

28.3.1900 P7C1.

CYCLING

Note: This item lacks a "Dick Turpin" sub-title, but style and content shout that it is probably Richard Long's. For that reason is it filed here.

It is followed immediately by - "SUCCESS OF THE EXCELSIOR CLUB".

THE ANNUAL REPORT. also of 28.3.1900.

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p>THE Excelsior's dinner went off extremely well on Wednesday, nearly forty putting in an appearance at the festive board, over which their President presided.</p> <p>Yet again has he put up a cup for competition. This time, however, it will not be won outright in one race, as in previous years, but will be competed for on different lines, not yet, I believe, decided upon.</p> <p>I also understand something was said on the subject of a punch-bowl, on the occasion of the next Club paper chase; but I must be wary on this subject, lest the sudden influx of new members, each one with a lust for punch writ large upon his countenance, prove too great a strain upon the accommodation of the Club.</p> <p>The notice of the Club's annual meeting, which takes place to-night, bears upon the agenda notice of a motion that the Club shall invest in the new Recreation Ground.</p> <p>This, in my opinion, would be a step in the right direction, and I hope to see the Club take up shares. The movement has, beyond question, come about with the whole and sole idea of encouraging all forms of athletic sports, and demands the support, not only of individuals interested in athletic sports, but also that of every Club existing for the purpose, wholly or in part, of promoting these sports.</p> <p>On Thursday last the Sussex Centre Council of the N.C.U. assembled at the Albion Hotel, to hold their first meeting in Worthing.</p> <p>The worthy Hon. Sec. of the Excelsior C.C. welcomed each of the delegates with a hearty hand-shake as they entered the room, and did all in his power to make them feel at home.</p> <p>I really admired the most admirable tactics he displayed at the meeting. He opened the engagement at long range with refreshments all round, and then got upon his legs to make a flank attack, with the view of ascertaining the formation of the enemy, and to see how the ground lay regarding the chances of obtaining a permit to run a Centre Championship here this year.</p> <p>Advancing under cover by informing the Centre</p>	<p>how loyal we were to the Union and what a lot we were prepared to do to assist them, he gallantly pressed on and opened another phase of the battle by telling them of our good financial position and the phenomenal success which has attended our meetings; and then, fixing bayonets, he drove home a desperate charge, and asked there and then for the much-needed permit!</p> <p>All I can say is that, whether the permit is granted or not, the Excelsior's Hon. Sec. did all that any General could possibly do; and if the Club have no other claim upon the Centre, the representations made by their Hon. Sec. last Thursday certainly should stand them in good stead when the Centre allots the various Championships.</p> <p>The Centre is evidently fully cognisant of the attractions which Worthing holds out to cyclists. The District Representative was instructed to secure three hotels in the town for inclusion in the forthcoming N.C.U. Handbook, and further, to appoint a representative for Findon, who also is to contract with a hostelry there for the use of cyclists.</p> <p>The dry though cold weather we have been having lately has tempted out some of our local speed brigade, and already I hear accounts of fierce sprints up this or that hill, and long "slogs" of from twenty to forty miles, mostly undertaken with a view of reducing the quantity of adipose tissue which some of the aforesaid "fiers" have piled on during the lazy winter months.</p> <p>Last Wednesday afternoon two or three riders—who, perhaps, had better be nameless—betook themselves to Chichester, by way of an appetising preliminary to their Club's dinner, which came off that night. After leading a somewhat "fast" life from Worthing through Arundel, they reached the Cathedral town more than a little parched, and ordered tea at a restaurant. An enterprising member of the party, however, discovered that, at the various tables, the small cream jugs were well supplied with the precious liquid, and he, with a promptness worthy of a better cause, forthwith laid the said jugs under contribution, with the result that his thirst was quenched, and there was scarcely a vestige of cream left in the room.</p> <p>The author of the depredations, however,</p>	<p>The author of the depredations, however, escaped before the cream was missed, but I smile when I imagine the way in which the next wicked scorcher will be welcomed at that erstwhile trustful restaurant.</p> <p>I hear the party found the road to Chichester in fairly good trim, the surface being all that could be expected. The road to Brighton is somewhat better than in previous years, the last mile having been much improved during this winter, and King's-road also affords grand going now. The bugbear of this road is, of course, the portion through Southwick and Portlade, the unevenness of which is trying to the last degree, and causing</p> <p>the distinction for the Worthing to Brighton jaunt of being the worst ten miles in Sussex.</p> <p>I notice the usual Easter Race Meeting is billed to take place at Preston Park, under the auspices of the Brighton C.C.</p> <p>The programme will include a mile handicap and a half-mile scratch, with six guinea first prizes, also a novices' open mile handicap.</p> <p>J. W. Mills, the rider who has secured a certain amount of notoriety through riding long cranks and high gears, has flung down the gauntlet, and challenges any amateur to a five miles' race at this meeting.</p> <p>This seems somewhat premature, as only a very few men are fit by Easter; besides which he will have ample opportunity of meeting any would-be opponent at the Five Miles Championship, and other similar distance races later in the season.</p> <p>I hear, however, that Di Villa has accepted the challenge, and will try conclusions with Mills at the Easter Meeting. This ought to attract a number of people, as, when fit, there is little, if any, difference between these riders in the way of speed, though their tactics must necessarily vary if Mills still bestrides his high-g geared machine, which naturally prevents the man being so nimble as a rider on a moderate gear.</p> <p>The Southern C.C. are again running a six hours' amateur race at the Palace, to open the season. It is to take place on Saturday week, and is being looked for with interest, as more than one star has made his debut in one of these events. Should the weather turn much colder, it will not be unlike a North Pole expedition, I imagine, prowling round a track for six hours in a somewhat flimsy path racing suit.</p>
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