

25th LONDON (CYCLIST) OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION

President: Paul H. Nicol

Vice Presidents: E.S. Mitchell, H.W. Prockter, F.C. Wood.

Waziristan 1917.
Afghanistan 1919.

Bulletin No. 103
August 1962

15a, Carlton Drive,
Putney, S.W.15.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

SUMMER? HOLIDAYS and WEATHER are with us again, I hope that you have had, or will be having, the best of both.

Report on the 38th REUNION DINNER, held on May 4th last.

Our President was in the Chair.

101 sat down to the Dinner and 27 Members sent in apologies for absence, due to illness, distance, etc., all sent their good wishes to those present.

Our Official Guests included representatives from the "Hants", "Sussex's", and "Kents" Cyclist Regts.

Records etc., for 1961/2.

During the evening, the "Hants" were congratulated on their County winning the County Cricket Championship.

The "Suffolks" for "Ipswich" topping the table of Division 1 of the Football League.

Now for the 25th London's. This record was created by our President. Last March, Paul, at the age of 87, officiated as BEST MAN, at the wedding of his brother Jack, who is 83 years of age. Can you beat it?

REUNION DINNER OF 1963

Owing to alterations and decorations to be carried out at the Windsor Castle Restaurant, Victoria, S.W.1., we shall have to change our rendezvous for next year.

Ex 25th's who read of our Dinner in the News of the World for the first time last year, have written me asking to join the O.C.A. They would also like to contact any member who remembers them. They are:-

J. Kennie,
18, Stalls Farm Road,
Droitwich,
Worcs.

F.H. Hucklebridge,
3, Water Street,
Great Harwood,
Blackburn, Lancs.

E. Newsome,
22, Copthorne Street,
Bradford, (7),
Yorkshire.

PERSONAL PARS

S. Phillips. Mr. Phillips, whose wife died just before Christmas last year, has now gone to live in Canada to be with his children and grandchildren. His address is:-

c/o Mrs. J. Hern,
262 Linwell Road,
St. Catherines,
Ontario. CANADA.

Syd. Parkinson. Syd has now converted the property that he bought at Wells next to Sea, into 6 flats and a restaurant. One flat he keeps furnished in case anyone would like to spend a holiday there. If any member would like to spend a holiday going over the old hunting ground!, please write to:-

S. Parkinson,
"Chantry",
Staithe Street,
Wells next to Sea,
NORFOLK.

OBITUARY

I regret to report the deaths of our following members:-

Alexander, G.W.	(Bill Cawte)
Carmichael, D.B.	(A.H. Carmichael)
Creed, H.J.	(W.T. Creed)
England, A.	
Francis, J.	
Gower, W.E.	(F.J. Kincaid)
Hare, A.K.	
Hayward, L.G.	(D.G. Whisstock)
Kittoe, S.H.	
Natkiel, S.	
Wells, J.T.	
Wiseman, W.T.	

The names in brackets are those of our Members who were able to attend the funerals.

Arthur England died whilst taking part in the C.T.C. Triennial Veterans 100 miles race, 17/6/1962. He had covered 64 miles, when he fell off his bike and died. (Death due to natural causes).

At the end of this Bulletin are PRESS TRIBUTES to the late Arthur England and J.T. Wells respectively.

SUBSCRIPTIONS PLEASE

Outstanding receipts are enclosed with this Bulletin. THANK YOU.

The Collection at the Annual Dinner totalled £10, which has been credited to the General Fund. Many thanks to those who contributed.

The "Worsley Cup". In accordance with a Minute passed at the last A.G.M., this Cup has been sold, and the proceeds £27.10. 0. placed to the credit of the Benevolent Fund.

NOTICES

Dates to remember: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, October 26th, 1962 at FULHAM HOUSE.
ANNUAL RE-UNION DINNER, May 3rd, 1963. Rendezvous ?, at present.

NOTICES (Contd.)

