

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.
Source: Worthing Gazette copies at
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 Turpin: 5.11.1902 P2C5

CYCLING.

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A Review of the Season.

THE active cycling season having now closed, the Editorial extinguisher is once again applied to "Yours truly," and, this being my final Gossip for the present, I briefly review the doings of local wheelmen in the world of sport, as it will, I believe, be of interest to my readers.

First of all comes W. R. Paine, who still maintains the premier position among the speed cyclists of the county.

At Preston Park on Easter Monday Bert won the Silver Charity Salver for the third time, making the forty-ounce trophy his absolute property.

Whit-Monday found him at the Worthing Excelsior Club's Sports, where he scored a first in the open half-mile, but was unfortunately put out of the Five miles' scratch race through a spill, which undoubtedly robbed him of the prize of the day.

A week or two later Bert won a silver bowl at Gosport, after a desperate finish in the five miles scratch race between him and Kingsbury, who won by a wheel. He also secured second place in both the one and five miles' events at Fareham, gathering in a clock and a barometer.

At the "Biggophone" meeting he won the Five Miles race for the Hallett Cup again, making it his own, despite having to give his fellow Clubmen starts ranging up to a half-mile.

A five miles scratch race at Portsmouth resulted in his winning second prize, a magnificent stop watch.

The Coronation Sports at Preston Park provided Paine with a gold watch and a marble clock for winning the mile and running second in the half-mile; whilst for the sake of variety he won the Obstacle race too.

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The Fifty Miles Championship was run here at the end of August, and Bert won easily in two hours twenty-one minutes, following it up by running second in the "Varley" thirty miles' handicap at Brighton, where he had to give some very big starts. I am certain Bert would have won this but for the fact that his motor pacing broke down when he was pulling up to the field in grand style.

At the closing meeting of the Excelsior Club in September Bert won the twenty-five miles Championship of Sussex, and finished first in the inter-Club race, in which the Excelsior C.C. beat the Chichester and Littlehampton Clubs.

To bring the total of his County Championships up to the round dozen he won the five miles at Preston Park on October 1st.

Beside this Bert rode the hundred-mile course for the Excelsior medal, winning a gold one in 6 hours 1 minute. After this he tackled the Brighton C.C. hundred, and won another gold medal in six hours. Both times, by-the-by, are the fastest that have been set up over the respective courses.

Then there is the old war-horse, Sam Clark. At Easter, down Shanklin, he won the Veterans' 120 yards flat handicap, open to all comers, beating the champion of the Isle of Wight by eight yards. He also won the Mile Veterans' Cycling Championship of Sussex, and then, to prove he is an all-round man, won a silver medal on the Excelsior C.C. hundred miles ride.

L. Young and A. A. Chipper also secured prizes in open handicaps, finishing second and third respectively in the mile at our September Sports.

Though other Excelsiorites have not been able to win a County Championship, Jackson won second medal in the fifty; the unlucky Charman, second in the mile; Offen third in the one-mile, twenty-five-mile, and fifty-mile events. Peto occupied fourth place on three occasions, Stevenson being fourth in the fifty-mile, so the Excelsior C.C. practically monopolised the County Championship honours.

On the motor, E. Barnet Blaker has done very well, winning second in the five miles' at

Brighton Charity Sports; third at Tunbridge Wells on Whit-Monday; first at Littlehampton in July; first at Guildford on August Bank Holiday; second at Brighton Coronation Sports; second at Worthing Excelsior Annual Sports; and a second at Eastleigh.

By way of a change the speedy motorist entered a one-mile walking race here, and secured third prize in the event.

The Club long distance road rides have created a great deal of interest this year. Beside Bert Paine, Stevenson—a new flier—has done some good riding, winning a gold medal for riding the hundred-mile course in six hours twelve minutes, and another for riding 170 miles in twelve hours; the latter ride he did with sixty-five minutes to spare.

T. A. Durant also secured a gold medal on the hundred miles ride, covering the distance in six hours thirty-nine minutes; besides this he won a gold-centre medal for riding 156 miles in twelve hours, beating the time by thirty-five minutes.

Bert Peto was the only other Excelsior man to secure the tantalising gold medal; he did the hundred miles in six hours thirty-seven minutes.

Fred Young, too, performed a very fair ride on the course, winning a silver medal by completing the journey in seven hours twelve minutes.

The weather generally has been poor this season, and cyclometers do not show heavy scores. One of the heaviest is that of Durant, who has pedalled 4,000 miles, which is a big total, remembering that it is wholly made up of actual cycling jaunts—as distinct from the mileage piled up by the man who cycles daily in business.

The Club has not come through its various Race Meeting ventures quite unscathed, but the loss during the year is inside ten pounds, which is not, after all, terrible.

An Annual Race Meeting on August Bank Holiday will soon put this right!

Now, with a parting reminder to my readers not to allow their cycling muscles to get "rusty" in the dark days, I will say au revoir!

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