

Cyclists work up a good appetite

THE FINAL occasion of the 1971/2 social season in the Sussex county cycling scene, the annual luncheon and prize presentation of the Sussex Cyclists Association, was held on Sunday at The Royal Coach at Shoreham.

Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club members were out in force to support the occasion, and their own prizewinners were determined to arrive with a healthy appetite and set off from Worthing at 9 a.m. for the Shoreham lunch at 1.30.

They did, however, head north-west, rather than east, and, after an enjoyable run through the byways of the West Chilton area, stopped off at Pulborough. It was another devious route, and again a most pleasant one, through the countryside that found them back at Shoreham just after 1 p.m.

Pete Reeves, Tony Hill and Graham Barnes received medals and certificates for 1971 events. On behalf of the club, George Matthews collected the 25-mile team championship trophy. Keith Dodman received the trophy for the individual 50-mile championship and Don Lock the best allrounder cup.

In serious training

THE NEW YEAR sees for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club members the start of serious training for the new racing season ahead.

Competitive cycling can now extend throughout the year, with cyclo-cross filling in the gap which used to exist between November and February. Locally, however, most riders take a break from all but pleasure riding for about three months.

Training means weight training, general mobility and fitness exercises; for some it will mean a greater concentration on diet and for others a watch on those late nights and a drastic cut back

on the "social season" for which cyclists have an enormous capacity.

Of paramount importance, however, is the number of miles, for there is no substitute for actual miles under the wheels.

Riders planning to ride a full season at all distances will be particularly keen to get in the new year miles. They will hope for reasonable weather conditions to give them a chance of clocking somewhere in the region of 2,000 miles by the end of February.

The club's own promotions start on March 5 with the 20-mile hill event. Altogether, the club will be staging 19 events for their members. In addition to this, they will be promoting, as they did last year, an open road race on the Yapton circuit shortly after Easter, and an open 25-mile time trial on Saturday, June 10.

Last year saw some fine individual performances but only one team record, that for 25 miles, was broken. Hopes are high that this year some really good team performances can be turned in. Team records at 50 miles and 100 miles are particularly in need of updating. These, along with several individual revenge matches in the offing, should provide some keen racing in the coming months.

The main squad of riders will no doubt consist of Keith Dodman, Sussex 50 miles champion, and Don Lock, club and Sussex best all rounder, with Mick Vener, George Matthews, Tony Hill and John Mansell. Others who could really break through this year are Graham Barnes, Kevin Bishop and Pete Reeves at shorter distances and Chris Woodcock and Eddy Kneen over longer events.

It is rumoured that past club and county champion Dave Fun-

nell is to start training again, after being out of the sport for a few years. If he recaptured his old form then the club would undoubtedly have teams to reckon with in any company.

SPORTS GOSSIP
WORTHING
HERALD
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1972

Trial helps cyclists to 'get the miles in'

CONCENTRATING on "getting the miles in" before the racing season starts, Tony Hill and Don Lock, of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club, took part on Sunday in the Portsmouth CTC 50-mile Reliability Trial.

Something like the Monte Carlo Rally, with various starting points, they joined the event at Chichester and this meant a ride of 20 miles in the rain for a start. The conditions improved as competitors made their way down to Portsmouth, and the first check at Hillsea.

The wind from the north was troublesome, especially on the climb north from Cosham, and the hills on this stretch to Petersfield also made the going somewhat slower. A check in Petersfield Square showed sufficient time in hand for refreshments, and then came the turn eastwards along the pleasant route to Midhurst.

QUALIFY

The final southerly part of the route back to Chichester was wind assisted and the two Worthing riders had no difficulty in qualifying for the time standard certificates.

With mild springlike weather prevailing, the ride back to Worthing wound its way through Yapton and Littlehampton. The two were home before 3 p.m. and 95 miles had been covered.

The Worthing club's annual 25 mile Open Time Trial was not as successful in 1971 as in the previous eight years of its promotion. The club are therefore making a determined effort to rectify

the position in 1972 and so restore the event to its former place as one of the foremost promotions in the county.

A tremendous boost to the club's efforts has come from the financial assistance of Ron Mills Cycles. It will mean that the club can offer a good prize list which should attract star riders from London and further afield.

WELCOMED

Decisions already made by the club to bring the event forward from its usual end of season date, in October, to June, and to alter the normal Sunday morning start to a Saturday evening, have been generally welcomed.

Promoter Tony Hill, who stood in at a late date to run the event last year, is already involved in the preliminary arrangements, including dealing with the application for the event to be included in the Campagnola Competition.

This is a season long competition of 25 mile events all over the country and, if the application is successful, then a full field of 120 riders, including some of the finest in the country, would be assured.

Aim to recruit more cyclists

THERE are fewer junior members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club than for many years and the club's committee plan to start a recruiting drive.

This has been announced by club secretary John Mansell in his report which he presents to the annual meeting at the Parish Room, Broadwater, on Tuesday (7.30).

Excelsior are still one of the strongest clubs in Sussex, but Mansell wonders just how long that splendid state of affairs will continue.

"In the report for 1966 it was noted that more than a third of the membership was composed of juniors. The current figure of 18 makes a pitiful comparison," he says.

"The year's total of new members is also abysmally low. Your present committee is, however, intent on formulating a recruitment drive, placing particular emphasis on attracting the younger rider."

STEEP RISES FACED BY CYCLISTS

SUBSCRIPTION rises of as much as 300 per cent. were approved by members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club at their annual meeting at the Parish Room, Broadwater, on Tuesday.

The annual subscription for senior members went up from 50p to £1.50 and for junior members from 25p to £1. But for many members, belonging to the club will now be cheaper than before.

This is because the club night fee of 21p was abolished at the annual meeting. Club night is each Tuesday and a member attending club night regularly will now find his membership of the club a little cheaper than before.

The changes were recommended by the committee so that administrative time collecting fees from members each Tuesday would be saved.

LIFE MEMBER

During the election of officers, Ray Douglass, who has completed more than 21 years as a member, was elected a life member and Brian Wier, who does a great deal of organising, was added to the list of vice-presidents.

Members were told that the national 50 miles championship on June 25 was to be held on local roads, starting and finishing at Washington and, en route, including Offington.

The club had agreed to co-operate in the organisation of the event. It was decided to enter a team of three for the championship.

Excelsior have riders with fast enough times to qualify, but it is a case of entering and hoping to be accepted for an event where there is stiff competition for places.

The first hour of the meeting took place during a power cut and was illuminated by Tilley lamps and storm lanterns brought along by members.

ELECTIONS

Officers elected: President, Mr D. Argent; chairman, Mr C. Lednor; secretary, Mr J. Mansell; assistant secretary, Mr R. Smallman; treasurer, Mr R. Douglass; assistant treasurer, Mr D. Funnell; social secretary, Mr T. Puttick; time trials secretary, Mr A. Palmer; assistant time trials secretary, Mr A. Hill; road and track secretary, Mr C. Woodcock; touring secretary, Mr D. Hudson; runs secretary, Mrs E. Kneen; general committee, Messrs. D. Lock, G. Allibone, A. Matthews and K. Bishop; runs committee, Messrs. G. Matthews, A. Hill and D. Hudson; social committee, Messrs. R. Douglass and G. Allibone and Mrs J. Hughes; racing committee, Messrs. M. Ford-Dunn and D. Funnell; BCF representatives, Messrs. C. Woodcock and C. Miller; Press secretary, Mr D. Lock; youth council representatives, Messrs. P. Hampton, K. Bishop and I. Sutherland; Sports Advisory Council representatives, Messrs. D. Lock and A. Matthews; Junior Accident Prevention Committee representatives, Mr G. Allibone and Miss J. McMillan; Youth Leaders Council representatives, Messrs. G. Allibone and S. Richards.

WORTHING
HERALD
25TH
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1972.

CYCLING, FEBRUARY 26, 1972

MAG-NET

MEMBERS of Worthing Excelsior CC must regret the quarterly appearance of their noted magazine and would wish heartily for monthly publication. However, the WORTHING WHEEL is worth waiting for and the Winter 1971/72 issue is as good as ever, 36 neat pages packed with information and articles.

TRIALS FOR CYCLISTS

Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club hold their annual 50 mile reliability trials from the Parish Rooms, Broadwater, on Sunday. Riders aiming at the four hours standard set off at 9 a.m. and those trying for the stiffer three and a half hour standard at 9.30.

Colin Miller and John Lucas took part in Crawley Wheelers 50-mile reliability trial last Sunday and were pleased with the effort that took them both to within four minutes of the three and a half hour standard.

CYCLISTS TACKLE HILLY COURSE

LAST YEAR it was said the course was too easy, and so promoter Brian Weir made every effort to increase both the number and severity of the hills to be tackled in this season's Reliability 50-mile run of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday.

Name the hills within 10 miles of Brighton, and it was a pretty safe bet that they figured in the course to be followed: Race Hill, Clayton Hill, Coledean Lane, Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke, Steyning Bostal.

Did the promoter win? Admittedly the riders were given good riding conditions, but it must be that their general early season preparations have been thorough, for all were successful in covering the route within their selected standard times.

Standard

Seven riders were off at 9 a.m. for the four-hour standard. They were Graham Barnes, Ray Douglass, Eddy Kneen, John Lucas, Colin Miller, Richard Shipton and Pete Andrews.

It was a particularly fine effort for Pete Andrews, a long standing member of the club, but one who is now resident in Germany and was over here for only a few days. He had not been able to do much cycling while abroad and added to his effort was the fact that he was riding a borrowed machine.

George Matthews, Pete Reeves and Don Lock started at 9.30 a.m. and were soon in hot pursuit of the earlier riders, catching them after about 30 miles. The trial standard of three and a half hours was easily achieved, there even being time for a drink in Steyning before the final climb to the top of the Bostal.

COLD AND WET 'CUTS DOWN' CYCLISTS

THE OPENING event of the 1972 time trial season for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club was held on Sunday in extremely wet and cold conditions, severe enough to reduce the field to only eight starters and the finishing list to just five.

The event, taking in two circuits of the Offington-Findon-Long Furlong-Clapham-Offington roads, with start and finish on the Upper Brighton Road near Sompting Abbots, covered approximately 21 miles.

The event record stands to Nick Lelliott, who set the time of 54 minutes 43 seconds in 1969, but any ride under the hour has always found a place in the first three and 1972 was no exception.

It was last year's winner, George Matthews, who made lightest of the conditions and rode strongly to win in an excellent time of 56 minutes 48 seconds.

Tony Hill and Don Lock renewed last season's close scraps and Tony proved the fittest this time by the closest possible margin of just one second. Tony's time, his best ever for the course, was 59 minutes 27 seconds and Tony's plans for the season have been given a tremendous fillip by this performance.

PROMISING

Eddy Kneen, with a handicap allowance of 6 minutes 35 seconds, rode into fourth place with a highly promising 1 hour 2 minutes 7 seconds and deservedly won the handicap award.

Final finisher was Colin Miller who is still trying to get fit and was quite pleased with 1 hour 7 minutes 15 seconds.

Kevin Bishop, Graham Barnes and Steve Richards all gave best to the conditions—Kevin and Steve retiring after one lap and Graham just three miles from the end—so hard were the conditions.

This weekend sees a full programme with the club entering a strong team in the Central Sussex Cycling Club's 22-mile hilly event in the Balcombe area tomorrow (Saturday). On Sunday morning, club members will be pairing up for the club's two-up 25-mile event on the Horsham road with the start at Washington.

17 TH MARCH 1972

WORTHING HERALD

Cyclists battle against bitter conditions

THE 22-MILE hilly event promoted by the Central Sussex Cycling Club on Saturday certainly lived up to its reputation as a hard opener to the season.

The conditions were freezing temperatures and a strong and biting north east wind. The course started at Balcombe and proceeded in an anti-clockwise direction through Handcross, Cowfold, Bolney, Slaugham, Cuckfield and back to Balcombe.

Not only did the competitors have to cover some extremely up and down countryside but from Cowfold to the finish was right into the wind!

Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club had three competitors in the 90-strong field and fastest of the three was Don Lock with a time of 1 hour 2 minutes 45 seconds.

George Matthews returned 1 hour 3 minutes 24 seconds and Pete Reeves, not yet up to last year's form, was further down the field in 1 hour 9 minutes 50 seconds.

The winner was star rider, John Lyons of the Morden CRC and his time of 57 minutes 49 seconds was only three minutes slower than the winning time of last year, when the weather was much kinder.

Two-up

On Sunday, the Excelsior club's own event, the two-up 25 mile on the Horsham Road course, was held in sunshine but again the temperature was a minus quantity and the wind, still from the north, was if anything higher up the Beaufort scale than for the previous afternoon's racing.

Only three teams left timekeeper Charlie Lednor and, despite Pete Reeves feeling the effects of his effort in the Central Sussex event, he and Don Lock managed a comfortable win in 1 hour 10 minutes 7 seconds.

Second, with a creditable performance, came Colin Miller and John Lucas in 1 hour 17 minutes 59 seconds. John has been out of competition for some time and it was good to see him back in action again with his immaculate style.

Third were youngsters Kevin Bishop and Graham Barnes in 1 hour 24 minutes 18 seconds.

This Sunday sees the opening promotion of the Sussex Cyclists Association—their 25-miles event, again on the Horsham road. The club have several entries, including a strong entry in the team section.

WORTHING HERALD

24TH MARCH 1972.

Poor start made by cyclists

A POOR START to the 1972 Sussex Cyclists Association time trial programme was made on Sunday by Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club, 25 mile team champions of Sussex in 1971.

The 25-mile event on the Horsham road course turned out to be a clear warning to the local club that they are going to have to make considerable improvement over the next two months if they are to retain the team championship.

Both Brighton Mitre, who filled the first two places and won the team event, and Brighton Excelsior Club, who had some good individual rides, showed that they will be forces to reckon with in the coming months.

Don Lock, who finished sixth with a time of 1 hour 6 minutes 40 seconds, including one minute lost through mechanical trouble, was the best of the Worthing riders.

Pete Reeves (1.7.28) and Eddy Kneen (1.8.10) completed the club's team.

George Matthews also finished the event, but in what must be his slowest ever time of 1.11.54.

A brighter note was struck in the junior ten-mile event in which Worthing Excelsior's Graham Barnes returned 25 minutes 32 seconds to win with a margin of 20 seconds.

This Sunday a team comprising Tony Hill, Pete Reeves and Don Lock travel to Andover to compete in the Andover Wheeler's 25-mile event.

WORTHING HERALD

24TH MARCH

1972.

Cycling in Guernsey

FOR THE SECOND year in succession, many members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club will be spending the Easter holiday in Guernsey. They will be taking part in the Guernsey Cycling Festival competition, in which they did well last year.

A small group took the event by storm in 1971, gaining four firsts, a second and two thirds in individual events and scoring three wins in team races.