- Regimental Ties: 9/6d. each, Post free.
- Ophthalmic Optician: W.C. Middleton, 20, Bath Road, Hounslow, Middlesex,
HOUnslow 0024.
- Furs: of all kinds - renovations, cold storage,
W.T. Davidson, 21, South Molton Street, W.1. MAYfair 2676.
- Holiday Apartments: V. Champion, "Arundel", 11, St. Peters Road,
Sheringham, Norfolk.
- W.L. Liggins, The White House, Overcliff Drive,
Southbourne, Bournemouth. Southbourne 45121.
- E.C. Maunderne, "Funchal" Guest House, 17, Madeira Place,
Brighton, 1, Sussex.
- Mine Hosts: E. March, "Man of Kent", East Peckham nr. Tonbridge, Kent.
- E.S. Mitchell, "Warren House", Forest Road,
nr. Wokingham, Berks.

SURREY MIRROR, 15/6/1962.

100 MILES ON A BIKE - THAT'S 80-YEARS-OLD ARTHUR'S IDEA OF FUN!

A Banstead man who celebrated his 80th birthday on Wednesday will be cycling 100 miles on Sunday - for fun! A cyclist and sportsman all his life, Mr. Arthur England, of 104, Warren-road, Banstead, has entered - for the fifth time - in the Cyclists' Touring Club's triennial veterans' ride.

How old is a veteran? By the rules a man must be 50 and a woman 40. "I did not think I was a real veteran until I was getting on for 70," said Mr. England.

With the air of a man who knows his own strength, Mr. England confidently declared that he will finish Sunday's 100-mile run from Epsom to Guildford - Cranleigh - Newdigate - Newchapel - Betchworth - Headley Heath and back to Epsom. The mayor of Epsom will send the riders off.

Mr. England has lived in Warren-road for 33 years and would like to see more organised cycling in the Banstead district. Cycling and good plain food cooked by his wife Violet, aged 64, are responsible for his fitness, he believes. Smoking does him no harm.

In his retirement - Mr. England was a maintenance accountant - he has found plenty of time for cycling. At weekends he tots up a fair mileage but really comes into his own while most of Banstead's breadwinners are toiling during the week. Fifty-mile spins have put him in fine trim for Sunday.

As a young man, Mr. England was a top-notch racing cyclist. Trophies adorn his home. Pride of place in his lucid memory is the 1905 Southern Champion race, a time trial. He modestly admits winning."

Athletics and walking have also featured in his life.

Mrs. England has also been a keen cyclist. As a young couple they rode together.

THE POLYTECHNIC JOURNAL. February, 1962.

Many members will, I am sure, be sorry to learn of the death of Tommy Wells who passed away in his sleep on February 19th last. Tommy was not only a Marlborough A.C. member all his cycling life (which covered over half a century) but he was a great friend of the Poly, especially of "Ditch". During that time he served as a Grade A timekeeper to the National Cyclists' Union, the Road Time Trials Council and the Road Records Association, serving also on the R.R.A. committee for seventeen years. He also became a Vice-Patron of the recently formed British Cycling Federation.

He was a Marlborough delegate to the West London Cycling Association in 1907, the year in which that body was formed, and served the Association as timekeeper, committee member, General Secretary, and, finally, as President, until the time of his death. He was cremated at Enfield Crematorium on February 24th, many cycling personalities being present to pay their last respects.

Tommy was 74 years of age.

P.G.M.

CHAMBA

I suppose few people in Britain today have ever heard of Chamba, the delightful hill state on the southern border of Kashmir. It is situated amid the Himalayas and has an area of only about 3,000 square miles.

