DE LAUNE C.C.

Founded 1889

Sponsored By EVANS CYCLES (U.K.) Ltd. & SPECIALIZED CYCLES
February 1998 No 789– 69th Year

OFFICIALS		
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PEEL'S PEN

Brian Saxton visited Jack Young on Friday, 9th January, and said that, although Jack had been through a bad patch, he was now quite perky and seemed in good sprits; however, Brian noted that Jack had lost some weight which, no doubt he will quickly regain as soon as he is restored to good health.

The Brighton General Hospital is situated near to the racecourse. Jack was originally in Fern ward; however, if you don't find him there

he'll be at home - 47 Wilson Avenue -, which is just around the corner from the hospital.

Brian's information on membership has raised some interest, including a poem from Malc Adams (see elsewhere). I still have a post card from Jack Young that states that I joined on? 1958, which agrees with what Stax said. Was the rule change not introduced after the Committee excluded some undesirables! - Making prospective members prove themselves to be good, honest, upstanding, non-bread roll - trowing, no hiding wheels in trees etc, etc. Come back, all is forgiven (oh you did).

I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and didn't put too much weight on! I see that some of our riders have been taking the opportunity to ride the numerous Reliability Trials that are part of the new season. A good way to see the countryside gets some miles in and get fit. While I was at the Club the other week I also saw several of our top riders testing their bodies and minds on the King-Cycle. Looked like hard work.

I have attended the Rudd's Christmas bash for a few years now and I still do not know how so few people, on such limited apparatus, in such a small area can produce such a superb meal. My admiration goes out to them along with my (a I trust your) thanks. The after proceedings racing were as hot as ever and enjoyed by all. This year I actually joined in the Club run, along with 22 others, having ridden from home to Peckham thence Peckham to Godstone, up Tilburstow Hill then

back up Gangers, I limped home for a quick shower before driving back to the Club exhausted but happy! I was very grateful to Mick Valentine for helping me back. As you may know the downhill was previously cancelled along with the Godstone Sprint (which I won, as the only contestant!), due to the appalling weather. This was due to be re-ridden as part of the Club run but that too was declared null and void after a very tactical ride/win by Bill Wright. Sorry Bill.

You will notice that the Annual prize Presentation has been moved back a couple of weeks and is now on Saturday 7 March. This was due to clashing dates. We are keeping the price down to £5.00 a head which will include all the food you can eat, but not booze - please bring your own. As last year I intend to start the proceedings at 7 30pm sharp, make the Presentations at 8 o'clock with the food to follow straight after. Please let me know how many tickets you require. I look forward to a bumper turnout. Last year's was very successful and I intend this one to be the same.

Did you send your cheque to Steve Carter-Smith? Quite a few have already done so and he looks forward to hearing from YOU!

My company has now moved offices to Beckenham High Street and if you need to contact me during the day my new number is 0181 249 5151. The office e-mail is capital@mcmail.com

Dear Editors

I thank you for keeping up the DLNs.; I know how difficult is its production from the old days. When, as Editor, I had to type the News on to a stencil, then very carefully lower the stencil on to the drum of the Roneo, making sure to avoid creasing, and ensuring the messy ink was flowing, then turn the handle to produce each page, then repeat until all the pages were finished – what patience I must have had. We were rarely short of copy in those days.

It was good to read details of the Clubruns; the names of places brought back many memories for me. The Clubruns, in my opinion, were the spirit of club life, along with our regular weekly club night. No matter where the Clubroom is situated its always going to be in the wrong place for some members. I can remember five different clubrooms over the years, where we had good evenings, and made many lifelong friendships, as is proved by the success of our Old Members section. This brings me to our present clubroom, I am pleased that an effort is being made to re-vitalize its being, many present members have no idea how much effort went into projects helping to fund the clubroom, one such project was the collection of waste papers, bundling it up, loading it on to a lorry, then selling it to raise more funds. Also the number of hours spent by many of our members (now 'old members') in building the Clubroom. A special mention to Ken Fuller, who gave so much of his professional expertise in putting the building into shape.

