

CYCLING

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Turpin: 6.6.1900 P2C3.

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.</p> <p>WHAT a windy Whitsun! The sturdy nor'-eastern made it hard work for some, though it answered the purpose of the stream of riders journeying from London down to Worthing and Brighton. I saw numbers of these, upon reaching the summit of Washington Bostal, put on a broad smile and free-wheel it down to Findon—a nice little run.</p> <p>The roads in this part were in a very loose condition, and punctures were the order of the day, both on Sunday and Monday, Captain Young, of the Excelsior C.C., being wounded in the tyre for the first time in two years, whilst I added six patches to my collection.</p> <p>The Excelsior men were in great force at Chichester, to see their man W. R. Paine do his bit. As he succeeded in running second in the five miles scratch race, and also winning a third in the mile handicap, and getting placed in his heat of the half-mile, everyone acquainted with the shouting powers of the Club can imagine the noise they made every time "Bert" passed the part of the ground upon which they had taken up their position. A full-grown howitzer would not have beaten it.</p> <p>Two other Club men were intending to compete at this meeting, but I suppose the attractions of a long spin on the road proved stronger at the last moment than those of grass track racing.</p> <p>Somewhat of a novelty was introduced at the</p>	<p>Somewhat of a novelty was introduced at the Chichester meeting in the way of a race for motor cycles and cars, but it did not impress me as being a very likely thing to catch on with the public, the speed depending simply upon the power of the engine, whilst of course the terrific sprint with which a cycle race finishes up is entirely absent in a motor race.</p> <p>The race at Chichester was won by a lap or two by Shippam, of Chichester; the scratch man, Tommy Adcock, being unable to coax his tricycle into any speed at all.</p> <p>Many local sportsmen will be glad to hear J. D. Foster, the old veteran, has once more succeeded in winning the scratch three miles race for the Chichester Club's Challenge Badge, a victory which also gives him the title of Club Champion for the year.</p> <p>On the road just outside Brighton an enthusiastic statistician had posted himself on Whit Sunday to take a census of the number of cyclists who passed him.</p> <p>I fear, however, he endeavoured to go into detail a little too much, as he hawled out to all riders going south to know if they had come down from London.</p> <p>Cyclists are apt to be impatient under little catechisms of this sort; in fact, I have known of cases where they have tried to avoid them when an officer of the law was desirous of doing the catechising, and it would not surprise me to learn that the man with the notebook received some rude replies to his questions. I know one young man who had ridden from Lewes, who, when asked if he was from London, replied in the affirmative!</p> <p>Training operations are now in full swing at</p>	<p>the Park each morning, several men having commenced work in view of the Evening Race Meeting and other races.</p> <p>I think, however, one can easily overdo work of this sort. The morning air is unsuitable for fast work, and the heavy dew makes the track slow, so that if a man does not guard against it he is likely to find after some time he is slower in his sprint, which is, of course, the very thing he wishes to avoid.</p> <p>A judicious practice at sprinting and rounding the bends should be beneficial; all ordinary slogging is, in my opinion, of more service on the road, as the speed qualities of a road more nearly resemble those of a dry, well-rolled track, than do those to be found on the dew-soaked grass.</p> <p>It is often asserted the Club run is dead, but such is not the case in this part of the world. The West Tarring Club turned out heavily as usual last Wednesday, whilst the Excelsior Club, whose runs have come to life again under the rule of Captain Young, had a jolly party of eight on their Ashington run.</p> <p>Next Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. run to Steyning, whilst the Tarring C.C. journey to Ashington.</p> <p>On the following Wednesday, June 20th, the West Tarring Club intend processioning in aid of the Indian Famine Fund, in which charitable and worthy object the Excelsior Club are joining them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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