

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.</p> <p>THE roads, on Sunday last, were just beginning to get into a loose condition, but should the promised rainfall come off they will soon be as good as ever again.</p> <p>Early this week I rode to Kingston-on-Thames and found the Surrey roads, excepting the Leatherhead to Kingston bit, in far better order than the Sussex tracks.</p> <p>Remembering the violent and unreasoning crusade against cyclists upon which Kingston entered last year, in which the Mayor and all the local representatives of the law vied with one another as to who should display the greatest zeal in the cause, I was somewhat taken aback when I made my first acquaintance with a Kingston policeman.</p> <p>This particular "peeler," who was in ordinary cycling rig, hung on to me near Leatherhead, and then made a sprint as though to "snork" me, but changed his mind after a bit and we went along together chatting pleasantly, he going out of his way to pilot me to the part of the town I wanted.</p> <p>He tells me no scorchers have been hauled up this year as yet, and that the evil is dying out. I could not help wishing there were more practical cyclists in the ranks of the police; we should have less misunderstandings with the men in blue than is the case now.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Last Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. kept St.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>Last Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. kept St. Strawberry Day at a conveniently situated temple at Washington.</p> <p>The turn-out amounted to a hundred and eight, nine dozen of whom enjoyed themselves to their utmost capacity. What astonished me was the rapid way in which the old became young, and the young got still younger at this excellently arranged run.</p> <p>After strawberries and cream, together with a light tea, came a speech from the Club Honorary Secretary cordially welcoming one and all.</p> <p>This over, an adjournment was made to a large room, in which the whole company, now on the best of terms with themselves and each other.</p>	<p>Like all good things the end came far too soon, Captain Young giving the order to start for home soon after ten o'clock. However, we had a promenade concert all the way home with Chinese lanterns going, about six or eight different songs being rendered (?) at a time.</p> <p>That most versatile athlete, "Sam" Clarke, together with "Uncle" Beck of the Brighton C.C., are out with a challenge to ride any other two amateur riders whose total age equals theirs, which is 101 years; the race to be run with tandems, at a distance to be agreed upon by all.</p> <p>I should think they would prove a big handful to the other crew, as they are a couple of old riders who still put in pretty heavy mileages. "Sam" was busy at cricket last Saturday, and was very useful for his side too, as he, together with his partner, made a stand at the wickets and piled up fifty runs between them, thus turning the tide and enabling his Club to win against their old conquerors, Goring.</p> <p>The remainder of the N.C.U. Amateur Championships were run off on Saturday at Lonsdale Park, Worthing. A. S. Ingram, who won the quarter mile a fortnight ago, carried off the five miles' honours, thus retaining the title of five miles' champion which he won last year; the twenty five miles' championship was won by W. S. Ramsey, a Midlander, last year's winner, Harry Payne, running second.</p> <p>A nasty accident occurred to a South London rider on Sunday evening. He was hanging on to a motor trike which pulled up short, bringing the poor fellow down an awful whack. He was removed to a hospital in an unconscious state and is still in a very dangerous condition. Pace off a motor, when not too warm, is doubtless very tempting, but the hanger-on should remember that a motor pulls up in a tenth of the distance a cyclist usually takes. Forgetting this has caused a large number of spills this year.</p> <p>Runs for Wednesday: Worthing Excelsior C.C., Ashington; West Tarring, C.C. Arundel.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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After strawberries and cream, together with a light tea, came a speech from the Club Honorary Secretary cordially welcoming one and all.

This over, an adjournment was made to a large room, in which the whole company, now on the best of terms with themselves and each other, whiled away the rest of the evening with song and dance.

I am unable to give a programme of the singing, for the reason that I took part in the dancing, and, like the other hoppers, was fain to take the opportunity a song offered of strolling round the meadow in the hope of getting cool, for verily it is hot work when we trip the light fantastic toe in July weather.

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