As I read – some say it is in the wrong place, my advice is to get on your bike, and get to the clubroom, and make it as successful as it deserves to be. I look forward to club-run articles; they revive happy memories for me. Good Luck to all our racing members.

A Very Happy and Healthy New Year to all members.

KEN FLETCHER

Nice to hear from you Ken, I also have memories of the old Roneo, especially in the early days of our Crystal Palace promotions. I would get a call from **Chip** at about 8.30 p.m. saying he was just typing a press release and could I get on the bike a pop up to Victoria and collect it, as he would like it in the post that night. It was then back home, set up the Roneo print the press release, fold them and put them in envelopes, lick all the stamps and then into the post. **Mark J. Ballamy Ed.**

Dear Ed.

THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A TRAILING TIME TRIALIST

How right you are.

So many of us have suffered from trailing when trialing. Its tiresome to trail when your trialing and trying not to trail.

Hats off to you for bringing to light this troublesome trait!

Many thanks to you and your helpers for all your efforts with the DLN.

Best wishes for the New Year and no more troublesome trailing in 1998.

Peter Gunnell

(See p3 Jan issue)

Thank you Peter to date you are the only one that notice our deliberate mistake, so does this mean we only have one member that reads the DLN. Ed.

YET ANOTHER MEMBER CAN BE FOUND ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB.

Fri, 2 Jan 1998 10:26:05 EST From:
LRDanby <LRDanby@aol.com>
Organization: AOL (http://www.aol.com)
To: mark.ballamy@virgin.net

Wishing all your readers good fortune in 1998.
Len Danby

CASTLEACRE

I am writing to say how nice it was to read the letter in the January DLN from Jean Cox and hear some news of her Dad, Reg Dawkins –ah what memories of them and, of course, Minnie and Peter. The other item in her letter which has prompted me to put pen to paper, is the mention of the training weekend at Castleacre, (I'm pleased to see she spells it correctly as one word) which was announced at the end of the Club Run List by John o in the December's DLN.

How I wish I was able and fit enough to join the weekend in Castleacre because this village was the birthplace and home of my mother until she moved to London after the first world war to go into service. My grandparents are buried in the churchyard and my uncle, Arthur Sculpher after whom I was named, is commemorated on the war memorial and also inside St.James' church having been killed in the last few months of the war whilst serving in the Goldstream Guards.

As Jean says, Castleacre is a lovely place with its Priory and also the Norman Bailey Gate, which is a listed ancient monument. Frances and I last visited the village about 18 months ago after calling on cousins in Kings Lynn who were both born and lived in Castleacre for many years. When I think back to pre WW2 days spending holidays with my grandparents it is amazing what changes have taken place. Then it was a case of travelling by train from Liverpool Street to Swaffham. As recently as the early fifties my uncle and aunt had to draw their water from a well in the garden and lighting was by paraffin lamps or candles.

On my last visit, apart from the village center, the remainder of the area has changed beyond recognition – like everywhere else in the country. The club members attending the training weekend in February will be glad to know that piped water and electricity has now reached all parts of Casleacre.

With best wishes,

Arthur How

ROAD RACING NEWS

The road racing season rapidly approaches and the good news is that entry to Kent League races is absolutely **FREE to De Laune members.** The committee has allocated sponsorship funds to encourage members to ride the league, the perfect learning ground for bunch riding.

Riders wishing to enter races must phone **IAN CLEVERLY (0171 652 7060)** two and a half weeks before each race so that he can send the club nomination form off. No entry form is required, just your Kent League membership number (I will be distributing these as soon as I have received them). Any rider not starting a race which the club has paid for them to ride will be required to reimburse the club, so do not enter in advance unless you fully intend to ride.

Any member that has not yet received a BCF membership application for 1998 can phone me or get one from the notice board at the clubroom. If you have any questions please phone me on the above number.

The first Kent League race is on 17th March at Horsmonden, which is a De Laune promotion. All De Laune Kent League members are required to marshal as a condition of membership. Please keep this date free!

