

## From the Worthing Gazette, 21st October, 1891.

### The first dinner of the Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club.

P6C2: Close of the cycling season. The Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club brought its season to a close on Wednesday, with a social evening at the Lamb Inn, Angmering, having been jointly arranged with the Littlehampton Club.

Owing to the bad weather, the amalgamated runs by the clubs had to be abandoned, but several of the Littlehampton cyclists, in the face of a gusty wind, journeyed the four miles on wheels, while others drove over, and the Worthing cyclists reached the rendezvous by means of a waggonette. A capital cold collation was partaken of in the club-room, the catering of the host, Mr. J. Wilkinson, being of a very satisfactory nature. In the absence of Dr. J.N. Beverly, President of the Littlehampton club, Mr. E. Candler (Vice-President) presided, and the Worthing contingent of the company included: Messrs W. Young (Captain), J. Young (Chairman) E. Pullen (Vice) A. Hewer (Hon. Sec), G. Jeffree (Bugler), W. Whittington, G. Whittington, W. Cox, E. Cox, W. Chaplin, W. Hoar, A.H. Bland, E. Cooke, Tulley, and R. Bacon.

#### THE TOAST LIST

After dinner, the CHAIRMAN gave the toast "Success to the Excelsior (Worthing) Club", speaking of cycling as the prince of sport. Unlike so many other sports, cycling was free from cruelty. Moreover it was conducive to what was manly, and it had the advantage of widening sympathy and unanimity with one another. The Littlehampton club had foregone their weekly run on purpose to have a joint run with the Worthing or other clubs, and had thus done their best in endeavouring to cement that fraternal feeling which should exist among cyclists.

He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. HEWER and Mr. W. YOUNG, who suitably replied, hoping that there would be many more of these jovial meetings. There had been good musters of the Worthing club, and the runs with Littlehampton had been most enjoyable. In return Mr. Hewer proposed "Success to the Littlehampton Club", which was drunk with enthusiasm, -

Mr. Chowne and Mr. HALE responded in appropriate terms, the latter remarking that such meetings as these ought to produce valuable information for cycling manufacturers, as to what was best suited to cycling in the way of tyres, whether cushion, pneumatic, or solid. Manufacturers did not know what to bring out for next year, and if there was any idea thrown out the makers would be glad of it. Pneumatic tyres were perfection, if the quality of the rubbers was of the best. Cushions, however, at the present time, appeared to be most in demand.-

The CHAIRMAN favoured the cushion tyre for road work, and spoke well of the latest improvement of the pneumatic casings. - Mr. YOUNG said he knew a newer tyre than the pneumatic had been introduced, and the "latest out" would doubtless be shown at the forthcoming Stanley Show. Mr. Young spoke highly of local handicaps, and suggested there should be a race held for the Littlehampton and Worthing Championship (applause).-

Other members also made a few remarks.- The harmony of the evening was sustained by the following members: Messrs. A. Hale, E.R. Auld, E. Candler, Cooper, Hewer, H. Redman, A. Chowne, and Lindfield.

**From the Worthing Gazette, 21st November, 1894.**

**The first **annual** dinner of the Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club.**

Source: Worthing Local Studies Library.

N.B. This is proclaimed as the "first annual dinner".

There had been a dinner at the Lamb Inn, Angmering, in 1891, but none in 1891 and 1892.