After serving with the Thal Relief Force in 1919 I was stationed at Dalhousie. With four other members of "B" Company I was lucky enough to get 7 days' leave to visit this tiny native state. We took two mules with us to carry overcoats, ground-sheets, blankets, stove, kettle, lamp and food. The stores included 20 loaves, a supply of tea, sugar, cocoa, biscuits, jam, meat paste, butter, and tinned herrings, pineapple and milk. I regret to say that much of this stuff was "lifted" from the Balun Bazaar in Dalhousie by that star scrounger "Swift Dick" Kelly of No.8 Platoon. It cut down our expenses and did not worry our consciences too much!

We left Dalhousie in fine weather and plodded along the track to reach KHAJIAR - about 14 miles away - the same evening. It proved to be only a collection of huts and a small temple where a few natives were gambling furiously! There was a "floating island" in a lake on the edges of which we found thousands of grasshoppers. We slept in a "dak" bungalow for which the charge was one rupee. KHAJIAR is in the crater of an extinct volcano which is supposed to have erupted while Alexander the Great was conquering the north of India.

We still had about 10 miles to go. The scenery was glorious and we took snaps of some of the waterfalls rushing down the pine-clad kud. The sun was shining through low clouds on to the snow-capped mountains in the distance with wonderful effect. We saw a variety of birds and a profusion of flowers like violets, anemones, begonias, and forget-me-nots. We had been told that we might spot a few cheetahs or brown bears but we never saw any. We were, however, surprised when some baboons pelted us with small stones at one point in the wooded hills. The three dogs we had with us enjoyed themselves chasing wild cats and tree-rats.

We eventually arrived at the CHOWGAN GATE where we had to pay 6 annas octroi tax to take the two mules over the suspension bridge high above the swift-running River Ravi which was about 50 yards wide here. We were now in the town of Chamba which is the capital of the Independent State. We gathered that the State of Chamba

was founded in the 6th Century by an ancient family of Rajputs and came under British influence in 1846 when it was declared independent of Kashmir. While we were there the reigning Rajah was Sir Buri Singh who was reckoned an enlightened and capable ruler.

We obtained a permit from the State Offices to go over the Palace. We thought the electric fans there a great improvement on the old hand-pulled punkahs at the Cock Bungalow in Jullundur! The Palace was full of costly ornaments, paintings, settees, cushions, carpets, rugs and pianos! We were allowed to take snaps of the Rajah's Silver Palanquin, the State Room and the Dining Hall. We also visited the Gardens, the Aviaries, and the Royal Stables.

Sentries - armed with rather antique rifles - guarded each entrance to the Palace and the Drum-Major of the brass band proudly informed us that His Highness had an army of no less than 200 soldiers! We were amazed to hear the band play "How do you do, Miss Ragtime" and "The Kilties Courtship".

The Chamba valleys were very fertile producing crops of rice, maize and millet. Grapes and Guavas were grown and apples and pears were selling in the town for 6 pice a pound. A fair trade was done in forest produce.

We heard that sportsmen came to Chamba to shoot ibex, deer, ghooral and thar, a kind of antelope. Apparently the only permanent white resident there was a Scots Missionary. I don't think he could have made many converts as the Rajah was a Hindu as were most of the people we contacted. As Hindus venerate the cow we were careful to bury all our empty tins of "bully" which we had brought with us for the dogs.

We returned to Dalhousie safe and sound having seen some wonderful and unforgettable scenery and with happy memories of a little-known part of the old India. I believe the Governments of New India and Pakistan are still at loggerheads over the Kashmir problem and I wonder sometimes what has happened in quiet and peaceful little Chamba.

C.B. Hendrick,
"B" Company, 1/25th London Regt.

RHYME WITHOUT REASON.

There was an old man who had been
Buying ripe Gorgonzola turned green.
He sat down to sup
But he had to stand up
When the cheese chanted "God save the Queen".

There was a bell-ringer of Bangor
Who said, more in sorrow than anger,
When the church bell crashed down
On top of his crown,
"Somebody's been dropping a clanger".

There was a young fellow named Smith
Who found a grenade to play with.
To their utter chagrin
He had no next of kin
So they wrote to his nearest of kith.

B. McQ.