IAN CLEVERLY

ANNUAL PRIZE PRESENTATION
AT THE CLUBROOM
SATURDAY 7 MARCH 1998
7:30PM SHARP
FOOD SUPPLIED - BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS!
SMART CASUAL - GUESTS WELCOME
TICKETS £5.00 PER HEAD FROM MICK PEEL

THAT DATE

THE SIXTEENTH JANUARY NINETEEN NINETY-EIGHT
FOR ME WAS TO BE AN IMPORTANT DATE.

FOR FORTY YEARS AGO, YOU SEE
I JOINED THE GREAT DE LAUNE C.C.

WAS ON THE NINTH OF JANUARY FIFTY-EIGHT
TO THE NELSON INSTITUTE I WENT WITH A MATE.

WE WERE MET BY A CERTAIN MR KEN HILL,
WHO VERY WELCOME HE DID MAKE US BOTH FEEL.

WE WERE TOLD ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CLUB
BUT TO JOIN WE MUST FIRST PAY A YEARLY SUB.

THE FOLLOWING WEEK I RETURNED TO THE INSTITUTE
WHEN I HOPED TO BECOME THE DE LAUNE'S LATEST RECRUIT.

A FORM WAS COMPLETED, £1.2.6d WAS PAID
AND THAT NIGHT A MEMBER OF THE DE LAUNE I WAS MADE.

FOR NEARLY FORTY YEARS I HAVE REMEMBERED THAT DATE
IT'S EVEN WRITTEN IN MY DIARY OF FIFTY-EIGHT.

BUT THIS WEEK I RECEIVED MY DE LAUNE C.C. MAG
AND ON READING "WHEN DID I JOIN" THERE APPEARS TO BE A SNAG.

FOR MY GOOD MATE "STAX" HAS PRODUCED A LIST,
AS MUCH RESEARCH HAS BEEN DONE BY OUR CLUB ARCHIVIST.

BUT I WISH HE HAD LEFT THINGS AS THEY WERE,
FOR NOW I THINK HE HAS CREATED A STIR.

AND I FOR ONE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CELEBRATE
TILL ONE-MONTH LATER ON FEB TWENTY-EIGHT.

STILL, I AM LUCKY, A MONTHS NOT TOO LONG TO WAIT
(POOR ARTHUR, DEREK, REG AND ROY)
I HOPE THEY ARE ELECTED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

Malc Adams c January 1998

I recently had a telephone call from a Mrs. Montgomery, whom I had met previously, and is the grand daughter of the late Charles Southon. She wished to donate back to the Club a portable desk inscribed: -

Presented to C Southon Esq
by the members of the
De Laune Cycling Club
March 10th 1894
In recognition of his valuable services as Captain
from
1890 to 1893

Charles Southon was a founder member of the Club, first Runs Captain and a key official in those far off days. Indeed, due much to his enthusiasm and efforts the Club quickly became established in its own right, having previously broken away from the De Laune Institute. In appreciation his fellow members presented him with a writing desk. Perhaps a misnomer as, in fact, it is a portable writing box in mahogany with inlaid brass bands and a central brass plaque. It opens up to a flat top of green leather embossed at the edges in gold and with two inkwells. Below are various compartments for paper and other writing paraphernalia from a time before the use of fountain or ballpoint pens. There is also a secret compartment for those personal letters. Not surprisingly there are signs of some wear and tear but the desk is now with our archivist, Brian Saxton, who I am sure has matters well in hand; he has written to Mrs. Montgomery expressing our sincere thanks - the desk has now completed a full circle after 104 years.

In his later years Charles Southon kept in occasional touch with letters written from this very desk. He died in 1947 at the age of 82. The Club Captain wore his original club badge as the badge of office for many years until it mysteriously disappeared.

Just to jog memories there follows on an interesting story of a tenuous link between the Southon and Le Grys families which came to light when promoting our book,

"A Century Awheel" and a letter from 1989 is worth repeating.

"Thank you for the book on the De Laune Cycling Club.

Will and George Le Grys were my grandfather's brothers. I did not meet them as my grandfather broke away after a row and never spoke to his family again.