This time they will be without Mick Venner, but will have many

of their other leading riders taking part including George Matthews, Pete Reeves, Chris Woodcock, Paul Davis, Pete Langridge, Steve Richards and Geoff Allibone.

Six of the party will be flying from Shoreham on Wednesday and others will be going from Portsmouth and Gatwick.

WORTHING HERALD 31ST MARCH 1972.

Bleak ride for cyclists

THE 150-MILE round trip to Weyhill, west of Andover, for the Andover Wheelers 25 for Tony Hill, Peter Reeves and Don Lock of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday was not blessed with the best of racing conditions.

After a glorious week of warm sunshine and only light breezes, Sunday morning in the vast open expanses of Salisbury Plain dawned cold and with gale force westerly winds.

A tremendous fight for the first 12½ miles and a return half covered in about two thirds of the time for the outward journey was the order of things.

Of the Excelsior riders, Don Lock made the best of the conditions with a good effort to finish fourth in 1 hour 6 minutes 29 seconds.

Tony Hill and Pete Reeves had a

fair old scrap and for the second time this season Tony was involved in a one second decision. This time however, he lost out to Pete, their respective times being 1.11.8 and 1.11.9.

The event was won by J. McCarthy of the Salisbury Road Club with a time of 1 hour 2 minutes 46 seconds.

The majority of Worthing Excelsior's racing men will be in Guernsey for the Easter Holiday, taking part in the many and varied types of racing in the Willem II Cycling Festival.

Keith Dodman opens his season with the Mid-Shropshire Wheelers 50 on Sunday and a midlands 25 on the Monday.

The club have a team entered in the Crawley Wheelers 25 on Friday and also two members riding the Charlotteville 50 on Sunday.

The Herald, Friday, April 7, 1972

CYCLISTS SET FAST TIMES IN 25

THE EASTER programme for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club riders began on Good Friday morning with the 25-miles event held in the Crawley area and promoted by Crawley Wheelers.

The club's team entry of Tony Hill, Eddy Kneen and Don Lock were not, it seems, unduly troubled by the wet and blustery conditions and produced three of the best 25 miles times of the club so far this season.

Don was fastest with a time of 1 hour 4 minutes 34 secs. Tony Hill, showing much improved form, was back to the timekeeper in 1 hour 5 mins. 40 secs., and Eddy Kneen, recording his second fastest time ever for the distance, finished in 1 hour 6 minutes 14 secs.

The event was won by star Sussex performer Cliff Sharp of the Eastbourne Club in 58 mins. 13 secs.

On Easter Sunday, Tony Hill and Don Lock were again in action, this time on the Bath Road between Hungerford and Reading. The event was the first of the season's 50 mile races, the classic "Charlotteville."

The first 25 miles were south west and straight into a strong wind and both Excelsior riders

made good outward efforts. Their times at this point—Don 1 hour 14 minutes 7 secs. and Tony 1 hour 16 minutes 40 secs.—meant some extremely fast riding was needed on the wind assisted return if good times were to be recorded. Both, showing that their early season miles are beginning to pay dividends, managed fast times for the second half—Don 57 mins. 38 secs. and Tony 59 mins. 30 secs. Their respective aggregate times for the 50 miles were 2.11.45 and 2.16.10.

There is a full programme this weekend with the club's open 50-miles road race on the Ford Aerodrome Circuit on Saturday afternoon and the Club 25-miles championship on Sunday morning on the Horsham Road course.

The Open 50 has attracted a full field of 40 riders and again will be handicapped. The field will be sent off in five groups over a period of six minutes which should make for some fast and exciting racing.

The 25-miles championship will, without Mick Venner or George Matthews competing, perhaps be the most open for many years, although last year's winner Don Lock will be defending.

EVENING ARGUS, Tuesday, April 11, 1972

FOLLOWING his great form over Easter, when he won both the Crawley Wheelers' 25-mile and the Southern 25-mile time trials, Eastbourne Rovers' Cliff Sharp came out on top again in the East Sussex Cycling event at Hellingly.

This time, however, Cliff had help, for the event was the 29-mile two-up time trial, and he shared his victory with clubmate Maurice Colburn. They were

CYCLING

timed at 1hr. 10min. 11sec., some two minutes clear of the Central Sussex pairing of Brian Hope and Ron Rogers.

Taking third place with 1hr. 15min. 5sec. were the veteran Brighton Mitre pair, Maurice Wyatt and Alan Limbrey.

The riders had a pretty rough time in the Worthing Excelsior's 50-mile road race at Yapton on Saturday. First Sussex rider to finish was Paul Lipscombe, of Central Sussex, who placed fifth.

On Sunday the Worthing riders held their club 25-mile event on the Washington circuit, and Don Lock retained his club title with 64min. 3sec., just four seconds ahead of George Mathews.

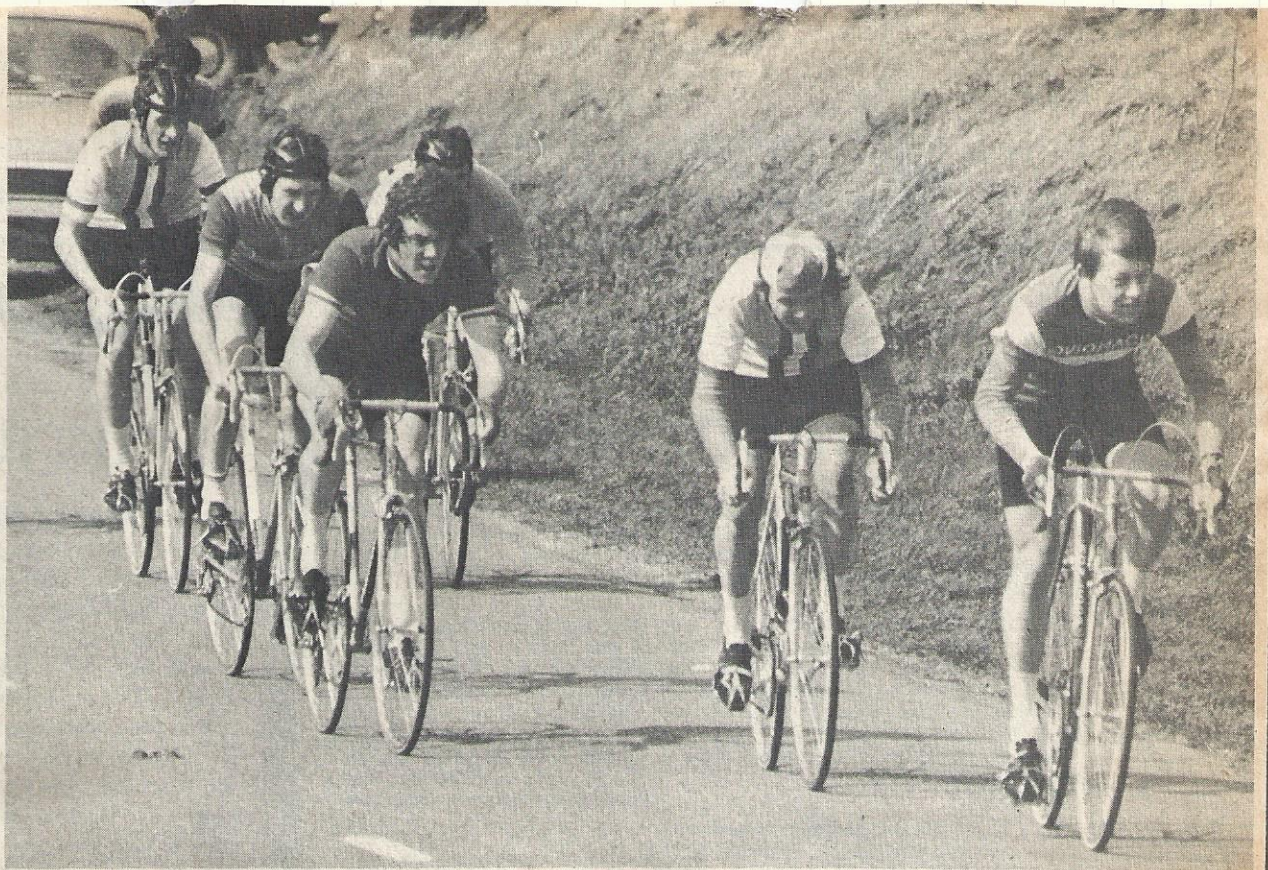
SUCCESS FOR CYCLIST

MEMBERS OF Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club returned at various times after the Easter holiday from the Guernsey Cycling Festival, and all had an enjoyable time. The island festival was better supported from the mainland than in previous years and the club's riders could not carry off the prizes as they had done previously. Nevertheless, there were, some good rides and the most notable was the effort of Kevin Bishop in finishing second in the 23-mile juniors and third category riders road race. This was the first real success that Kevin had enjoyed and he should be inspired to greater things in the future. Pete Reeves was sixth in the same race.

The 25-mile time trial held over a twisting and hilly course saw George Matthews fastest of the Worthing riders, finishing sixth in a large field in a time of 1 hour 6 mins. 44 secs. Other times were Peter Langridge 1.8.44, Kevin Bishop 1.10.12, Paul Davis 1.10.13, Chris Woodcock 1.13.32, Steve Richards 1.13.52 and Geoff Allibone 1.26.42.

In the 10-mile event, George again finished close up, his time of 26.11 being the fastest 10 in the club this year. Pete Reeves rode this event and recorded 27.14.

Excelsior 50-miles goes to Millard



There was a field of 40 riders for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's open 50-mile road race in the Ford-Yapton area on Saturday, and during the early stages the pace was made by the junior riders, B. Burgess (St Raphael) being particularly active.

At the end of the first of the 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ mile laps, Worthing's Kevin Bishop also showed up well in third place, but at the ten-mile mark the main group of riders were making their presence felt.

Burgess was joined by A. Milford (Charlottesville) and A. Morris (Brighton Mitre), and at the halfway stage John Lyons (Morden C.R.C.) began to stir things up.

After some 35 miles, first Morris and then Burgess lost contact with Millard, but Lyons had begun to eat into the leader's advantage. However, at the line Millard got home with 1min. 31sec. to spare. Lyons was second and J. Kitching (Redmon C.C.) third by a wheel from A. Culver (San Fairy Ann).

Best of the Worthing riders was George Matthews who finished eighth, and the highest placed junior was Burgess (11th).

REIGNING

On Sunday, Worthing Excelsior held the first of this season's club championships, the 25-mile event, on the Horsham road course, and the result was a win for reigning champion Don

The second group of riders get away from the start of the 50-mile Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club open road race, which was held in the Yapton-Ford area on Saturday.

Lock, whose time was 1hr. 4min. 3sec. George Matthews, who had ridden a hard race the previous day, took second place in 1hr. 4min. 7sec., but he had a chain off and the ten seconds or so that it cost him proved his undoing. Third was Eddy Kneen in 1hr. 6min. 31sec., fourth Pete Reeves (1-6-42), fifth Colin Miller (1-7-26) and Sixth Kevin Bishop (1-7-29).

The Sherwin Junior championship went to Bishop.

WEST SUSSEX GAZETTE

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1972

New two-up pairings do well in open 25

THERE WAS a good entry for Sussex Cyclists Association's open 25-mile two-up promotion on Sunday, including three teams from Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club.

The club's three entries were not riders who had previously ridden together, which is something really necessary in this kind of event, and they were not real contenders for the awards. They did, however, manage fair performances.

Veteran Ray Douglass and Richard Shipton produced one of the best rides, finishing in 1 hour 10 minutes 10 seconds. Eddy Kneen and Steve Richards also finished in exactly 1 hour 10 minutes 10 seconds.

The third team of Geoff Allibone and Alan Matthews just failed to beat 20 mph with their time of 1 hour 16 minutes 31 seconds.

MAJOR AWARD

There were some good performances by Sussex teams but none good enough to take the major award which went to Croydon with

Gifford and Boorman recording 59 minutes 25 seconds.

Tony Hill and Don Lock rode in the Southampton Wheelers 25-mile event on the Ringwood to Salisbury Road in the New Forest.

Don finished 13th in the field of 117 with a time of 1 hour 3 minutes 2 seconds and Tony 35th in 1 hour 6 minutes 10 seconds.

NEW COURSE

This Sunday, the club's 30-mile championship will be held on a new course starting and finishing at Ashington. There is likely to be a strong entry with most of the club's top riders taking part.

George Matthews is due to ride the Bognor Regis CC road race later the same day, but will nevertheless be all out to win the 30 after so narrowly losing the 25-mile championship.

Another interesting competitor is Alan Orman who has not raced for some time but is always capable of producing first class performances.

WORTHING HERALD 21ST APRIL 1972

OPEN 50 PROVIDES CYCLING THRILLS

HARD AND WINDY but with a warm sun—these conditions gave the 50-miles open road race promotion of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Saturday similar conditions to those of the 1971 event. A full field of 40 riders, starting in handicapped groups, set off from the Yapton start on the first of the 11 4½-mile laps of the Ford Airfield circuit promptly at 2.30 p.m.

Junior riders made the running for the earlier laps and B. Burgess of the St. Raphael Club was particularly active. First time round, Worthing's Kevin Bishop was close up in third place.

By the time 10 miles had been covered most of the youngsters had been absorbed by a growing main group. But Burgess, now joined by A. Millard, of the Charlotteville, and A. Morris, of Brighton Mitre, was still three minutes clear of the field.

At the halfway stage this position remained the same, but at the back of the field the scratchmen were making their strength felt. John Lyons, of the Morden CRC, was really going well and the larger groups in front were soon caught and split into many small groups.

WELL PLACED

During the sixth and seventh laps, George Matthews, of Worthing Excelsior, was well placed.

With the pressure on, the three out in front still had two minutes in hand but their efforts were beginning to tell and after some 35 miles first Morris and then the plucky Burgess lost contact with Millard who was maintaining his lead and his form.

As the final miles approached, Lyons made further efforts and rode away from the pack in an attempt to pull back the deficit on Millard. Everyone was now aware that Millard could hang on and, although the excitement mounted as Lyons ate his way into that lead, Millard was still a comfortable 1 minute 31 seconds clear at the line.

John Lyons finished second and J. Kitching, of the Redmon CC, gained third place by a wheel from A. Culver of the San Fairy Ann.

BEST LOCAL

Best of the local riders was George Matthews who finished eighth. The

highest placed junior was B. Burgess who finally finished 11th.

Kevin Bishop, the Worthing Excelsior junior, rode with great spirit and aggression and stayed with this excellent quality field right up to the final few miles.

Excelsior thank Colin Miller and all those, including members of other clubs, who made the event a success.

The Worthing Club's 25-mile championship, the first of this season's championships, was held on Sunday on the Horsham Road course. After two weeks of almost continuous gales, the morning dawned sunny, cold and with little wind.

Defending champion Don Lock had shown improving form over the past few weeks but it was generally expected that short distance expert George Matthews would prove too fast for him.

