

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1966

Apart from being the year that England won the World Cup, 1966 was also, so far as Worthing Excelsior was concerned, the year of the junior.

Our total membership presently stands at 95, of whom just over one third are juniors - this increasing junior membership is a trend which your committee has specifically encouraged over the last few years and has done so with particular diligence during the year under review.

Thus, with the blessing of the local education authority we have had placed on each school notice board a poster extolling the virtues of the club and inviting those pupils interested to contact us; the Authority also allowed us the use of West Park schools playing field as a venue for training our juniors in the niceties of track racing.

A set of six Place to Place record standards were set for both juniors and schoolboys. This innovation proved to be most popular and some 30 attempts were made during the year, the last of these being on the day of the club dinner in November.

We were very fortunate in being presented late in the season, with a fine trophy, which will be awarded annually to the Junior Best All Rounder - this being another competition newly instituted during 1966.

However, in spite of the preceeding paragraphs I am still able to write that the junior section has supplemented rather than supplanted the rest of the club's activities. We were, therefore, again able to assist in the running of the cycle section of the Road Safety Rally and enter the Road Safety Committee's quiz, improving on our previous best performance by being placed 4th. We were also represented at the inaugural meeting of the Worthing Sports Council and when called upon to do so we helped with the Duke of Edinburgh's award scheme.

The annual dinner was, yet again, a great success, being enjoyed by almost 150 members and guests. Our thanks are due, in no small measure, to our social secretary for organising this and our weekly football "swindle" which has made during the past couple of years, approximately £60 profit.

Once more we promoted two open events - a 50 mile reliability trial, held in February, which attracted almost twice as many riders as in 1965 and the 25 miletime trial in October which received over 100 entries. On both occasions the organisation was well up to the high standard which has come to be expected of Excelsior promotions.

Whilst on the subject of open promotions - it is the committee's intention for the club to hold, during the coming season - the co-operation of the Town Council and the local police has already been assured - a series of "Kermesse" type races on a small closed circuit within the borough boundary. (See notice of motion attached)

Although there now exists within the club a firm nucleus of "massed start" addicts, time trialing remains the backbone of our racing activity, and in this sphere we managed to gain 9 team awards and 6 individual wins, including the Sussex 25 mile individual and team, and 12 hour individual championships. In this report last year it was noted that not one club record had been broken during 1965 - this position was certainly altered in '66, when no fewer than 20 records: junior, senior, individual, team, bicycle and tricycle among them were either broken or established. On Preston Park track our riders again won the Strudwick Trophy and managed one first and three second places in the various Sussex Championships.