

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.</p> <p>At last the oppressive, vitality-sapping heat is on the wane, and we can ride in a degree of comfort we have not enjoyed for some time.</p> <p>Perhaps the members of the Excelsior C.C. will turn up in greater numbers to the runs once again. The attendance last Wednesday was small.</p> <p>Captain Young and some of the "boys" are arranging a night ride to London, leaving Worthing Town Hall at 12 p.m. on Saturday next. Pace moderate; all are invited.</p> <p>A meeting of the Sussex Centre of the N.C.U. takes place to-morrow night, at the headquarters in Brighton. I mention it in case any more racing men desire to apply for licences.</p> <p>The speed division of the Excelsior C.C. is now settling down to steady work in view of the Club's "Annual" on Wednesday week. Ex-Captain Chilton and "Bert." Paine were out the other day on a tandem, with some of the young blood; and from what I hear, the racing material now in the Club is of a higher standard than it has ever been, and the race for the President's Challenge Cup will show the town that we have as thick a lot of fliers as any Club in Sussex.</p> <p>Yet another fork breakage has occurred, this time with serious results. The unfortunate rider, a London man staying in the town, was on the road near Findon, when the fore part of his machine collapsed, bringing him down heavily, with the result that he sustained such damage as necessitated his removal to the local Infirmary, where he is, at the time I write, making steady progress towards recovery.</p> <p>These accidents go to show the necessity of keeping a watchful eye on one's steel steed in order to detect the early symptoms of a coming breakage, for it is very rarely the case that any part of the machine will suddenly give way without any notice whatever. A suspicious-looking crack in the enamel, a faulty link or rivet in a chain, strange noises, or a general looseness about the frame, are little warnings which if heeded would save, and have saved, many a rider from a serious spill.</p> <p>The official organ of the N.C.U. devotes con-</p>	<p>The official organ of the N.C.U. devotes considerable space in the current number to the scheme drawn up by Major-General Sir F. Maurice, K.C.B., in which he proposes to utilise armed cyclists for home defence purposes, and as so many prominent local wheelmen are now becoming efficient with the rifle, a brief resumé of the worthy General's projected manoeuvres, which he hopes to bring off on August Bank Holiday, may be of interest.</p> <p>The imaginary foe advances northward, from Brighton and Shoreham; the number of roads of strategic importance within the field of operations is about twenty-four.</p> <p>He proposes to allot 2,000 cyclist soldiers to each of these roads, the bodies being divided into six relays of 300 each, who are to be continually in touch with the enemy, harassing him with their fire both day and night, driving cattle beyond the reach of his foraging parties, and destroying everything which would be of service to him; whilst the remaining two hundred men on each road keep the fighting relays supplied with food and ammunition.</p> <p>This, briefly, is the scheme which General</p>	<p>This, briefly, is the scheme which General Maurice has drafted, and which has now secured the sympathy of the Commander-in-Chief, and the approval of the Secretary of State. To test its practicability General Maurice will on Monday next put all the available cyclist Volunteers from every Metropolitan Corps into the field; and further, he invites all provincial cycle sections within riding distance to join the force, as he wishes to obtain a definite idea as to the time it would take to mobilise such a force as he contemplates.</p> <p>The demonstration should go a long way towards proving that in civilised warfare of to-day the cycle is a necessity. Personally, I wish the Rifle Club movement was a little more developed in Sussex, as this goes hand in hand with cycling, and had these Clubs been available, the case of the cycling riflemen would have been greatly strengthened.</p> <p>Last Saturday witnessed the series of races at one, five, and fifty miles for the Roberts Shield, a trophy put up for competition between the various Clubs affiliated to the Southern Counties Cycling Union.</p> <p>Some good racing was witnessed, the trophy eventually going to the famous Silverdale C.C., who put such quality as F. G. Crowley, Le Grys, and C. A. Sedgwick in the field.</p> <p>Next Wednesday's runs are: Worthing Excelsior C.C., Angmering; West Tarring C.C., Shoreham.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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Note: Richard now makes a more common-sense commentary on the proposed cycling soldiers