I did meet George during the 1950's and did not impress him as I belonged to the rebel B L R C.

I have been riding since 1946, first as a member of the Kingston R C. Then, in 1947, I joined Streatham C.R.C (B.L.R.C.) and stayed with them until the B.C.F was formed, whereupon I joined the Charlotteville. I remained with them until going to New Zealand. On my return I was in the Harlow C.C. for awhile and now belong to the East Anglian V.T.T.A. I have ridden on the track and grass, but my first love is road racing, having ridden a few stage races in my early days.

I still compete, mainly now for the love of the sport. I was 58 years old in July I am also the father of Dave Le Grys, who I think you might know and we have raced together at Herne Hill track.

MY wife's sister and her husband are currently over here from New Zealand. Their name is Southon, and they were staying with us this week. On reading the book, I noticed that the first Club Captain was Charles Southon, and low and behold, it turns out that he was the grandfather of my wife's brother in-law. I have known him since 1955 and he never mentioned that his relations were cyclists.

Talking about this yesterday, we discovered that the desk mentioned in the book is with another brother.

Anyway, it is just a brief account of ourselves. I am sure we must have met sometime. If there is anything else you would like to know, I will be pleased to help you.

Mr. R Southon goes back to New Zealand in two weeks, so I would like to get him this great book. He would also like to know who did the sketch of his Grandfather"
P.F. LeGrys

As a footnote for those not aware, the Le Grys brothers, Will and George, were both Club Champions for a number of years at the turn of the century. On retiring from racing Will kept his association with the Sport as trainer of leading trackmen, including Leon Meredith and Olympic champion Charlie Bartlett. He was trainer of the English team at the 1914 World Championships in Copenhagen and for many years officiated at Herne Hill.

George was one of the best trackmen of his day and amassed a great number of trophies. In 1898 he broke a Herne Hill record by clocking 55min 7secs for a paced "25"on steel rims and heavy tyres. He was Club President from 1957 for 11 years, a complete extrovert with many a yarn to tell at Club dinners. He died at the age of 91.

Don White

OMA NEWS

A date for your dairy – **Sunday 3rd May** a lunch at the White Hart, Henfield, Sussex. We have changed the date to a Spring get together at Henfield, as voted at our last lunch in August, it always seems to be very hot and the room we use is a sun-trap, and can get a bit uncomfortable for us 'old uns'. So I'm giving you plenty of notice, I will remind you all again, and I can be contacted with bookings after 23rd March. We are hoping to organize a summer lunch at Mark's golf Club (as last year), date to be arranged later.

Ken and I had a day down in Brighton on the7th January, we visited Jack in Hospital, he seemed in good spirits, a bit thinner than when we saw him last, and not as bronzed as we all remember him to be, but very cheerful. He was busy keeping him self occupied with a 'crossword' when we arrived, we had a good chat until it was lunchtime for him, so off we went. He is spending quite a few days at home now, and had a visitor there the day after

us, the visitor being 'Stack' or officially Brian Saxton. (It's all or nothing). I'm sure Jack will be out and about in the spring, picking up the 'coppers' from the streets of Brighton, or should I have said 'spare change'.

From the hospital we went along to Hove where we met Phyllis and George Wood and Pat, who took us along to their favorite Fish and Chip Restaurant for lunch, and very good it was too. Another one just out of hospital that week was Phyl, looking a bit pale, after having had an operation, she is now on the mend and being looked after by George at home. The following week saw us catching up with Ken Fletcher after his Xmas holiday, he has also had day surgery for a couple of skin grafts, at St Thomas's. He is now feeling more comfortable as the soreness wears off. I think that's all for our health page reports. Good Luck and Good Health for the rest of 1998, Phyl, Jack and Ken, hope we will see all three of you at Henfield on 3rd May.

It was nice to read Jean (Dawkins) letter, and news about Reg, glad you can still read the DLN Reg! I expect Bert Collins visit went all to quickly with all the memories you had to talk about. No Jean, neither Ken nor I, or Roy will make the training weekend, too old for that hectic stuff now; we still ride bikes around our area, all at our pace! For me that means struggling up the hills. Maybe Malc and Alan will make the trip, I haven't heard. Good health Reg for 1998 and thanks again Jean for keeping in touch.

