

CYCLING

Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip

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Dick Turpin's Weekly Gossip.

SPEED riding on the road is attracting a good deal of attention just now. Early this week T. A. Durant, of the Excelsior Club, caused me to tear myself from the arms of Morpheus in the very early hours of the morning, in order to check him on the start for a twelve hours' ride.

With a yawn I set the watches and signed his sheet; then away he went, with F. Young acting as shadower.

Over the switchback road to Arundel the first two or three miles were very loose indeed, but matters improved later, and a good bat was maintained through Chichester, Havant, and Cosham to Fareham—the western end of the journey—which was reached two hours and fifteen minutes from the start.

Without loss of time Durant commenced the journey back, riding the eighteen miles to Chichester in sixty-three minutes; and, still going well, was back to Offington Corner four hours and thirty-six minutes after his start.

But the weather had assumed a very threatening aspect, and the irrepressible had not proceeded many yards upon the second portion of his journey before he was warned by several ominous peals of thunder and a sprinkling of rain that the elements emphatically vetoed his once round-the-clock jaunt. So, like a wise man, he came back.

It is interesting to note that the seventy-four miles to Fareham and back were ridden at a speed which, had it been maintained over the "century" course, would have resulted in the hundred miles being covered inside six hours and a quarter.

Which certainly suggests that Durant and

Young—who followed throughout, and has vastly improved this year—should be able to secure the coveted special and ordinary gold medals respectively for that distance.

Anyway, they will both try.

The Excelsior Club altered their run last Wednesday from Chilmington, and toured over to the Littlehampton Cycling Club's Evening Race Meeting instead, thereby seeing some good sport.

A. Hales, of Littlehampton, who received forty-five seconds in the Three Miles' event and seventy-five seconds in the Five Miles, was successful in winning both motor-cycle handicaps; whilst Adkins, of Arundel, who figured on scratch, ran second in both.

E. Baruch Blaker had to owe the scratch man a minute, and was handicapped by not being able to let his engine go all out on a track of that sort; but he managed to finish third in the five miles.

A team race between the Littlehampton and Chichester Clubs resulted in a win for Littlehampton by two points, whilst Walls

(five hundred yards) won the Three miles' race for the President's Cup.

Millington, who came into prominence last in the Littlehampton speed division last year, won the quarter-mile from Sid Jones and Warner; and the mile went to B. Elliott, who received the liberal start of two hundred and fifty yards, Warner getting second of the two yards mark, and Millington (scratch) finishing third.

What astonishing distances a motor cyclist will travel 'twixt sunrise and sunset!

One day last week H. W. Hales went to Canterbury and back on his petrol-propelled steed.

He can hardly be out of his novice's as a motorist, having had the machine but a few weeks; but the nonchalant air with which he told the Excelsior Captain of his ride of about one hundred and eighty miles induced that worthy to suggest Hales might with advantage make a full day and run over to China!

E. B. Blaker has a day ride to Bath and back—about two hundred and forty miles—in his programme for the near future.

Good rides were done early this week by Hagen and Targett, of the Havelock C.C., a tandem crew, who set up a new Southern record for the hundred miles by riding the distance in five hours two minutes and forty-two seconds; and also by Leon Meredith, of the Paddington Club, who reeled off the fifty miles in the new time of two hours twenty-one minutes forty-three seconds.

Next Wednesday the Excelsior C.C. have arranged a musical evening at Basington.

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