

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
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CYCLING.

**Dick Turpin Re-appears upon the Scene,
 And Resumes His Weekly Gossip.**

WITH the advent of the cycling season the Editor has once again permitted me to make my bow to the cycling public, and commence a series of Weekly Gossips which, I hope, may contain something of interest to the devotees of the wheel.

Already the Excelsior Club shows signs of considerable activity, both in its original cycling capacity and in its newly undertaken duty of catering for running men.

Nearly thirty new members have been enrolled, and the main features of the Club's programme have been decided upon. The 18th of July is to witness an Evening Race Meeting; a first-class Sports Meeting is to be held on Whit-Monday; and the Annual Race Meeting of the Club is fixed for the 20th of August, to be followed in September by another and a smaller meeting.

With regard to medal rides on the road the Club has decided to come into line with the majority of London Clubs that give medals for this form of competition, by making it a condition that the rides are to be carried out without the assistance of pace-makers.

This should have the effect of making these rides even more popular, as each man will depend simply on his own unaided efforts, the test thus being much fairer, as hitherto it has been impossible for all the competitors to get equally good pace-makers. It will also tend to remove any objection "the powers that be" might have to seeing small bodies of speedmen scorching in company on the King's highway.

The running section of the Club has already been pretty busy, and some of the men have shown very good form on the road in runs of moderate distance. Medals have been presented to this section, and will be run for on a road course on the afternoon of the first Saturday in April.

Excelsiorites and cyclists in general will be sorry to hear that "Captain" Harry Shaw has been laid up with badly congested lungs for

some days, though I am glad to say he is now on the road to recovery.

On Thursday evening the Sussex Centre Council of the N.C.U. held its quarterly meeting; it being Worthing's turn for the honour. The Albion Hotel was the chosen spot.

A strong muster of sixteen delegates were in attendance. Among others present I noticed Mr. Whittaker (of Arundel), Mr. Yorke (from Littlehampton), and Mr. Henson (from Tarring); the racing brigade being represented by "Charlie" Harris, H. H. Frowd, and G. N. Charman.

The business was mainly of a formal nature, including the appointment of official Judges; consideration of Head Council's agenda for the forthcoming quarterly meeting; revision of the Hotel list; the danger board question, etc.; and, thanks to the very able Chairmanship of Councillor Halliwell, of Brighton, the whole was got through with commendable dispatch.

I was very pleased to hear the praise which a report from Mr. A. Carter, jun., as representative of the Tarring District, elicited; but I was unable to agree with him that a caution board is necessary for Washington Bostel.

At the close of the meeting Mr. C. Fibbens, as Secretary of the Excelsior C. and A.C., spoke a few words welcoming the delegates to Worthing, and expressing the wish of his Club to support the Union in every way—an expression of goodwill which the Chairman acknowledged in graceful terms.

The only Sports Meeting of any note in Sussex on Easter Monday is the Preston Park fixture, where a promising programme has been drawn up.

The ten miles' race for the Silver Salver will, of course, take place, and W. R. Paine will carry the best wishes of his fellow Clubmen when he gets up in the big event. In addition to this, half-mile and one-mile handicaps are to be run, besides a five-miles race for motor cycles.

Like the poor, the practical joker is always with us, and the annoying individual was evidenced at a recent Committee meeting. I attended. When a member went to find his machine after the meeting he was somewhat astonished to find both tyres had been deflated, his saddle taken off and reversed, and, worst of all, the wick removed from his lamp.

With such a practical illustration of how much trouble can be caused to a cyclist, most men would have got heated, but the victim in this case passed the incident off in the most philosophical manner by merely reflecting on the peculiar sense of humour with which some people are gifted.

DICK TURPIN.

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