

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>LAST week-end was somewhat too warm for serious cycling, though an Excelsior-ite had intended going for the Club hundred-mile ride.</p> <p>Together with three of his pacers I turned out in the early morn, but the century had to be postponed through lack of pacing.</p> <p>We thereupon decided to run over to Fittleworth, and scooted merrily past Findon, over Washington Bostel, and through Pulborough. So far the only casualty was one puncture to the credit of W. R. Paine; but at Stopham Bridge—what an appropriate name!—another of the party came to an abrupt halt through colliding with the parapet of the bridge.</p> <p>Fortunately he averted a nasty accident to himself, and after taxing all our strength and ingenuity we got the machine into something like rideable condition, and went on to Fittleworth to breakfast.</p> <p>After this we took passage on the river. Shaw and Paine were tempted by the hot sun to take a swim from the boat, but would persist in holding to the stern, whilst "Yours truly" put in a lot of donkey work at the oars.</p> <p>The river was, however, very pretty. The banks in places looked quite charming, and even a galley slave would have enjoyed the trip.</p> <p>On Thursday last quite a little Sports Meeting was held on the Sports Ground, as the result of efforts made by the local racing men, both cycling and flat. But though sport was good the attendance was very poor.</p> <p>The events are fully reported elsewhere in the</p>	<p>The events are fully reported elsewhere in the GAZETTE, but a brief allusion may perhaps be made to the cycling races. The two miles' handicap for Tarring men produced a good race, and it was a surprise to me to see a purely social Club turn out such men. As will be seen, Chipper won from Jarvis and Peto.</p> <p>The Excelsiors' Five miles was most interesting from start to finish. Soon after the start most of the riders closed up, but Sam Clark held a lead of 80 yards and made a game struggle ere he was overhauled by the string, who had the advantage of taking turns in pacing.</p> <p>Even then he chipped in with the rest, and made things lively with a sprint or two. In the last lap, however, Harry Shaw came clean away and won a fine race; Jackson, Brown, Ashby, and Clark following in the order named, and each securing a prize, for donors had been very liberal on this occasion.</p> <p>The two miles Team Race was productive of some desperate finishes at the end of each lap, Jackson and Shaw sharing the honours for lap prizes. The finish resolved itself into a victory by one point for the Batchelors, Brown crossing the line just ahead of Jackson; and Richardson, Smith, Shaw, and Clark all being fairly well up.</p> <p>After seeing these two races I am eagerly looking forward to the Australian Pursuit Race between the Excelsior "boys" next Wednesday. In a hard slogging contest there is so little difference between them that the struggle to overtake the man in front—and thereby cause his retirement from the track—should be well worth seeing. It is a departure from the ordinary run of cycling contests, and will give "stayers" like Brown and</p>	<p>Smith a chance to outlive the sprint brigade, provided they do not get "bumped" in the early stages.</p> <p>Last Thursday was also a busy day for W. R. Paine, who was called upon to defend his title to the Five Miles Championship of the Brighton Cyclists' Club and the Fildewicks Challenge Bowl, put up in the same race.</p> <p>Beside "our man," Charman, Di Villa, Ingenheimer, Phillips, and Kinghorn were competing. Racing was not serious until the last lap, when Di Villa made a tremendous effort to pass Paine, who, however, found him plenty of occupation. At the last corner Charman rushed up on the inside, but Paine was not to be denied, and a splendid finish resulted in a win for Bert, with Charman close up and Di Villa on his heels. Time, 14 min. 24.8 secs. The Fildewicks Challenge Bowl is now the absolute property of W. R. Paine.</p> <p>After this our motor racing man, E. B. Blaker, did five miles on his new tricycle, establishing a track record of 10 min. 44.2 secs. for the distance. Seeing that Jarrott's time for the same distance on the Palace Track is 10 min. 10 secs. it is highly probable that Blaker will hold the Preston track record for some time. So far as the engines are concerned Blaker's is an even later arrival from the De Dion Company than Jarrott's.</p> <p>On Sunday next the combined forces of the Tarring C.C. and the Excelsior C.C. hold a Church Parade for the benefit of the Infirmary, an institution which has rendered valuable aid to many cyclists who have been injured awheel.</p> <p>Invitations have been issued very widely, and a good number is expected to join in the procession, which leaves the Pier at 3 p.m., going eastwards along the Marine Parade, afterwards through the town and on to Tarring, where a short service will be held. It is to be hoped all wheelmen will come forward to support the two Clubs in the matter.</p> <p>Interest in the Excelsior Club's weekly run on Wednesday evenings seems to be on the wane, but the "Fighleaves" are, I believe, going as strongly as ever. Next Wednesday they attend an <i>ad hoc</i> concert, at St. Ann's Well, Hove, run by the Brighton Central C.C., and will be pleased for any of the Excelsior to join them. Hon. Sec. Carter has tickets for the Concert, which starts at 7 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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