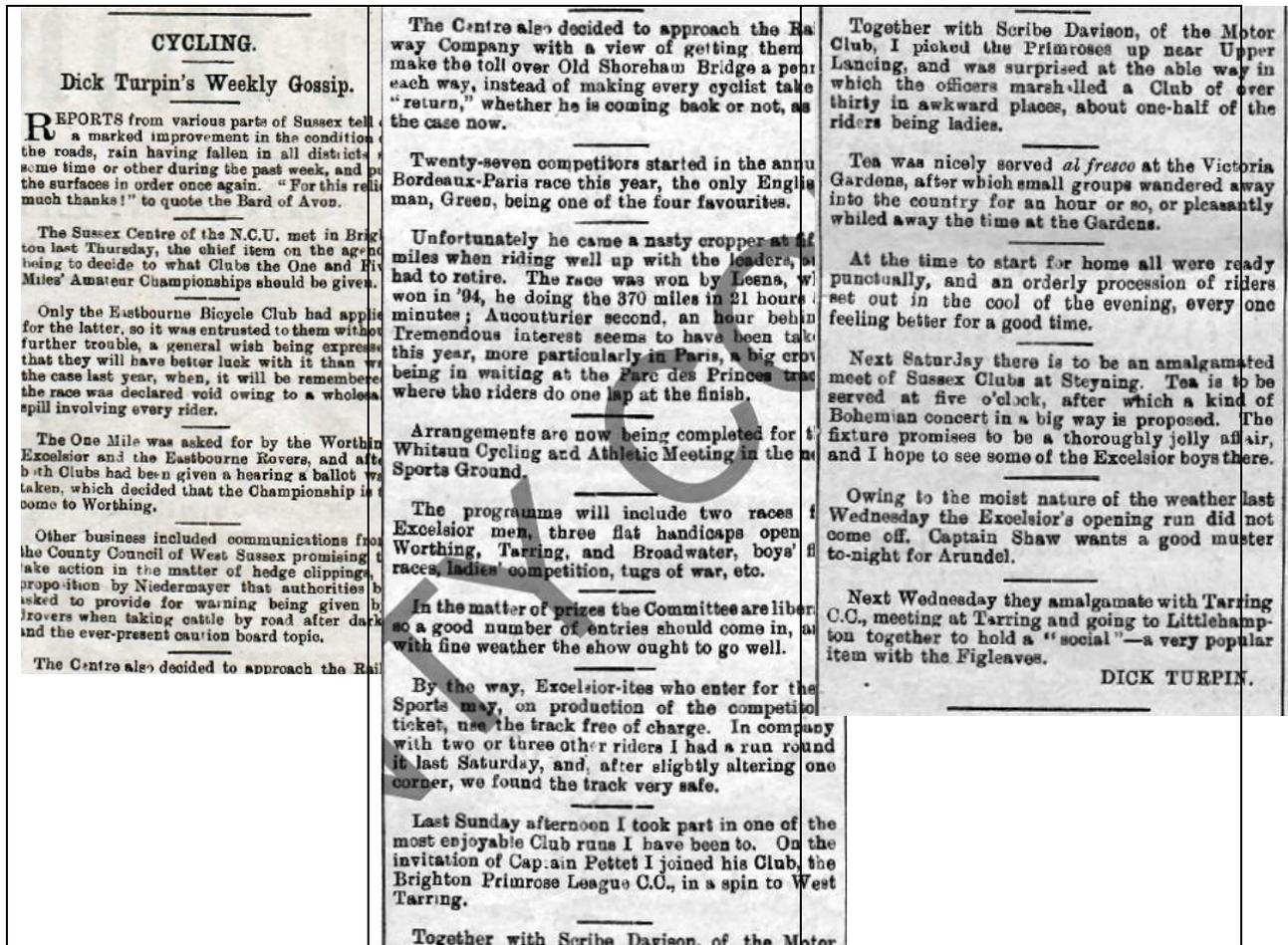


Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
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 Turpin - 15.5.1901 P2C5.



CYCLING

Dick Turpin's Cycling Gossip.

REPORTS from various parts of Sussex tell of a marked improvement in the condition of the roads, rain having fallen in all districts at some time or other during the past week, and put the surfaces in order once again. "For this relief much thanks!" to quote the Bard of Avon,

The Sussex Centre of the N.C.U. met in Brighton last Thursday, the chief item on the agenda being to decide to what Clubs the One and Five Miles' Amateur Championships should be given.

Only the Eastbourne Bicycle Club had applied for the latter, so it was entrusted to them without further trouble, a general wish being expressed that they will have better luck with it than was

the case last year, when, it will be remembered, the race was declared void owing to a wholesale spill involving every rider.

The One Mile was asked for by the Worthing Excelsior and the Eastbourne Rovers, and after both Clubs had been given a hearing a ballot was taken, which decided that the Championship is to come to Worthing.

Other business included communications from the County Council of West Sussex promising to take action in the matter of hedge clippings, a proposition by Niedermayer that authorities be asked to provide for warning being given by drovers when taking cattle by road after dark, and the ever-present caution board topic.

The Centre also decided to approach the Railway Company with a view of getting them to make the toll over Old Shoreham Bridge a penny each way, instead of making every cyclist take a return, whether he is coming back or not, as is the case now.

Twenty-seven competitors started in the annual Bordeaux-Paris race this year, the only Englishman, Green, being one of the four favourites.

Unfortunately he came a nasty cropper at fifty miles when riding well up with the leaders, and had to retire. The race was won by Lesna, who won in '94, he doing the 370 miles in 21 hours 54 minutes; Aucouttirier second, an hour behind. Tremendous interest seems to have been taken this year, more particularly in Paris, a big crowd being in waiting at the Parc des Princes track, where the riders do one lap at the finish.

Arrangements are now being completed for the Whitsun Cycling and Athletic Meeting in the new Sports Ground.

The programme will include two races for Excelsior men, three flat handicaps open to Worthing, Tarring, and Broadwater, boys' flat races, ladies competition, tugs of war, etc.

In the matter of prizes the Committee are liberal, so a good number of entries should come in, and with fine weather the show ought to go well.

By the way, Excelsiorites who enter for these Sports may, on production of the competitor's ticket, use the track free of charge. In company with two or three other riders I had a run round it last Saturday, and, after slightly altering one corner, we found the track very safe.

Last Sunday afternoon I took part in one of the

most enjoyable Club runs I have been to. On the invitation of Captain Pettet I joined his Club, the Brighton Primrose League C.C., in a spin to West Tarring.

Together with Scribe Davison, of the Motor Club, I picked the Primroses up near Upper Lancing, and was surprised at the able way in which the officers marshalled a Club of over thirty in awkward places, about one-half of the riders being ladies.

Tea was nicely served *al fresco* at the Victoria Gardens, after which small groups wandered away into the country for an hour or so, or pleasantly whiled away the time at the Gardens.

At the time to start for home all were ready punctually, and an orderly procession of riders set out in the cool of the evening, every one feeling better for a good time.

Next Saturday there is to be an amalgamated meet of Sussex Clubs at Steyning. Tea is to be served at five o'clock, after which a kind of Bohemian concert in a big way is proposed. The fixture promises to be a thoroughly jolly affair, and I hope to see some of the Excelsior boys there.

Owing to the moist nature of the weather last Wednesday the Excelsior's opening run did not come off. Captain Shaw wants a good muster to-night for Arundel.

Next Wednesday they amalgamate with Tarring C.C., meeting at Tarring and going to Littlehampton together to hold a "social" - a very popular item with the Figleaves.

DICK TURPIN.