

Dec 1952

The Squirrel



A very merry Christmas

The Chairmans Message

My Friends,

I look back on the club life of 1952 with mixed feelings. Our racing success has been counterbalanced by failure in the social sphere of the road game. Our touring strength has been weak and without doubt this affects the whole life of the club, even racing because there is no pool of young riders.

The reasons for the decline in numerical strength in the club are I believe, are varied. The main cause being the call up to H.M. Forces. Fifteen club members have been called up this past twelve months, most of them keen club men. Then there is the old complaint of no runs leader for social rides. This time I am confident that we have a first rate runs captain in Frank Lancaster and that he will be of tremendous help. Thirdly I would say that members generally, and in particular committee members, could attract more members by being more sociable that is now the case with prospective members. This particularly concerns tourists who do not fit in so easily with racing men as those who want to race.

The last point I want to stress is this. When anyone speaks of the club, what do they mean? They mean YOU. The club is YOU. Each and everyone of us is an integral part of the whole club. Seamans Cycling Club will be judged by you. Therefore it is essential that you should be proud to be a member. I have heard the Seamans and other clubs called by their members, "this club" in disparaging terms, and I put it to you all, that you cannot be a good club member until you say and think, and act in terms of "MY CLUB".

All is far from black however. Our financial position has improved over other years. We have the makings of a grand committee and a hard core of loyal and keen members. With these attributes there is no doubt at all that our club can go from strength to strength.

My committee and I are determined that 1955 shall be Seacoms C.C.'s best year. Our special aim is a record membership. Are you with us? We hope so, because then, God willing, success is assured.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely.

Bob. Richardson.
Chairman.



The Social Section

by FLANCASTER.

On taking over as Runs Captain I realise the task before me in building up a strong social section. I hope I may be able to end the situation we have seen too often this year. Riders come out for a couple of runs and drop out. We cannot afford this loss, and I will make every effort to "follow up" and find why these riders drop out. I sincerely hope that older members will go out of their way to welcome new members. If they are made to feel they are wanted they will want to stay.

Remember that the social sections main function is SOCIAL and that those who want "burn ups" can get them with the racing section. Much as I personally enjoy a "bash" I do not intend to allow them to cause now and potential members to be burnt off and in consequence "browned off". I ask members of the racing section to realise that if they come out with the social section that they have to obey the rules just as we would have to hang on, or be "burnt off" if we chose to go out with the racing section.

By leaving on time and keeping up a steady pace we shall be able to cover just as much ground with far less suffering. Please remember we leave on time and go where we are supposed to go, unless weather conditions make it impossible. I hope I have not given the impression that I intend to be a martinet. Far from it, but I do want to make it clear that my aim is a social section which the club will be proud of, and which will be a pleasure to ride with. If to achieve that end, I have to "put my foot down with a firm hand" occasionally, then I shall not hesitate.

For the future I want to bring new places on to the runs list so we break the everlasting-Geestrey, Middlewich, Tan House complex. Any ideas will be most welcome, particularly good grub places.

Early in the New Year I hope we shall be able to have Treasure Hunts etc., as a change from the orthodox. Later in the year I hope we may visit as many rallies as possible and get in other week-end runs occasionally.

For those who are interested there will be tours at Easter and Whitsuntide. Touring areas to be mutually arranged. Should there be sufficient demand there is no reason why we should not plan our own 50 miles in 3½ hrs., 100 miles in 7 or 8 hrs., etc., with certificates to follow.

If this seems a rather ambitious project I can only say if members are as keen as I am to build a strong social section, then we can do it, and find much enjoyment in it.

In conclusion I would like to allay any fears the racing members may have got, that I am trying to build up the Social section at the expense of the racing section. As I see it the Social section is where young riders learn the ropes before graduating to the racing side. Where older riders keep in touch when they have finished racing. I expect members of the Social section to respond to calls for marshalls etc., when required.

