.

The 81 successful qualifiers will each receive a Certificate, which will be presented at the E.S.C.A. Lunch & Prize Presentation at Laughton on Sunday 9th January 2000.

### **Organiser's Notes**

*The Sunday before the event I normally check the course, but this year I was saved the job by a keen clubmate in the shape of Max Norrell, who rode the course twice before the event.*

*After a cold and wet Saturday, the weather was considerably improved on the morning of the event. The cold NE wind had dropped and it was a little warmer. Although there was no bright sun there was also practically no rain.*

*Ken Griffiths has not been too well this year and so was not in his usual spot on the corner outside the King's Head at East Hoathly, but his place was taken by Den Funnell, who remembered crashing on that very corner of the A22 during a race and still with the scars to prove it. Ron and Marion Ball were looking after the parking up the lane and Chief Timekeeper and Co-Promoter, Esther Carpenter, was sending off the groups from 0830. There was no 2-50 group this year, so Esther and I were able to get away a bit sooner and make our way to Checkpoint 1 at Barcombe Cross, which was manned by Den Funnell and Deryk Greenway, assisted by Mick Kilby, who brought the check cards back to East Hoathly.*

*On towards Checkpoint 2, the lanes were a bit muddy after all the recent rain and quite a few riders suffered punctures on the way round. Checkpoint 2, usually manned by Mick Hayler (but today guest of honour at the Bognor Regis luncheon), saw Ron and Marion Ball in charge this year ably assisted by ESCA Chairman, Mick Rabbetts, who had ridden from his nearby country seat. Magnificent views from here but chilly for the checkers.*

*After a quick cup of coffee, we headed on passing various groups and singles on the way. There were riders stopped at the bridge in Jarvis Brook and we assumed a puncture, but Martin Yardley had had a spill and put a rather neat hole in the right-hand knee of his new tights. Checkpoint 3 opposite The Kicking Donkey was manned by Ray Prior and George Taylor. I had suggested to the checkers that a cardboard box was the easiest way of collecting the check cards and Ray had a box big enough to shelter a small rider! Undoubtedly the biggest box in the history of the ESCA Reliability Trial with the cards arranged neatly in separate piles according to colour. Not only were there quite a few punctures, but two broken chains. One was repaired and the other was rescued by Ray.*

*In amongst the official riders there were a few freeloaders and one was supervet John Woodburn making up for the absence of our own supervet Harry Featherstone (away on holiday!). With one or two groups already at the Checkpoint and joined, whilst we were there, by the large Eastbourne group, there was the magnificent site of some 40 or more riders outside The Kicking Donkey, which may not be there much longer as I am told it has been sold for a housing development.*

(continued)

*Not a single flake of snow fell as we drove on up to Burwash Common. By the time we reached East Hoathly, we were ahead of all the riders and from midday we were collecting the last check cards. After about 40 minutes, it was nice to get into the pub for a pint. The newly refurbished hall awaited the 26 who had booked for lunch. The service was rather slow as Bob was single-handed in the kitchen, but the food was excellent with soup, beef, turkey and spotted dick being amongst the favourite choices and generous helpings all round. Some brave souls had ice cream! There was a free draw for 4 bottles of wine.*

*Finally my thanks to the team that makes this event possible - Esther Carpenter, Den Funnell, Deryk Greenway, Mick Kilby, Ron and Marion Ball, Mick Rabbetts, Ray Prior and George Taylor, not forgetting ESCA Consultant Roy Humphrey together with the landlord and staff at the King's Head, East Hoathly.*

*I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and will now hand you over to our Special Correspondents:-*

## **RELIABLY INFORMED**

There I was just leaving the E.S.C.A. AGM when in her dulcet toned voice Esther said "Would you like to write a piece about the reliability trial for the Bonk?" "I'll think about it", said I. On the way home I was chided by the Chairman and Hon. Gen. Sec with such remarks as "Go for it, show 'em what you can do", etc. etc. etc. So here goes.

8.30 a.m. start. First group for me together with the tandem of John & Sally and the aforementioned Hon. Sec. Just before leaving what do you think? Esther says in not such dulcet tones "Don't forget you're doing something for Bonk". "I'll think about it" says I. Off we go. By the time we get to the Shaw roundabout the tandem is out of sight and Mick and I have three strangers on our wheels and it's bloody cold. On to the first checkpoint. No problems yet but I did notice Charlie's mileage was a bit out.

