

BONK!

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL

EAST SUSSEX

CYCLING ASSOCIATION

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

President **Keith Balcombe**

New Series No. 90

Summer 2001

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EDITORIAL

There is no need to tell you that this BONK is very much overdue, and we apologise profusely to those people who sent in contributions at the beginning of the year. We are very involved in a local environmental issue and this has taken priority for much of the year - like so many things, only important to the people involved but to make an impact quite a lot of time and energy has to be expended. There will be a further edition in October and we will hope you will send reports to us by September 30th and perhaps we can get back into swing of regular production.

Those of you who were involved with the Association 100 will know that Keith & Sue Balcombe and their clubmates from the Brighton Excelsior organised a "President's Picnic" after the event. There was loads of food and a barrel of beer with fun and games to suit everybody. It was a lovely day and everyone who stayed behind enjoyed themselves. The first picnic we had was a brainwave of Alan Limbrey's several years ago but has only been organised sporadically since. The hall and field at Upper Dicker lend themselves superbly to this sort of fun event and the Mitre are sure to extend the tradition next year. Make up your mind to be there, it was perfect for all the family, it's a perfect day out for all the family.

Maurice & Esther

WILLIAM HICKEY

Halfway through another season and one wonders if we will ever see any radical changes to the county's time trialling calendar. The same old dreary events cobbled together over roughly identical courses, although there have been some changes due to a heavy road work programme. Flooding on minor roads last autumn caused deterioration and was not repaired before we started racing. The Surrey League extended their racing strategy to include minor tours for 3rd and 4th cats, and a knockout weekly race programme to run simultaneously with all their other events. Keith Butler and Glyn Durrant must be complimented on their foresight and dedication in putting on perhaps the best road racing programme in the country. We are hopeful that this enthusiasm can extend to Preston Park track, it's long overdue for rider injection.

Having freed myself from administration duties I have selected the following events to cover for 2001/2002. The 1066 and Sussex Nomads Dinners and the Ray Douglass Memorial Tea. Earlier this year I missed the InGear celebrations at some instantly forgettable café in Uckfield High Street but I'll try and go for a clubnight at the White Hart in Buxted - I hope it's better than their first, inaugural, meeting (nobody turned up!). I hear the Brighton Mitre have achieved InGear status, becoming a further casualty of the sponsored club syndrome; rider strength has certainly improved so we may see Brighton domination in the time trial calendar. My congrats to Frank and the boys for influencing a change of philosophy in the Mitre. I suspect the club will emerge just a tad stronger, EAT YOUR HEART OUT INGEGAR!

Looking back to this year's Ray Douglass buffet tea it was the usual pleasurable occasion, the Worthing again excelled in this no nonsense yearly get-together in Ray's memory. Some of the people who attended on a far from bright afternoon in January travelled from all corners of Sussex. As always, a nice start to the new year.

The Editor's function held at the Yelton Hotel, Hastings, i.e. the 1066 Fellowship bash, I found quite good fun. I suspect, however, that the existing membership is just a wee bit older. I was sat between Peter Holland and his wife Gwyneth. Peter confided that he is the custodian of eighty seven bikes and that the constant pleasure they give him excels any sexual experience he's participated in. Gwyneth on her part couldn't keep still for one moment, jumping up and down at the slightest possibility of batting cross toasts. Warwick Dunford told me he is no longer a member of the National R.T.T.C. Committee. Clearly totally disillusioned he succumbed to the inevitable but he promised to be in attendance at the National Hillclimb in Wales (2001) supporting the Sussex Nomads team and also giving the East Grinstead a cheer if they can find their way to the hill. The star of the evening was definitely a retired gentleman who's name I believe was Wilf who had the unenviable job of welcoming the visitors. Having brought the wrong glasses he welcomed a number of people who were not present, told some jokes which were amusing and coughed his way through the remainder. Arthur Coleman was his usual self until he embarked on a soliloquy, or rather a presentation, only to be faced by a guest who was taken ill and collapsed. I'm not sure if it was Arthur's resumé of the silver salver recipient. In spite of this it was a nice bright function and provided the man with the spoons appears in 2002 I can probably be persuaded to go again. The Sussex Nomads Dinner provided a fitting climax to the last of my socialising for 2000/2001. Keith Butler, handicapped by a sore throat, gave an entertaining speech. Monsieur Alain as usual controlled the evening, lively crosstoasting and a fantastic meal helped this along. Birthday Boy, Mike Bloom from Crawley received the full birthday treatment including a cake and the Snapper made a clean sweep of the awards. With a full house of sixty two, the evening finally broke up at 1.00 p.m.

I am asked to mention that a very special guest has agreed to attend the Nomads Dinner in February 2002 at the Jarvis Hotel. Tickets will be on sale at the end of November, remember that the maximum numbers are sixty to sixty five, so book early since it is impossible to seat any more.

I am also requested through these columns to confirm that the Nomads will accept a table tennis challenge at our clubroom. Only clubs who have regular players should apply due to the Nomads expertise. Refreshments will be provided and there is seating capacity for thirty. There will be a large cash prize for the team and individual winner.

