

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
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<p>Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.</p> <p>THE small quantity of rain with which we were favoured last week certainly improved the roads to some extent, but they are still far from being perfect.</p> <p>A few days back I took an eighty-mile spin, with Rue Isted, of the Excelsior C.C., to Fareham and back, and the roads were still pretty loose in places. We suffered three punctures, all of which came as welcome rests to me, as Rue is pretty thick on a long slog.</p> <p>Riders who have sampled the Horsham and Brighton roads tell me both of them want rain too.</p> <p>Last Wednesday the Excelsior C.C., ran to Bramber, putting up at the Castle Hotel, where they were well treated, as Host Pearce is a member of their Club.</p> <p>About ten of them put in an appearance during the evening, whiling away the time with parlour quoits and other harmless pastimes. On the homeward journey order and comfort were to some extent sacrificed to the Moloch of Speed, as sprinting, chiefly up the hills, was indulged in continually, the veteran Sam Clark being one of the chief idolators.</p> <p>On the same day the West Tarring C.C. ran, together with the Steyning Club, to Brighton, where they were right royally entertained by the Brighton Central C.C.</p> <p>The Firleaves as usual turned out very strongly,</p>	<p>The Firleaves as usual turned out very strongly, mustering nearly thirty, and making about fifty when joined by the Steyning C.C. I hear they greatly enjoyed themselves, a really good concert being given, and one or two graceful speeches of welcome and good feeling being made.</p> <p>These amalgamated runs go far towards creating a feeling of brotherhood (and sisterhood too, for that matter!) between cyclists in general.</p> <p>The Excelsior C.C. have already commenced the arrangements for their big annual Race Meeting, which is to take place on the Tuesday after August Bank Holiday.</p> <p>Determined at all costs to have some superb sport, they have fixed up a larger programme than ever this year. The main features will be the One Mile Championship of Sussex, a five miles' scratch race, tandem pursuit race, and a couple of open handicaps. For the running men there will also be three open handicaps.</p> <p>The Committee have always recognised the necessity of being liberal in the way of prizes, with the result that the riding at their Sports has been the best in the South, but this year they have increased the value of the prizes to about £70, and intend to secure a finer lot of competitors than has yet been seen at any meeting in this part of the country.</p> <p>The new Honorary Race Secretaries, Messrs.</p>	<p>The new Honorary Race Secretaries, Messrs. W. R. Paine and Harry Shaw, are vigorously booming the meeting at this early date, and seeing that it follows several August Bank Holiday meetings down South, there is no doubt large numbers of men will make two days of it, and ride at Worthing on the Tuesday.</p> <p>There cannot be the slightest doubt that a day such as the Excelsior C.C. intend to promote is a very great attraction to the town. Many of us who personally know various racing men are well aware their friends seize the opportunity of a few days by the seaside on these occasions, and numbers make a point of spending their holiday time here as a result of these flying visits.</p> <p>Seeing this to be the case it is greatly to be hoped that local tradesmen and others interested in the prosperity of the town will assist the Club financially in what is really a big advertisement for Worthing amongst a very desirable section of the public.</p> <p>Training tickets, entitling the holder to the use of the track, dressing rooms, shower bath, etc., at the Sports Ground, at certain hours in the morning and evening, may now be had of the Secretary, Mr. H. N. Collet, at the moderate figure of half-a-crown.</p> <p>This should be a boon to those of our men who contemplate a proper course of training, with a view of competing in open races this year. The accommodation is really excellent.</p> <p>To-night Cap'n Shaw wants every Excelsior-ite at the Lamb, Angmering, where the Littlehampton C.C. meet them. Next Wednesday it is Washington. The West Tarring Club go to Shoreham next week.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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CYCLING.

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