

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
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 Turpin - 12.6.1901 P2C4.

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.</p> <p>WITH the weather now being supplied us it becomes a really important question where the roads are best.</p> <p>Last week-end I was out with some pals and we found good going on the Washington-Steysing road, and fairly good through Shoreham home. The road from Old Shoreham to Brighton was remarkably good, whilst the bit from Broadwater to Old Shoreham, and that from Bramber to Poynings, were both too foul for words. The Littlehampton road was moderately good.</p> <p>The Excelsiors' Annual Evening Meeting is arranged for Wednesday, July 3rd, at the Sports Ground. The programme is a very full one, including the one-mile President's Cup race, two-miles Club handicap, a team race with the Littlehampton Club, a bicycle race for boys under sixteen, two running races for boys under twelve and fourteen respectively, a couple of men's running races of one mile and 440 yards, and a one-mile walking race.</p> <p>In addition to these races there is to be a novelty in the shape of a hare and tortoise chase. In this a lady and gentleman start together, the partner scorches right round the track and overtakes her. The lady who rides the least distance before being overtaken is declared the winner. It should catch on, as results depend both upon the lady's skill and her horse-hair's speed.</p> <p>The programme is an exceedingly attractive one, and I hope to see the meeting as big a success as the Whit Monday event, which cleared £11. So far as the show itself goes, the July fixture is far the superior affair.</p> <p>Last Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. betook</p>	<p>Last Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. betook themselves to Angmering, where they fraternised with the Littlehampton C.C. The total muster was about thirty; both Clubs, under their Captains, Messrs. Shaw and Jones, being well represented.</p> <p>Reaching Angmering at 7.15, the earlier portion of the evening was passed with cricket and baseball. After this the party adjourned to the concert room at the Lamb, where they held one of those favourite impromptu entertainments, dear to the heart of the Clubman, which are concert, dance, and general social evening combined.</p> <p>With Miss Wilkinson most kindly presiding at the piano, some excellent songs, both sentimental and comic, were rendered by Messrs. Abbot, Clark, Duffield, Swain, Tree, Warner, and others. These, together with a few rollicking dances, brought the evening all too quickly to a close, and the two Clubs set out on their homeward journeys soon after ten o'clock, parting with a feeling that the evening had considerably enhanced the friendly interest each Club takes in the doings of the other.</p> <p>The journey home was somewhat marred for the Excelsiors, as one unfortunate member burst his tyre two or three times in rapid succession, and shortly afterwards one of the ladies came to grief, happily not injuring herself, though the machine was temporarily disabled.</p> <p>However, a mere man had turned out on a lady's machine, which he kindly placed at her disposal, and after a re-arrangement the Club set off with Sub-Captain Richardson carrying the damaged machine shoulder-high, and light-weight Jackson occupying a precarious perch on the step of another man's machine.</p> <p>Everyone took the delay light-heartedly, and</p>	<p>Everyone took the delay light-heartedly, and the whole of the distance home songs were kept going, the average being three distinct melodies (?) at once.</p> <p>The Tarring C.C. once again had a jolly run on Wednesday, when they went to Steysing. The venue for to-night has been changed from Shoreham to Arundel. Shoreham somehow fails to attract now the Swiss Gardens are not provided with music and are closed at sunset.</p> <p>It has been arranged to hold the annual Strawberry Feed at the Lamb, Angmering, this year, and it is hoped the fixture will be made a success by amalgamating the Worthing, Tarring, and Littlehampton Clubs together for the event. Poor strawberries!</p> <p>A few members of the Excelsior Club ran down to Southampton to see the local Volunteers immediately on their debarkation last Sunday.</p> <p>Sub-Captain Richardson, with two others, left Worthing at midnight on Saturday, arriving there at daybreak, whilst "Sam" Clark rode down on the Saturday afternoon. They all tell me that the road beyond Fareham is in a very rough state now; but "Sam" reports the strawberry crop is abundant, which is something to counterbalance even bad roads in a cyclist's estimation.</p> <p>They were lucky enough to have a brief conversation with our plucky fellows, who all looked fit; and they were able to be of a little service to them by sending wires to their waiting relatives.</p> <p>Next Saturday another meet of Sussex Clubs takes place, Burgess Hill being the scene of action on this occasion.</p> <p>Next Wednesday's runs are: Worthing E.C.C., Littlehampton; West Tarring C.C., Chichester, return via Lyminster.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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In addition to these races there is to be a

novelty in the shape of a hare and tortoise chase. In this a lady and gentleman start together, the former riding as slowly as possible, what time her partner scorches right round the track and overtakes her. The lady who rides the least distance before being overtaken is declared the winner. It should catch on, as results depend both upon the lady's skill and her worse-half's speed.

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ⁱ The landlord's daughter, pitching in as usual.

ⁱⁱ "Telegrams", still extant in the 1950s – the writer wrote his message on a Post Office form: the message was telegraphed to the post office nearest the recipient's address, typed out by teleprinter and hand-delivered. "Telegram boys" of the 1950s wore a smart blue Post Office uniform with red piping, and a pill-box hat.