W.H.



In the last edition of BONK, dated Winter 2000, William Hickey looked deeply into his crystal ball and among the predictions he made was the following "The two Associations to merge; the R.T.T.C. South to be disbanded....." There was also an article from Sian Charlton.

In reply we received the following from Chris Watts, the London South D.C. Secretary -

The Winter issue of Bonk made interesting reading though the South D.C. are still wondering what they've done wrong that William Hickey is predicting they be disbanded in 2001.

As far as LONDON SOUTH D.C. is concerned Geoff 'Hickey' (he who has been known to marshal from the centre of a mini-roundabout), Sian (if she gets her back off the wall), and a few other disgruntled club folk out there, will soon be able to sort the District out to their satisfaction as the jobs of District Secretary and Assistant (Events) Secretary will be up for grabs on **Saturday, September 29th, 2001**

WORTHING EXCELSIOR AUDAX EVENTS 2002

| | | | |
|---|------|----------|-------|
| Sunday 10 th March | 200K | Worthing | 07.30 |
| Sunday 7 th April | 300K | Steyning | 03.00 |
| Saturday 4 th May (Bank Holiday weekend) | 400K | Steyning | 18.00 |
| Saturday 25 th May (Bank Holiday weekend) | 600K | Midhurst | 03.00 |

Dave Hudson (El Supremo), 151 Middle Road, Shoreham by Sea, Sussex BN43 6LG

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Mid Season Position in 2001 B.A.R.'s

SENIOR B.A.R. (25, 50 & 100 Miles)

| | | | | | <u>Av.mph</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------------|
| BOYD JOHNSON | Eastbourne Rovers | 58-37 | 2-06-28 | 4-22-05 | 24.068 |
| PETER THORP-HINCKS | Worthing Excelsior | 1-04-07 | 2-05-22 | 4-47-48 | 22.724 |
| HARRY FEATHERSTONE | Eastbourne Rovers | 1-02-49 | 2-13-30 | 4-36-27 | 22.685 |
| PETER BAKER | Lewes Wanderers | 1-08-42 | 2-06-51 | 4-41-35 | 22.264 |
| PETER MOON | Eastbourne Rovers | 1-07-14 | 2-13-02 | 4-41-18 | 22.064 |
| CHRIS COWLARD | Southborough Wheelers | 1-05-48 | 2-15-43 | 4-42-34 | 22.045 |
| DON LOCK | Worthing Excelsior | 1-07-43 | 2-19-39 | 4-44-38 | 21.571 |
| ANDY RAZZELL | Lewes Wanderers | 1-07-56 | 2-19-34 | 4-46-40 | 21.502 |
| TIM MILES | Hastings & St. Leonards | 1-12-55 | 2-19-44 | 4-56-51 | 20.751 |
| LES HAYMAN | Southborough Wheelers | 1-14-05 | 2-29-08 | 4-57-54 | 20.168 |
| MARTIN YARDLEY | Southborough Wheelers | 1-11-20 | 2-30-28 | 5-26-40 | 19.778 |
| CHRIS PARKER | Hastings & St. Leonards | 1-18-02 | 2-32-40 | 5-38-51 | 18.860 |
| HORRY HEMSLEY | Lewes Wanderers | 1-21-30 | 2-38-11 | 5-31-33 | 18.489 |

Incomplete Sets

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|--|
| ANDREW GREEN | Brighton Mitre | ? | 2-09-44 | 4-22-21 | |
| ROGER WATTS | In-Gear RT | ? | 2-19-32 | 4-57-40 | |
| DAVE NASH | Crawley Wheelers | ? | 2-25-12 | 4-43-43 | |
| JANE BOULTON | East Grinstead Tri Club | ? | 2-37-25 | 5-23-15 | |

VETS B.A.R. (25, 50 & 100 Miles)

| | | | | | <u>+ mph</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------------|
| HARRY FEATHERSTONE | Eastbourne Rovers | 1-02-49 | 2-13-30 | 4-36-27 | 5.039 |
| DON LOCK | Worthing Excelsior | 1-07-43 | 2-19-39 | 4-44-38 | 3.485 |
| LES HAYMAN | Southborough Whs | 1-14-05 | 2-29-08 | 4-57-54 | 2.568 |
| BOYD JOHNSON | Eastbourne Rovers | 58-37 | 2-06-28 | 4-22-05 | 2.392 |
| CHRIS COWLARD | Southborough Wheelers | 1-05-48 | 2-15-43 | 4-42-34 | 1.421 |
| TIM MILES | Hastings & St. Leonards | 1-12-55 | 2-19-44 | 4-56-51 | 1.270 |
| PETER BAKER | Lewes Wanderers | 1-08-42 | 2-06-51 | 4-41-35 | 1.070 |
| HORRY HEMSLEY | Lewes Wanderers | 1-21-30 | 2-38-11 | 5-31-33 | 0.667 |
| PETER MOON | Eastbourne Rovers | 1-07-14 | 2-13-02 | 4-41-18 | 0.368 |
| CHRIS PARKER | Hastings & St. Leonards | 1-18-02 | 2-32-40 | 5-38-51 | -2.020 |

