

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.</p> <p>THE mixed weather we have been more or less enjoying of late makes long distance cycling somewhat risky to the rider who has no liking for a thorough soaking on the bike. Sam Clark, Durant, and other local men have got caught in heavy showers these last few days. Still, it serves the useful purpose of keeping the thirsty Sussex roads in splendid trim; they soon dry hard and smooth after a shower.</p> <p>A few Excelsiorites went on one of their "unofficial runs" early this week, and found the travelling remarkably good. Weighing anchor before the world had got about, they took the Horsham road, which was a little sticky, but drying rapidly under the hot sun.</p> <p>Near Dial Post a strange-looking man stood by the roadside, wearing a heavy black veil round his head, and a business-like pair of gloves on his hands. Getting nearer, we found he wasn't a wandering madman; he was busy putting an ejection order into effect—on a nest of wasps. We didn't wait!</p> <p>From Horsham we went to Pease Pottage by the little-known but pretty road through part of St. Leonard's Forest. We saw here some of the finest rhododendrons imaginable.</p> <p>Running through Crawley to Horley, we found a fair number of London men on singles, tandems, and motor bikes, mostly heading south.</p> <p>Finding it was after eleven o'clock, we blew the whistle for half-time at Horley, and set off to wipe out the thirty miles which separated us from our dinners.</p> <p>The Irrepressible took the lead, and we rode through Crawley and Horsham, a tidy breeze against us providing extra exercise.</p> <p>However, we reached home in fairly strong</p>	<p>order, meeting Scribe Peto, who was trotting a few of the Tarring Club up to Horsham on an "unofficial run."</p> <p>Last Thursday the Sussex Centre of the N.C.U. met in Brighton twenty strong. The first thing to trouble us was a question of etiquette. The Centre visits Lewes next Wednesday, and the Lewes Victoria C.C. have arranged a little flare-up at their headquarters, the Royal Oak.</p> <p>The Centre transacts its business at the Elephant and Castle, the official Hotel, and some of the Councillors objected to patronise too many such establishments in a town which contains the County Gaol. However, in the end we accepted the Lewes boys' invitation.</p> <p>The main business of the evening arose out of the Five Miles' Race at Chichester on Whit Monday. Through a mistake the competitors stopped a lap too soon, Buck and Sodgwick, of London, having a big struggle for first place down the straight bit which leads off the Chichester track.</p> <p>Sexton, of Reigate, who was a long way in the rear, discovered the mistake first, returned to the track, completed the distance, and claimed first prize.</p> <p>Letters from some of the competitors were read, giving various points of view, and after a lot of talk it was decided the race must be ridden again.</p> <p>A Littlehampton cyclist wrote asking for a road-map of France, and general information about the country.</p> <p>When it transpired he was spending a whole</p>	<p>When it transpired he was spending a whole week over the water, some one suggested sending a map of Italy as well. However, we passed him on to a Councillor who frequently comes over for a few days with his bicycle.</p> <p>The Raleigh C.C., a South London Club, are from Worthing, and have a Brixton to Worthing record of their own. Two of them did the journey last week in four and a quarter hours, but as several others are going for it in a week or two, the time should soon be reduced.</p> <p>Last Sunday the Veteran visited Clymping Church to attend morning service; the Vicar specially invites wheelmen, by the way.</p> <p>The Veteran is a connoisseur of country Churches, and is specially sweet on the Clymping one, which is very old. It was restored in 1875, and is now a fine building, in Norman style. It has some stained glass windows and splendid carved oak seats, and there are several brasses.</p> <p>The Veteran has promised to take me to Clymping to have a look round, and when the Vicar goes to the trouble of specially inviting cyclists, that is certainly an inducement.</p> <p>The Captain of the Excelsior Club is desirous of hearing from those wishing to make up the midnight run this year, and would like some suggestions as to date and destination. Last year's trip to Winchester was one of the finest outings the Club has had.</p> <p>Next Wednesday's runs are: Tarring C.C., Lyminster; Excelsior C.C., Thakcham.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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