Don had not, however, overlooked that George had ridden a hard event the previous afternoon and gave himself an even chance.

Eddy Kneen, Pete Reeves and Colin Miller were among other senior riders to be reckoned with.

In the junior event, for the Sherwin Trophy, it looked as though the fight would be between Graham Barnes and Kevin Bishop who had also ridden the day before.

NECK AND NECK

By the turn at Broadbridge Heath it was clear that George and Don were clear of the others but it was absolutely neck and neck between them.

In the junior race, Graham Barnes had started well—catching senior Colin Miller—but by 15 miles had begun to fade and his chances were then ruined by a puncture.

Kevin rode well and came through to gain the championship.

On the slightly harder return, George had his chain off and the ten seconds or so that it cost him were to prove fatal, the watch once again giving Don the verdict—by just four seconds.

Result: 1 Don Lock, 1.4.3; 2 George Matthews, 1.4.7; 3 Eddy Kneen, 1.6.31; 4 Pete Reeves, 1.6.42; 5 Colin Miller, 1.7.26; 6 Kevin Bishop, 1.7.29; 7 Ray Douglass, 1.17.37; 8 Graham Barnes, 1.31.44.

First handicap and Sherwin trophy, Kevin Bishop.

Championship 30 proves disappointing event

THE 30-MILE championship of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday was a disappointing event.

George Matthews decided after all to concentrate on his road event in the afternoon and did not enter and Alan Orman postponed his return to the racing scene. There was, therefore, only a small field with Don Lock a clear favourite on his 1972 form.

Starting at number four, Don made no mistake, finishing first and in a reasonably good time of 1.19.12.

The strong north east wind prevented any really fast times and the other riders were well down. Second was Pete Reeves in 1.24.10, and third place and first handicap award went to Eddy Kneen with 1.25.22. Tony Hill was fourth in 1.25.59.

New course

The new course starting just north of Ashington and finishing in Hole-street, Ashington, went first up the A24 to Warnham roundabout on the Horsham by-pass and then south to the finish, but taking in an east/west leg from Buck Barn to Cowfold. Given better conditions, it should be possible to improve on these times quite considerably.

In the Bognor Regis CC Road Race in the afternoon, George Matthews and Colin Miller both

rode well to finish the 62½-mile and 13 laps of the Yapton/Ford circuit.

George was particularly active in keeping with the leaders of this good and fast moving field, and remained in contact until the vital break in the 11th lap.

He was to finish eventually 15th and just two minutes down on the winner, A. Watson of Colchester.

Colin had been dropped from the leading group in the seventh circuit but worked hard with two others to finish 20th and five minutes down.

This Sunday the club have a team of four riders travelling to Warwick to compete in the Warwick Road Club 50-mile event. Given good conditions, they hope to improve on the club's existing team record for the distance.

TITLE BIDS RUINED BY STRONG WINDS

STRONG WINDS over the weekend affected the various members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club who were out to win titles and break records.

Only three youngsters competed in the club 15 miles event starting on the Sompting by-pass on Sunday.

The event ended in victory for Graham Barnes who recorded a creditable time of 40 min. 16 sec. Second was Kevin Bishop (42-20) and third Derek Pearce (44-06).

Four senior members travelled to Coventry on Sunday in an attempt to break the Excelsior club's team 50 miles record — three fastest times to count.

They chose this event for their

effort because the field of almost 100 included some splendid riders to provide stiff competition and this 50-mile course is notoriously fast.

The elements had the last word, however, for the times of most riders were up to 15 minutes slower than usual and Excelsior will have to wait a little longer for a new team record.

George Matthews finished 12th overall with 2 hr. 18 min. 26 sec. and in 13th place was Don Lock (2-19-05).

Keith Dodman recorded 2-25-55 and the 2-24-57 returned by Eddie Kneen gave him fourth prize in the handicap section.

CYCLING 13TH MAY 1972.

B.C.F. CHAMPIONSHIP.

Sussex

Senior

GEORGE MATTHEWS, Worthing Excel, 76m in 5-33-5; 2. D. Awcock, Cent Sussex CC, st; 3. A. Jones, Crawley Wh. at 5-42; 4. A. Hale, Crawley Wh. at 6-43; 5. D. Hone, Cent Sussex CC, at 7-55; 6. R. Prunty, Cent Sussex CC, at 9-20; 7. P. Lipscombe, Cent Sussex CC, at 12-22; 8. K. Chandler, Brighton Mitre, at 12-39; 9. A. Morris, Brighton Mitre, at 13-17. All finishers.

Junior

HOWARD NICKLESS, Crawley, 30m in 1-23-4; 2. J. Doocey, Bognor Regis CC, st; 3. T. Leach, Eastbourne Rovers, at 31 sec; 4. J. Hillier, Crawley Wh. at 2-31; 5. T. Foster, Bognor Regis CC, at 4-36; 6. E. Rishman, Bognor Regis CC, at 4-53; 7. R. Dixon, Bognor Regis CC, at 9-0. All finishers.

GEORGE SPRINTS TO TITLE

WORTHING EXCELSIOR cyclist George Matthews won his first important senior title on Sunday when he took the 76-mile Sussex Division British Cycling Federation road race championship in 3 hours, 33 minutes.

Showing new tactical maturity, Matthews stayed with the main group until the eighth of the 13 six-mile laps of the Rushlake Green circuit. Then P. Doocey (Bognor) moved away in a solo effort and within a few miles Matthews had left the bunch to move up with him.

Finding Doocey tiring, Matthews fought on alone for three more laps. He was then joined by experienced Central

Sussex rider Don Awcock, but the Worthing man's recent sprint training paid off with a devastating finish that took him two lengths clear.

Fastest Worthing riders in Brighton Excelsior Club's 25-mile 2-Up on the Horsham road on Saturday were Collin Miller and John Lucas, who were well pleased with their time of 1 hour, 3 minutes, 11 seconds.

Richard Shipton and Ray Douglass made their second 2-Up outing of the season to record 1.9.2, and George Matthews and girl friend Hilary Nickless (Central Sussex) had a reasonable 1.9.26.

Steve Richards, with no recent training, could not keep up with

Eddy Kneen and their time was 1.10.16.

In the Southern Counties Cyclists' Union 50-mile event on Sunday, Don Lock returned a time of 2 hours 12 minutes 47 seconds, and Eddy Kneen 2.26.51.

Excelsior's racing committee have selected the team to represent the club in the Sussex team championship on May 21.

As expected, George Matthews, Don Lock and Keith Dodman are named, but there is a gamble about fourth-choice Alan Orman who has yet to prove himself this season.

Collin Miller and Pete Reeves, preferred to Tony Hill, complete the six, with the fastest four counting.

CYCLING

George is in pursuit of title

THE OPENING of the 1972 track season at Preston Park, Brighton, on Wednesday gave Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club trackmen the first chance to test out their fitness.

The season got under way with the preliminary rounds of the Sussex division of the British Cycling Federation 4,000 metres individual pursuit championship. George Matthews, Colin Miller and Paul Fish had entered from Worthing.

The first round is, in fact an individual track time trial over the 4,000 metres distance with the fastest eight qualifying in the quarter-finals.

Both George and Colin qualified, but in the quarter-finals Colin went out, beaten by Adrian Morris, of the Brighton Mitre Club with 5 minutes 57 seconds to Colin's 6.04/5ths.

George was paired against strong Central Sussex rider Paul Lipscombe but rose with great style to return the fastest time in the championship so far, 5 minutes 53 2/5ths seconds. Lipscombe finished with 5.58 1/5th.

George now progresses into the semi-final with Adrian Morris, Brighton Mitre, Pete Doocey, Bognor Regis, and Dave Chandler, also of Brighton Mitre.

Ten milers

Thursday saw the start of the 1972 evening ten miles event on a new course worked out and measured by Ray Douglass.

Riders were keen to try the new course but the most foul weather conditions ruined any chance of a fair test. The course, based on the A24 between Findon and Ashington, with a loop through Wiston, starts at the top of Washington Bostal and finishes just north of the roundabout at the northern end of the bypass.

Gusty, strong winds would have made it a hard ride in any event, but the constant and torrential rain made for the most treacherous conditions. Times were accordingly rather slow but in better weather must improve by at least two minutes.

Fastest, George Matthews, 24min. 40sec.; second Kevin Bishop 25.34; third, Collin Miller, 26.37; fourth, John Lucas 27.19; fifth, Graham Barnes 27.57; sixth, Geoff Allibone 32.21.

WORTHING
GAZETTE
17TH MAY
1972.

Four wins give George a 'birthday benefit'

WEDNESDAY'S Brighton Festival Cycling Meeting at the Preston Park track turned out to be a "birthday benefit" for Worthing Excelsior rider George Matthews, who was celebrating his 19th birthday.

In really tremendous form, and full of confidence since his Sussex road race win, George took the meeting by storm, scoring four wins and one second in his five events. He started with 1 minute 35 2/5th seconds to win the two-lap scratch race.

The 600 metres handicap race saw George winning his heat comfortably and then taking the final in 474/5th seconds.

In the Italian team pursuit event over three laps, George rode with Bruce Gimber and Collin Miller and this team finished second, beaten by Brighton Mitre by just one-fifth of a second.

Big event

The big event of the meeting was the 10,000 metres scratch race for the Festival Bowl. The club had a special interest in this for the trophy holder was Mike Venner and they were keen to retain it.

The race was keenly contested, but it was George's night and he won in fine style from T. Leach of Eastbourne Rovers and K. Chandler of Brighton Mitre. George's time was 14 minutes 57 seconds.

Sunny conditions on Thursday evening saw 17 riders taking part in the second of the Evening ten-mile events, but cold winds again kept times down.

G. Garland, of the Anglia Club, set a new course record with a time of 23 minutes 41 seconds, and local riders will now have to aim at this target.

Worthing Excelsior times were: George Matthews 24.06, Collin Miller 26.02, Kevin Bishop 26.04, Paul Fish 26.17, Pete Reeves 26.42, Chris Woodcock 26.44, Andrew Smith 27.15, Alan Matthews 28.43, Geoff Allibone 31.10, Alan Hubbard 33.54, Paul Denyer 35.44.

Both Hubbard and Denyer were riding their first events and gave creditable performances.

George Matthews's time comprises the fastest club time for the course, but the events are yet to have reasonable weather and the time should still come down to 22 minutes.

WORTHING HERALD

26TH MAY 1972

Title lost by Excelsior

TOPPLED FROM their pedestal as the team champions of Sussex on Sunday were Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club. In the 1972 Sussex CA 25-mile team championship they finished second, well beaten by Brighton Mitre CC.

As with last season's event, the weather was wet and greasy conditions at roundabouts brought about a number of crashes although none were more serious than minor abrasions.

The Worthing club were given a fine individual ride by George Matthews, who finished fastest of the 65 strong field, with 1 hour 2 minutes 18 seconds, but his team mates could not produce their best form.

Alan Orman returned 1.7.18, Colin Miller 1.8.19, and Keith Dodman, despite a heavy fall, 1.9.30, aggregating for the four riders 4.27.25.

Brighton Mitre's winning aggregate was 4.23.07., leaving a big margin.

The third team was Brighton Excelsior CC in 4.29.11.

Some consolation for the club was the retention of the trophy for second teams. Richard Shipton 1.11.41, Chris Woodcock 1.10.28 and John Lucas 1.14.8 were the team members.

Other club rides in the event were: John Mansell 1.14.47, Tony Palmer 1.15.1, Alan Matthews 1.15.15, Steve Richards 1.15.25 and Ray Douglass 1.16.19.

Over the bank holiday weekend there will be several events occupying members but there will also be a number of tours undertaken, including a party of six heading for mid-Wales.

7TH JUNE 1972

Miller backs Matthews in points race

THE PRESTON PARK track meeting at Brighton on Wednesday again found Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's George Matthews in good form and he is now getting support from Colin Miller, who is also picking up the points in the Sussex Cycle Racing League.

The first event on Wednesday saw John Lucas of Worthing riding well to finish second in the Devil Take the Hindmost event, in which the last rider over the line each time is eliminated. This is a popular type of racing with spectators.

Both George and Colin got through their heats of the 600 metres handicap and, riding strongly in the final, gained first and third places, split by K. Chandler of Brighton Mitre.

The two Excelsior riders also qualified for the final of the one lap scratch event and the result was identical to the handicap, with the two Worthing lads split by Chandler.

Team pursuit

In the Italian team pursuit, George and Colin were teamed with Chris Woodcock, but their sprinting efforts left them a bit short of stamina and they had to be content with third place behind Brighton Mitre and Eastbourne Rovers.

Both George and Colin had recovered by the final event of the evening and George was a clear winner with 38 points in this 15,000 metres race. Colin shared second place with 22 points.

The fourth of the evening ten-mile events on Thursday was the third one to be held in pouring rain, but with only light winds and a good atmosphere there were some good times from the small field.

George Matthews had no difficulty in notching up another win. His time, close to 25 mph, was 24 minutes 17 seconds and he was just over a minute clear of Don Lock, riding his first event for three weeks, who was second in 25.25. Third was Paul Fish in 25.50.

Other times: Andy Smith 26.28, Ray Douglass 28.31, Alan Hubbard 31.48, Maurice Rosenberg 34.28 and Paul Denyer 36.30.

OPEN "25" CYCLE RACE

(PROMOTED BY THE WORTHING EXCELSIOR CYCLING CLUB)

BOWL OUT INTO THE COUNTRY AT 5 p.m.
ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10th, AND SEE THE START
AND FINISH AT WASHINGTON VILLAGE
LAY-BY (Junction of A283 with A24).

(SPONSORED BY RON MILLS OF WORTHING AND WEST WORTHING)

Strong field

ONE OF THE strongest fields ever to assemble for a local cycling event will be at a point just north of Washington roundabout tomorrow (Saturday) at 5 p.m. They will be preparing to take part in Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's open 25 miles time trial.

Over the years, Excelsior have held their open 25 in October and, though fields have usually been quite good, the quality has often suffered.

Some time ago 100 riders used to take part and it slipped down to 80 last year. Saturday's race has attracted only 64 riders—13 of them from the Worthing club—but by changing the event to June the club have attracted some formidable names in the list.

Scratch man is Peter Humphrey from East Surrey Road Club, on current form the fastest man in England this year over the distance. He recently won the Southern Counties 25.

Then there is R. H. Porter (Hounslow), fourth in the national 25 last weekend; his club-mate Geoff Lee and Cliff Sharp (Eastbourne Rovers) the top entry from a Sussex club.

The Excelsior rider most fancied to do well is George Matthews.

The course starts 770 yards north of the roundabout and goes through Ashington, Dial Post and Southwater to Broadbridge Heath roundabout. Then the riders return along the same route to a point 220 yards south of the starting place.

This race will complete a memorable cycling day for Worthing. Using most of this course, an area heat of the national four up championship over 100 kilometres will take place tomorrow morning. There are no Worthing riders in the heat.