Incomplete Sets

| | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|---------|---------|--|
| DAVE NASH | Crawley Wheelers | ? | 2-25-12 | 4-43-43 | |
| JANE BOULTON | East Grinstead Tri Club | ? | 2-37-25 | 5-23-15 | |

LADIES B.A.R. (10, 25 & 50 Miles)

Incomplete Sets

| | | | | | <u>Av.mph</u> |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|---|---------|---------------|
| JULIE PASCOE | East Grinstead Tri Club | ? | ? | 2-32-34 | |
| LISA JONES | East Grinstead Tri Club | ? | ? | 2-36-01 | |
| JANE BOULTON | East Grinstead Tri Club | ? | ? | 2-37-25 | |

JUNIOR B.A.R. (1 x 10; 1 x 25)

Incomplete Sets

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-------|---|--|--|
| J. BOWRY | Brighton Excelsior | 30-52 | ? | | |
| A. BOURNE | Hastings & St. Leonards | 37-59 | ? | | |

CENTRAL SUSSEX C.C.

(The following is dated March 20th so may seem slightly irrelevant; however it is a good comparison of the season as it has progressed.)

It's the year 2001, well into the 21st century but nothing seems to have changed, with the exception. Will we ever have any good cycling days this year? Just as the terrible flooding seems to have subsided we get snow (white stuff is falling as I write), Foot and Mouth and yet more rain.

Despite the weather we had our Annual Prize Presentation which this year incorporated Ken Atkins' 70th birthday celebration (just a little early so as not to interrupt the racing season), the club presented Ken with a very handsome tankard to mark the occasion and for once he was left speechless. We were very pleased to see several of our far-flung members; Sue & Robin MacLagan ventured down from Doncaster in their large camper van and Roy Siggs escaped from wildest Kent. There was a flurry of old friends from the past, Dave Dalziel and Judy & Roy Amey among them. There were also a number of local officials, Chris & John Watts, Jean & Mike Hayler, Sylvia & Mick Burgess and Margaret & Mick Kilby. Last year's Ewart Memorial winner, Dave Dent, came from Portsmouth to receive his trophy. Oh and by the way, a club hillclimb due to be held on the same morning was called off. There were no takers because of the rain.

A fortnight later the 2001 Ewart event was held on a dry but cold and damp morning. Much finger crossing paid off and the flooded part of the course had drained back into the River Adur. Mark Jones, G.S. Stella, proved to be too good for the rest of the field recording 1.0.0. to take the trophy - the third time he has won it since the event has been held. John Limpus (1.0.9) was runner up and Paul Reed, Redhill (1..3.11) was third. The Stella of course collected the team prize. Les Ross (1..8..50), John Awcock (1.10.33), Don Awcock (1.21..59) and Nygel West (1.24.48) represented the club and at the time of writing are the only members to have braved facing the timekeeper this season. However, who knows what some warm weather will do. It could be that the senior veteran will emerge on the re-vamped 'super bike'. Time alone will tell.

We are pleased to be able to report that John Dutson continues to progress and has been seen out and about again. He sat at Rushlake Green during the hardriders and pointed the way with his stiff leg. He was accompanied by other ancients. We hope the progress continues and four wheels eventually give way to two (during the summer frequent sightings of John have been reported by Cuckoo Trail users! Ed.)

Like all ESCAbods we prefer the lighter and warmer evenings and weekends when the wind does not blow.

'Til next time.