After the check the roads began to go up a bit and I began to go back a bit. At this point one of the younger strangers (who had a bike ready for racing) went straight off the front on each rise we came to. We later discovered he was in strict training for his tri-athlete endeavours. I was beginning to feel more comfortable now, although still very cold. As the route was on my own stamping ground I didn't really notice the hills. What I did notice however was Dave Hudson bending down (not a pretty sight) pouring beverage from a flask. This was just before Crowborough. Just after this at the Golf course we came across two more Worthing Excelsions, waiting for Dave we thought - not a bit of it. These two were obviously lost. Mick and I had been left at the check over the Forest by said strangers. So we are now on our own. "Fancy a cup of tea?" said Mick. Good idea I thought thinking we were calling in to see Sylvia. But no, Mick had other ideas. "We'll go to Millbrook Garden Centre if they're open." So we did and they were closed. Guess what? Those two from Worthing followed us off the route, thinking we knew where we were going, then got a nasty shock. After this the roads went even further up, but very pleasant. On towards Mark Cross where there just happens to be a cafe. Just as the two of us were approaching Mark Cross we heard rude comments coming from behind. Things like "Come on you old gits", "Where have you been all day?", etc. etc. and worse. It's the Wanderers of course, led (flat out) by the Sun God himself. We shouted a few of our own comments and on they went to the cafe, except Ian because the weather forecast was for sunshine about 10.30 a.m.

After our stop I began to feel a little warmer and began to enjoy the ride a lot more. We were caught by Bob Taylor and his merry men and they didn't seem too sure where they were going either. The third check came quickly after this, we asked Ray Prior if he sold mudguards in his shop. He said "Yes, but he was unable to sell any to the Eastbourne Rovers" (it showed). On the go, really enjoying things now (Broad Oak excepted). Stop to see if we can help a few puncture victims and others with various problems, no help required. So it's all downhill to the finish, four minutes in hand. Well done and thanks Mick. Hand in my card to Esther who is now assuming this little piece is guaranteed and is demanding it is with her by Friday, or else!

Stayed for lunch, did not enjoy this as much as the ride. My thanks to Charlie and Esther and all those frozen checkers. Congratulations to the Eastbourne Rovers for winning the trophy.

H.N.H.

**EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION**  
**1999 RELIABILITY TRIAL**

**RESULT**

The following 81 riders were successful in completing the Reliability Trial in their chosen time and are each eligible for a Certificate:-

**EASTBOURNE ROVERS CC (30)**

3-15 Michael Davey, Max Norrell, Colin McKee, Andy Eaton, Kevin Burton, Jon Sharples, Tim Wells, Stuart Medhurst, Stuart Davis, Steve Willis, Jason Salter, James Dear, Andy Parsons, Shaun Reed, Simon Prior, Callum McKee, Nick Leech, Paul Delani, Keith Newsam, Lloyd Grayston;

3-40 Anthony Maher, Dave Dunbar, Jon Hollidge, Peter Moon;

4-00 Roger Clark, Lee Ashworth, Sue Eaton, Robert Norman, Steve Bowles, Richard Light.

**LEWES WANDERERS CC (25)**

3-15 Robert Daneski;

3-40 Nigel Siberry, Paul Cooper, Graham Jeffs, Peter Price, Nick Holmes-Siedle, Richard Meed, Ian McGuckin, Robert Coleman, Laurie Leaney, Ian Landless, Tony Gale, Steve Chittenden, David Beale, David Nunn, Geoff Baker, Chris Martin, Chris Hough, Bob Comben, Trevor Wright, Graham Seymour;

4-00 Mick Burgess, Horry Hemsley, John Gallsworthy/Sally Thorpe (tandem).

**WORTHING EXCELSIOR CC (8)**

4-00 Dave Hudson, Karl Robertson, Mel Robertson, Richard Cooley, Brian Howe, Peter Weston, Paul Toppin, Don Lock.