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GEORGE CYCLES WELL OVER TOUGH COURSE

THE SUCCESS STORY of the weekend's cycle racing again concerned Worthing Excelsior's George Matthews, who is really showing fine form and over longer distances.

He demonstrated this on Sunday in the 60-mile event promoted by the Velo Club Noviomagus of Chichester, by taking on a first class field on an extremely tough course and coming in third.

The route that the riders had to cover took them twice up the notorious Harting Hill, probably one of the stiffest climbs in the county. The fact that the winner, Harry Jackson of the Velo Club St. Raphael, only a few lengths in front of George, was home in a time of 2 hours 35 minutes gives a fair idea of the quality of the competition.

Disappointment

The disappointment of the weekend must have been the failure of John Lucas and Colin Miller to set up a club standard time for a 50-mile tandem ride.

They journeyed up to the Bath Road at Theale to take part in the University Tandem 50, and were struck with bad luck in puncturing at three miles, which must have reduced their moral. Colin, on the front, did well to hold them up-

right, for a front wheel puncture at 30 mph can be extremely nasty.

They changed the tubular and raced on until at 35 miles their effort ended, with both riders exhausted. More practice on the tandem and another effort should prove more successful.

Team entry

The Southern Counties Cyclists' Union 25 on the local course on Sunday also had a Worthing Excelsior team entry with Tony Hill, Ray Douglass and Tony Palmer. Tony Hill was fastest in 1 hour 7 minutes 28 seconds. Ray recorded 1.13.48 and Tony Palmer 1.14.4.

Don Lock rode in the Wessex 50-mile event in the New Forest and recorded 2 hours 14 minutes 5 seconds.

Tomorrow (Saturday) the club's open 25-mile event starts just north of Washington Roundabout on the A24 at 5 p.m. and there is a first class field of 64 riders.

The awards that the club have been able to offer through the generous support of Ron Mills Cycles has attracted many riders from London, Portsmouth, Southampton and Bournemouth, apart from strong entries from Sussex clubs.

CYCLING 10TH JUNE 1972.

Lavant IT. — Harry Jackson, VC
St Raphael-Stanton, 60m in 2-35-0; 2
C. Kearley, Whitewebbs CC; 3 G.
Matthews, Worthing Excel; 4 H.
Farmer, Chiltern RC; 5 R. Webb,
Whitewebbs CC; 6, R. Boulter,
B'Mouth Arrow, all st.

MATTHEWS REACHES PURSUIT FINAL

THERE WAS a lively meeting, with some exciting racing, at Preston Park Track, Brighton, on Wednesday, and Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club riders had a good share of the evening's successes.

The meeting opened with the semi-finals of the Sussex Individual Pursuit Championship. George Matthews, of the Worthing club, progressed to the final with a decisive but hard-fought win over Adrian Morris of Brighton Mitre. Their respective times were 5min. 52½sec. and 5min. 56½sec.

In the other semi-final, Keith Chandler, of Brighton Mitre, beat Pat Doocey, of Bognor, in the fastest time, 5min. 47½sec.

The final should prove an exciting race.

COMEBACK

John Lucas, of Worthing, still searching, in his comeback, for his form of two years ago, managed second place in a fast run "Devil Take the Hindmost," losing the sprint to another comeback rider, Terry Chambers, of Brighton Mitre.

In the one lap scratch, both George Matthews and Colin Miller qualified for the final by reason of their first and second placings in the first heat. It was Colin who turned the tables on George in the final, producing a tremendous sprint. The result—1 Colin Miller, 2 Keith Chandler, 3 George Matthews.

George won the next event, the five kilometre scratch race, beating Chandler and Chambers to the line in a time of 7min. 15½sec.

In the six lap Double Harness Pursuit, where riders are in teams of two, Chris Woodcock, of Worthing, found the speed of George Matthews a bit much for him, but hung on gamely and they did well to finish third.

On Thursday, Lewes Wanderers Club staged the first of a series of three 36-mile road races in the Laughton area of East

Sussex. The circuit, six miles round, is covered six times and, although undulating, is a fast course.

Three Worthing riders, George Matthews, Colin Miller and John Lucas, are taking part in the series. The first event was won by George from a leading bunch of 10 of the 23 starters. This group had been away from the end of lap five when George had won the prime.

George's sprinting is improving along with his stamina and he is riding with greater confidence than ever before. After this ride he is undoubtedly the favourite to win the series.

John Lucas and Colin Miller finished in a second group a little way down on the leaders.

Event number five of the Evening 10 Mile Series, held at Washington on Thursday, gave Tony Hill his first win of the season.

He beat Don Lock by just one second for the second time this year. Their times were 25min. 37 sec. and 25min. 38sec.

Third was Andy Smith in 26min. 45sec. This Yorkshireman, now residing in the area and working at the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute at Rustington, is showing good form and could prove a useful addition to the club's team strength.

Steve Richards was fourth in 28.07, and there were three improving rides from youngsters Alan Hubbard 31.08, Maurice Rosenberg 33.52 and Paul Denyer 34.42.

JUNE 15TH 1972.

Stott pedals to open race win

Only three of the 64 down on the start sheet failed to turn up for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's open 25-mile race at Washington on Saturday despite a day of storms.

The race was on the Horsham road course, and the pattern was set by E. Baker (Hainault) passing through the half-way check in just 28min. 20sec. Worthing's George Matthews, tenth away, was past in 28min. 45sec., and E. Boorman (Croydon), off 21st, was through in 27min. 54sec.

The fastest Sussex rider on the card, Cliff Sharp (Eastbourne), was through in 27min. 21sec.; Bob Porter (Hounslow) who was third in the National 25, was 27min. 25sec.; and A. Stott (Portsmouth) was 27min. 8sec. Scratch man P. Humphrey was timed at 27min. 14sec.

On the return ride to Washington Stott and Sharp pulled clear, with Porter, Humphrey and Baker sorting out the minor placings and Matthews out of it.

At the finish only 14 seconds separated the two leaders with Stott winning in 57min. 43sec. from Sharp (57min. 57sec.) and Humphrey (58min. 39sec.). Fourth was Porter and fifth Baker. Matthews was the highest Worthing rider being ninth in 1hr. 57sec. Eastbourne Rovers won the team event.

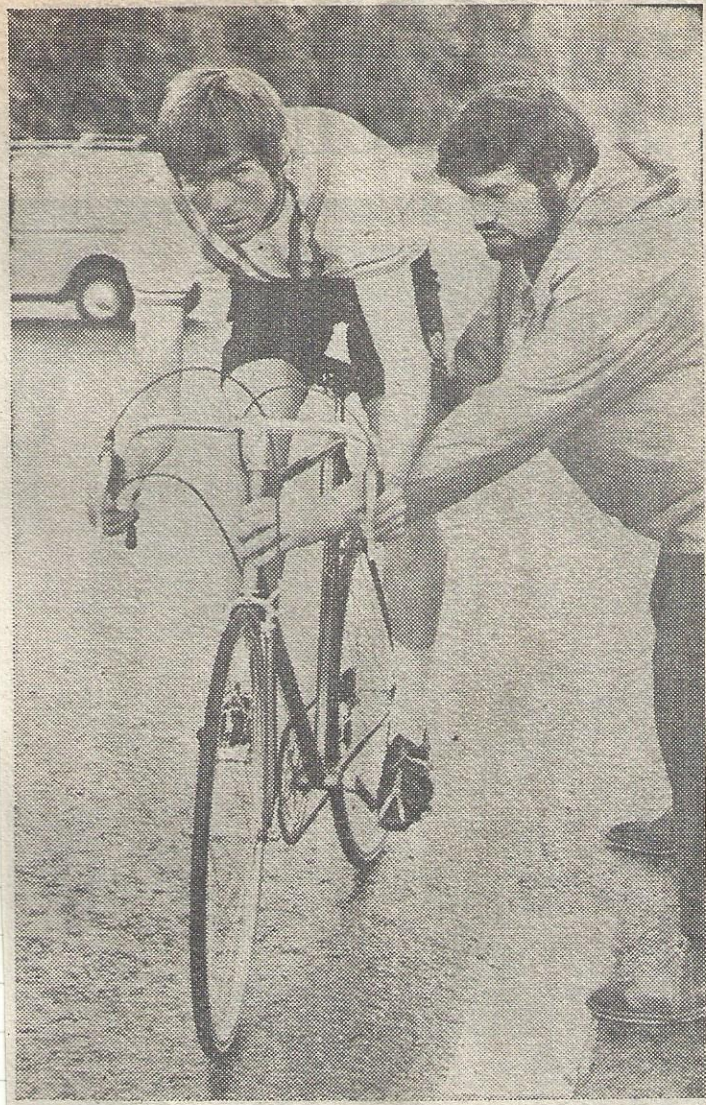
The first of three evening criteriums staged by Lewes Wanderers Cycling Club on Thursday was won by George Matthews (Worthing Excelsior C.C.) whose time for the 36 miles was 1hr. 27min. 18sec. Matthews also took the primes on the third and fifth laps, while that on the second lap went to R. Beatty (Croydon Premier).

There were some class riders in the field of 24 and, at the end, Matthews had two seconds to spare over G. Garland (Velo Club Anglia Sport), who was a second up on third man Beatty.

Points classification after the first race is: Matthews (24); Garland (23); Beatty (22); A. Jones (Crawley Wheelers) 21; P. Lipscombe (Central Sussex) 20; K. Chandler (Brighton Mitre) 19; B. Hone (Central Sussex) 18; P. Crofts (East Surrey Road Club) 17; T. O'Brien (Rutland C.C.) 16; J. Lucas (Worthing Excelsior) 15; T. Downing (U.S.A.) 14; A. Hale (Crawley Wheelers) 13.

The second race begins at 7.30 p.m. this (Thursday) evening, the start being approximately half a mile west of Laughton on the B2124 road.

WORTHING HERALD JUNE 16TH
1972.



GEORGE MATTHEWS,
Worthing, ready for the off
in Worthing Excelsior Cycl-
ing Club's open 25-mile race
from Washington on Satur-
day.

Cyclists rewarded for courage

THE AWFUL WEATHER surely reached a climax on Saturday evening with torrential rain and thunder storms.

It was not enough, however, to deter entrants for Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's open 25-mile time trial. Of the 64 on the start sheet, only three failed to report to the timekeeper.

Competitors were rewarded for their courage, for the wind dropped and, with no dangerous corners or roundabouts on the Horsham Road course, conditions turned out to be ideal for some really fast times.

The pattern was set by number 5 E. Baker, of the Hainault Club, Essex, who passed through the halfway check in just 28 minutes 20 sec. Worthing's George Matthews, at No. 10, was past in 28 mins. 45 secs. and No. 21, E. Boorman, of Croydon, improved this to 27 mins. 54 secs.

FASTEST

The fastest Sussex rider on the card, Cliff Sharp, of Eastbourne, was next to show at No. 30 with a halfway time of 27 minutes 21 secs.

Bob Porter, of Hounslow, recently third in the National Championship 25, was through at No. 40 but at that stage was second to Sharp in 27.25.

At the rear of the field, No. 55 and scratch man No. 60, were having a tremendous fight. No. 55, A. Stott, of Portsmouth, was going tremendously well and clocked 27.08 for the first 12½ miles and P. Humphrey, at No. 60, was just six seconds down at 27.14.

The return to the Washington finish from Broadbridge Heath

was hard enough, although not slow, to sort out those with the stamina.

Of the leading riders, it was Stott and Sharp who were slowly to pull clear.

Porter, Humphrey and Baker were left to sort out the minor placings and Matthews also was losing ground.

At the finish, only 14 seconds separated the two leaders and the verdict went to Stott with a time of 57 mins. 43 secs. Sharp was second in 57.57; P. Humphrey third in 58.39; Porter fourth in 58.47 and Baker fifth in 59.43.

The highest placed Worthing rider was George Matthews who recorded his fastest time of the season in finishing ninth in 1 hour 0 mins. 57 secs.

GOOD FORM

There were many personal best performances and several Excelsior riders showed good form.

Colin Miller's 1.2.46 and Alan Orman's 1.3.21 were examples of this.

Other Worthing times were: Don Lock 1.3.43, Eddy Kneen 1.4.32, Tony Hill 1.4.57, P. Reeves 1.7.40, Harry Beasley 1.8.7, Tony Palmer 1.10.39, Ray Douglass 1.10.44, Alan Matthews 1.12.39.

The team event was won by Eastbourne Rovers with an aggregate for three riders of 3 hours 0 mins. 22 secs.

The handicap team award went to the Hampshire Road Club.

Many of the visiting riders praised the successful running of the event and the club owe their thanks to promoter Tony Hill and his many helpers.

CYCLING 17TH JUNE 1972 -

Lewes Wanderers Eve Crit —
GEORGE MATTHEWS, Worthing-Ex-
celsior, 36m in 1-27-18; 2. G.
Garland, VVC Anglia-Sport, st; 3. R.
Beatty, Croydon Prem at 2sec; 4. A.
Jones, Crawley Wh; 5. F. Lipscombe.
Central Sussex; 6. K. Chandler.
Brighton Mitre, all st.
Green Shield, all st.

WORTHING HERALD JUNE 16TH 1972 .



RAY DOUGLASS, Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club member, competing in the 25-mile race from Washington on Saturday.

World's best attract 2,000 cycling

THE "PRO-AM" meeting at Preston Park, Brighton, on Wednesday, attended by nearly 2,000 enthusiasts, gave local cyclists a real taste of the world's best in both categories. There were world champions past and present and Olympic possibilities.

It was not surprising that Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club riders did not have their usual success. But they did have a great opportunity to watch and learn.

There was a notable exception to lack of success. It came when Bruce Kimber and George Matthews qualified from their heat for the final of the 600 metres open handicap. They were unplaced in a fast field at the final stage.

On Thursday the second of the Lewes Wanderers Criteriums was held and Worthing's George Matthews, winner of event one, was looking for another success.

He rode strongly from the start but his every move was watched and covered, and he was unable to get away. At the end of the 36 miles he was placed to contest the sprint finish, but it was Paul Lipscombe, of the Central Sussex Club, who had the edge and George had to be content with second place.

This leaves an interesting situation for the final event next Thursday, for these two are now level on points.

The club evening ten-mile race,

also held on Thursday, was won by Don Lock with a time of 24 min. 39 sec. Second was Tony Hill in 25.00 and third Andy Smith in 25.36.

Top time trial

This Sunday the most important time trial to be held in this part of the country since the war takes place. With both the start and finish at Washington, local cyclists will be out in force to see the National 50-Mile Championship.

There is a field of 120 of the fastest 50-milers in the country including current 25-mile champion Alf Engers, of Luton.

It is anticipated that this event will be won with a time in the region of 1 hour 50 minutes, and Engers is undoubtedly the favourite.

Seven Worthing Excelsior riders are competing — Keith Dodman, Tony Hill, George Matthews, Don Lock, Chris Woodcock, Colin Miller and Alan Orman.