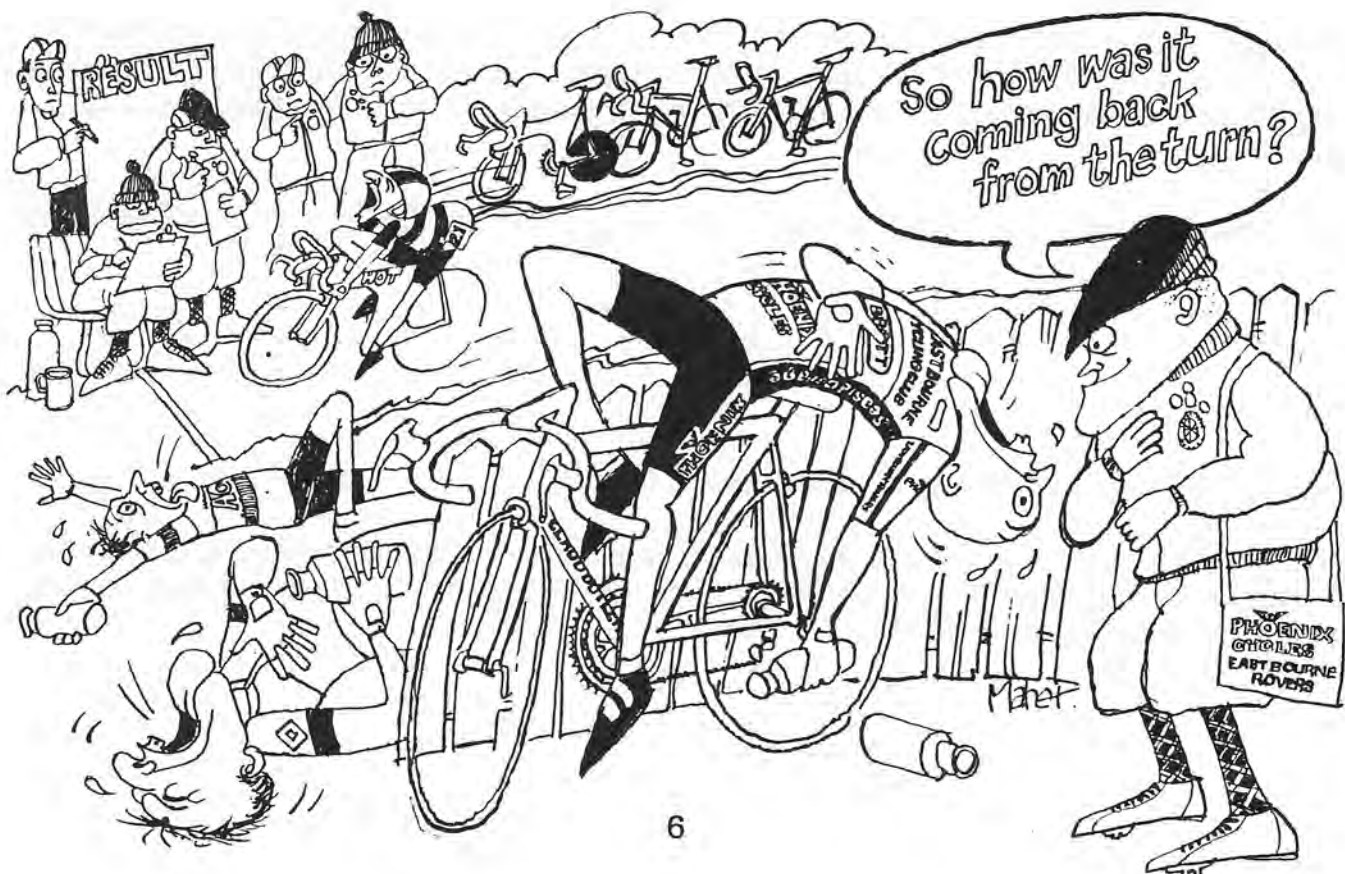
HERSELF

By now the following item may have gone but in case it hasn't

☎ 01444 232930 if you can use a four man Lichfield Nylon Ridge Tent complete with cotton inner tent and sewn in ground sheet. Metal ridge and upright poles, guy lines and pegs all in a carrying bag. Not new but very little used. Free to a good home.

EASTBOURNE ROVERS C.C.

As no report has been submitted by the correspondent we have substituted these cartoons produced by Tony Maher to whom many thanks.



Lewes Wanderers Unofficial Fixed Wheel 10 Challenge

On Monday 2nd July, we held our unofficial Fixed Wheel 10 mile time trial Challenge on the East Hoathly course. The event was like an alternative universe full of Airlite hubs and Stronglight cranks, with a few tied and soldered spokes too. Also a few aero bars and carbon-fibre forks (on pre-1970's machines!). There was one derailleur, on Tony Gale's machine, but seeing as the chain didn't go round it this was allowed.

Why should anyone want to ride time trials on fixed? Apart from wittering on about timeless elegance, in my case it's due to a lack of suitable alternative machine at present. As a kind of masochistic challenge, I did a fair bit of winter riding on my old track iron. Amazingly, I didn't self-destruct, although my husband had to help me up stairs on occasions. Meeting Chris Hough and Paul Gibbons encouraged me, both being young(ish) fixed riders like myself. John Gallsworthy usually time trials on fixed anyway.

At some point, the idea of fixed wheel 10 challenge was suggested. My husband Simon got into the spirit by making the trophy out of an old 17 sprocket set into a hardwood block. There only remained to drum up some support, in Bob Comben's case by promising to pin on his number personally.

On the night, the challenge attracted 14 riders on everything from old classics to slightly less old classics. Some of the riders were quite classic themselves - on the start line I was treated to the fine sight of Mick Burgess in an alpaca jacket. A fair proportion of the riders hadn't raced at all this season, some of us are making thirty-something comebacks and some were just - young and fast.

Conditions were very hot and still. I think this is quite a hard course for fixed - we regulars tend to find ourselves undergeared to Boship and overgeared uphill back to the finish. So lack of the usual return headwind helped, as would going five minutes faster!

After a bit of organisers' discussion about the fixed times, the winners were: Lewes rider on scratch, Mark Burgess with 25.23; other club's riders on scratch, Alan Rolfe from Eastbourne with 23.18. Dark horse for the handicap trophy with a very impressive comeback performance of 25.52: Bob Comben! Thanks to everyone who rode - next year we might have a prize of a pair of wood sprints.