**SOUTHBOROUGH & DISTRICT WHEELERS (7)**

3-15 Les Hayman, Martin Yardley, John Watson, Peter Watson, Kim Vivian, Martin Derham, John Latty.

**CRAWLEY WHEELERS CC (5)**

3-40 Richard Griffin, Graham Payne, Paul Spenceley, Anthony Brown;

4-00 Ron Gager.

**EAST GRINSTEAD CC (3)**

3-15 Bob Taylor, Martin Malins, Graham Tulett.

**SUSSEX NOMADS CC (2)**

3-40 Janet Homewood, Alan Limbrey.

**CYCLISTS' TOURING CLUB (1)**

4-00 Ted Haynes.

(CR/ESCART/1199)

Dear William.

I am writing in reply to your open letter to Frank Blake, which appeared in the Autumn edition of Bonk, referring to Preston Park Track, which I read with interest. Here, I thought, is a man prepared to grasp the nettle and assist in making Preston Park the asset it really is. Then I read the 10 point plan. My response to your points in order are :

- i. Was not a good start - you couldn't get the name of the organisation right. Then I got to the second paragraph and saw ".....ideas based on actualities not figment ideas, in other words the meeting has no time to listen to half baked speculative schemes..." It appears to me William you come up with more of these than anyone else.
- ii. Some merit, but money is no good without dedicated workers.
- iii. Same applies as (ii).
- iv. Sussex clubs should all be aware of the track - but it doesn't get support except from the few.
- v. The two Associations mentioned, even if they had amalgamated, might not legally have been allowed to release money to another body.
- vi. My understanding is that there is no possibility of repairing the stand. In order to rebuild, the asbestos insulation would have to be removed adding a considerable sum to the rebuilding costs.
- vii. You secure the monies for the items mentioned.
- viii. Why change the night? Thursday night is Surrey League Handicap Races night, or hadn't you heard?
- ix. Surely this is just a repeat of point (iv).
- x. Approach Keith Butler to take over. I suppose running the Surrey league and being on the B.C.F. Executive Board gives him plenty of spare time. There is no bar to other clubs riding at the track. If you had been a consistent supporter you would be aware of this.

Your last point says it all really. How about you putting the action where your mouth and pen are and taking on the job. Yes it will entail a lot of time and effort, more even than being racing secretary for the Sussex Cyclists' Association. Oh yes, I forgot, you turned that nomination down. What was the motto you mentioned "Do It". That'll be the day.

Yours sincerely,

Mick Burgess

A reply from Frank Blake

I am pleased to see that we had some response re. my article about Preston Park. William Hickey's ideas are quite good but I'm afraid that the area is owned by the local Council so we are tied to them for repairs to track or buildings.

At the recent S.C.R.L. meeting it had been decided to promote rides for road bikes at each meeting and it looks as if the Surrey League are going to affiliate to the Track League which will give us entry into the six hundred odd riders that are registered with them. The track will be a little crowded if they all turn up! I first suggested the use of road bikes at last year's A.G.M. but the idea was turned down as impractical but now opinions have changed. Perhaps Sussex track racing will continue well into the next millennium.

F.B.