The start at 6 a.m. is from the top of the Washington Bostal, where riders proceed to Offington and then east to the Brighton end of the Shoreham by-pass. The route then retraces through the start and then north to the Warnham roundabout at the far end of the Horsham by-pass.

The last leg is south to the finish near Rock cross-roads on the A24, about a quarter of a mile north of Washington.

Engers favourite for national title

Washington will be buzzing with activity from 6 a.m. onwards on Sunday morning for it is there that the men's National 50-mile cycling championship will start and end.

The first of the 120 riders will set off at a minute past six o'clock, and the last at 8 a.m. Favourite for the race is A. R. Engers (Luton Wheelers), the National 25-mile champion and record holder, while Portsmouth Cycling Club have a fine chance of taking the team title with D. E. Brown, D. S. Brown and A. Stott riding in their colours.

Among the Sussex entries is K. A. Dodman (Worthing Excelsior), who won the county 50-mile title in both 1971 and 1972. A host of other well-known riders from clubs and down the country have entered, and if conditions are suitable there should be some very fast times.

The route is south from Washington to Findon, then

Offington roundabout, through Lancing, over the Adur Bridge, with a turning point at the end of Shoreham by-pass. The return trip is via Lancing, Broadwater, Offington roundabout, Findon, Washington, Ashington, Dial Post, Southwater, Warnham Court roundabout, Horsham by-pass, Brodbridge Heath, Southwater, West Grinstead cross-roads, Dial Post, Ashington and back to the finish at the "Washington" sign 135 yards short of Rock cross-roads.

REG LEADS

Riders from West Sussex took most of the honours in the second of three 36-mile criteriums promoted by Lewes Wanderers Cycling Club at Laughton on Thursday, and the overall leader with 47 points is Reg Matthews (Worthing Excelsior).

Matthews, who won the first

event, took the primes on the first and fifth laps of Thursday's race, but had to be content with second place two seconds behind P. Lipscombe (Central Sussex). Third, at four seconds, was A. Jones (Crawley Wheelers). Lipscombe's winning time was 1hr. 25min. 50sec.

CYCLING 24TH JUNE 1972

WORTHING EXCELSIOR CC "25"	
(G935)	
Tony Stott, Portsmouth CC ...	57 43
C. Sharp, Eastbourne Rvrs ...	57 57
P. Humphrey, East Surrey RC ...	58 39
R. Porter, Hounslow & D Wh ...	58 47
E. Baker, Hainault RC ...	58 43
J. Dutton, Central Sussex ...	1 0 9
Team — Eastbourne Rovers (Sharp, Leach, Stevens) 3-0-22.	

"I LIVE dangerously, don't I?" grinned Hounslow's Martyn Roach mischievously, after taking his third RTTC 50-mile title. He had given a magnificent power display in the dying miles to wrest the crown from 25-mile champion Alf Engers, Luton Wheelers.

Engers was trying for the "double" in this wonderful promotion by Dave Hughes on behalf of the London South DC, using the new G.952 based at Washington, Sussex, as a battleground. Alf smashed his three gears (102 bottom-118 top) into an early lead — a lead he was to hold until one and a half miles from the finish.

At 10 miles he led in 21-18 to Roach's 21-33, with another Hounslow man, Bob Porter, next in 21-35 and then Clifton CC's man of the moment Ian White level with Hounslow's Jeff Marshall in 21-47, after which came "local" man Dave Eldridge, Delta RC, in 22-14.

At 25 miles it was still Engers in 55-11, followed by Roach 55-58, White 56-6, Porter 56-23, Dennis Brown, Portsmouth CC, 56-35, Eldridge 57-5 and Marshall 57-6.

It seemed at the 30-mile check that Roach was still losing ground and — even with his reputation for powerful finishes — looking to have left it a bit late to overhaul Engers. Alf was clocking 1-6-7 to Roach's 1-6-49, with Yorkshire's main hopes entirely upon Ian White in third place with 1-7-6, and Porter 1-7-26.

At 40 miles the checks showed Roach to have gained a few vital seconds. Perhaps Engers was beginning to feel the effects of his huge gears on such an undulating course when, by common consent, most riders sported a couple of moderate gears.

But at the finish he was unrepentant: "If I used lower gears I'd just go slower!" he said.



ALMOST at his double goal, Alf Engers

Roach, on the other hand, renowned as one of the strong men of racing, was horrified when told of Alf's bottom gear.

"I rode my Milk Race bike — 10 gears, bottle cage, pump and spare tub, the only difference was a pair of twenty-eighters and seven-ounce tubs. I used a bottom gear in the low 90s on some of those long drags against the wind, and it was still a comforting thought that I had a few more to play with!"

At 40 miles Engers blazed through in 1-29-42, with Roach now beginning to reel him in for the first time, 35 seconds down in 1-30-17, White 1-30-35 now scenting his first championship medal, Porter 1-21-24, Eldridge 1-31-58 and Marshall 1-32-10 rounding off an unassailable Hounslow team.

The race was now among these few, long before riders like Pete Wells, North Bucks RC, had desisted or were reduced to speeds that spoke volumes on the toughness of this Sussex course. Frank Taylor, Notts and Derby Clarion, shook his head dumbly at Roach's winning time on the fine scaffold-mounted result board and wondered why he even bothered to finish with his out-of-character 2-4-2. "No trouble, just legs and mind!" he finally managed to comment.

"Ticker" Mullins, Rockingham CC, thoroughly demoralized with a puncture in the early miles and obviously affected by club-mate Mike McNamara's recent serious illness, was likewise "not with it" on this championship day.

These were setbacks enough for any championship, and on top of this there were some notable non-starters like Randy Allsopp, Cleveleys RC, Robin Buchan, Norwood Paragon, and Steve Wilson, High Wycombe.

The last 10 miles were packed with drama as Roach steadily hauled himself back on level terms with Engers, with kerbside timekeepers keeping check and shouting their findings. Official timekeeper Dave Stokes thought to nip back up the course from the finish, at one and a half miles to go, and take an accurate time-check, bringing back the thrilling figures which tell the dramatic story of this championship: Engers still in the lead 1-50-50, Roach 1-50-52, White 1-51-51 and Porter 1-52-6.

Did Alf know how things stood at that time? Said Engers: "I knew it was close, but if I'd known how close I'd have closed my eyes for the last mile or so!"

And how much did those mountainous gears of Alf's help or hinder his bid for a "25" and "50" double? Local man Dave Eldridge turned in a beautifully-judged ride but insisted that his knowledge of the course helped him immensely. "I ride and train on these roads, I know every bump, nook and cranny, it helps a lot to know what gear to use beforehand and when to get into that gear. I also know how hard that last stretch can be and was prepared for it... that's why my ride is a good one!"

It was a good one indeed, too good for Tim Dobson, Comrades CC, who in all fairness must be



YORKSHIRE hope White brought home a bronze

below par in recovering from a cold.

Too good for Dennis Brown, who after a promising start also slipped back down from the placings, and Jon Burnham, Graham Huck, Roger Francis from the challenging Rockingham CC team who found the day and course not to their liking.

It was a fine ride by Roach, a promising ride too — as he seemed to be untroubled by his recent marathon in the Milk Race.

"I finished the Milk Race in good spirits and still keen—why, I got up at 4.30 on Sunday morning after the final stage and went to see Jill Clapton in the women's championship at Goostrey. I even rode my bike round the course — that shows I'm still keen!"

But it still did not answer whether he had suffered from the Milk Race. He did mention some worrying stomachache earlier in the week: "Either nerves or the Bylch-y-Groes, I felt the strain at the time and have wondered since whether it might be that!"

A fine championship, impeccable organization by Dave Hughes and his marshalling organizer Clarencourt's Micky Ayliffe, and worthy medal-winners all, not the least of whom was Yorkshire's pride Ian White who was almost denied his chance by a training pile-up the previous Monday when Dennis Pickard fell and brought him down. His swollen ankle and bruised calf were still in evidence at the finish. But Yorkshiremen are made of stern stuff: "It must rank as one of my best rides," commented Ian at the finish. "But I would have liked Randy Allsopp to have been riding, to see just how good it was!"

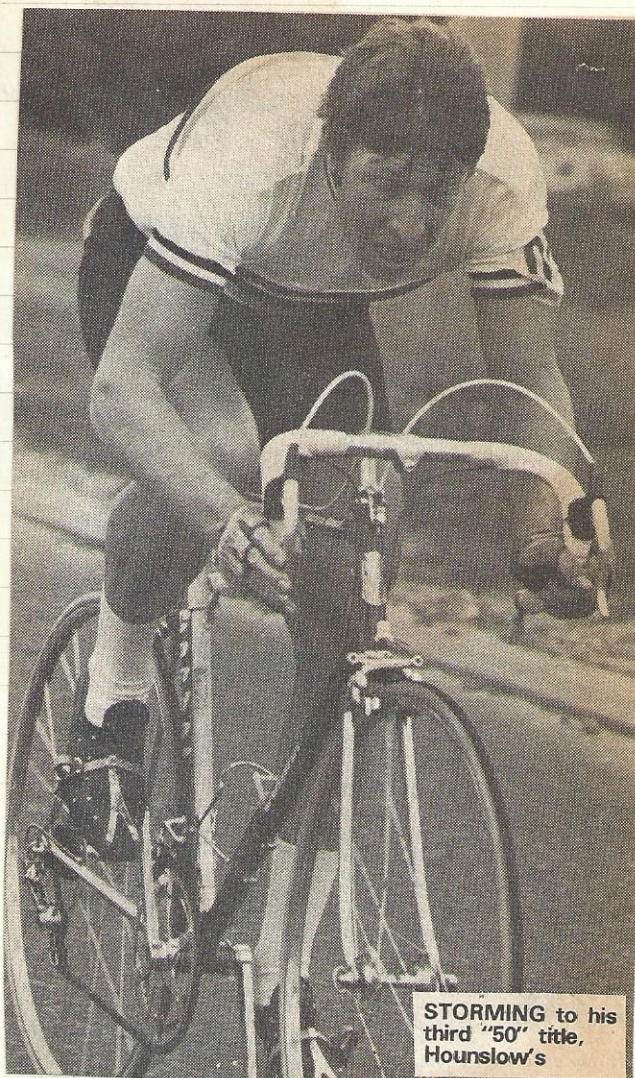
The Hounslow and District lads added another championship team to their growing collection, this time featuring Roach, Porter and Marshall, but still with Geoff Lee's useful 1-59-22 in reserve.

Bernard Thompson

NATIONAL FIFTY CHAMPIONSHIP.

FULL RESULT

Martyn Roach, Hounslow & Dist. Wh.	1	54	21
Alf Engers, Luton Wh.	1	54	50
Ian White, Clifton CC	1	54	37
Bob Porter, Hounslow & Dist. Wh.	1	55	50
Dave Eldridge, Delta RC	1	56	38
Jeff Marshall, Hounslow & Dist. Wh.	1	56	57
D. S. Brown, P'tsm'th CC	1	57	39
J. Burnham, Rock'ham CC	1	57	45
C. Sharpe, E'bourne Rov	1	58	50
G. Huck, Rock'ham CC	1	59	2
T. Dobson, Comrades CC	1	59	16
G. Lee, Hounslow & D	1	59	22
R. Queen, Luton Wh	1	59	47
M. Burren, E Surrey RC	2	0	16
A. Lockton, Bradgate RC	2	0	22
R. Donington, SERC	1	12	D.
B. Chick, Luton Wh	1	14	R.
J. Smith, Addiscombe	2	2	36
R. Francis, Rock'ham	2	2	47
D. Bennett, Surrey RCC	2	2	57
K. Fairhead, Hounslow & D	3	3	D.
D. Tomlin, Luton Wh	3	14	D.
M. Garwood, 29th Wh	3	21	M.
A. Bell, Letchworth Velo	3	35	R.
A. Peachey, De Laune CC	3	49	P.
F. Taylor, Notts & Derby CI	4	2	A.
R. Goodman, Finsbury Pk CC	4	13	C.
W. Kirkland, Wessex RC	4	50	L.
D. Morris, Tooting BC	5	31	P.
A. Millard, Ch'ville CC	5	35	R.
W. Vetcher, Hampshire RC	6	34	A.
A. Ephgrave, Tooting BC	6	58	C.
P. Lipscombe, Central Sx	7	1	J.
P. Holland, SERC	7	8	R.
D. Bailey, Hounslow & D	7	21	J.
S. Toole, Folkestone & D	7	24	A.
D. Hook, Folkestone & D	7	37	S.
M. Colburn, E'bourne Rov	8	10	R.
N. Luhr, Clarenc't CC	8	27	D.
G. Charlwood, Folkestone & D	8	29	E.
T. Gilbert, Hounslow & D	8	44	R.
A. Jones, Crawley Wh	8	51	D.
M. Humphries, Hounslow & D	9	1	P.
J. Beer, Sorian RC	9	18	J.
P. Pearson, Molyneux RC	9	22	T.
R. Barton, Bec CC	9	36	M.
K. May, Sorian RC	9	44	E.
F. Penton, Clarenc't CC	9	44	H.
M. Davies, Ch'ville CC	9	50	A.
M. Napier, Sotonia CC	9	51	Team.
J. Bainbridge, SERC	10	5	Porter, Marshall)
G. Martin, Wignore CC	10	18	Wh (Engers, Queen, Chick)
R. Matthews, Worthing Ex	5-55-51.		



STORMING to his third "50" title, Hounslow's

Lewes Wanderers Eve crit. — PAUL LIPSCOMBE, Central Sussex, 36m in 1-25-50; 2. R. Matthews, Worthing Ex at 2sec; 3. A. Jones, Crawley Wh at 4sec; 4. J. Lucas, Worthing Ex at 6sec; 5. B. Hons, Central Sussex at 8sec; 6. K. Chandler, Brighton Mitre at 11sec.

EVENING ARGUS 23RD JUNE 1972

CYCLE RACE PROTEST IS ON CARDS

WORTHING EXCELSIOR kept their grip on the Strudwick Trophy at Preston Park by just one point from Brighton Mitre. The result, however, may be subject to an official protest as one of the Worthing riders did not appear on the programme and scored four of their points.

Mitre's Terry Chambers repeated the excellent form he showed a couple of weeks back when winning the opening event of the evening, the devil-take-the-hindmost, from clubmate Keith Chandler and Crawley Wheeler Alan Hale.

Worthing's George Mathews looked much more like the rider he was at the beginning of the season when he notched good victories in the 500yd. handicap from scratch and the 12-lap point-to-point, although he was found wanting in the six-lap Australian pursuit when Chris Garland, guesting for Brighton Mitre, and Eastbourne's Terry Leach filled the first two places.

Away from the track, Central Sussex rider Don Awcock chalked up another impressive win when he beat a high-class field over a tough, 78-mile course.

