

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>FOR the time of the year cycling conditions are remarkably good. Roads continue to preserve fairly nice surfaces, and the cold, dry weather we have lately been enjoying makes cycling a real pleasure. With a friend I rode over to Arundel last Sunday morning, and we both remarked upon the scarcity of actual cyclists on the road. Neither of us is particularly keen on the artistic, but cycling gives everyone a certain amount of discrimination in matters picturesque, and we could not help but notice how much the hand of Autumn had beautified the country-side.</p> <p>Wheelmen who have put their trusty steeds away for the winter are missing splendid opportunities of enjoying some of the best experiences of the pastime.</p> <p>Still, approaching winter makes it necessary that the Clubs should see to it that their members are properly cared for through the "off" season.</p> <p>The Excelsior C.C. has fixed the date for its Annual Dinner, which is to take place on December 11th. A big muster is expected, and a pleasing feature of the evening is to be the presentation of those hard-earned medals for the hundred miles' and twelve hours' rides.</p> <p>The same Club is endeavouring to arrange a "go-as-you-please" race, to take place on the Sports Ground on the morning of Boxing Day. The distance suggested is fifteen miles, which, coming on the day following Christmas festivities, ought to satisfy the most voracious glutton for work in the shape of running and walking.</p> <p>For next year a development is upon the</p>	<p>For next year a development is upon the tapis. The Committee are considering the advisability of embracing other forms of athletics, and will shortly be calling a general meeting of the members, with a view of altering the constitution of the Club.</p> <p>The idea is to enlist running men under the Excelsior banner, and to cater for their interests as well as those of cyclists.</p> <p>Seeing the two sports have so much in common the step should be one in the right direction. Running men would then be represented in the management of the Club, and their experience and assistance should be of considerable value in carrying out the Club race meetings.</p> <p>Greater inducement could then be given to running men to train regularly, as there would probably be a series of Club handicaps run during the season.</p> <p>Members of West Tarring C.C. have no intention of lying dormant through the winter months. They have decided upon running a series of social evenings in the School Rooms at Tarring, and the first is to take place, in all probability, on the 11th of December.</p> <p>These pleasant little festivities are always very popular. Though held in the one-time Palace of an Archbishop, the price of the ticket is far from being abnormal. Commoners—yes, even cycling commoners!—can join in the revelries at the historic edifice for the modest fee of two shillings. To further descend to prosaic detail, let me add refreshments—good refreshments—are included.</p> <p>Cyclists who intend visiting the Stanley</p>	<p>Cyclists who intend visiting the Stanley Show at the Agricultural Hall this year will be interested to know that a half-day trip is to be run on the 27th of November for the usual half-crown.</p> <p>Several local men are going up, but no striking improvements in cycle construction are expected. The "good old annual" has lost much interest in the last few years, as we seem to have almost reached finality in bike-building.</p> <p>What few alterations are now made are not held back for the Show, and thus the old fixture has few real novelties to introduce.</p> <p>An interesting letter comes to hand from "Teddy" Ashby, who is now in London, but is well known to many of us.</p> <p>"Teddy" is eager to go for the Excelsior hundred, and does the Cambridge-and-back run at times—which, by-the-bye, is a course used by North London men for their rides.</p> <p>He relates some exciting incidents he experienced in the fog last week. From Dorking to Leatherhead he lost his way three times, in addition to encountering the ditch pretty frequently, the four miles occupying an hour.</p> <p>A mile or two further on he lost his brother, eventually finding him in a stream! Later he discovered a Good Samaritan, who knew the road so well that he acted as pilot, and lost himself and his charges in the bargain!</p> <p>"Teddy" is an Excelsiorite, and sends his congratulations to his fellow Clubman, W. R. Paine, upon his season's success.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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