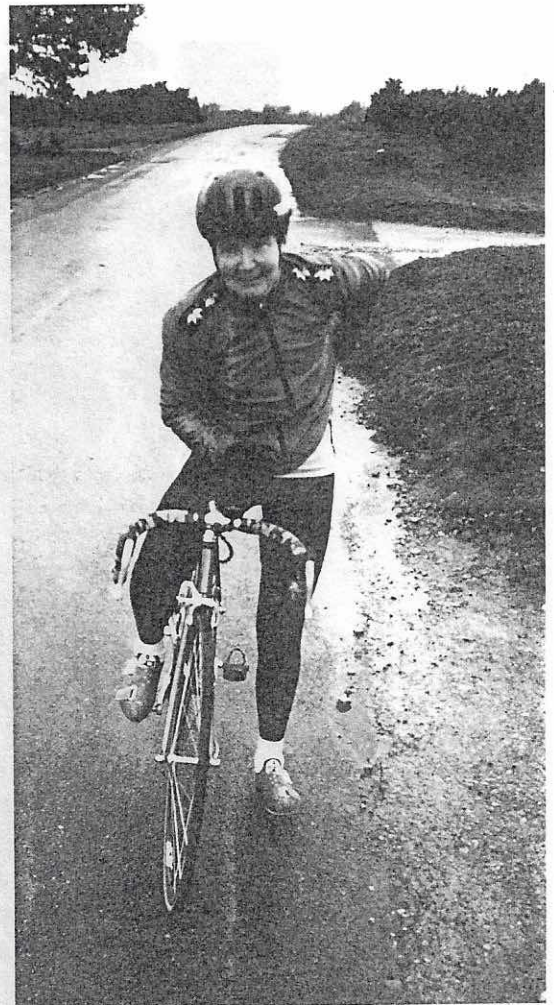
# RELIABILITY TRIAL 1999



TED HAYNES with RON & MARION BALL  
(C.T.C.)

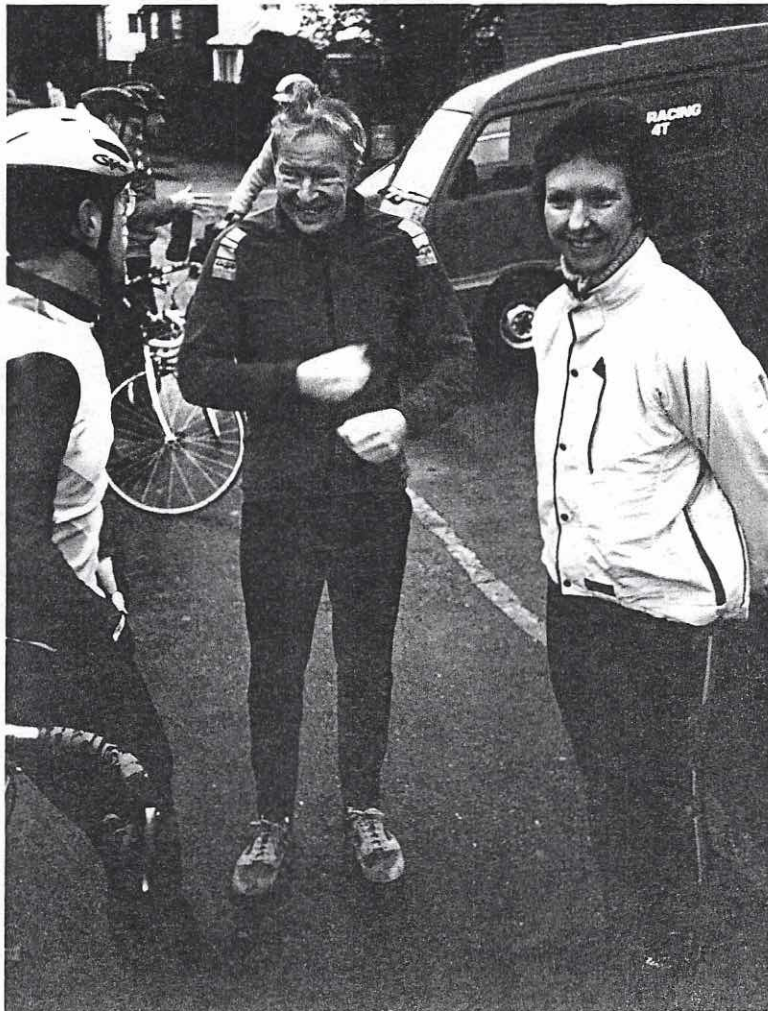


KEITH "Legs" NEWSAM  
(Eastbourne Rovers)



SUE EATON  
(Eastbourne Rovers)

# RELIABILITY TRIAL 1999



IAN ESSEX and ELAINE SCOTT  
(Brighton Excelsior)

# Social calendar 2000

Sunday January 9th  
E.S.C.A. LUNCH  
ROEBUCK, LAUGHTON

Saturday JANUARY 19th  
Brighton Excelsior Dinner  
Shoreham Airport Lounge

Saturday January 29th  
Fellowship Of 1066 Longmarkers Dinner  
YELTON HOTEL, HASTINGS

Sunday February 6th  
V.T.T.A. Surrey/Sussex Lunch  
Wickswood Country Club, Allbourne

Saturday February 26th  
Eastbourne Rovers Dinner  
Aston Hotel, Eastbourne

17 Bala Crescent,  
Felpham,  
Bognor Regis  
W Sussex  
PO22 8LY

Date: 14th November 99

Dear Editors,

Following on from Frank Blake's letter about Preston Park track, and the letter from "William Hickey" in the Autumn edition.