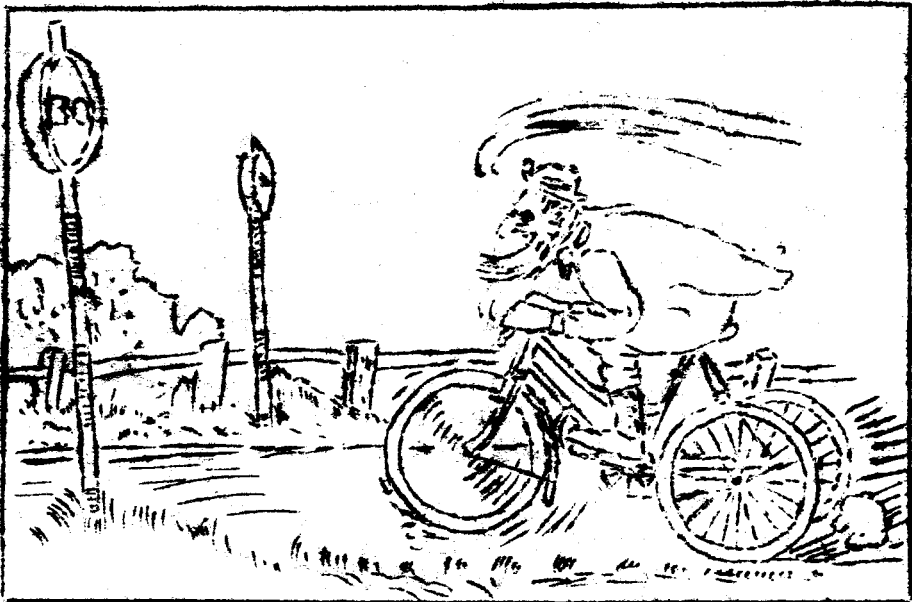
We will do everything we can to help the racing members in their efforts to bring honour to the club. If this can be realised much will have been done to iron out some of the minor differences of opinion which have occurred in the past.

I look forward to the coming season and hope the racing members will win much honour.

During the course of it I want to see a strong social section built up, which will contain our future racing potential, ready for when our present heads hang up their sprints.

I hope that we all realise, we shall only achieve, what our efforts deserve. so backs into it everyone.

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OFF THE BACK

Racing News

--- by K. Bonsen.

As most of you know the club is promoting two open events in the coming season. They are a 2nd Class '25' on May 24th and a 1st Class '50' on August 9th. Both of these events are on the East Lanes.. courses.

An open event cannot be run without marshalls and checkers etc., so I am calling on everyone in the club to do his or her share to ensure that the events are run off smoothly. The '50' will need more "hands" owing to the feeding station and the longer distance. If there is a shortage of helpers for the '50' it will mean restricting the number of entrants from this club to the fastest four.

While on the subject of marshalls I would like to draw your attention to MDTA events. If your name is down on the start sheet to check or help in any way please do turn up or find a substitute otherwise the club will get a bad name

At the recent A.G.M. of the MDTA it was pointed out that quite a large proportion of riders entering for combine events do not start. Last season resulted in 33% of entrants not starting. Figures published by the MDTA for last season are;- Entries 1.091; Non-starters 308; Non-finishers 71.

Also announced at this AGM was that the 12 hour TT to be a clasified event. Any club not providing helpers will not be able to enter a rider for the event.

POTTED PIN UPS

by---High Pressure
Connector.

Yes indeed! It's that old bug-bear HPC again. I have pondered deeply over my choice of victims for this operation, and now the first one is being wheeled in. Who can it be? Ah, Yes!

Don, alias Sam Smith. Don alias Sam scrubs around Fallowfield track occasionally, but is much better known as 'The Ritz Rat' or 'another reason why married women leave home'. Aged 21 years Don alias Sam is a printer by trade and a lazy hound by inclination. His hobbies are collecting free bike parts (got any old sprints Sam?) at which he does remarkable well, and enchanting the fair sex with his polished dancing.

I have heard it said that he should be polished off the floor, by his crippled partners. In the social season Don's alias Sam's beery leer can be seen most Saturday evenings in 'The Vine'. To be serious Don's successes in the racing world are too numerous to mention here, but I would like to wish him every success in the coming season. Dig 'em in Sam!

My other candidate in the Pin Up race is A(nnc). D(emi). "Irves" Irving, whose only claims to fame are a challenge to an unknown tourist. "I'll sprint you for the island", (Irves won), and the taking of Bob Richardsens Chester and back record. Irves is known to train hard sometimes, and fast too. To quote. "Never less than thirties". Perhaps he means thirty mpg. Our friend was delegate for the club at NCU meetings and it is rumored that Mr.H.S. Andersen suggested a vote of thanks to Mr.Irving

when he declined to stand for the position again. Irves is a dare-devil "an all". He once came down the Horse Shoe Pass flat out on 99" fixed. Unfortunately a bend of rock got in the way and to use his own words, " I shot twenty feet in the air and my bike Antonic came down on top of me".

What a name for an 'iron' - "Antonic Magne". Our friends accomplishments include a loud bellowing voice which he uses to good effect on coach trips, and a soft, gentle way with the ladies - something like a bull in a china shop. He is also the clubs best half wheeler (because of his blind side), and second fastest pint drinker.

To close, let me pay tribute to Irves. Sorely of a stormy petrel, he is nevertheless a well loved and keen club man. One of our best 100 milers and he says that 1953 is going to be his fastest season. I hope so. Good luck Irves, and all the best to you all in the coming year.

A Merry Christmas All.

High Pressure Connector.

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THIS SPACE TO LET