

Back to triple-asterisk separators

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.</p> <p>THE condition of the roads, so large a factor in the sum of the cyclists' happiness, now leaves nothing to be wished for, and between the showers riding is a perfect bliss.</p> <p>As I write my Gossip I have just returned from a run round of about fifty miles, embracing Arundel, Ford, Barnham, Chichester, etc., and I never recollect finding better riding.</p> <p>The flat lanes round Ford and Barnham way, which so irresistibly remind one of Wisbeach and the Fen district, are especially good. I hardly saw a loose patch in twenty miles of them.</p> <p>The event of paramount importance in the local cycling world during the past week is, of course, the Excelsior C.C.'s Evening Meeting.</p> <p>The races go to show a great improvement in the strength of the Club from a speed merchant's point of view. Certainly few similarly placed Clubs can show better class, though Littlehampton came so near in the Inter-Club race.</p> <p>One of our men, Harry Shaw, was not riding in anything like his proper form. He has, I feel sure, somewhat overtrained himself, or he would have shown to far greater advantage.</p> <p>As will be seen by the account of the meeting, in another part of this paper, he has come out of his novitiate, scoring a first in the Novices' Mile; the Club Mile and Half-mile going to Paine and Chilton respectively.</p> <p>The Inter-Club race provided grand sport, the event ending in a tie on the first trial after a magnificent race. The second trial was won cleverly for Worthing by Paine and Chilton, who, two laps from home, made their effort, and, each pacing for one lap, succeeded in getting home first and second.</p> <p>The other Worthing men, Jackson and Peter, rode very well too, but the latter had the hard luck to tear the sole nearly off his shoe, thus losing a point for Worthing which he would otherwise have accounted for, and which he had well earned seeing he changed machines twice in the race.</p> <p>The novelty of the evening, the military</p>	<p>The novelty of the evening, the military display, went off very well. The desperate fighting and fearful carnage which ensued round "Homefield Kopje" touched everyone's interest, and when the British force under "Lord Bobs Case" carried the position and captured the Boers under "Oot Paul Nockels," and marched triumphantly round the track, their enthusiasm was great.</p> <p>Oom's absolutely heartbroken and desponding manner was very pathetic. The discipline shown by the Church Lads' Brigade called forth the admiration of all, and great credit is due to the members of the Amateur Boat Club and the Tarring C.C., who helped to swell the number of the "lads in khaki."</p> <p>Taking the evening's entertainment all through, I consider it was very good, and the opinion of several of the leading workers at a little meeting afterwards was that no one could complain of not having had their money's worth.</p> <p>Last Thursday W. R. Paine was riding at Gosport and demonstrated the fact that he still retains his form by winning a first and a second prize.</p> <p>On Wednesday next the Excelsior C.C. are arranging their annual strawberry feed at Washington. Captain Young is keen on making this fixture as popular as it has hitherto been, and will be pleased to sell tickets to any cyclist, whether member or not, at 1s. 6d., which includes both the tea and the strawberry feed.</p> <p>Last year a concert and dance were held after the main business, and the same thing is contemplated on this occasion, so the fixture should go well.</p> <p>The latest development in the way of military cycling is a scheme for manoeuvres in the neighbourhood of Shoreham and Brighton. It is proposed to utilise a force of 2,000 armed cyclists to defend the country from an imaginary invasion, but as the cycling force will be practically an undisciplined horde I think but little real knowledge of the utility of the cycle in warfare will be gained therefrom.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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Researcher's note.

Had Richard Long any knowledge of military training and discipline he would not have dismissed the soldiers involved as an "undisciplined horde", but rather as men already intensively trained and battle-ready. I'm please to tell that his tone softens in later reports.