William Hickey's points are mostly pertinent, but as usual, the work has to be done by someone else.

As far as calling a "Special Meeting of the SCRL" two general meetings have recently been held, to which all clubs and riders were invited, Mr Hickey was notable by his absence.

Most of the points raised were addressed, discussions are being held with the council about vandalism and re-fencing the track, in fact the grandstand is due to be demolished as it is unsafe.

The finance for a new PA system, which is the League's property is not available. Mr Hickey's assistance with setting it up before the meetings would be most welcome.

Participation of the Surrey League with the SCRL is actively being considered, but the basic problem is lack of bodies to do the work.

The League has a press secretary, unfortunately not a lady:

Anthony Pope, 31 Lambourne Road Hollingdean, Brighton, Sussex BN1 7FD

Telephone: 01273 551053

I am not quite sure what the ex policeman is supposed to do, the last one was a regular competitor, and is still welcome at the track.

On the positive side, participation by the under 16s is growing, and arrangements are being made to contact schools in conjunction with the BCF regional development officer to encourage this further.

League promoting secretary and Sussex Division track secretary is Vernon McClelland who does come to meetings and take on jobs.



Ken Wells

# PUZZLES FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT from STAN NASH

## Tours of Britain

These "Tours of Britain" are stage races starting and finishing at the same place. The first two letters of each stage town must be the same as the last two letters of the previous town: e.g. LewES-ESsendiNE-NEwbottLE-Lewes - a three stage race. The idea is to do the round trip in the minimum number of stages. Solvers should have an intimate knowledge of UK geography, or access to a very comprehensive road gazetteer with detailed index!

Stages shown are the best I could do, but there are probably alternatives or better options.

### The Tours

1. Eastbourne - Eastbourne (4 stages)
2. Hove - Hove (6 stages)
3. Arundel - Arundel (4 stages)
4. Tenterden - Tenterden (3 stages)
5. Alfriston - Alfriston (3 stages)
6. Chichester - Chichester (3 stages)

N.B. These events are confined to super riders capable of doing many hundreds of miles per stage!

### Stan's Shame

The following is an account of an incident at a convivial meeting of several ESCA clubs. By coincidence it is also an anagram of their titles! Can you sort them out? (Pity Stan couldn't behave - we ignored him! Next day he was back to his charming self!)

ROUGH MORON STAN DARES TASTE GIN - THROWS BEER RIGHT OVER OUR ERN! HE BITES, CURSES LEE'S BUS TAX! (WE DREW LEN'S ALES)

*Many thanks to Stan for these two puzzles. Answers in the Spring issue.*



### FOR SALE

Black leather Carnac shoes, laced. Size 41 (French) Cost £59,95 but little used. £30.

TACX rollers. Roller set for indoor cycling fitness requiring the balance and concentration of bike riding to give realistic indoor training. Support bracket included. £30

Pat Graham 01424 842373 (Nr. Bexhill)



Warwick & Joyce Dunford's ten year old grandson, Christopher, asked them how old Jean Smith is. Tactfully Warwick replied, "Oh, late fifties, I should think". "My word", replied Christopher. "She does wear well, doesn't she."

## MID-WEEK SECTION

The past few weeks have seen our usual large numbers out on the road. This is an exhilarating time of the year for us, for although at our time of life every day is packed full of excitement and fun we still enjoy the special treats that come our way as Christmas approaches. The A.G.M., which we were looking forward to when I concluded my last article for this publication, was well attended, with Upper Dicker village hall bursting at the seams. The business was dealt with efficiently by Len Steel and then it was in to the kitchen for tea and cakes. We are definitely an equal opportunities group as there were as many gentlemen as ladies serving under the direction of Jean Timperley who came especially to deal with this task. I also mentioned the Christmas party at Westham village hall that we'd been invited to and, although the weather was wintry to say the least, with ice in some of the lanes and snow flurries on the high ground, about thirty of us met to sing carols and eat mince pies before making our way to the Berwick Inn. There we were met by Graham Lade and John Armstrong happily sinking vast quantities of ale. Graham told us that Jane likes him coming out on Wednesday because it's the day she washes and irons the Hoover bag when she gets back from school. Charles & Connie Lancaster had ridden straight from home hoping to miss the bad conditions only for Charles to fall off on an icy corner. No damage but his smart new Goretex jacket looked the worse for wear. Adrian Vieler and George Lillicrap arrived later, full of apologies for missing the previous week's ride to East Hoathly as they had decided to visit the Six Bells and the lovely Claire.