Janet Clapton Homewood.

CYCLISTS' CAROL SERVICE

St. Mary's Parish Church, Hailsham

Saturday, 8th December 2001

Tea in the Church Lounge afterwards . Everybody Welcome

BRIGHTON EXCELSIOR

Once again the new racing is well into its stride with Club evening 10s every Tuesday on the Washington course. Our riders are seeing the fruits of the circuit training sessions held at the clubroom during the winter. These were fairly well supported by a hardcore of members.

Bob Harber organised a trip to the *Paris-Roubaix*. A fair amount of driving was involved with this undertaking but it was worth the effort for an enjoyable weekend, sport, company and atmosphere alike.

Ray Douglass Tea. Several members made the trip to this annual event with many old acquaintances rekindled. There is always such a terrific cross-section of cyclists at this event from all over Sussex. Chris Beckingham met some past-time females and quite a few giggles evolved! I wonder what they were about?? A great tea, just like the old days was once again put on by Worthing Excelsior and they are to be warmly thanked for all their hard work, especially Paul & Angela Toppin and co. trapped in the kitchen. Well done, a great 'event'.

President's Picnic. As Keith Balcombe is the ESCA President from B.E.C.C. this year he provided a barrel of beer for the after dinner event which followed the ESCA 100 mile event held in the morning. Held in the Upper Dicker field it was a good re-union and get-together.

Safe riding. See you up the road.

Excelsiorian

LEWES WANDERERS (part 1.)

How did you get your sex education? A senior ESCA official got his from reading the Bible and the Family Medical Book – with a lot of help from the dictionary for the words he couldn't understand.

What do you make of all these winter migrating wimps? Off they go to the sunny Algarve and get lots of miles in. On returning for the first club event two out of three are non-starters. It was left to "old " Ron Rogers to show the young guns what it was all about. Talking of Ron it was thought he had nicked Norah Batty's stockings from the colour of his legs but it was only due to poolside lounging.

There has been a slight change to Wanderers' club nights. The third Tuesday in the month they now meet at the Pumphouse public house next to the railway crossing at Cooksbridge. Numbers remain about the same but faces vary between the two venues.

Horry Hemsley has been admitted to the Kent & Sussex Fellowship. At the Lunch at Hildenborough he was a little surprised to find there were a lot of much more mature old gits than himself. He was also very impressed by the cross toasting, a fair amount of which came from the Southborough table.

LEWES WANDERERS part 2

We had a visit the other day from the Stevensens - you know, Ken and Iris, who used to regard East Sussex as THE cyclists' heaven: lovely hillsides, twisting lanes, outstanding views, quaint olde teashoppes. They emigrated to Derbyshire a couple of years ago and I'm afraid they have turned against the dear county of their birth. "We'll never go back to Sussex," they said. "Too many cars. Too many hills." It seems they can go out for a 30-mile ride from their home without raising a sweat or seeing more than a very few smelly vehicles. If information like this is spread too widely in Bonk territory, there may be a damaging exodus of people like Ken and Iris. Not that the Wanderers are suffering any large-scale desertions. Membership is pretty buoyant: there was a field of 24 in our first club time trial of the racing season - Newhaven to Beddingham and back. It was won by Chris Martin, making a surprise foray from his Surrey training camp after a year's absence due to job commitments and feeling fed-up. Actually, he's taking advantage of the training opportunities offered by redundancy. He beat our (younger) White Hope for 201, Darren Riding, into second place, with the scratchman, Mark Winton, third. Mark is a roadman first and triallist second - so regards tribars as an affectation best left to softies. Our London area cyclo-cross champion, Mark Burgess, finished down the field because of foot and mouth: there haven't been any offroad races for him to keep himself fit.

The lone woman rider in the event was one of our comparatively new members, Janet Homewood - who beat three of the men, including Horry Hemsley, who, she said, looked as though he was really trying." She should have known that Horry always looks like that, and was probably suffering pains which would cripple any weaker man. Janet will be organising a hilly randonnee in the autumn, which will include the Crowborough area. This will give Horry a chance to show us how to really suffer - though unfortunately the course will take riders down Dewlands Hill, near Rotherfield, instead of the near-vertical up. You must try it sometime. (*Mid-Sussex Hilly 120km., October 20th: info from Janet Homewood on 01444 233774 or e-mail Homewood@care4free.net*)

There's been a battle within our club between coffee drinkers and beer drinkers. In other words, should we desert our clubroom in Cooksbridge, where free tea and coffee is on offer on two Tuesdays in the month; or should we succumb to the Devil's pleasure of alcohol in a pub? We reached a compromise: on the first Tuesday we stay in the Malthouse in Cooksbridge; on the third Tuesday we gather in The Pump House, on the other side of the Cooksbridge level crossing, which conveniently is the home of one of our members, Bob Coleman. Bob is in the wonderful position of having a wife and son who run the pub while he chats to the customers on the other side of the bar - occasionally going off to earn some pocket money elsewhere. Anyway, he helps to make the clubnight very pleasant - and the food is very good.

