



CYCLING,

DICK TURPIN'S WEEKLY GOSSIP.

ANOTHER Heat wave! Sun hats and iced drinks all round! If ever I experienced such weather in my "natural" as we are getting this season!

The roads, though, are in good trim, thanks to last week's rain. I was over the London road on Saturday night, and the going was grand - in fact, I don't think I ever found the surfaces better.

Going up I met about a hundred riders in different parts of the road, running down to Brighton or Worthing in batches of dozens and half dozens, for the most part. I was quite busy at times exchanging a cheery "Good-night!" as light after light flitted past and was lost in the night.

Last Wednesday was set apart by the Excelsiors for one of their periodical social evenings at Angmering, but owing to so many counter attractions in the way of polo matches, promenade concerts, the band, and sisters (of other fellows), the attendance was very meagre.

However, half-a-dozen of us reached Angmering, our entry being signalised by a terrific bang as Mr. W. Duffield 's tyre exploded. We had a high old time of it at the Lamb,

The Captain, who is always strong on socials, led off with a few songs, and almost all of us did something to "keep the pot boiling," the Misses Wilkinson very kindly accompanying upon the pianoforte.

So much talent was there upon this occasion that we held a second concert, which lasted all the way home, the effect being perhaps more unique than enchanting.

A local cycle agent showed me a front wheel of a safety the other day, which had been bent and buckled badly, beside being minus a lot of spokes.

The damage had been caused in a very simple way. The machine, like four out of every five, was fitted with detachable foot-rests, one of which had become loose, and, slipping down the fork blade, jammed the front wheel and caused the mischief.

This is not the first accident caused in this way which has happened to come under my notice, and I am therefore taking this opportunity of cautioning users of these foot-rests against allowing them to become loose.

The danger is increased by the fact that the most likely time for these to give way is when riding down hill, as they have then to bear the rider's feet.

The West Tarring C.C. were duly affiliated to the National Cyclists' Union at the last meeting of the Sussex Centre. I am pleased they have taken this step, thereby identifying themselves with a body which has done more to secure fair treatment for the cyclist than any other body in England.

Indeed, at this same meeting we had before us the case of a cyclist who had been roughly turned from the door of a Kentish inn, or public-house, and investigations are now being made, with the idea of teaching this landlord better manners towards cyclists.

The Centre Hon. Sec. was also instructed to worry the Sussex M.P.'s into promising their support to the Union's Railway Bill, which was read in the House of Commons early last month.

Arrangements, too, were made for the erection of one or two danger boards on awkward hills in Sussex.

This is a fair sample of a Sussex Centre monthly meeting, and ours is certainly not one of the largest of the twenty-four Centres in England, so it is plain that the Union is a body calling for the support of every Cycling Club.

Runs for Wednesday next: Worthing Excelsior C.C., Bramber; West Tarring C.C., Littlehampton.

DICK TURPIN