It's acknowledged by all members of the Section that George Lillicrap has a way with the ladies. In fact he is our main source of female recruitment, encouraging his lady friends to ride out, in the first instance on one of his vast collection of bikes, then tempting them with morsels of exotic food to continue their interest in cycling. He offers many interesting gifts to the ladies of his choice, polystyrene boxes being the favourites. Recently though he surpassed himself in an attempt to ingratiate himself with our bonny secretary, conveying to her rather coyly through a third party, a magnificent present which he had obtained from Brufords - Eastbourne's leading jewellers. Esther was overwhelmed and George went off home with a smile on his face, surely looking happily to the future. Just days later, however, all his good work was undone when he had to phone her to confess that he had sold the piece of smoked salmon she'd specifically ordered for the Carol Service. We wait with interest to see how the situation develops.

John Manville is another with an eye for the opposite sex and he could hardly restrain himself when at the Roebuck recently. Several coachloads of mature ladies poured into the pub, it seemed never ending and John groaned at the lost opportunities parading before him. He was spoiled for choice he told Ken Smith afterwards; if only they hadn't had to dash away.

Mike Timperley and Dennis Jakeman are popular with everyone and we have missed them over the past few weeks. Mike is confined to the house with an undiagnosed medical condition. What began as possible appendicitis, hernia or gallstones has left him with a very painful leg and unreliable leg and the best the doctors can suggest after many tests is a trapped nerve in his back. We are hopeful that Mike will soon be back with us. Dennis has contracted one of the many viruses and is taking a long time to shake it off. We look forward to seeing them back with us in good health before long.

With best wishes for Christmas and the new year. I remain

*Baggy Shorts*

# Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club

*Audax Events for 2000*

## The Worthing Winter Warmer - 100k Ashington

*Saturday 5th February*

Organiser - Alan Matthews

20 Water Lane, Angmering, West Sussex BN16 4EJ

start 09.00



## The South Coast 200k - Worthing

*Sunday 5th March - start 07.30*

**Entries close on 20th February**

Littlehampton, Bognor Regis, Selsey, Harting Hill (south face - easy) - Rake, Liphook, Hindhead, Elstead, Milford, Dunsfold, Wisborough Green, Southwater, Partridge Green, Steyning, Sompting *(The Route avoids the A24 again)*

## The South Coast 300k - Steyning

*Saturday 15th April - start 03.00*

**Entries close on 1st April**

Shoreham, Newhaven, Beachy Head, Pevensey Bay, Hastings, Rye, Brenzett (Little Chef), Folkestone (plus views of the Channel Tunnel complex) - Hamstreet, Rolvenden (World of Water Cafe), Flimwell, Heathfield, Uckfield, North Chailey (May Cottage Tea Rooms), Hurstpierpoint

## The South Coast 400k - Steyning

*Friday 5th May - start 21.00*

**Entries close on 21st April**

Shoreham, Newhaven, Beachy Head, Battle, Hawkhurst, Rolvenden, Staplehurst, Sutton Valence, Medway (Services), Faversham, Sandwich *for a sandwich!* Smeeth (Dr. Watson's Eating Emporium), Flimwell, Broadoak (Bartram's Garden Centre Cafe), Heathfield, Uckfield

Organiser - **Dave Hudson** *(El Supremo)*

151 Middle Road, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6LG

*Sunday 20th August*

start 09.00 in Petworth

Same route as in 1999, this excellent event which provides not only numerous feed stops but an unbelievable amount of freewheeling.

Organiser - Tony Palmer

23 Brentwood Crescent, Hollingdean, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 7EU

## The South Coast Hardriders 110k



