

BOMK!



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
EAST SUSSEX
CYCLING ASSOCIATION

Summer 2004

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EAST SUSSEX CYCLING ASSOCIATION

President Jack Harris

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Summer 2004

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Central Sussex C.C.

The Association President for 2003, our own John Dutson, handed over to Jack Harris - Crawley Wheelers, at the Annual Luncheon, after what we think was a good year in office.

Our Open 25 - The Ewart Memorial Event - unfortunately became a 10 due to over running road works near Washington Roundabout. All entrants accepted the last minute alteration without comment, some even expressing the opinion that perhaps 10 miles was more acceptable at that time of year!! Stewart Jardine of 21st Century Airports CT being the winner with a time of 21.59.

We have five members Time Trialling so far this season. Don Awcock has recorded the fastest 25 with a 59.47 at the end of May in the Charlotteville event at Bentley and the best 10 of 23.51 in the first Bognor evening event on the Fontwell course. Alan Robinson is having his best season for many years - something like 39 in fact, with so far 1.02.23 for 25 miles in the ESCA April event, and a 2.14.23 at 50 miles in the Southern Counties promotion. Tony Burnham is leading in the Club 10 series to date. Clive Jackson - when work permits, and John Awcock are supporting the others.

Rod Laker and Geoff Ericson have decided that the longer distances of Audax are more to their liking.

Socially we are still getting good support for our monthly meetings at Southwater - it's surprising at some of the people that do join us at times. The mid-week "old un's" are still getting around the county sampling tea and cakes at various venues. Non racers like Rex Wells and Adrian Jones add to the numbers most weeks.

Here's to the next time, when the 100 will have come and gone and hopefully Alan will have added another good ride to his seasons achievements.

Mrs Gingę.



KEN GRIFFITHS

Ken Griffiths' cycling story began many years ago. He was a popular member of the Uckfield CC and, in spite of being several years older than most of his fellow members, could not only hold his own against them when racing but joined in all their youthful escapades. He finished his racing career many years later as a member of the Eastbourne Rovers and then threw himself enthusiastically into marshalling, most often at Boship roundabout, and regularly rode with the Wednesday Section and Eastbourne & Hailsham Section of the CTC. He and his wife Ivy were a most hospitable couple and are remembered still for the teas they hosted at their home for the club and CTC friends

With his death at the age of 87, ESCA lost another remarkable character and clubman.

SOUTHBOROUGH WHEELERS

The last twelve months has seen a steady continuation of the normal club activities - i.e. racing, Sunday lunch meetings, Wednesday Wobblers runs and clubnights. Membership remains steady with a fair smattering of youngsters and an increasing number of fortyish recruits who appear to want to fight off middle age spread. Our biggest shock came with the sudden death of 'Noddy' Challen who suffered a heart attack whilst on a weekend ride with his old clubmates from the East Surrey Road Club. He was only 62. He had ridden with the Southborough since moving to this area about fifteen years ago. Noddy was an enthusiastic rider with the Wednesday runs since his retirement a couple of years ago. Of the half dozen or so riders who regularly meet other Kent cyclists on these trips he appeared to be the fittest. Fate has some cruel twists.

Several of us meet at a different pub each Sunday (it's usually the oldies), but one greybeard who appears less often now is Terry Collins who has moved to Bilsington, near Ashford, to be nearer his daughters and their families. He is awaiting an operation to repair a faulty heart valve.

Previous years have seen club members in Majorca for spring training but this year Neil Quarmby, Martin Yardley and Peter Rowe went to Sardinia for a change. Although it was very cold they managed to get in plenty of hard miles amid excellent scenery; they also got in plenty of wine making the value of the training debatable. Others have spent a few days in France, sometimes riding the odd randonnée, though none as successfully as Theo Stegers' ride in the Paris-Brest-Paris last year. He completed the ordeal in sixty three hours though some parts of his body took more than sixty three days to recover!

Road racing has become Southborough principle competitive activity this season with about a dozen members active. The recently re-established Kent C.R.L. has brought more local events to ride. Although Neil Whelan has proved most successful overall it was Chris Howard who took the honours in the Lewes crits this year. He won the final evening's event and the overall points. He was ably backed by Keith Brown, Nick Jeffrey and Neill McCoubrie. Last season's best rider, Phil Riley, has been successful on the track, especially Herne Hill, whilst Mark Denton and our youngest member Ben Mitchell, have also been racing there as well as Calshot and Manchester. Open time trials have been less well supported this year but club events still produce about a dozen riders each Tuesday evening. Neil Quarmby and Theo have shared top placings but a promising number of new faces continue to appear. One welcome newcomer is Sarah Duncombe-Jones our first lady competitor for several seasons who is experiencing racing for the first time. Slightly more than a novice is Andrew Thomas who has ridden a few opens as well as club events.

