

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
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<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.</p> <p>THE last Bank Holiday of the season is now "gathered home," but not before many a thousand cyclists have made good use of it. Thanks to the fine weather with which we were favoured!</p> <p>Cycling up to London on Saturday night I seemed to strike a continuous procession of wheelmen as soon as I passed slumbering Horley, where the Royal Mail coaches were changing at the Chequers.</p> <p>As I rode through Redhill and Croydon on to Norbury and London Bridge I met them in twos and threes, and now and then a dozen together, all bound for the South. 'Twas hard work to keep answering the cheery "Good-night!" of the endless stream of cyclists who were taking advantage of a perfect moonlight night to get on the first long spin of their August holiday run.</p> <p>Returning from the bumpy hard-paved Metropolis on Sunday morning I found the procession "still running" — like <i>Charley's Aunt</i>. Sometimes an enthusiastic young brother drove me to "hang on" to a passing bunch of riders; at times they "dropped" us; at others we passed them; but there was always the long procession wending to the South, Brighton or Worthing being the usual objective.</p> <p>I think I never saw the roads so crowded with wheelmen before. Probably the good condition of most of the highways accounted for the heavy turn out.</p> <p>At the Eastbourne Bicycle Club's Race Meeting on Monday W. K. Paine scored a most remarkable series of wins, bringing home all four first prizes, as well as the lap prize given in the Championship.</p> <p>The half mile he won off the 25 yards mark in 1min. 9 3-5sec., Hobcroft and Offen filling second and third places; in the mile he was given 150 yards for this success, but got home in 2min. 25 2-5sec., the same two men being second and third. The two miles' race found his start reduced from 100 yards to 70 in consideration of these wins, but even then he won the race, Ingenheimer second, and Hobcroft third, in 5min. 5 1-5sec.</p> <p>The Five Miles Championship of Sussex provided</p>	<p>The Five Miles Championship of Sussex provided him with another opportunity of showing his back wheel, and he did it all through the race, winning the lap prize and sprinting clean away at the finish; Ingenheimer and Offen being second and third. Time, 14min. 16 4-5sec.</p> <p>"Bert" is undoubtedly going better than ever. It is a very rare event for one man to "clean the board" at a meeting of this sort, especially for one who is giving considerable starts to every other competitor. The prizes consist of a silver tray, silver and glass salad bowl, silver candlesticks, a splendid case of silver salts, and the gold Championship medal, and they are all of remarkably good value.</p> <p>Wheelmen get extremely inconsiderate for the feelings of the agent and repairer just before holiday times, but a case I heard last week takes a lot of beating. A gentlemanly-looking rider, on being informed by the agent that his machine would be attended to in its turn—'twas the nineteenth job that had come in during the week—at once commanded that it should have priority over the others, on the plea that riders of his class were depended on to afford cycle repairers their means of subsistence, and he could see none of the other steeds could claim the honour of belonging to such a scion of the aristocracy!</p> <p>He had to wait his turn nevertheless: the cycle is a very democratic institution.</p> <p>Poase and Reynolds, the two brilliant Irish riders who took three out of the four English Championships, will be forming the subject of an investigation by the International Cyclists' Board shortly. It is alleged that their trainer wired to South Wales entering them for a meeting there, afterwards wiring to the promoters of the meeting for £10 to cover his expenses, which was refused.</p> <p>The riders repudiate all knowledge of the transactions, and the Irish Cyclists' Association was quite satisfied; but the English legislating body declined to allow the affair to rest without a full inquiry. It is to be hoped the men will clear themselves; the sport cannot afford to lose such good riders.</p> <p>Next Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. meet the Steyning Club at Findon and run with them to Patching Pond; the Figleaves ride to Ashington, where they meet the long distance section of their Club on their return from Horsham.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>	
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ⁱ Vague memory advises that about this time the Post Office had [reverted recently](#) ~~returned~~ to the road because ~~a a result~~ of increased railway charges. I shall try to give this comment more substance – in time

ⁱⁱ A popular play of the day, which had record runs wherever it was performed. The original London run reached 1,466 performances - see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charley%27s_Aun