**FIRST ANNUAL DINNER.**

Following the example of other local institutions, the Excelsior Cycling Club has just determined to make an annual dinner a feature of its proceedings, and should each succeeding gathering prove as successful as the first the Committee will have every reason to be gratified with the step they have taken. Members and friends, to the number of about fifty, accepted the invitation to be present at the Spaniard Hotel on Wednesday evening, and a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment was provided for them. The after-dinner proceedings were more than usually animated and agreeable, and the explanation of this is to be found in the fact that the Committee had very wisely curtailed the number of speeches, and crammed into the programme as many musical items as it would contain. Their example in this respect might well be followed by others who are called upon to frame the programmes of Club dinners. The room in which the company assembled had been made to present a bright and cheerful appearance. Flags were hung on the walls, and at the back of the principal table was an extensive and interesting collection of prizes won by members of the club, including several cups given by the President, clocks, cruets, travelling bags, spirit stands, etc. The President (Councillor Captain Fraser) took the chair, and supporting him were his brother (Captain C.E. Fraser), Dr. P.J. LeRiche, Mr. G. Piggott, and Mr. G.C.M. Rouse. Others present were Mr. C. Greenyer, C.H. Southey (Honorary Secretary), W. Jordan, A.V. Payne, W.G. Patching, W.H. Elsworth, A. Hewer, W. Binstead, (brass band?) C. Chamberlain, Hearsey, A.H. Brake, T.C. Humby, T. Reeves, C. Barnwell, H. Bushby, H. Paine, F. Paice, W. Young, E. Long, E. Isted, William Paine, J. Young, Maynard, G. Jeffree, E. Brackley, A. Cobby, J. Hebditch, F. Marnier, T. Medlock, H.U. Hales, E. Laker, G. Goodall, Jnr., W. Cox, A.A. Dowsett, A.H. Franks, R. Long, T. Brackley, Snr., F. Carter, W. Young (second mention!), etc. Mr. and Mrs. E. Tattersell placed a very satisfactory repast on the table

**THE POSITION OF THE CLUB.**

THE CHAIRMAN gave the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family", and made mention of the fact that H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught was about to visit Worthing.- Afterwards Mr. C. GREENYER submitted "The President and Vice Presidents of the Club". He thanked those gentlemen for the assistance they had given to the Club; and remarked that he did not know whether it was too much to say that had it not been for the help of the President and Vice Presidents, they would not have been there that night. Cycling, a few years ago, was at a very low ebb in the town. (a reference to the old W.C.C?) They had no club house: they had club-runs only; but since Captain Fraser and other gentlemen had been in the town they had acted very kindly towards them by giving them cups and other prizes. Their help certainly gave a great impetus to the club, which started only four or five years ago (=1889 or 1890) had now a membership of 40 or 50, and they had had two or three very successful race meetings, and some very enjoyable races on the road. There had been a great deal of interest taken in their doings,

and this was wholly due, he thought, to the prizes that had been given to the club. And not only had the Club caused interest to be taken in its proceedings, but had promoted interest in cycling generally; and thought that in supporting cycling they were encouraging a very manly sport.

#### SPORT FOR RICH AND POOR.

Captain C.E. FRASER, who was the first to reply to the toast, said Mr. Greenyer had spoken of cycling as a manly sport, and he quite agreed' with him. He regarded it as a sport which ought to be favoured by everybody, for it was a sport, for the rich as well as for the poor man (applause).

He was very glad to be one of the Vice Presidents of the Club, for the reason that it was very plucky club; it had struggled against a great deal of adversity, and it had done its best for Worthing. Particularly was this the case in the matter of the illuminated procession, which cost a lot of money, and was got up simply for the good of the town. It was by voluntary effort such as this, and not by money taken out of the ratepayer's pocket, that would make Worthing prosperous. He thought that Mr. Tucker, who spoke at a recent gathering in that room, made a very sensible remark when he told the Britannia Rowing Club to have as many Vice-Presidents as they could get. He also told them to take care to have as many busy bees in the club as possible, and no drones. In all clubs of this kind they wanted plenty of busy bees, and they wanted their money too; (laughter and applause). Unfortunately his brother was the President of the Club (laughter). He meant it was unfortunate because otherwise he would have liked to say a word in his praise, for there was not a sport or club in Worthing that was

not patronised by him (loud applause). He (the speaker) felt sure that as long as their president remained in Worthing - and he hoped it would be for a long, long time - he would do everything in his power to promote every manly sport in the town (applause).

#### CYCLING FROM A MEDICAL POINT OF VIEW.

Dr. Le RICHE, whose name was also associated with the toast, said, as a medical man, he could not agree with cycle racing, which produced too great a strain on the system. He thought the way they could take cycling as a health-giving sport was organising not runs or races, but holidays. He thought the Club, which now numbered a great many members, might arrange to have an outing during the summer months, and he would mention Brittany as one of the finest cycling countries to be found; its streets and roads were even and straight, and living was cheap. The speaker mentioned he was one of four who started a club in Jersey, and spoke of the delightful holiday he had spent in Brittany during his residence at Jersey. In thanking those present for the kind reception they had given (in) the toast, he said that while the President and Vice-Presidents were doing their utmost to support the club, it was very hard that others who benefitted from its existence did not bear a share of the burden. There were many men in this town who did not give to anything. He thought that if a post card were sent round to wealthy men whom he could name they would respond, because a postcard could be seen by the postman, the servants, and everybody,- (laughter)- and they would be ashamed of themselves if they did not see their names in the subscription lists

#### PROSPERITY TO THE CLUB

The principal toast on the list, "The Excelsior Cycling Club," was proposed by the PRESIDENT, who after submitting a statement in connection with the Cycle Sports, went on to

explain that at the present moment the Club had between 50 and 60 members, and he believed others were expected to join (applause).