Unfortunately it is rare for all club members to come together these days as Thursday clubnight attendance has fallen off considerably. Warwick still opens up and makes sure the ale continues to satisfy the palate! Some things never change.

Roamer



E.S.C.A. RELIABILITY TRIAL - OCTOBER 31st 2004

START/FINISH or CHECK LAUGHTON village hall. Exit left to cross-roads where right on B2124 to junction at Golden Cross with A22. Here right and take first left to Muddles Green (sp Chiddingly). At T junction right and then first left to join A267 at Horam.

Left on A267 and then fork right (sp Heathfield) to second set of traffic lights (A265). Turn right and take first left [Newick Lane] to Mayfield. Here left and bear left to r.a.b.. take second exit on A267 to Argos Hill where left on B2102 to Rotherfield. Right on big bend (sp Eridge) CARE to join A26 at Eridge Green. Here left and turn right in 200 yards [The Forstal] to T junction. Here right past Park Corner to Groombridge village hall [junction with B2110].

START/FINISH or CHECK GROOMBRIDGE village hall. Exit south on B2110 and fork left onto B2188 to Kingstanding. Keep left to Duddleswell cross-roads. Turn right (sp Nutley).

At junction with A22 turn left. Take third turning right [Bell Lane] by church. Proceed via Fletching to cross A272 at Pitdown, CARE. Bear left and then right (sp Barcombe) to Barcombe village. At mini r.a.b. LEFT (sp Ringmer). At junction with A26 turn right and take first left to Ringmer and follow to join B2192 by war memorial.

Right on B2192 to take first left to Glynde. Proceed through village to fork left opposite the Trevor Arms p.h. At junction with A27 turn left and then left again before Middle Farm to Ripe. Left and then right to Cleavers Farm where left to Laughton village hall.

The route is approximately 56.5 miles to be covered in 4 hours 30 minutes, 4 hours or 3 hours 30 minutes. The first group of riders will start at 8.30 a.m. There will be possible secret checks in the areas crossing the A272 and Newick Lane.

Entry fee £1 per rider and entries should be sent to

Warwick Dunford, 2 Water Slippe, Hadlow, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0EP

to arrive by **first post Monday 18th October**

Entry forms, start sheets/route details and result sheets will be dispatched to one nominated officer in each affiliated club.

All competitors are advised to have suitable insurance cover.

Closing date for next edition of BONK is September 8th.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

August 8th KCA 12 Hour Q12/12 6.00am £9.50

Entries to

Esther Carpenter 10 Maplehurst Road, Baldslow, St. L o/s., TN37 7NA ☎ 01424 751581

This is a SPOCO event and also counts towards the S.C.A. B.A.R. Championship

Sept'r 11th ESCA 10 miles G10/87 7.30am £6.00 (Crawley Whs)

Entries to

Jack Harris, 8 Tilgate Way, Tilgate, Crawley, W.Sussex RN10 5BW ☎ 01293 411756

Sept'r 12th ESCA 25 miles G10/89 7.00am £6.00 (East Grinstead CC)

Entries to

Richard Blackmore, Ladymead, Snowhill, Crawley Down, RN10 3EE ☎ 01342 713272

Sunday, October 31st, 2004

Reliability Trial

Start Laughton or Groombridge

Contact Warwick Dunford



Saturday, November 13th, 2004

Southborough Wheelers Dinner

The Plough, Leigh

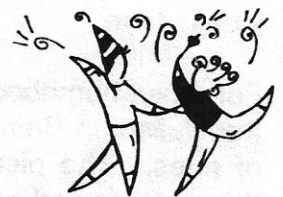
Contact David Watson ☎ 01892 541005

Saturday, December 4th, 2004

Cyclists Carol Service

St. Mary's Church, Hailsham 3.00 p.m.

Afterwards tea in Church lounge

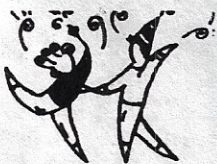


Sunday January 16th, 2005

East Sussex Cycling Association

Luncheon & Prize Presentation

'The Horseshoe', Windmill Hill



Saturday, January 22nd, 2005

Eastbourne Rovers/Phoenix Cycles Dinner/Dance

Afton Hotel, Eastbourne

Saturday, January 29th, 2005

Fellowship of 1066 Longmarkers Dinner/Dance

Yelton Hotel, Hastings



C.T.C. MID-WEEK SECTION



Those of you who ride around in tight formation chain-gangs on Wednesdays and speed past us regularly may be wondering why the groups you've seen lately are smaller than usual. There is a simple explanation - this is the time of year when riders with the Mid-Week Section take off on their cycling hols and we rarely know who is going to appear each week. Les Springett is probably the most travelled so far, he was off to Corsica with Derek Pritty, Bill Earl and Bill Jolly; then almost immediately on his return went cycle camping in Suffolk accompanied by Ron Street, Joyce Wickens, Pat Graham, Marie Shepherd, John & Joyce Taylor and Maurice Colburn. Home again for a quick rub down and a change of clothes and it was destination Norfolk with John Seviour and Ray Wells. Some of the aforementioned camped at the South of England Rally in May, including Pat who also continued her travels from Suffolk to Yorkshire. Joyce & her daughter Val visited Spain, and Pat & Roger

