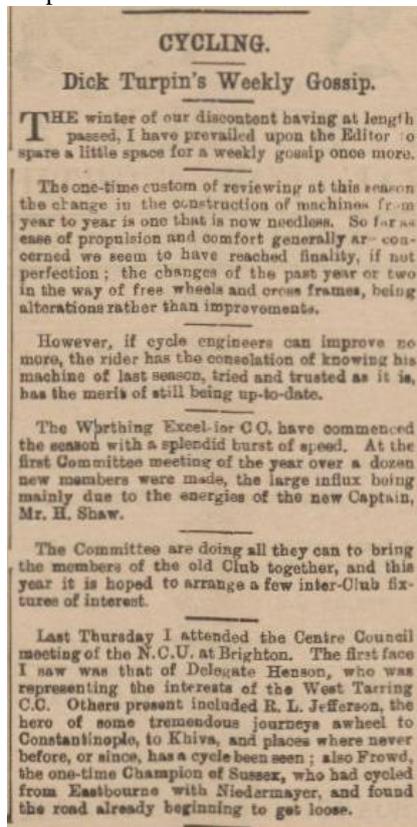
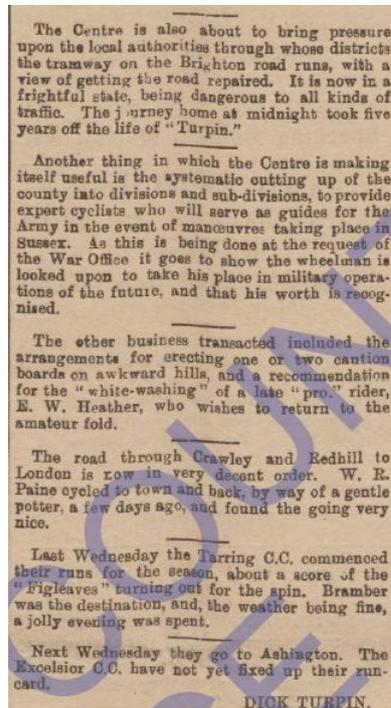


The first Richard Long "Dick Turpin" article of 1901.

Source: Worthing Gazette Archive at Worthing Local Studies Library
Turpin: 24.4.1901 P2C4.



The Centre has arranged to have one mile and



CYCLING

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.

THE winter of our discontent having at length passed, I have prevailed upon the Editor to spare a little space for a weekly gossip once more.

The one-time custom of reviewing at this season the change in the construction of machines from year to year is one that is now needless. So far as ease of propulsion and comfort generally are concerned, we seem to have reached finality, if not perfection; the changes of the past year or two in the way of free wheels and cross frames, being alterations rather than improvements.

However, if cycle engineers can improve no more, the rider has the consolation of knowing his machine of last season, tried and trusted as it is, has the merit of still being up-to-date.

The Worthing Excelsior C.C. have commenced the season with a splendid burst of speed. At the first Committee meeting of the year over a dozen

new members were made, the large influx being mainly due to the energies of the new Captain, Mr. H. Shaw.

The Committee are doing all they can to bring the members of the old Club together, and this year it is hoped to arrange a few inter-Club fixtures of interest.

Last Thursday I attended the Centre Council meeting of the N.C.U. at Brighton. The first face I saw was that of Delegate Henson, who was representing the interests of the West Tarring C.C. Others present included R.L. Jefferson, the hero of some tremendous journeys a wheel to Constantinople, to Khiva, and places where never before, or since, has a cycle been seen; also Frowd, the one-time Champion of Sussex, who had cycled from Eastbourne with Niedermayer, and found the road already beginning to get loose.

The Centre has arranged to have one mile and five miles County Championships this year, but has not yet granted them to any Club. The applicants so far are Worthing and the Eastbourne Rovers.

The Centre is also about to bring pressure upon the local authorities through whose districts the tramway on the Brighton road runs, with view of getting the road repaired. It is now in a frightful state, being dangerous to all kinds of traffic. The journey home at midnight took five years off the life of "Turpin."

Another thing in which the Centre is making itself useful is the systematic cutting up of the county into divisions and sub-divisions, to provide expert cyclists who will serve as guides for the Army in the event of manoeuvres taking place in Sussex. As this is being done at the request of the War Office it goes to show the wheelman is looked upon to take his place in military operations of the future, and that his worth is recognised.

The other business transacted included the arrangements for erecting one or two caution boards on awkward hills, and a recommendation for the "white-washing" of a late "pro." rider, E.W. Heather, who wishes to return to the amateur fold.

The road through Crawley and Redhill to London is now in very decent order. W.R. Paine cycled to town and back, by way of a gentle potter, a few days ago, and found the going very nice.

Last Wednesday the Tarring C.C. commenced

their runs for the season, about a score of the
"Fingleaves" turning out for the spin. Bramber
was the destination, and, the weather being fine,
a jolly evening was spent.

Next Wednesday they go to Ashington. The
Excelsior C.C. have not yet fixed up their run-
card.

DICK TURPIN