

<p style="text-align: center;">CYCLING.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.</p> <p>THE Excelsior boys usually manage to account for a goodly number of miles each week. Within the last few days one member has been wheeling on the roads round Bramber, Henfield, Bolney, and Handcross; others to Horsham, Billingshurst, and Pulborough; whilst another party visited Littlehampton, Arundel, Barnham, and Chichester. The southern road from Arundel to Chichester is pretty loose, but on the whole surfaces are good, though a little rain would be welcome everywhere.</p> <p>The Tarring C.C. wound up their winter season with a social evening at Tarring last week. About sixty members and friends assembled, and a lengthened programme of dances, interspersed with musical contributions from the Brothers Lake, Messrs. A. Carter, R. Greenfield, and a nigger pair known as "Slasher" and "Dasher," provided heaps of enjoyment, and brought the "wee sma' hours" round all too quickly.</p> <p>No sooner was the winter season closed than the Figleaves started the summer pro-</p>	<p>gramme going, and on Wednesday last they mustered in force for their run to Littlehampton.</p> <p>An enjoyable ride through the keen evening air brought them to the Terminal Hotel. But the hostelry was inaptly named on this occasion, as the cyclists could not be accommodated there, and had to go further up the line, so to speak.</p> <p>Eventually they pulled up at the Lamb "Junction," Angmering, and the Tarring wheelmen and wheelwomen, who by this time numbered thirty, settled down to an hour or two of music before pottering gently home beneath the twinkling stars. Truly the Tarring C.C. manage to extract a large share of happiness from life!</p> <p>I really think the cycle trade must be going ahead once again. There seem to be more jiggers about than at any time since the boom of five or six years ago. But what an alteration in prices since those palmy days for Coventry and Birmingham!</p> <p>For instance, whilst noticing the alterations in Mr. E. Laker's well-known premises in Montague-street, which enable him to display such an array of machines, I reflected that the prices of to-day would have made us doubt our eyesight had we seen them in the early nineties.</p> <p>Yes; the wheelman gets value for money nowadays, beyond a doubt. The average bicycle contains about two thousand parts, most of which have to be made within at least the one-thousandth part of an-inch of the true size. Goodness knows what the number of parts in a fully-equipped motor cycle must be!</p> <p>Last week W. Stephenson, of the Excelsior Club, was the victim of a nasty accident near Horsham. He had overtaken a horse and trap, and when about to pass the vehicle it suddenly turned sharp to the right, thereby causing "Billy" to collide with a brick wall with considerable force.</p> <p>His head struck the wall, and he sustained</p>	<p>His head struck the wall, and he sustained a deep cut over his eye, whilst his machine was badly bent about. But Stephenson is a plucky customer, and with the help of the occupants of the trap he reached Horsham, where he had the cut sewn up and dressed, and then took his machine to the local repairer.</p> <p>A couple of the main tubes proved to be utterly spoilt, besides other damage; but the repairer set to work, and before the end of the day he had practically rebuilt the frame and put the entire machine right again, excepting, of course, a new coat of enamel.</p> <p>So Stephenson and his machine, both with some "peel" off but otherwise sound, came home from their eventful journey.</p> <p>Honorary Secretary Fibbens, of the Excelsior C.C., wishes members to know their cards are now ready, and he is anxious to exchange them for the current year's subscription—half-a-crown, to wit.</p> <p>Excelsiorites should secure their cards early in order to avail themselves of the full privileges of membership, including admission to the various Sports run by the Club.</p> <p>The first of these is to be held on Whit Monday, and the programme includes some very attractive items.</p> <p>A couple of open bicycle handicaps and a Club bicycle handicap for Captain Fraser's Cup constitute the cycling items proper; then there will be a two miles' walking race, a Club running handicap for Alderman Cooksey's Challenge Cup, and a varied assortment of sporting items, including boys' races, comic costume races, tilting the bucket, obstacle races, etc.</p> <p>It is hoped also to include a Relay Race between the boys of the Elementary Schools of the borough, as was done last year. This proved a very popular event, and I hope to see it repeated.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DICK TURPIN.</p>
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