Bacon are spending a fortnight there at this moment. The Isitts have been to Wales and the Palmers to France, Mont Ventoux was on the latter's itinerary but a last minute decision saw them going up by car not bike!! Several, including the Draders, tackled the Dieppe Raid and no doubt there will be a further exodus when Le Tour begins. John Manville regularly rides with the St. Valery club on his frequent visits to his pied-à-terre in France and a morning randonnée followed by an afternoon event for veteran racing cyclists found him in some elite company on Fathers Day with a number of one time professional riders on the start sheet; these included Renée Voler, Eddy Lefranc (team-mates of Jacques Anquetil), Pierre Poulingur who rode in the 1957 T de F), Daniel Yves and Alphonse Legranger. It is expected that the Semain Federale will also attract those with wanderlust in a few weeks time.

For those homebodies who are happy to drift around the Hailsham Basin, we have had a full programme of rides. The picnickers have been fortunate with the weather and enjoyed their first primus stove ride of the year at the end of May. The next is scheduled for September 1st and in the meantime they are happy to enjoy their sandwiches in a selection of churchyards and recreation grounds.

Socially, we enjoyed our Festive Lunch in February. A capacity crowd of eighty gathered at Bodle Street village hall at mid-day and it was with mixed feelings that we learnt a clash with the Play School meant lunch was delayed for an hour. Some got a few more miles in but by far the greater number hot-footed the few yards to the White Horse to prepare themselves; it was a lively crowd who eventually sat down to enjoy the usual gastronomic feast we have come to expect from our friends in the W.I., a tentative attempt at cross-toasting and a poignant song from Ron Ball helped proceedings along and we were pleased that a number of our old friends joined us. We're all hoping that our Anniversary Lunch will be as successful.



Baggy Shorts

Ride the ESCA Reliability Trial on October 31st

The ESCA affiliated club team to have the greatest number of riders finishing in their chosen times will hold the Charles Robson Trophy for a year. It's never too early to start enthusing your members to take part.



Start and finish at
Laughton village hall or
Groombridge village hall



You never know who you may see around the course. **See page 4 for details.**

Chris Hewitt of the Veteran Cycle Club recently wrote to the local newspapers in Bexhill and Hastings asking for information about a one time resident of St. Leonards. He is trying to trace Francis Fowler, a past member of the V.C.C. It's believed that he and his family moved to the West Country during the '80s. Chris believes that Francis may be able to provide information about George Herbert Stancer, a subject that Chris is researching. If you have knowledge of Francis' whereabouts please contact Chris at 1 Coleswood Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1EF.



Live-wire Jim Hollands was the driving force behind an event organised by Rye Wheelers to raise funds for the local St. John's Ambulance.

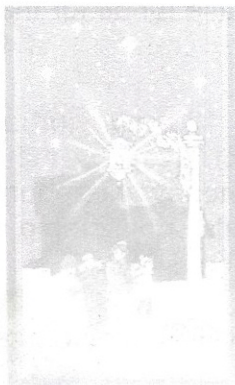
The crowds were attracted to the 12 hour turbo bike marathon (first rider was the Mayor of Rye), by the Town Crier and a lively band and soon the money was pouring in. A raffle, pound coin collection and rider's sponsorship raised almost £2,000 towards a new ambulance.

Pictured left are Jim Hollands and Mervyn Robins of the Rye Wheelers.



