

SECRETARY'S REPORT 1968

I think that over the last few years we have allowed ourselves to become too complacent and we have come to consider our successes as a matter of course rather than as the result of endeavour. The outcome of this complacency was manifested in 1968 by the loss of some 20 members; by a lessening of support for club events; by an unfortunate, but marked, lack of sense of responsibility of some club officials; and by the inept organisation of the evening 10 mile series.

The cure is simple - you are the club, therefore, you must support the club.

Enough of sermonising, for 1968 was not such a black year for the club, it has seen us represented on the Worthing Sports Advisory, Youth Leaders, Youth, and Junior Accident Prevention Councils. We have also seen the successful rebirth of the magazine - Don Lock being the proud parent who has, by now, overcome most of the birth pangs, though if anyone knows the whereabouts of a redundant typewriter, Don would be pleased to hear from you. The Committee is also considering the purchase of a second hand duplicator, so if you have any thoughts on this scheme, please come along to the A.G.M. and let us hear your comments.

We have been fortunate in receiving two fine new trophies during the season; one from Mr. Ted Sherwin for annual presentation to the handicap winner of the Junior 25 and the other from Frank Hill for the winner of the evening 10 mile series. Our thanks are extended to them both for their generosity.

Three open events were promoted - a 50 mile reliability trial in February, a schoolboy's 10 in June, and the 25 in October. Although the quantity of the entry was less than desired, the quality was top class, including Martyn Roach, B.B.A.R. and Bob Beattie who was second in the schoolboy's national 10 mile final.

We must congratulate Nick Lelliott on being the first Excelsior member to gain an R.T.T.C. championship medal with his third place in the National Junior 25. At the same time we must note our regrets at his decision to relinquish first claim membership in favour of one of the "big city" clubs but also express our sincere good wishes for his future success.

Some of our members have again officiated at the children's Cycling Proficiency Tests, and, in spite of the casting vote of the Chairman being needed at the last A.G.M., the complete organisation of the cycling section of the Town's Annual Road Safety Rally was successfully undertaken by the club for the first time. This success being due, in no small part, to Theo Puttick's efforts.

We must also thank Theo for placing at our disposal his "mobile restaurant" thus enabling us to have several, very popular, soup runs throughout the year.

The clubroom has continued to be well supported and we have enjoyed film shows, slide shows and table tennis tournaments as well as the continued excellent canteen facilities provided by Jim and Con.

In closing this report I would like to thank all who have helped us in any way during the past year and express the hope for your continuing support in the year to come.