

THE SQUIRREL

OCCASIONAL

Oct 1952

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October Issue.

Editor R.V.Herbert.

EDITORIAL.

"Oh where oh where has the squirrel been?" One will gather looking at these lines that he has reversed nature, and is coming out of summer hibernation. After such a long lapse (not without criticism) I here make public apology.

Looking in the Vine Inn on any Saturday night one will readily perceive that the social season has arrived. Trail them at 9-30pm across the road one will see they do not intend to enjoy themselves alone. A more exclusive means of enjoying the social season is by visiting the Ritz. Come Sunday the Red Lion is their goal. It seems all mean to make a success of their activities.

I would like to ask you to try and make this social season a financial success to the club by supporting functions and endeavouring to sell tickets or what have you if necessary; and to bring along two lady friends instead of one to dances.

Social activities apart I would like to draw your attention to the loss of young prospective members who have been out on one club run, and who then do not turn up again, due to having been either "burnt off" or lost during that run. The loss of these youngsters is serious, and in time may show the club to have no men to fill the places of retiring racing members. Worse still it is giving the club a bad name for unsociability and lack of encouragement to them.

Older members should realise that this loss of possible talent through thoughtless "burn-ups" is not the way to build up a successful club. It is the lack of a strong social side and above all a responsible leader, that prompts this message, and it is for the future benefit of the club this has been written.

May I suggest that far more thought could be exercised, and encouragement given to these youngsters by older members. Anyone knowing of a keen cyclist who has given up racing, and is willing to help form a social section, will they try encourage him to join the club and help solve the problem of keeping these youngsters with us.

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WHIST DRIVES.

Attention is drawn to club whist drives which are now being held at the Conservative Rooms, George Street, Altrincham. Arrangements have been made by Mrs. Wycherley for whist drives to be held on Wednesday 19th Nov. and Wednesday 17th December. Will members do their best to publicise these dates and to sell tickets to interested parties, and maybe put in an appearance themselves.

These Were The Days.

By K.W.Benson.

Some time ago I came across an old membership card for the year 1889 of the Altrincham Cycling Club... Hon. Sec. Mr. A. Ackerley, and as far I can gather the headquarters were in Stamford Street, Altrincham. This card is similar to our own and is in book form, containing twelve pages, the first two being devoted to "general rules". An extract of one of these states that "any member allowing his subscription to remain unpaid seven days after it is due, shall cease to be a member of the club. (Fee 2/6).

Following pages are devoted to "riding rules". Rule number two stating "That the captain shall lead on the left hand side of the road and have complete control on all club runs as regards route and stoppages, and that no member shall pass in front of the officer without permission." Rule number four states "That members provide themselves with lamp bell or whistle. Rule eight says "That the maximum speed on club runs does not exceed 10 m.p.h." Rule 10 "That any member unable to join the club at the start, may count an attendance, by following on and giving sufficient reason to the captain for his non-attendance at the start". On page eight the racing rules are to be found, made up — 1. No member shall be allowed compete in a race unless he has attended eight club runs previous to the event; and to claim a prize he must have put in four attendances after the race.

2. The 50 miles handicap will be an unpaced race. Any competitor breaking this rule will be disqualified.

3. Competitors must give particulars and weight of machine they intend to ride on the day of the race.

4. Intending competitors must give notice for the handicap not later than June 30th to the Hon. Sec; such notice to be accompanied by 1/- entrance fee.

5. The committee will arrange the route which will not be altered for any member.

There is notice on page nine saying that two gold, and two silver medals will be given for best attendances on club runs. On the rear cover there is a list of places to be visited from April until the end of October. Besides the destination and the date, is the mileage. Quite a number of runs being below twenty miles. The longest ride is to Chester and back on June 4th

A two day tour held at Whitsun took them to Whitchurch and back. (84 miles; in these days).

The August Bank holiday tour states that Matlock Bath will be visited, the year's largest mileage of 96 miles. Other long distance one day runs took them to Merton Old Hall (48). Little Budwerth (42) and Buxton (68).

Considering the state of the roads and the "irons" used in these days one will appreciate they were pretty keen

Just think 1889.

Note. One can almost imagine the 131st Cheshire Yeomanry's standing orders reading something on the same lines as the above rules.

NEWS & VIEWS.

