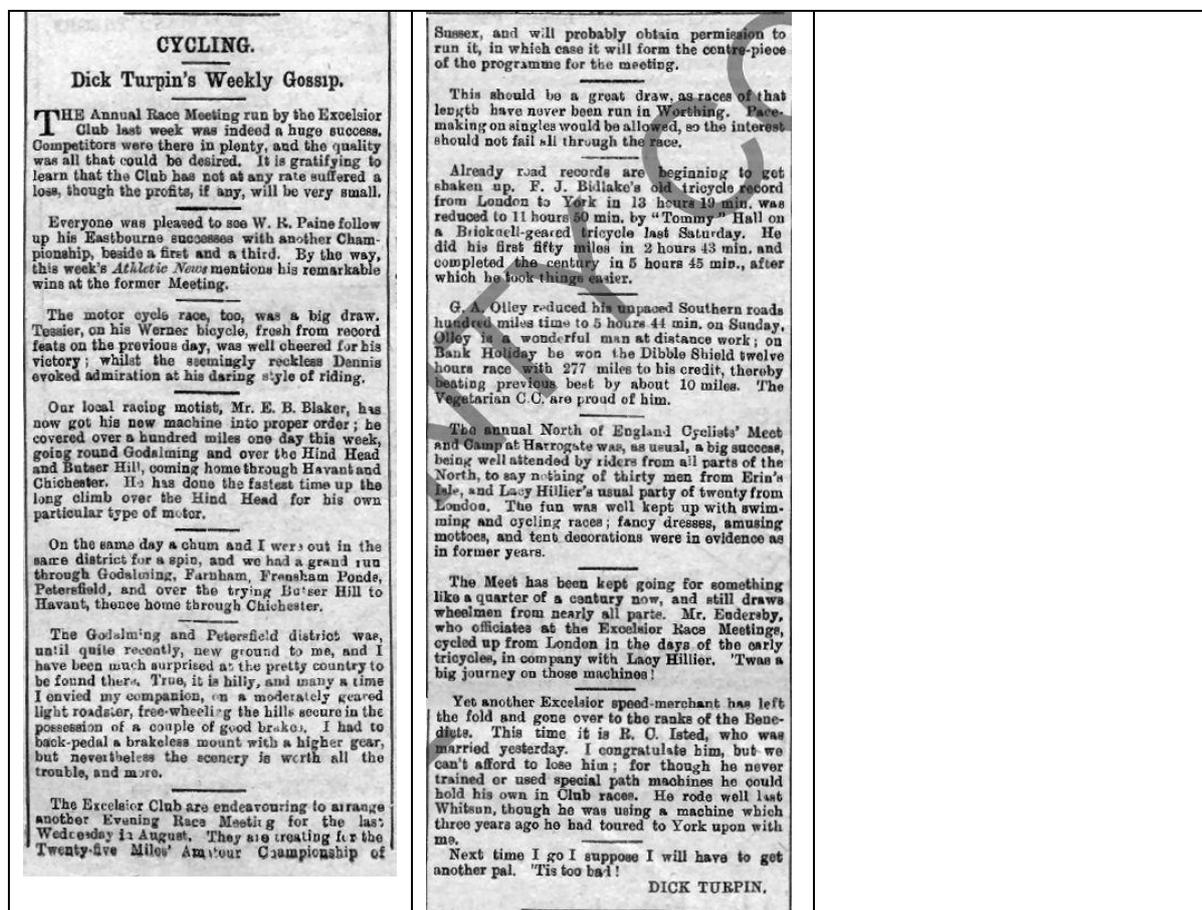


**Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.**  
**Source:** Worthing Gazette archive  
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**CYCLING**

**Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.**

**T**HE Annual Race Meeting run by the Excelsior Club last week was indeed a huge success. Competitors were there in plenty, and the quality was all that could be desired. It is gratifying to learn that the Club has not at any rate suffered a loss, though the profits, if any, will be very small.

Everyone was pleased to see W.R. Paine follow up his Eastbourne successes with another Championship, beside a first and a third. By the way, this week's *Athletic News* mentions his remarkable wins at the former Meeting,

The motor cycle race, too, was a big draw. Tessier, on his Werner bicycle, fresh from record feats on the previous day, was well cheered for his victory; whilst the seemingly reckless Dennis evoked admiration at his daring style of riding.

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Our local racing motist, Mr. E.B. Blaker, has now got his new machine into proper order; he covered over a hundred miles one day this week going round Godalming and over the Hind Head and Butser Hill, coming home through Havant and Chichester. He has done the fastest time up the long climb over the Hind Head for his own particular type of motor.

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On the same day a chum and I went out in the same district for a spin, and we had a grand run through Godalming, Farnham, Frensham Ponds, Petersfield, and over the trying Butser Hill to Havant, thence home through Chichester.

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The Godalming and Petersfield district was, until quite recently, new ground to me, and I have been much surprised at the pretty country to be found there. True, it is hilly, and many a time I envied my companion, on a moderately geared light roadster, free-wheeling the hills secure in the possession of a couple of good brakes. I had to back-pedal a brakeless mount with a higher gear, but nevertheless the scenery is worth all the trouble, and more.

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The Excelsior club are endeavouring to arrange another Evening Race Meeting for the last Wednesday in August. They are treating for the Twenty-five Miles' Amateur Championship of Sussex, and will probably obtain permission to run it, in which case it will form the centre-piece of the programme for the meeting.

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This should be a great draw, as races of that length have never been run in Worthing. Pace-making on singles would be allowed, so the interest should not fail all through the race.

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Already road records are beginning to get shaken up. F.T. Bidlake's old tricycle record from London to York in 13 hours 19 min, was reduced to 11 hours 50 min. by "Tommy" Hall on a Bricknell-gearred tricycle last Saturday. He did his first fifty miles in 2 hours 43 min. and completed the century in 5 hours 45 min., after which he took things easier.

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G.A. Olley reduced his unpaced Southern roads hundred miles time to 5 hours 44 min. on Sunday. Olley is a wonderful man at distance work; on Bank Holiday he won the Dibble Shield twelve hours race with 277 miles to his credit, thereby beating previous best by about 10 miles. The Vegetarian C.C. are proud of him.

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The annual North of England Cyclists' Meet and Camp at Harrogate was, as usual, a big success, being well attended by riders from all parts of the

North, to say nothing of thirty men from Erin's Isle, and Lacy Hillier's usual party of twenty from London. The fun was well kept up with swimming and cycling races; fancy dresses, amusing mottoes, and tent decorations were in evidence as in former years.

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The Meet has been kept going for something like a quarter of a century now, and still draws wheelmen from nearly all parts. Mr. Endersby, who officiates at the Excelsior Race Meetings, cycled up from London in the days of the early tricycles, in company with Lacy Hillier. 'Twas a big journey on those machines!

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Yet another Excelsior speed-merchant has left the fold and gone over to the ranks of the Benedicts. This time it is R.C. Isted, who was married yesterday. I congratulate him, but we can't afford to lose him; for though he never trained or used special path machines he could hold his own in Club races. He rode well last Whitsun, though he was using a machine which three years ago he had toured to York upon with me.

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Next time I go I suppose I will have to get another pal. 'Tis too bad !

DICK TURPIN

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