National cycling

ONE OF THE biggest cycling events ever to be held in the Worthing area, the 1972 men's 50 miles national championships, starts one mile south of the Washington roundabout early on Sunday morning.

The event, promoted by the London South District Council, starts at 6 a.m. with a ride due south to Offington roundabout, then to Broadwater roundabout and on to Lancing, the Adur Bridge and Shoreham.

The riders come back to Broad-

water and Offington, back to the start and on to Ashington, Dial Post, Southwater and Warnham Court roundabout, before coming back to the finish, half a mile north of Washington roundabout.

Members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club are helping as stewards and marshalls to run the event, which is a highly organised business.

Many points had to be taken into account by the promoters and it is nice to see that good relations with the public is high on the list. On the race programme an appeal is made to cyclists and supporters to be quiet in the villages in the early hours of the morning.

Altogether 120 riders will be taking part, including the big names in 50 miles cycling.

There will be seven riders from the Worthing club, George Matthews, Keith Dodman, Alan Orman, Tony Hill, Don Lock, Colin Miller and Chris Woodcock.

They will be hoping for high placings in the individual event and also the three-man team championship.

WORTHING HERALD 23RD JUNE 1972

Success for cyclists

HELD ON Sunday, the Sussex Cyclists' Association 50-mile championship gave Worthing Excelsior Club their first real time trial successes of the season.

In awful conditions—now, it seems, the regular situation—their team of Keith Dodman, Don Lock and Tony Hill rode well and came away with the individual championship and the team event.

Keith was defending his county championship win of 1971 but has been having difficulty in finding his form of last season and was not favourite to win this time.

Starting at Shoreham, the riders had to struggle against gale force winds on the journey out to Westhampnet near Chichester. The stretch was only relieved by the leg of the course from Fontwell out to Yapton and back.

At the Yapton turn the race had

developed into a clear fight between five riders, scratchman Robin Johnson, of Brighton Mitre, and his team mate Adrian Morris; John Spooner, of Brighton Excelsior, and Keith and Don of the Worthing club.

At Westhampnet, with 30 miles covered, the situation was resolving into a three man fight with Johnson and Lock beginning to lose ground. The wind assisted run back to the finish gave little hope of the situation altering much and the positions were held until the end.

Times were not fast—in fact, similar to last year when conditions were equally bad for the event—but Keith's 2 hours 14 min. 24 secs. was too fast for the others and he retains his trophy for another year.

Don Lock finished fifth in 2.18.43 and with Tony Hill's 2.21.50, the team event was also gained by Excelsior.

WORTHING GAZETTE 28TH JUNE 1972

CYCLISTS STILL FACE ROUGH CONDITIONS

THE EVENING ten mile series of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club was interrupted on Thursday for an evening 25 mile event. Although sunny, it was still cold and extremely windy and a number of competitors were obviously put off by these continuous rough conditions.

Fastest rider of the evening was Alan Orman with a fine ride of 1 hour 3 mins 21 secs. but it was second fastest Don Lock (1.5.22) who will be recorded as the event winner due to the failure of Alan to complete a formal entry application.

Eddy Kneen returned 1.8.4. Richard Shipton 1.10.39 and junior Derek Pearce, having his first race this year, 1.18.54.

Don's ride was also good enough, with an allowance of 2 mins. 10 secs., for him to gain the handicap award.

The evening ten series starts again next Thursday.

Sporting course

On Wednesday, Ray Douglass and Don Lock rode in the Hampshire Road Club evening 25 held on a sporting course to the north-west of Chichester. Don finished 13th and Ray 25th in the 48-strong field with times of 1.6.58 and 1.11.37 respectively.

At Preston Park, Brighton, the same day, Worthing Excelsior won a most exciting duel with Brighton

Mitre to carry off the Strudwick Trophy awarded for total points over the evening's events.

Scoring well for Worthing was Bruce Gilmer who is finding good form lately in the sprint events. Bruce won the one lap scratch and the flying start 400 metres time trial in fine style.

George Matthews won the 500 metres handicap and the 12 laps point to point, and managed third place in the six lap pursuit.

John Lucas, George and Bruce also gained valuable points in winning their heats in these and other events and Excelsior ran out winners over their Brighton rivals by the narrow margin of 13 points to 12.

Final race

In the final race of the Lewes Criterium series on Thursday, George Matthews did all that was necessary to win the series outright, watching every break and finishing in third place.

His placings in the three events were first, second and third respectively and, although it was always close between George and Paul Lipscombe of the Central Sussex Club (Paul was second on Thursday), George had kept his points total up by winning primes in every race.

The last event was so hectic that many riders not in contention for the main placings did not complete the course and these included Colin Miller and John Lucas of Worthing.

National title for Roach

The National 50-mile time trial championship centred on Washington and the A24 and A27 roads between Shoreham and Horsham on Sunday treated Sussex cyclists to a fine display of speed and stamina from the 120 riders.

Alf Engers, the National 25-mile champion, was a firm favourite to take the title, started in a determined fashion and went through the ten-mile mark, clear of the field, in 21min., or nearly 30 m.p.h. Twenty-four riders passed the 25-mile timekeeper in less than one hour, and just two of these broke the 56min. — Engers (55min. 11sec.) and Martin Roach (55min. 58sec.). In third place was Ian White (Clifton C.C.) in 56min. 6sec., and a batch of riders on 57min. included Sussex rider Cliff Sharp (Eastbourne).

TIRING

Of the 24 under the hour at half-way, only seven could manage this for the second 25. An unofficial time check with 1½ miles to go showed that Roach had pulled back on a tiring Engers and was now only 2sec. down. The effort that Roach made, into the wind, and after more than 48 miles, was a tremendous exhibition of fitness, stamina and determination.

The result was: 1, Martin Roach (Hounslow), 1hr. 54min. 21sec.; 2, Alf Engers (Luton), 1hr. 54min. 50sec.; 3, Ian White (Clifton), 1hr. 55min. 37sec.

The Sussex riders, with the exception of Cliff Sharp (ninth in 1.58.50) were down the field. The Worthing Excelsior riders all improved on their rides of the previous week when they won the Sussex team trophy. They were George Matthews (2.10.58), Keith Dodman (2.11.4), Don Lock (2.12.49), Colin Miller (2.17.0), and Tony Hill (2.17.46).



WEST SUSSEX GAZETTE

29TH JUNE 1972

Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's George Matthews (pictured competing in the National 50-mile road race at Washington on Sunday) was the overall winner of the series of three 36-mile criteriums promoted by Lewes Wanderers Cycling Club at Laughton on Thursday.

Matthews, who won the first race and was placed second in the next, came home third in the final event and took his points total to 69, two more than P. Lipscombe (Central Sussex). Third was A. Jones (Crawley Wheelers) on 63.

Winner of Thursday's race was P. Garland (Velo Club Anglia Sport) in 1hr. 27min. 35sec., with Lipscombe

second at three seconds. Matthews was another five seconds down, but he took the primes on the third and fifth laps. The prime of the first lap went to P. Crofts (East Surrey Road Club).

Other overall placings: 4, K. Chandler (Brighton Mitre), 57; 5, T. O'Brien (Rutland C.C.), 50; 6, P. Crofts (East Surrey Road Club) 48; 7, P. Garland (Velo Club Anglia Sport), 47; 8, P. Sutton (Velo Club Noviomagus), 39; equal 9, B. Hone (Central Sussex) and T. Downing (U.S.A.), 38; equal 10, S. D. Myatt (Lewes Wanderers), G. Lade (Eastbourne Rovers) and A. Hale (Crawley Wheelers), 37; 11, J. Lucas (Worthing Excelsior), 36.

A classic win, by George!

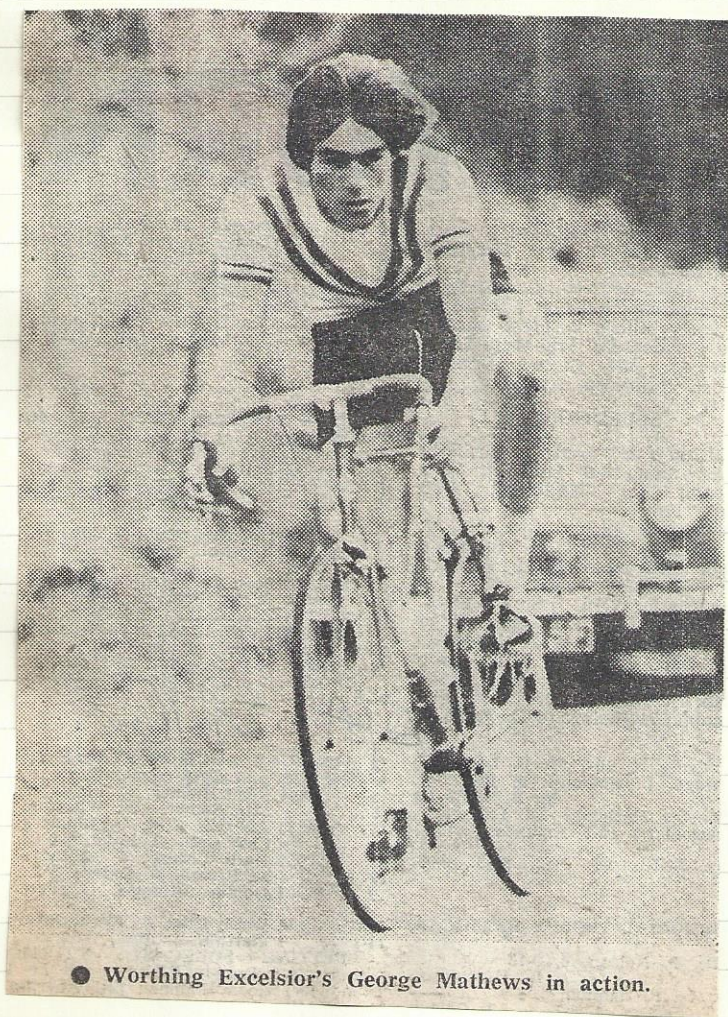
WORTHING Excelsior's George Mathews added the County 1,000-metre sprint title to the road race title he won a couple of months back at the Preston Park track last night.

This splendid ride from George came minutes after a spirited break in the open 10,000 metre event when, with just three of the 15-plus laps to go, George broke clear and made a long run for home.

The last 50 yards saw George striving desperately to hold his lead but he was caught by the pack and pushed out of the medals with Chris Parker of the 34th Nomads notching up his second victory of the evening with Terry Chambers (Brighton Mitre) riding very well for second place and Tony Bartlett (34th Nomads) in third place.

The 1,000 metre championship, however, saw George storming down the finishing straight to out-sprint the Mitre's Keith Chandler and the highly promising Bognor rider Jim Doocey.

Earlier in the evening Keith Chandler had defeated George in the final of the County 4,000 metre pursuit championship with a time of 5min. 47.8sec. to George's 5min. 50.4sec.



● Worthing Excelsior's George Mathews in action.

30TH JUNE 1972.

Hundreds of enthusiasts attracted by national 50-mile cycle event

THE NATIONAL 50-mile time trial championship centred on Washington and the A24 and A27 roads between Shoreham and Horsham on Sunday morning gave Sussex cyclists the most fantastic display of speed and stamina from 120 riders from all over the country.

The event, which attracted hundreds of enthusiastic supporters to the finish at Washington, and hundreds more to vantage points along the course, was not blessed with the best of weather. A strong south-westerly wind made the final ten miles a real agony stretch for the competitors.

Alf Engers, already the national 25-mile champion, was the favourite of many to make it a double and he started in a most determined manner going through the 10 mile mark clear of the field in 21 minutes (or nearly 30 mph).

Fastest

Because of the wind, the first 25 miles was the fastest for nearly all riders by an average of four to six minutes, and there were no fewer than 24 riders who passed the 25-mile timekeeper in less than one hour.

Just two of these broke the 56 minutes mark and they were, predictably, Alf Engers in 55 minutes, 11 seconds and Martin Roach, obviously fit after his fine ride in The Four of Britain, in 55-58.

In third place, and only a further eight seconds back, was Ian White of the Clifton CC in 56.6. A batch of riders on 57 minutes included that strong Sussex rider Cliff

Sharp of Eastbourne, equal eighth with two others in 57.28.

From the northern turn at Horsham, riders turned for the final stretch into the teeth of the wind and the test of the fittest was on.

The drag from Knepp Castle and the open stretches of dual-carriageway became like wind tunnels, frustrating the final efforts of all save the mighty few.

Under the hour

Of the 24 under the hour at the half-way stage, only seven could manage this for the second 25 and they, rightly enough, were all to finish in the first eight.

An unofficial time check with one and a half miles to go showed that Roach had pulled back on a tiring Engers and was only two seconds down.

The effort that Roach made, into the wind, and after more than 48 miles, was a tremendous exhibition of fitness, stamina and determination. It was so successful that at the line he was 29 seconds faster.

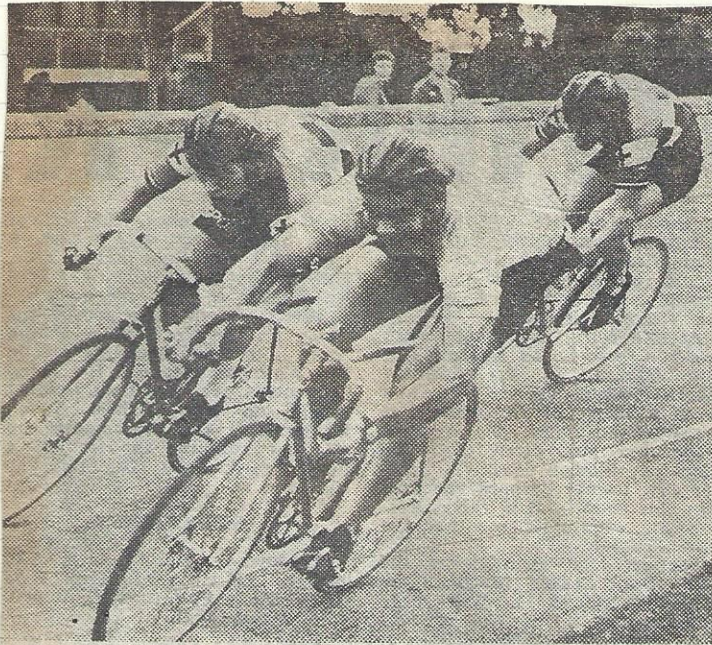
Result: 1, Martin Roach (Hounslow), 1 hour 54 minutes 21 seconds; 2, Alf Engers (Luton), 1 hour 54 minutes 50 seconds; 3 Ian White (Clifton), 1 hour 55 minutes 37 seconds.

Sussex riders, with the exception of Cliff Sharp, ninth in 1.58.50, were down the finishing list but were by no means disgraced in this classic field.

The Worthing Excelsior riders all improved on their rides of the previous week, when they won the Sussex team trophy.