Turning now to racing news of the past season, the most recent event has been the hill climb. This took place on the Winnats Pass (1 in 5½), and last years holder, George Arstall retained his title with a very fine climb in 5 mins. 8.6 secs. Almost 50 secs faster than Jeff. Robinson who took 2nd place in 5 mins. 58.4 secs. Den. Smith came out of temporary retirement to claim 3rd place in 5 mins. 59.8 secs. Other times were;-

A.D.Irving.	6 mins.	02.2 secs.
D.Chapman.	6 "	18.2 "
R.Richardson.	6. "	27.8 "
R.Bleas.	6. "	30.6 "

One comment that must not go unnoticed was that of chairman R.Richardson, who claimed to have led the field, being first up the climb - notice how he smoothly worked his way to the back.

Hearty congratulations to social secretary Ron. de Leeze for his gallant 24 hour ride. His official distance was 397.26 miles -which creates a new club record and adds to his club 12 hour title in which he covered 213½ miles and was sole starter from the club to finish.

Jim Reek has claimed two third places in 100's this year. In the Oldham District 100 he clocked 4.51.55 to gain 3rd place behind Jim.Shuttleworth. Stratford Wh. He gained his other 3rd in the Pyramid 100 in which he finished in 4.38.45. Other times were;-

J.Food	4.40.44.
G.Arstall.	4.47.40.
R.Bleas.	4. 47. 49.
R.Richardson.	4.55.0.

Jim Reek was also sole finisher from the club in the Manchester Wheelers 12 hour event in which he covered 225½ miles.

One of the most encouraging events of the season was the entry of June Owen into the Ladies competitions. She has now completed 4 events, her first attempt finished with a 1.17.0. and her last one resulted in gaining 3rd handicap with 1.12.57.

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THE RENDEZVOUS.

Upon the sky - rest crest of any hill
Whose jagged fingers point towards the East,
There stand, and watch the maiden blush of dawn
Chase lingering greyness from the palid sky,
And silv'ring lashes lift, to show the blue
of days clear eyes.

Feel here warm golden hair soft on your cheek
And at her lute-voiced invitation
Walk with her, light - footed down the now - green slope
Returning back to muted city sounds
With eager promises of good tomorrow
Sweet in your ears and shining all around
God's tears upon the green leaves of the trees.

Now that the racing season has ended, one of the more interesting questions asked and discussed was the Club Championship. First mention was made when it was announced that Fred Minshall was in the lead following his 4.40. '100'. Came the end of the season and it was still thought to be Fred. But no....it seems that the question of average speed is not the combined times of 25 plus 50 plus 100. It is the average speed for each individual event, which are then added and the average speed of the rider is that figure divided by three. An example is say for 25 miles a does an average speed of 23 mph., 50 miles 22 mph. and 100 miles 21 mph. Add the three average speeds together and you get 66 mph. Divide this 66 mph. by 3 and the result is an average speed of 22 mph over the three distances.

The Club Championship title still remains with George Arstall for the second year, but the most interesting fact is that he has been hotly challenged by the next three positions. It is most pleasing to see the name of Jack Feed prominent in the table, his 50 time made a mess of his average and I know Jack tried hard for a better time. Still I don't think Jack has any thoughts of getting married yet.

George Walton occupies 3rd place, but I suspect he did not go mad at the right time, otherwise I think the positions would have been different.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP RESULT.

G. Arstall.	1.	3.45.	2.10.36.	4.47.40.	Average speed	22.452	mph.
J. Feed.	1.	4.15.	2.16.31.	4.40.44.	"	"	22.231 "
G. Walton.	1.	5.30.	2.15.42.	4.15.52.	"	"	22.158 "
F. Minshall.	1.	6.16.	2.14. 8.	4.40. 2.	"	"	22.142 "

The Junior Trophy record has been smashed in great style by Derek Hampson, recording 25m. 22s. over 10 miles and 1.6.32. for 25 miles. This gives him an average speed of 23.043. This also raises the average speed of the last two years by $1\frac{1}{2}$ mph, showing that we have some good material for the future.

The Ed.

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FORTHCOMING SPECIAL DATES%

November	7th.	(Friday)	(No club.)	Invitation from Pyramid R.C.
"	14th.			Annual General Meeting. Starting 8 o'clock prompt
"	21st.		(No club race)	Hot Pot Supper at Golf House Hotel
"	28th.			Club Recn.
December.	5th.			"
"	12th			"
"	19th			Xmas Party and Xmas Draw for prize list.
"	26th.			Cross country with Sale Harriers in the morning
"	26th.			Evening - no club.
January	2nd.			Visit by Royal Oak C.C. Darts and table tennis etc