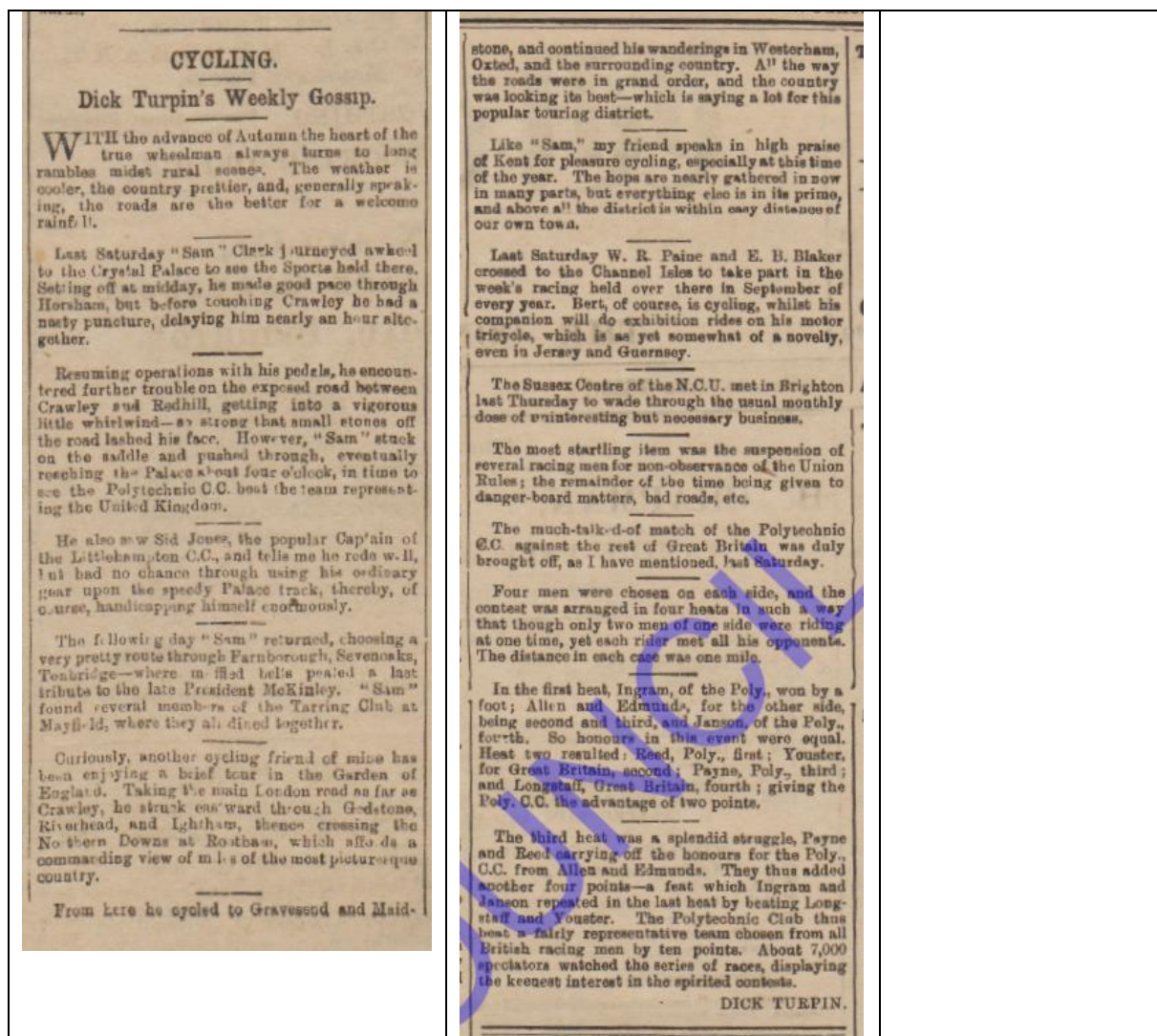


**Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.**  
Source: Worthing Gazette archive  
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Turpin - 18.9.1901 P2C5.