No time for more. This is late, anyway.

Rotrax

SUSSEX NOMADS

This year has seen the return of our Club news-sheet called 'Nomad News' , although as a news-sheet it's more like a book. We have a new editor in Richard Harwood who chases everyone for news, etc., and hopefully it will go on and on.

Looking back a long way, we held our Annual Dinner which was a resounding success. The food was excellent and plentiful with pots of coffee afterwards. The only downside was that sixty four sitting down was perhaps two too many as on the top table it was more than a little cosy. Keith Butler of Surrey League fame (and more) was our guest speaker but unfortunately he had laryngitis and although he spoke in whispers he couldn't manage long. But, being the Nomads Dinner, the cross-toasting by Geoff the Boore and the Chairman more than made up for it.

The Prize Presentation followed with the main prizes going to the Boore family. Nick won the senior B.A.R. and other events and Geoff won the Vets B.A.R. Andrew Hinton won the Evening '10' Points Series which was a great effort, but as this is calculated on improvement he will have to try very hard to win for a second year. Craig Wrigley was fastest in the Xmas '10' and as a New Nomad was very pleased to win with 27.32.

At the time of writing Geoff aka Mr. Blobby is in Portugal but the trouble is he's coming back, still at least he opens the clubroom early. Everyone was talking about training during the winter but I don't know how much was done due to the weather but I do know that a lot of money was spent on new machines. I only hope the legs match the wheels! Eleven year old Adam Gent who has already gained two years experience at Preston Park and Hove Park has been organising a new racing machine. It's been difficult to find an 18"/19" frame and the components to fit so if anyone has any bits for a small bike laying around please contact Alan on 01273 555511.

The Nomads have had a full programme of events this year - the first one, the Club "5", had everyone looking forward to it but a slight smattering of snow saw most people staying away. Of course the main roads were completely clear of snow and ice but only two brave souls started. Martin Wilkinson and Zac Nicholson, both new members, rode and finished with Martin beating Zac by ten seconds! Alan and Adam rode round the course, i.e. 10 miles. Five there and five back, it was very cold but they enjoyed it. Adrian Morris was the timekeeper, started the riders then dashed to the finish in the car and timed them in. Alan & Dorothy Cragg assisted and made the tea and we were then joined by Dave Challis who was feeling better after his operation and came out for a ride in the sun.

Members have plans to compete in Surrey League events, the Lewes Crits and at Preston Park and its gratifying that the Nomads are involved in these organisations, albeit in a small way.

Well, that's it for now. Please keep S.A.F.E. you know, heads up, etc. Remember you may lose a couple of seconds of time but gain many years of LIFE.

A bientôt.

Alan

Get those hill-climbing legs ready for

The Mid Sussex Hilly 120km Randonnee, Saturday 20th October 2001.

HQ Chailey Parish Hall, organised under Audax UK rules.



Scenic, varied route, 2 cafe stops, hot meals at finish.

Organiser: Mrs Janet Homewood, 19 Hazel Grove, Burgess Hill, West Sussex, RH15 0BZ.

Entry forms from the organiser or in Audax Handbook. closing date 6th October (sorry, no entries on the day and maximum 60 riders)

EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION - RELIABILITY RIDES

Normally at this time of the year readers expect to find details of the Autumn's reliability trial. As Charles Robson has resigned as organiser we obviously need another promoter. The following letter was received from Warwick Dunford on behalf of the Southborough Wheelers. If the offer is accepted by the Management Committee, please support the event as well as you have done in the past.

The Wheelers are prepared to organise the initial ESCA reliability rides to a new format on Sunday, 11th November 2001.

The course is a nominal 53 mile circuit with 3 start/check points, manned by clubs local to these. There will be an option of covering the route in 4, 3.30, or 3 hours, with groups leaving each start point from 8.30, 9.00, and 9.30 am. Starting order detail will be sent to participating clubs for distribution to individual riders.

Should this format prove acceptable, the Wheelers are prepared to promote every third year in rotation with clubs organising the other terminal points.

THE ROUTE: Start/check No 1 Groombridge Station. Proceed into village, where left at RAB, and left onto B2188 to Camp Hill, where right to Nutley. Here left and right to Fletching where fork right to join A275 at Lane End common. Turn left to junction A272, where right at both mini RABs. Take next left turn and then fork left (signposted Plumpton). At next T junction turn left to Start/check No 2 at Wheatsheaf Inn (19m). Proceed SE taking 2nd left to Chilmington. At T junction turn left to join A275. Turn right and take next left to Galleybird Hall. Right and left to Barcombe Cross, where right to follow road through to A26 between Upper Wellingham and Upper Clayhill. Turn right and take next left, then skew left into Ringmer. Turn left to Kennel corner and fork right through Laughton to the A22 at Golden Cross. Turn right and take 2nd left through Gun Hill to join A267 at Horam. Fork right through Maynards Green to start/check No 3 at Sandy Cross (41m). Proceed to A265 where right and left to Mayfield Left to RAB then right on A267 to Argos Hill where fork left to Rotherfield. Take minor road north to Eridge Green where left then right past Park corner to Groombridge station 53 miles. Distances are approximate

START/CHECK POINTS :

- No 1 Southborough Wheelers
- No 2 Lewes Wanders (or possibly Brighton/ E. Grinstead/ Crawley)
- No 3 Eastbourne Rovers (or possibly Lewes/ Hastings)

NOTE Need confirmation of manning of points 2 and 3, and whether location ideal. With 3 separate starts and a proportion of competitors riding out, car parking will be reduced.