Times—George Matthews, 2.10.18; Keith Dodman, 2.11.4; Don Lock, 2.12.49; Colin Miller, 2.17.0; Tony Hill, 2.17.46.

The organisation of the event was extremely good and a fine advertisement for the sport in this part of the country.



DAVE CARTER, nearest the camera, outsprints Don Skardon to take the "Devil" at Preston Park last night. Dave also got the better of Don for the Brighton Sash.

EVENING ARBUS

JULY 6TH 1972.

Impressive victory for Dave

FOUR RIDERS made the trip from London to the Preston Park circuit last night and virtually cleaned up all the prizes in the Brighton Sash meeting.

Only in the Italian pursuit did the local riders really come into their own. Here, the coupling of Brighton Mitre's Keith Chandler—always at his best in pursuits—with the Doocey brothers, Jim and Peter from Bognor, saw a Sussex victory in 2min. 17.8sec. with the Eastbourne Rovers team of Terry Leach, Maurice Colburn and Graham Lade second.

IMPACT

The man of the meeting, however, was former national junior sprint champion Dave Carter. Dave made a big impact when he visited Preston Park earlier this year and though he did not seem to sparkle quite so much last night, he still managed an impressive victory in the Brighton Sash one lap sprint.

Dave, who rides for the 34th Nomads, was timed at 13.2sec. for the last 200 metres with Don Skardon (Redmon) in second place and Worthing Excelsior's Colin Miller riding exceptionally well for third place.

Carter also won the Devil take the hindmost from Skardon but Skardon reversed the placings in the 10km. point-to-point.

Ten mile series record reduced by holder

THE EVENING ten mile series restarted on Thursday and enjoyed perhaps the best weather so far this season. This, the sixth in the ten long series, was held in warm sunshine and with only a slight breeze, making a change from what has become the norm this season.

Don Lock scored his second success winning in 24 minutes 51 seconds, again just a few seconds ahead of Tony Hill (25.05). Third was Eddy Kneen with 25.32.

Derek Pearce returned one of the fastest junior times of the season with his 27.07 and finished fourth. An infrequent competitor, Tony Palmer finished in 27.18 and Geoff Allibone in 30.35.

Guest competitor G. Garland, already holding the course record with an earlier ride of 23.17, improved on this on Thursday, lowering it to 23.01. The Worthing club's thought that this course would produce a 22 minute ride looks like being proved in the near future.

The British Cycling Federation open meeting at Preston Park on Wednesday saw the finals of two of the BCF Sussex Championships

and Worthing rider George Matthews was much involved in both.

The first was the individual pursuit over 4,000 metres in which George had to face the ever improving Keith Chandler of the Brighton Mitre Club.

George, who has been doing a tremendous amount of longer distance racing recently, looked a little tired and slowly but surely lost ground over Chandler and, although putting in a tremendous fighting last lap, George could not make up the ground he had lost. He returned 5 mins. 50 2/5ths secs. to Chandler's 5 mins. 47 4/5ths secs.

George had to wait only a short time before gaining sweet revenge. In the 1,000 metres sprint, Worthing Excelsior had three riders qualify for the final—George, John Lucas and Colin Miller.

The heats of this event were keenly fought. The last 200 metre times were fast at around 14 seconds, but the final was a real scorcher with George coming out on top, beating Chandler into second place and ahead of J. Doocey of Bognor in third place. The last 200 metres, time: 13 seconds.

WORTHING HERALD

7TH JULY 1972.

Dodman returns a personal best time

THE WEEKEND saw three members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club venturing into the longer distance time trials, as the season nears the time when interest will again begin to centre on the Best All-Rounder Competition.

Favourite for this year's competition, Keith Dodman, together with Ray Douglass, went into Yorkshire to take part in the Rutland Cycling Club 100-mile event. Although conditions were far from ideal, this is considered one of the fastest courses in the country, and Keith should be well pleased with a personal best performance of 4 hours 32 minutes 33 seconds.

Ray, riding his first 100 for some time, was happy to finish with a time of 5 hours 20 mins. 15 secs.

Don Lock, the holder of the BAR Trophy, chose to ride the locally held East Sussex Cycling Association 100. The weather appears to have been similar to that of Yorkshire on the morning and he did well to finish sixth with a time of 4.40.06. He will be looking for an early improvement, though, now that he has learned of Keith's time.

Colin Miller, Tony Palmer and Richard Shipton rode in the Bournemouth 25-mile event in the Ringwood/Christchurch area. A first-class field found conditions hard and times generally were slow. Colin did 1.5.37. Richard 1.11.3 and Tony 1.11.18.

NORTHING GAZETTE

JULY 12TH.

1972

George returns — with a fast time

EVENT NUMBER seven of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's evening 10-mile series was held on Thursday and attracted one of the best entries so far. It was particularly pleasing to see so many junior and schoolboy competitors.

The evening, although windy, was at least sunny and reasonably warm.

George Matthews, returning to the series after a lapse of four weeks due to other commitments, once again showed that he is clearly the fastest short distance rider in the club.

His winning margin was a comfortable 1 minute 19 seconds and his winning time of 23 minutes 25 seconds was the fastest done over this course by any club member since the series started.

Don Lock, after two wins in the absence of George, was relegated to second place with 24 minutes 44 seconds and in third place was Paul Fish in 25.18.

Other times were Pete Reeves 25min. 55sec., Ray Douglass 26.37, Colin Miller 27-03, Tony Palmer 27.45, Derek Pearce 27.47, Paul Denyer 29-29, Maurice Rosenberg 30-35, Alan Hubbard 30-58, Steve Stent 32-41.

The ride by 13-year-old Steve Stent was a most promising debut. The course is not an easy one for youngsters with its long inclines and this was a good effort.

Course record broken by Matthews

SUMMER AT LAST was the feeling for event number nine in the Evening Ten Mile Series of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club, held on Thursday on the Washington-Findon course.

Multiple winner George Matthews celebrated the improved conditions with another first place and a new club course record with his time of 23 minutes 11 seconds.

With several guest riders from the Central Sussex and Brighton Mitre cycling clubs competing there was a good field and the quality of the racing was high.

Don Lock, ever consistent with his times, was again second to George and Don's time was just one second faster than the previous week, 24 minutes 43 seconds.

Improvement

Veteran Ray Douglass, also enjoying the warmer weather, improved his time slightly and did well to finish in third place with 26 minutes 34 seconds.

Mike Poland, out of hibernation after a long lay off, showed that he has lost little of his old form and strength and was next home in 26 minutes 44 seconds.

Junior riders were again prominent and fastest was Derek Pearce in 27 minutes 11 seconds, just beating senior rider Steve Richards who recorded 27 minutes 27 seconds.

Alan Hubbard was the fastest schoolboy with 30 minutes 12 seconds and then came 13-year-old Steve Stent, improving on his debut ride of the previous week by over a minute, finishing in 31 minutes 21 seconds.

Maurice Rosenberg was four seconds slower in 31 minutes 25 seconds.

WORTHING HERALD 21ST JULY 1972.

DISAPPOINTMENTS FOR EXCELSIOR RIDERS

THE 100-MILE championship of Sussex and the 100-mile championship of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club were held in conjunction with each other on Sunday and were disappointing events so far as the local club were concerned.

There was only a small entry and, although the weather was warm and sunny, there was a terrible north east wind which made for an extremely hard final 30 miles. The direction of the wind (it had been south west for the previous week) was quite the worst for the course and thwarted the hopes of a number of riders.

A keen contest between holder Don Lock and Keith Dodman for the club trophy was expected and these two were thought to be among the main challengers for the Sussex trophy, for they finished in third and fourth places last year and only seconds apart.

Don had, however, been struggling to find form over recent weeks and, already slipping back through the field, eventually retired at about 50 miles.

Colin Miller was making one of his rare long distance efforts and was still riding quite well at this stage.

The club trophy was clearly to be Keith's for 1972.

Champion

The course from Shoreham starts with a route out to Wick and Angmering before coming back to Offington and at this point (23 miles) Sussex champion Robin Johnson of the Brighton Mitre Club was already half a minute up on Keith. In close attendance was John Spooner of the Brighton Excelsior Club.

A wind assisted stretch to Font-

well, and then south east through Yapton to Littlehampton, and the gaps were stretching out. Johnson—then Dodman at about two minutes and Spooner close at about a minute.

The course out to Westhampnett and then through Shripney to Woodgate is perhaps the fastest part but the wind and route direction made it hard at first, and then fast and the stamina of the riders was suffering.

Final turn

From the final turn at Selsey it was nearly 30 miles of headwind back to the Shoreham finish and only the fittest were to survive.

A strong ride by Johnson saw him move well clear of the remainder of the field and come home in real champion form with a time of 4.37.32. John Spooner maintained his pace throughout and deservedly earned second place in an event that he won in 1962.

Both Keith and Colin were now slowing and Roger Hughes of Brighton Excelsior moved into third place.

Keith finished fourth in 4.49.36 and this will seriously have affected his chances of winning the Sussex Best All Rounder Competition, which must now be decided in the 12-hour championship in August. Colin's time was 4.58.45.

The team award, won by Worthing in 1971, was this year won by Brighton Mitre.

On Saturday afternoon, Ray Douglass competed in the Veterans 50-mile event promoted by the Manchester and North West Veterans Time Trial Association and in extremely hard and hot conditions was well pleased with his time of 2 hours 32 mins. 2 secs.

The Herald, Friday, Aug. 4, 1972

DODMAN RIDES IN WITH FASTEST 50

MEMBERS OF Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club had favourable conditions for the club's 50-mile championship on Sunday over a course from Shoreham to West-hampnett and back, with an 8½-mile detour on the way out from Fontwell to Yapton and back to the main course.

For much of the race George Matthews enjoyed a big lead, but he faded during the second half and it was Keith Dodman who won with a time of 2 hr. 14

min. 31 sec., just four seconds faster than Matthews.

A personal best 2-17-23 put Eddie Kneen into third place, and fourth was Colin Miller (2-19-10). Tony Palmer, with 2-25-54, put up his fastest time for many years to win the handicap prize — his first club award.

Matthews faded in this event probably because of his efforts the previous day in the Birchfield CC 25-mile time trial at Lichfield, near Birmingham.

He, Dodman and Don Lock were hoping to break the Excelsior club's team record for 25 miles, which stood at 3 hr. 0 min. 20 sec.

Matthews returned an excellent 58 min. 55 sec. — his second fastest ever — and Dodman recorded 1-0-35. Lock needed to get inside 1-0-50 to set a new record but he is not riding all that well at present and could manage only 1-3-6.

Ray Douglass, another Excelsior member, clocked 1-7-16 in the veterans section — his best so far this season.

The Herald, Friday, August 25, 1972

Compete in 30

THAT INFREQUENTLY ridden distance of the cycling time trial scene, the 30-mile event, nevertheless provided the competition for four of the members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday.

The event, promoted by the Portsmouth CC, was held on a "well thought" of course between Chichester and Havant.

Worthing's quartet were Tony Palmer, Colin Miller, Ray Douglass and Harry Beasley (still competing in Worthing's colours although now living at Ringwood).

It was a warm and still morning and the event produced some fast racing, with T. G. Ewing, number 75 of the 79-strong field, proving the winner.

As was expected, Colin was the fastest of the Excelsior riders and seemed satisfied with his time of 1.18.21 which could have won him the club championship at the distance a couple of months ago.

There was keen competition between Tony and Ray, both of whom have been showing increasingly good form in recent weeks. This battle went to Tony with 1.24.27 to Ray's 1.25.5. Both were beaten by Harry, who returned a personal best time of 1.23.6 and went close in the handicap section.

Worthing Gazette,
Wednesday, August 30, 1972

George benefits from Tour of Ireland

AN EIGHT-DAY international cycle race, the Raleigh-Dunlop Tour of Ireland, has given Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club's George Matthews his first taste of top stage road racing competition.

He has returned from the Emerald Isle fitter, stronger and having gained more experience than he will have gathered in all his previous road races.

George is one of the top road men in the county, and for the kind of competition that will really produce his full potential he is having to seek these kind of events.

The tour, which finished in Dublin on August 20, was organised and managed throughout quite to the standard of the English Milk Race and Tour of Britain, and in addition had complete police control and right of way.

There were 10 stages in the eight days, varying from 4½ miles to 96 miles, and a total distance of 727 miles was covered.

The class of the field, including the Irish Olympic team and top teams from France, Holland, Belgium, Scotland and England, ensured a fast and exciting race.

Only 83 of the 103 starters finished the course. The fact that George, still in only his first full season as a senior rider, was able to stay with this field was in itself a performance of considerable merit.

The journey to Ireland was a disaster with a chapter of accidents leading to a complete loss of sleep for two days and this did not give George a good race preparation.

On the first two stages he could not find form and finished badly down and lost a great deal of time on the leaders.

Recovery

His recovery started on stage three in which he finished well up in a short distance time trial. This gave him confidence and he pulled himself further and further up the field to 65th place at the finish.

After those 727 miles covered at an average speed of 25½ mph, he was only one hour and four minutes down on the winner, L. Horner, an Irish Olympic representative.

Given a better start and the experience which he now has, George could have finished in the first 20. By the end of the event he was riding with confidence and authority and was clearly prepared to go with the best.

George now rides in the three-stage Tour of the Hopfields in Kent and should do well.

TIRED GEORGE RETIRES

THE THREE DAY Tour of the Hopfields came just too soon after George Matthews' ride in the 10-stage Tour of Ireland.

The Irish event had obviously taken more out of young George than he had realised and the Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club member's high hopes of a good placing in the Kent competition received a severe blow on the first day (Saturday).

In that first stage, he finished the 89 miles so far down and so tired that he then retired. George was disappointed, but better things will come.

Also on Saturday Don Lock travelled to Bicester in Oxfordshire to ride in the Finsbury Park CC 25-mile event and was placed 40th of the 120 starters with a time of 1 hour 5 minutes 28 seconds. A strong cross wind did nothing to assist the riders.

Popular win

On Sunday, the club held their annual Handicap 25-mile Championship for the Clapshaw Trophy on the Horsham road course.

There could not have been a more popular winner than time trials secretary Tony Palmer. His net time of 1 hour 1 minute 46 seconds (allowance 7 mins. 30 secs), was almost two minutes better than second placed Eddy Kneen whose net time was 1.3.36 after an allowance of 2 mins.

Paul Taylor, who rides a lot but races infrequently, was close up in third spot; his actual time, 1.13.20, was reduced to 1.3.50 (allowance 9.30).

Fastest ride of the morning was turned in by Colin Miller but, being on scratch, his 1.5.6 put him back in fifth place behind Ray Douglass' net 1.4.28 after deducting 7.30. Don Lock was sixth (actual time 1.6.53, handicap time 0.30, for 1.6.23).

This Sunday, Eddy Kneen and Don Lock take part in the Southern Counties 12-hour event.

WORTHING HERALD SEP. 8. 1972.