They could say what could only be said for few other institutions in this town, that they had a small balance in hand (applause). The meetings in the Park had been a great success, and he hoped that they would continue to be held, as they knew the year before last that records were beaten on their track and he was sure that the General Purposes Committee of the council, of which he was a member, would do their best as soon as they got rid of the engine in the Park, to get the ground in good order, and he believed they would have a better track than they had before. They all knew that when the club started it had had to push its way to the front, but it was now in a flourishing state, which was proved by the excellent attendance at that gathering. The Committee were entitled to their best thanks, he knew that they worked very hard indeed. On behalf of the Club he had to thank those gentlemen who were not members, but who had given prizes to be competed for at their Annual meeting. He did not agree with one of their Vice Presidents, although he was a medical man, about cycling being not quite a healthy exercise. He trusted they would have their races as long as he was President of the Club (applause). They would always expect him to give a cup, and what was more, they should have it (loud applause). - Dr. Le Riche wished to explain that he regarded cycling as a very healthy sport, taken in moderation, but he did not believe in racing, though it might be a good thing for him medically if they chose to indulge in it.

#### MORE PROCESSIONS IN STORE.

The toast was replied to by Mr. A. HEWER, who said that when they commenced the season the weather was very similar to that which they were now having, and they could not carry out their runs as arranged. As the summer months drew on, their members trained for racing, with the result that was seen in the number of prizes displayed that evening. The club wound up the evening with an illuminated procession, and he thought they would all agree with him when he said it was a great success. Next year they would try to carry out several more. (applause).

#### OTHER TOASTS.

Mr. W.H. JORDAN proposed the toast of "The Visitors". He thanked them for the help they gave by attending the annual sports, and said he had no doubt the club would always be able to give them a good programme, for he himself intended racing next year (laughter). -Mr. G. PIGGOTT, who responded, said there were a lot of people going about who made it their business to cry down sport in every possible way (hear, hear). He believed there was such a thing as a Non-Sporting League being started. He did not know what their object was, he supposed they would go about with long faces, and if they got their way, there would be no more cakes or ale. They had nearly shut up one place in London, and he believed they were going to try to shut up sport altogether, and even cyclists would not be let alone. But a Sporting League was being formed, and a petition would be placed in various shops in the town which those present would have an opportunity of signing. -THE PRESIDENT proposed the toast of "The Press", Mr. C. GREENYER followed with that of "The Host and Hostess" - Replying to the latter toast Mr. TETTERSELL said he should be glad to become a member of the club, and give the club the use of that room. (loud applause).

#### MUSICAL PROGRAMME.

The following were the songs and instrumental performances given in the course of the evening:

Song "I couldn't get in" Mr. H.W. Hales

Song "My Old Dutch" Mr. E. Hearsey

Banjo march Messrs. Chamberlain, A.V. Payne, W.G. Patching, W.H. Jordan and C.H. Southey

Song "Private Tommy Atkins" Mr. W.H. Ellsworth

Song "Rumpty-Tumpty" Mr. W.H. Jordan

Song "The Ship I Love" Mr. A.H. Brake.

Banjo march The band.

Song "The Village Blacksmith" Mr. William Paine

Song "Leaving Home" Mr. H.W. Hales

Song "Heart of Oak" Mr. William Payne

Song "Auld Lang Syne" Captain C.E. Fraser

The performances of the Banjo Band were received with the utmost enthusiasm, and it may be interesting to state here that the players promised their services at a bazaar to be given at Brighton shortly, in aid of

the funds of the County Cricket Club. The vocal items were also well-received, and the evening was spent in a very pleasant manner. Mr. W. Binstead was the accompanist.