Bike Week was welcomed in East Sussex this year with a BikeFest organised by the County Council. After enjoying a gentle potter around the lanes, criss crossing with a good number of other cyclists, I decided to pop in to the headquarters at Firlie Place for Sunday lunch. This was my first opportunity to use the new cycle path alongside the A27 (very nice it is too), and I experienced my first adrenaline rush for many years when I launched myself off the path to cross the main road. If motorists were aware that there may be cyclists crossing they were ignoring the information and I felt exhilarated when I attained the other side of the road safely. The first people I saw were John Dutson and Stu Greenway enjoying a ploughman's lunch. John was hot from the East Sussex CA 50 where he had been helping Barbara Atkins with the timekeeping at the 25 mile point. He wasn't sure who'd won as he'd had to dash away but knew it was somebody from a club with a very short name in a time of 1h 53m. Stu said he had been tooted when he crossed the road and John said it was because the lady owner of the horn had been looking at him - and only saw Stu at the last minute. Sitting in the sunshine I enjoyed watching the stunt riders and also the recumbents being tried out by the visitors. There were a lot of tiny children riding safely on the grass and had I arrived earlier I would have seen a procession of Bentleys and Rollers carrying Lord Gage's luncheon guests, the driver of each car cautiously avoiding the young riders as they made their way to the house. There were a number of old friends, Rick & Val Stringer, Chris Beckingham and Peter Gates among others, promenading in the sunshine; traders included the Attwoods and there was a vigorous band in the beer tent. Obviously there can be improvements and we have to wait and see if this will be an annual event. Personally I thought this was the best wheeze yet for spending my council tax.

A week later, on a sunny but chilly day, the local CTC promoted a couple of randonnées - 60k and 100k; among the riders was a strong contingent from Eastbourne Rovers, including Graham and two of his Ladeys - in fact the whole family were reunited at Ringmer H.Q. as Nicola had ridden from Brighton to join the others so that she and Sarah could take Graham out for his Father's Day treat. In spite of competition from the London to Brighton ride the two events were well supported. With the Surrey/Sussex vets 25 on the Maresfield course, won of course by Harry Featherstone from Paul Woodman and Ron Rogers, I think it can truthfully be said that this area was well served during Bike Week.



Cyclists Carol Service
Saturday, December 4th 2004
3.00 p.m.

St. Mary's Parish Church, Hailsham

Afterwards - tea in the church lounge

All are welcome

No charge but collection for charity



BRIGHTON MITRE C.C.

It may seem rather early to mention the social season but I am in the process of organising our 110th Anniversary Celebration and Prize Presentation. At the moment it looks as if the cost will be around £12.50 but this will be confirmed shortly. It will be held after the end of season 25 on Sunday, 24th October and the venue is the Steyning Centre. If anybody reading this is interested in joining Mitre members please contact me, Frank Blake at 5 Suffolk Street, Hove BN3 5FN (☎ 01273 885332 or e-mail fjblake@waitrose.com.). We'll be pleased for anyone from E.S.C.A. to join us.

That's for the future. Now for the past. Mitre members have been busy during the first part of the year. Tristan Court recorded a 23 minute ride in the ESCA 10 on May 22nd and the following day went round the 25 course in 58m 52s. At the end of May, Mitre won the team prize in the S.C.A. 50 promoted by Robin Johnson. The event was won by Steve Dennis (E.G.C.C.) in 1h 54m 32s and our team comprised Tristan Court (10th in 2h 7m 29s), Mark Skinner (2h 11m 27s) and Nick Haskell (2h 14m 14s). Robin Johnson completed the course in 2h 31m 57s. The following day Robin promoted a hilly 10. Mike Coyle, V.C. Etoile) won in 25m 04s, an event record. We had three riders (in a field of eighteen) in this event. Andrew Green was 6th in 26m 58s and Robin 15th in 31m 54s.

The ESCA 10 clashed with our cycle jumble sale at Steyning, this was not so well supported as usual but we did manage to make a small profit. In future though, we've decided to have only one cycle jumble, possibly in November.

We are changing our club-night to Wednesday evenings, for the Summer at least while the track racing is on. We don't get much support on Fridays so maybe more will turn up at the track to cheer our riders, we will have at least four competing plus juniors. The season at Preston Park got off to a good start, with fifty seven riders including the children. There is so much enthusiasm from the riders, and there is a very competitive spirit, it would be wonderful if we could get more spectators.

On May 16th I completed a five mile sponsored walk in aid of the Brighton Heart Support Trust; all money raised goes to help patients in the Cardiac Unit. I have received tremendous support from them and the Brighton Take Heart Group who organise Wednesday evening circuit training. I found that this helped me tremendously. I also recently had a ride with Ray Smith around the Laughton-Ripe area. We did about fifteen miles and it was good to be out in the lanes instead of along the sea front and it brought a lot of good memories of past cycling.

Ray Smith organised a trip to the Paris-Roubaix for myself and two other club members. They picked me up at Sevenoaks and we drove to Dover for the ferry and then, arriving in France, we had the long drive to Flanders. There was a wonderful atmosphere and the speed of the riders was mind-blowing, especially on the cobbles. We tried to ride on the cobbles and I found it almost impossible, even for a short distance. The spectators turned out in their thousands and their enthusiasm was amazing. Nothing can beat seeing these races live! We had a wonderful day out, thank you Ray.

Until next time.

Frank Blake