**CYCLING.**

**Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.**

WITH the advance of Autumn the heart of the true wheelman always turns to long rambles midst rural scenes. The weather is cooler, the country prettier, and, generally speaking, the roads are the better for a welcome rainfall.

Last Saturday "Sam" Clerk journeyed a wheel to the Crystal Palace to see the Sports held there. Setting off at midday, he made good pace through Horsham, but before touching Crawley he had a nasty puncture, delaying him nearly an hour alto-

gether.

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Resuming operations with his pedals, he encountered further trouble on the exposed road between Crawley and Redhill, getting into a vigorous little whirlwind – so strong that small stones off the road lashed his face. However, “Sam” stuck on the saddle and pushed through, eventually reaching the Palace about four o’clock, in time to see the Polytechnic C.C. best the team representing the United Kingdom.

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He also saw Sid Jones, the popular Captain of the Littlehampton C.C., and tells me he rode well, but had no chance through using his ordinary gear upon the speedy Palace track, thereby, of course, handicapping himself enormously.

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The following day “Sam” returned, choosing a very pretty route through Farnborough, Sevenoaks, Tonbridge—where muffled bells pealed a last tribute to the late President McKinley. “Sam” found several members of the Tarring Club at Mayfield, where they all dined together.

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Curiously, another cycling friend of mine has been enjoying a brief tour in the Garden of England. Taking the main London road as far as Crawley, he struck eastward through Godstone, Riverhead, and Ightam, thence crossing the Northern Downs at Rootham<sup>i</sup>, which commands a view of the ,miles of the most picturesque country.

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From here he cycled to Gravesend and Maidstone, and continued his wanderings in Westerham, Oxted, and the surrounding country. All the way the roads were in grand order, and the country was looking its best—which is saying a lot for this popular touring district.

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Like “Sam”, my friend speaks in high praise of Kent for pleasure cycling, especially at this time of the year. The hops are nearly gathered in now in many parts, but everything else is in its prime, and above all the district is within easy distance of our own town.

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Last Saturday W.R Paine and E.B. Blaker crossed to the Channel Isles to take part in the week’s racing held over there in September of every year. Bert, of course, is cycling, whilst his friend will do exhibition rides on his motor tricycle, which is as yet something of a novelty, even in Jersey and Guernsey.

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The Sussex Centre of the N.C.U. met in Brighton last Thursday to wade through the usual monthly dose of uninteresting but necessary business.

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The most startling item was the suspension of several racing men for non-observance of the Union Rules; the remainder of the time being given to danger-board matters, bad roads, etc.

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The much-talked-of match of the Polytechnic C.C. against the rest of Great Britain was duly brought off, as I have mentioned, last Saturday.

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Four men were chosen on each side, and the contest was arranged in four heats in such a way that though only two men of one side were riding at one time, yet each rider met all his opponents, The distance in each case was one mile.

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In the first heat, Ingram, of the Poly., won by a foot; Allen and Edmunds, for the other side being second and third, and Janson, of the Poly., fourth. So honours in this event were equal Heat two resulted: Reed, Poly., first; Youster, for Great Britain, second; Payne, Poly., third; and Longstaff, Great Britain, fourth; giving the Poly. C.C. the advantage of two points.

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The third heat was a splendid struggle, Payne and Reed carrying off the honours for the Poly., C.C. from Allen and Edmunds. They thus added another four points - a feat which Ingram and Janson repeated in the last heat by beating Longstaff and Youster. The Polytechnic Club thus beat a fairly representative team chosen from all British racing men by ten points. About 7,000 spectators watched the series of races, displaying the keenest interest in the spirited contests.

DICK TURPIN.

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<sup>i</sup> Wrotham. Dick had spelt it "Rootham" as pronounced. He corrects this in his *Cycling Gossip* of 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1901.