

THE WHEELING WORLD
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<p>Wednesday, May 11th, 1904.</p> <p>THE WHEELING WORLD.</p> <p>A Weekly Survey.</p> <p>DICK TURPIN'S RANDOM RECORDS.</p> <p>THE opening run of the Excelsior Club's season was carried out on Wednesday, and the strong muster certainly looks most promising for the success of the effort Captain Peto is making to resuscitate the time-honoured, but almost defunct, Club run. The rendezvous was at Washington, and a steady stream of wheelmen and wheelwomen trickled up through Findon and over the Bostel to the Frankland Arms, where they were joined later in the evening by a contingent of the West Tarring C.C., which brought the gathering up to about sixty.</p> <p>The first attraction was the finish of a speed contest promoted by the Excelsior C.C. over a distance of twenty-three miles, the course having been so arranged as to end at Washington.</p> <p>Nine riders had been sent off earlier in the evening, and just before eight o'clock they began to arrive at the end of what had proved a tough struggle.</p> <p>For there had been a somewhat bothersome cross wind, which had harassed the riders both on the outward and the return journeys; also the starts had been rather long, and only in one or two instances had the men got together, and thereby secured an advantage by sharing the work of pace-making.</p> <p>The winner turned up in C. Wilmer (12 min. start), whose time was 1 hour 19 min.; Howard (7 min.) finished second in 1 hour 14 min.; the veteran Sam Clark (10 min.) being next in 1 hour 18 min.; whilst Fred Young (3 min.) made the fastest time, and finished fourth, in 1 hour 11 min. 21 sec.</p> <p>Then came A. E. Peto, 6 min. start; W. R. Paine, scratch; W. Stephenson, 2 min.; S. Hales, 3 min.; and Ben Rogers, 8 min.</p> <p>Hales punctured, and had to change</p>	<p>Hales punctured, and had to change machines; whilst Rogers had the misfortune to fall and injure a pedal.</p> <p>This piece of sport over, the Excelsiors and the Figleaves adjourned to the Frankland Arms, where Captain Peto and Captain Duffield set their respective Clubs a good example by rendering some excellent songs.</p> <p>Signor Botting, too, extracted a supply of dance music from the piano, and those who had light, fantastic toes (and some who hadn't!) tripped them.</p> <p>I was grumbling about dogs last week;</p> <p>Since then the Prime Minister of the Excelsior Club, Mr. J. Young, has had a fall owing to some mongrel brute which nearly made a hash of him.</p> <p>As it was, the Excelsior's leader was, I understand, in a bit of a stew for the moment.</p> <p>Which reminds me that later still W. Stephenson and F. Young were following a motor-car on the Horsham road, when a dozen or more hens ran foul, so to speak, of the car.</p> <p>One was unfortunate enough to get mixed up with the chain gear. There is now some <i>Chicken Mayonnaise a la Motor</i> up that way.</p> <p>Saturday's unpropitious weather made things bad for the Southern and Poly. Clubs, who were holding races at Herne Hill and the Crystal Palace respectively.</p> <p>The Southern was billed to run its tenth annual six hours' race, and motor pacing was allowed; but weather and other troubles resulted in the struggle being shortened to one hundred miles.</p> <p>F. T. Burgess, W. J. Pett, and S. Ascott were</p>	<p>F. T. Burgess, W. J. Pett, and S. Ascott were the only starters, and no great excitement was manifested in what has frequently proved a thrilling race in previous years.</p> <p>Pett covered thirty-one miles in the first hour, and fifty-nine in two hours. He led the way up to sixty-three miles, when Burgess passed him and held the lead for the remainder of the race, which he won in 3 hours, 42 minutes, 40 secs.</p> <p>Pett punctured whilst trying to regain his lost laps, and had to retire after changing machines. Ascot, who was about twenty miles in the rear, rode seventy-six miles in order to qualify for the second prize.</p> <p>The Polytechnic programme included a one-hour motor-paced race, which secured half-a-dozen starters, and was won by C. V. Clark, who rode thirty-one and a half miles in the time. Poncione and H. J. Harding were second and third, both within a mile of the winner.</p> <p>On Sunday the Anerley B.C. and the Stanley Club paid their annual visit to Worthing, putting up at the Albion Hotel—the country quarters of the former Club.</p> <p>About thirty of the Anerley "boys" and twenty Stanley-ites made the journey, and, despite the drabby roads and weather which, was by no means enlivening, the members of the two famous Clubs spent an enjoyable time.</p> <p>Honorary Secretary Fibbens wishes Excelsior* ites to know the Club's run card is now out, and the season's plans are in shape. Those who have not yet remitted the subscription for the current year are requested to lose no time in taking this important step, in order not to miss any part of the fun.</p> <p>DICK TURPIN.</p>
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