DON AND EDDY RIDE IN DISTANCE EVENT

THERE WERE two entries from Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club in the Southern Counties Cyclists Union 12-hour Championship, which incorporated the championship of the Sussex Cyclists Association, held on the roads of Sussex and Surrey on Sunday.

The locals were Don Lock, a veteran of a dozen or more of these distance events, and Eddy Kneen, riding in his first ever race over 100 miles.

Don, hoping for 230 miles plus, started off at something in excess of 20 mph, while Eddy, riding to a schedule of 200 miles, made a leisurely start at around 18 mph.

After 100 miles, passed by Don in just under five hours and by Eddy in around 5½ hours, the strong north easterly winds began to take their toll and caused the retirement

during the afternoon of several of the competitors.

Both of the Worthing riders suffered in this period which coincided with the hillier parts of the course between Horsham and Guildford. At this point Eddy was probably about 12 miles down on Don and with about three hours to go.

From here on though Eddy rode strongly and was much faster than his clubmate on the final finishing circuit.

In the end only eight miles separated the two with Don way down on his schedule, recording approximately 220 miles. Eddy was pleased with his first effort of 212 miles.

Don's effort left him in third place in the Sussex championship won by Brighton Mitre's Robin Johnson with around 228 miles.

WORTHING HERALD 15TH SEPT. 1972.

'WINTER' RIDE

THREE MEMBERS of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club rode in the 25-mile promotion of Bognor Regis Cycling Club on Sunday.

The conditions were hard with strong winds and early morning temperatures more like February than September.

Tony Palmer, still riding to good form after his club win the previous weekend, was the fastest with a time of 1.9.48 and this was good enough to give him another handicap award. Harry Beasley returned 1.11.18 and Paul Taylor 1.13.46.

Eddy Kneen and Don Lock continued their efforts at the longer distances and on Sunday

travelled to the New Forest area for the Bournemouth Jubilee Wheelers 100 mile event.

Both riders are trying to improve their average speeds over all distances for the Club's Best All Rounder Competition in which Keith Dodman has, at present, a comfortable lead.

For the first half of the course, winds were light and 50 miles was covered by Don in 2.14.0 and Eddy in 2.20.0.

After this, strong winds rose rapidly and exposed parts of the course became extremely hard. Don finished 20th in the field of 69 with 4.46.30, which will not improve his BAR average, and Eddy 38th with a time of 4.59.17.

22nd Sept. 1972

WORTHING HERALD

Touring rather than racing

WHAT LOOKED like being a busy racing weekend for members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club, turned out to be one more involved with touring.

A good number decided to take a break from the racing scene despite two local events taking place. George Matthews was an entry in the Sussex 25 mile championship, but due to other commitments was unable to ride.

Tony Palmer and Colin Miller, who started in the Central Sussex 27-miles two-up event on Saturday, were unable to finish after suffering two punctures in as many miles.

EXCURSION

Ray Douglass and Pete Andrews enjoyed a weekend excursion to the Belgium-Dutch coast area and managed to enjoy some nice scenery despite rather indifferent weather.

The club run scene also picked up in numbers and a large group thoroughly enjoyed the run to Petersfield on Sunday. The journey out was via Arundel, Tangmere, Lavant and over Harting Hill and the return was made through Midhurst, Petworth, Duncton, Slindon, Yapton and Littlehampton. Although the round trip was in the region of 75 miles, it was covered at an easy pace and the youngsters, including new members, enjoyed it as much as the more experienced riders.

Details of runs planned for the following weekend are always available at the Club room (Broadwater Parish Rooms) on Tuesday evenings and new members, young or old, are always welcome.

WORTHING HERALD 29TH SEPT. 1972.

Struggle for cyclists

A TRIP to the Essex roads, and in particular the main A12 between Chelmsford and Colchester, provided competition for two members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday.

Tony Palmer, riding better than he has for some years, was after a good 50-mile time to improve his chances of winning the "most improved rider of the year" award. His companion, Don Lock, was still seeking a faster 50 to pull back the lead of Keith Dodman in the "Best all rounder competition."

The course is fast, given the right conditions. On Sunday it was cold and the wind was fresh from the north-east, making for a hard outward 25 miles, a wind assisted stretch to 46 miles and a further hard struggle to the finish.

Don covered the first half in 1hr. 6min. and made a rapid return to finish in a time of 2hr. 8min. 54sec. This, an improvement this year of nearly three minutes, may not, however, be enough for him to overhaul Keith, for only 25's remain and this is not Don's best distance.

Tony's time of 2-20-22 is almost seven minutes faster than he has managed for a long time and is fairly certain to have secured the "most improved" award for him.

In the four distance Best All Rounder table (25, 50 and 100 miles and 12 hours the first three positions are: 1 Keith Dodman, 22.104 mph; 2 Don Lock, 21.706; 3 Eddy Kneen, 20.640.

This Sunday the club hold their hardriders event over a tough, hilly 33-mile course.

WORTHING HERALD 6TH.OCT.

CYCLISTS RIDE INTO WALL OF MIST

THE ANNUAL Hardriders Championship of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club was held on Sunday on the hard course from Worthing to Arundel via Storrington and Amberley.

The distance for the return trip is approximately 33 miles and the event record set by Mick Venner in 1970 stands at 1 hour 29 mins. 44 seconds.

Sunday morning was warm and sunny this side of the Downs but as riders topped the Washington bypass they rode into a white wall of cold and thick mist which was to persist for the rest of the route through Storrington and on to the Arundel turn. It made breathing difficult and limbs less supple.

A small but interesting field competed, setting a difficult task for handicapper Ray Douglass. He placed George Matthews on scratch, Keith Dodman at 1.40, Don Lock at 3.10, Alan Orman at 4.00 and youngster Derek Pearce at 14 mins. 30 secs.

The start at the north end of the Findon Valley saw Don first away to the Warren Roundabout before returning north through the

start. He was followed by Alan, then Keith, Derek and finally scratch man George.

Derek was riding steadily, for this is a hard ride for a 15-year-old, and was soon passed by George. The field then gradually closed on Don who was caught first by Alan and Keith (at Arundel they were all together) and then by George who was going strongly and slowly overhauling the others.

At the finish, George was just first man home with the good time of 1.31.55.

Keith, showing his hill climbing strength, was second in 1.35.56.

Alan Orman, making one of his infrequent appearances, demonstrated his tremendous capabilities with a 1.40.51 beating Don, with a time of 1.43.43, into fourth place.

Derek Pearce finished well to record 1.52.22, a time that he should be well pleased with.

George's effort was too good for the handicapper and he won that award as well.

This Sunday the club promote their Hill Climb Championship starting at the northern end of Steyning Bostal at 10 a.m.

13TH OCTOBER 1972

WORTHING HERALD

GEORGE PIPS KEITH IN HILL CLIMB

THE ANTI-GRAVITY specialists of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club competed on Sunday in the club's Annual Hill Climb Championship.

This is an event which, for some years now, has been held on the "notorious north face" of the Steyning Bostal. This hill has everything, with a long and gradual ascent over the first half-mile and then two sharp and steeply banked bends with a gradient of 1 in 4 over the remaining half-mile to the summit.

Keith Dodman was favourite but he could not withstand the challenge, and late season form of George Matthews.

George, who races regularly on the track at Preston Park, Brighton, used his sprinting ability to full advantage to win in a time of 4 min. 41 sec.

Keith was second in 4.54, Pete Reeves third in 5.27 and Derek Pearce fourth in 6.05.

Both George and Keith had been involved in competition the previous afternoon, having made the long trip to Norfolk for the Norwich ABC 25-mile promotion. Conditions were hard and times were not fast. George recorded 1 hr. 1 min. 47 sec. and Keith 1.4.57.

On Sunday, Don Lock rode in the Southampton Wheelers "25" on his favourite course between Ringwood and Salisbury. He also found conditions to be unfavourable for fast times and finished in 1.6.10.

This Sunday there will be a club run leaving from the clubroom at Broadwater Green at 9 a.m.

OCT. 20TH. 72.

Matthews and Lock ride on

AS THE SEASON nears its end, there were only two racing performances by members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday.

The faster of the two was by George Matthews in the Velo Club Sacchi 25, held on the Horsham-road course but reversing the usual direction.

Starting on the Horsham by-pass and coming first to Washington roundabout, Matthews finished in 1 hour 3 minutes 5 seconds in cold and windy conditions.

Don Lock, searching for a fast course, travelled to the St. Albans area for the Verulam 25. But strong winds on an exposed course gave him no chance of a good time and he finished in 1 hour 6 minutes 1 second.

This Sunday, Brighton Mitre's annual Open 25 will include a number of riders from the Worthing club for the last competitive event of the season.

Cycling awards decided

THE FINAL RACE of the 1972 cycling season was the successful Brighton Mitre Cycling Club 25-mile promotion at Washington on Sunday.

The field of 120 men and 10 women included some of the fastest riders in the country and among the ladies was national champion and former world champion, Beryl Burton.

Two members of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club were competing but finished some way down in such excellent company. George Matthews covered the distance in 1 hour 4 mins. 47 secs., and Keith Dodman was a little slower, 1 hour 5 mins. 29 secs.

The winner of the men's event was D. Holliday in a time of 57 mins. 31 secs. and this win clinches for him a win in a nationwide 25-mile series held throughout the season.

Beryl Burton had no difficulty in winning the ladies award, and indeed only four men managed a

faster time than her magnificent 58 mins. 56 secs.

With this the last event over, some other awards for the local club have been decided: the senior best all-rounder returns to the 1970 champion, Keith Dodman, with last year's winner, Don Lock, in second place. Eddy Kneen gains a well earned third place.

The junior best all-rounder competition has been won by Kevin Bishop. The most improved rider award has been won by racing secretary Tony Palmer and the ten-mile series winner is Don Lock.

This week there is the club's annual Tourist Competition for the President's Bowl. The start is at 9 a.m. from the clubroom at Broadwater Green. The course, of about 40 miles, will be split into two sections of 20 miles each and will take riders through Steyning, Ashurst, Shipley and, after lunch, first north towards Horsham and then back through West Chiltington with the finish at Washington.

IMAGINATIVE COURSE FOR CYCLISTS

AN IMAGINATIVELY planned course over some 40 miles, of four sections, including many bridleways and cross country routes with the remainder on quiet lanes, was the recipe for the annual Tourist Trophy Competition of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club on Sunday.

The event, for the President's Rose Bowl, attracted a fairly small entry and this was further depleted by two senior riders failing to start.

The morning section was a devious route through Sompting, Lancing, Steyning, Dial Post and then on to lunch near Shipley.

Philip Start, riding his first tourist competition, had, unfortunately, to retire after a stretch of the old railway line towards Steyning had caused mechanical trouble.

Secret check

An early secret check in Sompting caught George Matthews and Dave Elson and a bridlepath to the north west of Ashurst also had some competitors in trouble. At lunch, the lead was shared by Ray Douglass and Don Lock.

A short section near Shipley Windmill proved fairly straightforward and nobody suffered any penalty points. This was followed by a long and circuitous route through Barns Green, Itchingfold and Christs Hospital. Competitors had to follow a course extremely accurately and a number made mistakes so that there were further retirements before the final stage began.

The weather was pleasant during the morning but became cloudy and colder by midday. As riders set out towards Washington on the final leg, rain began to fall and conditions over the last few miles were hard and damp.

Good crowd

At the finish a good crowd of helpers and competitors congregated at the top of the old Washington Bostal road and enjoyed a marvellous hot meal prepared and served by social secretary Theo Puttick.

While others ate, the event organiser, Brian Weir, completed the scoring for the afternoon sections and announced the final result:—1 Ray Douglass, 2 Don Lock—and the result had hinged on just an assessment of mileage, where Ray had been more accurate.

This Sunday, a party of club members make an early morning start by car to the area of Epping Forest. A day's touring in that district will make a change from the usual local rides.

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QUIET RIDE FOLLOWS RACING SEASON

A PARTY of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club members travelled by car to Epping Forest on Sunday and then, despite the damp conditions, enjoyed a day's touring by bicycle in the Essex countryside.

Starting from the clubroom at 7.30 a.m., they were all congregated again at High Beech in Epping Forest and under way, on two wheels, by 10.

The forest was so resplendent in autumn colours that the lack of sunshine made little difference to the beautiful scenery.

Dave Hudson, who had arranged the outing and the day's route, chose all the quietest lanes and it was difficult to realise how close one was to London.

Through Theydon Bois and on to Greenstead, or to give it its full name, Greenstead Juxta Ongar, the site of the world's oldest wooden church dating from 870 A.D. and recently depicted on British stamps. From here, the group rode to Ongar for elevenses.

OLD TOWN

A northerly route of some 15 miles, all the time avoiding the main roads, brought them to the pleasant and quite large old town of Bishops Stortford for lunch.

The afternoon route back to the cars included some bridleways through the area of The Hadhams and finally down to Waltham Abbey and so back to High Beech.

A total distance of about 50 miles, ridden leisurely and over easy terrain, made a nice change at the end of the racing season.

Dave is to arrange a similar outing to the Salisbury area in December.

The club's annual dinner, dance and prize presentation takes place tomorrow (Saturday) at Warner's Hotel at 7 p.m.

NOV. 17TH. 1972.

WORTHING HERALD

Tony sings a welcome

WHEN Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club member Tony Hill was asked to propose the toast to the president and his guests at the club's annual dinner on Saturday at Warnes Hotel, he decided on an innovation.

Instead of making the customary speech of welcome, he walked across to the small stage and—accompanying himself on a guitar—made the welcome with a song he had written called "Thank You For Being Here."

It was well sung and extremely well received.

The reply came from the president, Mr W. D. Argent, and then the Mayor, Councillor A. E. Dunning, congratulated the club on their long history and present healthy state.

The toast to the club was proposed by Mr Jeff Marshall, one of the leading time trial riders in the country and a member of Hounslow and district Wheelers.

Mr Marshall, 10th in this year's national best all rounder trophy, has finished as high as fifth in this competition.

Among other complimentary things he had to say about the club was praise for the club magazine, Worthing Wheel, and its editor, Don Lock.

Mr Dennis Dean, a club vice-president, replied.

The Mayoress presented the impressive array of club trophies and medals.

DECEMBER 22ND 1972.
WORTHING HERALD.

Celebration for cyclists

FORTY-NINE members and friends of Worthing Excelsior Cycling Club congregated at Cop-sale Village Hall on Sunday for the club's annual Christmas tea. Once again organised by social secretary Theo Puttick, it was a great success.

A full Christmas meal was served to the accompaniment of hi-fi music put on by Nigel Barlow.

The majority of members, bringing children and friends, travelled from Worthing by car but a small number enjoyed the day's pleasant weather and arrived on bicycles and having hearty appetites.

President Duggie Argent and his wife and several club vice-presidents were present, and many of the older members renewed old acquaintances. Among these was former club champion and son of club chairman Charlie Lednor, fast man Dennis Lednor.