We are willing to consider suggestions to vary the route and /or terminal points. The object has been to produce an easy to manage standard route, with start points nearer to club locations.

THE LAST TWELVE HOUR I don't think so !!

Despite what others may say we can't believe this can possibly be the truth. Think of all that experience and talent going to waste

- what would Tim Carpenter do to burn off his excess of midsummer madness energy if he couldn't rush around the countryside all night setting up bright yellow notices - and what would he do with all those notices that he keeps under his bed all year long?
- how would Esther continue to control her minions (family) if not with threats of yet another extra marshalling spot
- where would cyclists and supporters from all over Kent congregate for an on-season social event
- how would Veronica spend her midsummer evenings if she couldn't slave over a hot stove preparing pies and puddings for the gastronomic delight of supporters of the Kent twelve hour
- and last, but by no means least, how would Peter Stone continue to exercise his undoubted mathematical genius and organisational skills

If the KCA 12 hour were scrapped it wouldn't be a question of this wonderful team of workers not being able to use their talents in little ways - on tens and twenty fives, or even fifties and hundreds - but it's the KCA twelve that gives meaning to their existence - being the only time during the year they all come together to pool all their talents and organise this masterpiece.

Esther and Tim managed to ensure that riders (and helpers) didn't go off course with the use of Tim's wonderful yellow notices which were at every place where a mistake could possibly be made. Even when marshalls were present the signs were still there, presumably as a safeguard against those needing to take forty winks - after all, we're none of us getting any younger, and twelve hours is a long time.

The Ivychurch circuit was managed in a masterly fashion by Warwick Dunford, heading his team of hand picked marshalls from the Southborough who included Jean and Arthur Smith, Maurice Spear, Dave Parker, Brian Whitehouse and Tim Chacksfield. Naturally they used this for an excuse to meet up at the pub for lunch afterwards - it wouldn't be the Southborough otherwise.

Oh, and I must mention Jackie who was busy after the event massaging tired legs. Pete reckons it really made all the difference to his and he didn't have any aching muscles at all afterwards. I suspect the aromatic oils may have a double use in also helping to disguise the less pleasant odour of overworked bodies and feet!!

The CC Bexley manned their usual excellent feeding station and also provided the services of timekeepers Clarice and Ian Masterson and roving marshal Roger Bunnett who was on duty as usual - resplendent in magnificent blue leather - need I say more.

But we mustn't forget to mention Maurice Carpenter who wins the competition for pop-up marshal beating Brian Leaney and John Smith into second and third places.

The overall winner of the event was Martin Taylor of VC deal with 253.351 miles closely followed by Gary Chalkley with 250.5.

Martin Yardley was absolutely thrilled when his provisional result came through at 218 miles and Esther and he were planning a big party to celebrate his 'best improver' status - sadly it was not to be - now that the official result is in his mileage has been revised to a more realistic 195.396. However, I know he enjoyed it and has written an article explaining why. Incidentally don't rely on him for support if you're thinking of riding next year - I am positive that he will be riding himself !

This event was the VTTA National Championship which was taken by Malcolm Evans of the Wigmore CC with a plus of 42 miles.

The VTTA team champions are our own Southborough and District Wheelers consisting of Les Hayman, Chris Cowlard and Peter Holland.

I can tell you that Les and Chris were a little worried when they discovered that the third member of their team was Pete - who reckoned he had only done about 450 miles in total this year. They told him that he'd better not get too much of a minus to counteract their plusses on age standard - OR ELSE. Well, Pete was really worried and after a couple of sleepless nights he made up his mind to go to a Hypnotist who could fool him into thinking he had done some training - but that's another story.

