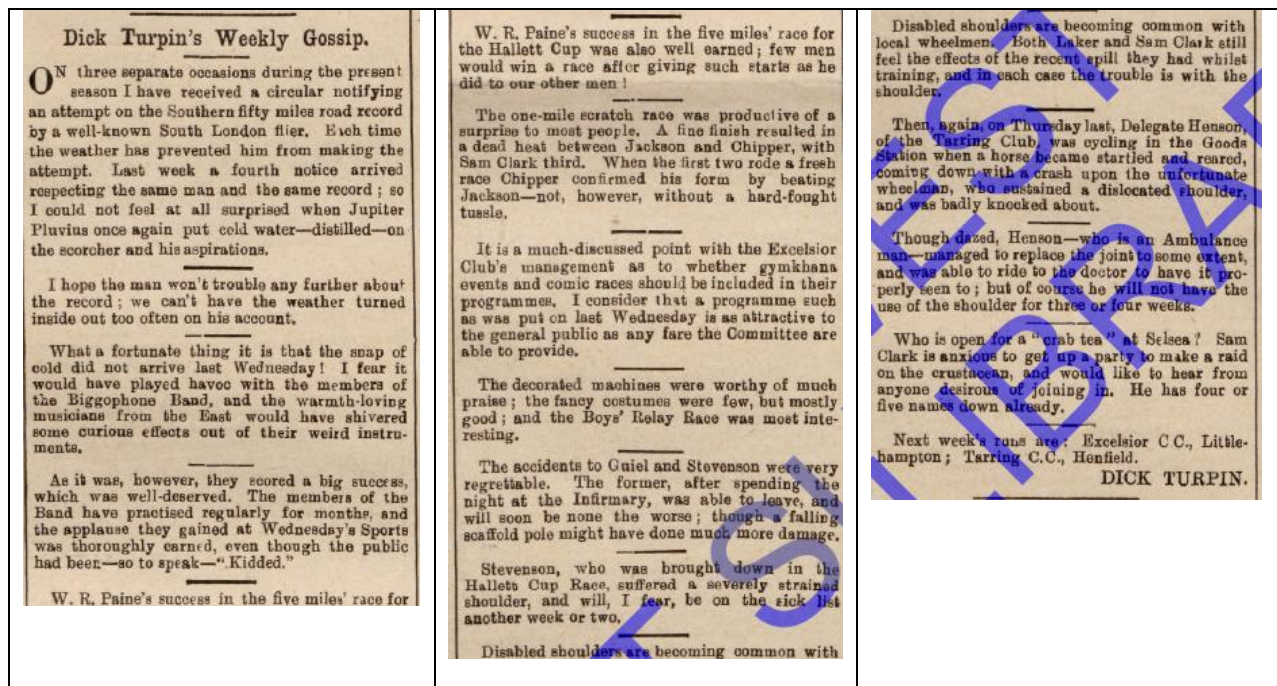


Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
Source: Worthing Gazette copies at
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 Turpin: 23.7.1902 P7C2



CYCLING.

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.

ON three separate occasions during the present season I have received a circular notifying an attempt on the Southern fifty miles road record by a well-known South London flier. Each time the weather has prevented him from making the attempt. Last week a fourth notice arrived respecting the same man and the same record; so I could not feel at all surprised when Jupiter Pluvius once again put cold water – distilled - on the scorcher and his aspirations.

I hope the man won't trouble any further about the record; we can't have the weather turned inside out too often on his account.

What a fortunate thing it is that the snap of cold did not arrive last Wednesday! I fear it would have played havoc with the members of the Biggophone Band, and the warmth-loving musicians from the East would have shivered some curious effects out of their weird instruments.

As it was, however, they scored a big success, which was well-deserved. The members of the Band have practised regularly for months, and the applause they gained at Wednesday's Sports was thoroughly earned, even though the public

had been - so to speak - "Kidded."

W.R. Paine's success in the five miles' race for the Hallett Cup was also well earned; few men would win a race after giving such starts as he did to our other men!

The one-mile scratch race was productive of surprise to most people. A fine finish resulted in a dead heat between Jackson and Chipper, with Sam Clark third. When the first two rode a fresh race Chipper confirmed his form by beating Jackson - not, however, without a hard-fought tussle.

It is a much-discussed point with the Excelsior Club's management as to whether gymkhana events and comic races should be included in their programmes. I consider that a programme such as was put on last Wednesday is as attractive to the general public as any fare the Committee are able to provide.

The decorated machines were worthy of much praise; the fancy costumes were few, but mostly good; and the Boys' Relay Race was most interesting.

The accidents to Guiel and Stevenson were very regrettable. The former, after spending the night at the Infirmary, was able to leave, and will soon be none the worse; though a falling scaffold pole might have done much more damage.

Stevenson, who was brought down in the Hallett Cup Race, suffered a severely strained shoulder, and will, I fear, be on the sick list another week or two.

Disabled shoulders are becoming common with local wheelmen. Both Laker and Sam Clark still feel the effects of the recent spill they had whilst training, and in each case the trouble is with the shoulder.

Then, again, on Thursday last, Delegate Henson, of the Tarring Club, was cycling in the Goods Station when a horse became startled and reared, coming down with a crash upon the unfortunate wheelman, who sustained a dislocated shoulder and was badly knocked about.

Though dazed, Henson - who is an Ambulance man - managed to replace the joint to some extent and was able to ride to the doctor to have it properly seen to; but of course he will not have the use of the shoulder for three or four weeks.

Who is open for a "crab tea" at Selsea? Sam Clark is anxious to get up a party to make a raid

on the crustacean, and would like to hear from anyone desirous of joining in. He has four or five names down already.

Next week's runs are: Excelsior C.C., Littlehampton; Tarring C.C., Henfield.

DICK TURPIN.