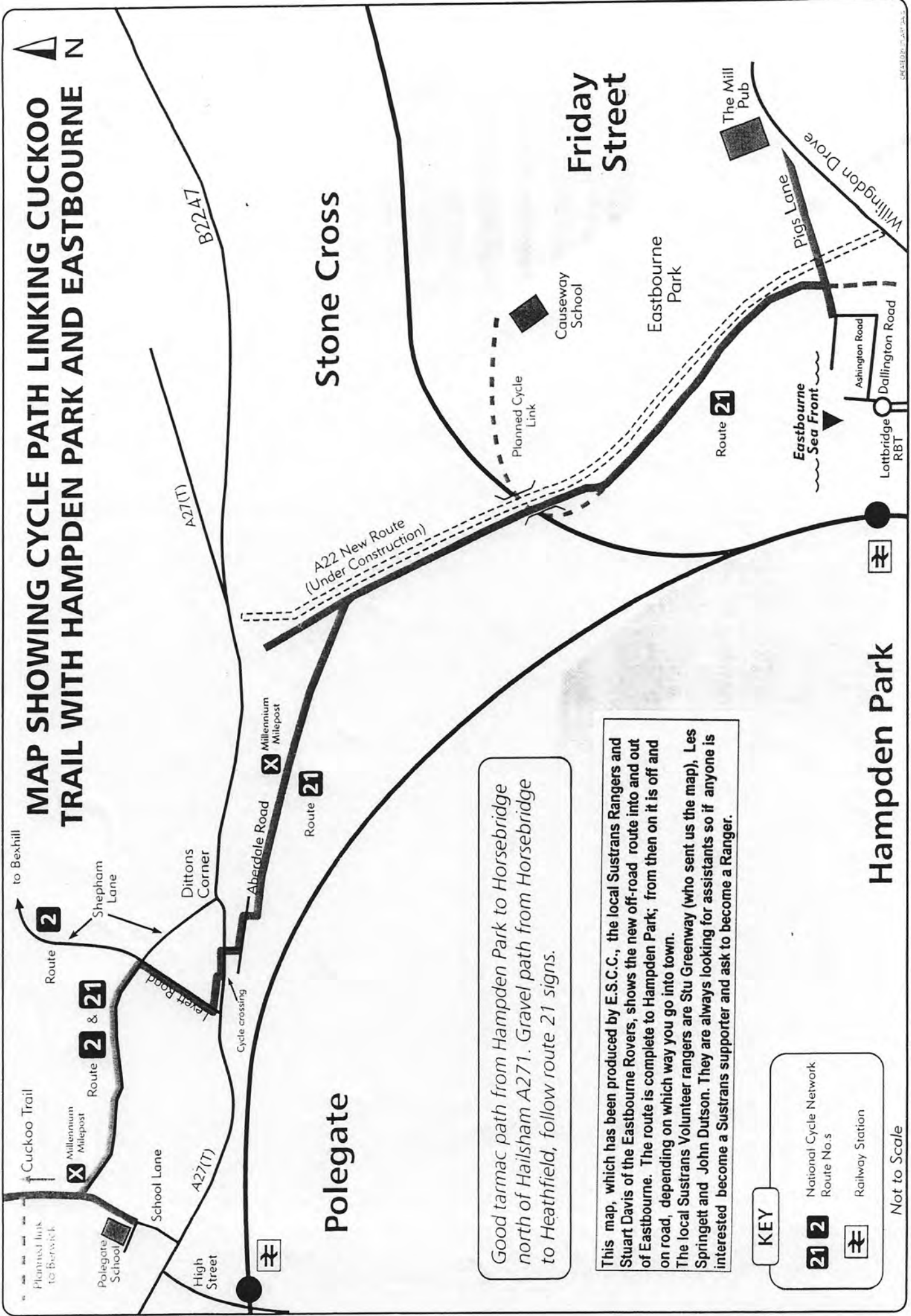
The result was that he put in a very satisfying 177.425 (-8.865) which, together with Les's 212.678 (+30.448) (overall position 17th) and Chris's magnificent 230.594 (+17.144) (overall position 6th), gave the team the Vets' team championship with a very respectable + 38.727

CONGRATULATIONS TEAM !!!

Gwyneth Holland



MAP SHOWING CYCLE PATH LINKING CUCKOO TRAIL WITH HAMPDEN PARK AND EASTBOURNE



Good tarmac path from Hampden Park to Horsebridge north of Hailsham A271. Gravel path from Horsebridge to Heathfield, follow route 21 signs.

This map, which has been produced by E.S.C.C., the local Sustrans Rangers and Stuart Davis of the Eastbourne Rovers, shows the new off-road route into and out of Eastbourne. The route is complete to Hampden Park; from then on it is off and on road, depending on which way you go into town. The local Sustrans Volunteer rangers are Stu Greenway (who sent us the map), Les Springett and John Dutson. They are always looking for assistants so if anyone is interested become a Sustrans supporter and ask to become a Ranger.

KEY

- National Cycle Network Route No.s
- Railway Station

Not to Scale

Hampden Park

Stone Cross

Polegate

Friday Street



Lottbridge RBT

Ashington Road
Dallington Road

Eastbourne Sea Front

Route 21

Eastbourne Park

Causeway School

Planned Cycle Link

A22 New Route (Under Construction)

Millennium Milepost

Route 21

Aberdale Road

A27(T)

B22A7

Dittons Corner

Shepham Lane

Route 2 & 21

Route 2

Millennium Milepost

Cuckoo Trail

to Bexhill

Planned link to Bexhill

Polegate School

School Lane

High Street

The Mill Pub

Figs Lane

Willingdon Drive