Happy **UN Birthday** to Bill Miles on the 29th Feb. I have notice that there are a few more February birthdays: - Ken Fletcher-2nd our man in the USA Garry - 15th have a nice day Gazza, Pete Jenn – 16th and Francis Rudd – 21st, Happy Birthday to all of you.

Dot
01689 851241

Sponsorship 1998

Our sponsorship agreement with **Evans Cycles** continues for another year, with 8 more **Specialized** frames being awarded to Club riders on the basis of performance, commitment, ambition and (lastly) need. This year for the first time, riders were able to apply for frames, and 15 applications have been received. Three applications stood as being particularly worthy recipients, these are:

1) **Matt Goodes.** 11years in De Laune, and winner of almost all Club trophies this Year. Winner of Bexleyheath and Dartford criteriums, 1st Catford Hill Climb - 2nd Bec Hill Climb - 19thNational Hill Climb.

2) **Tony Miller.** 2years in De Laune. Set a new Club 10 record of 20-38, and numerous top 5 results in time trials nation-wide. 21st in Nat. Hi11 Climb.

3) **David Law.** 3 years in De Laune, rides as a junior again this year. Found form late in the year, but then notched up loads of Junior wins in various Cyclo-X races. Kingcycle test results were so impressive they led to a 5-hour one-to-one session at Manchester Track with Marshal Thomas, National Track Coach.

The remaining five frame allocations will have been finalised by the committee by the time you get this, and we'll let you know the names in the next DLN.

It is very important that people who had frames last year under the sponsorship agreement make arrangements **NOW** to either

purchase their frames, or return them to Evans. Until this happens, we cannot order the new ones.

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Kingcycle tests

The sponsorship has been paying for Kingcycle tests at the clubroom for any club members who one, and this has proved very popular, as a means of measuring the effectiveness of various training schedules. We will be having another session at the clubroom sometime in March, please phone Bill for detail. (0171-735 9605)

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MTB dates

Sundays 1st 8th 15th and 22nd February
Off The Track' series of mountain bike races at Herne Hill Track 11am Youth, 11-15 U-12s, 11- 30 Sen/Jun/Vet/Women. This series ran last year and was a lot of fun. Very refreshing (for me anyway) not to have to travel miles to and from an MTB event

Gorrick.MTB races

22nd Feb 15th March, 5th April, 3rd May- Various locations.

Sat/Sun 22/23 March

NPS Round 1 at Matgam Park, Wales,

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Xmas Clubrun

The Christmas clubrun and lunch was on 14 December, and incorporated the Freewheel contest and the Godstone sprint. The former was won by heavyweight Dan Rudd, and the latter, dubiously, by Bill Wright. Very many thanks to Mary and Francis Rudd, and Jan, George and Sam Slater, for an excellent lunch, and to most of the riders who showed restraint in the Clubroom Grand Prix.

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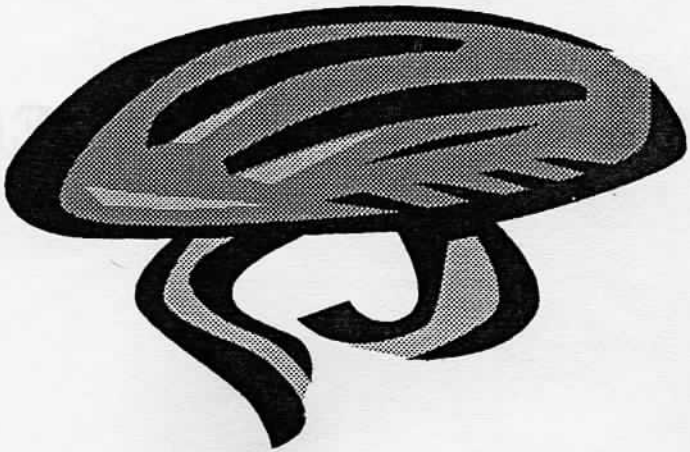
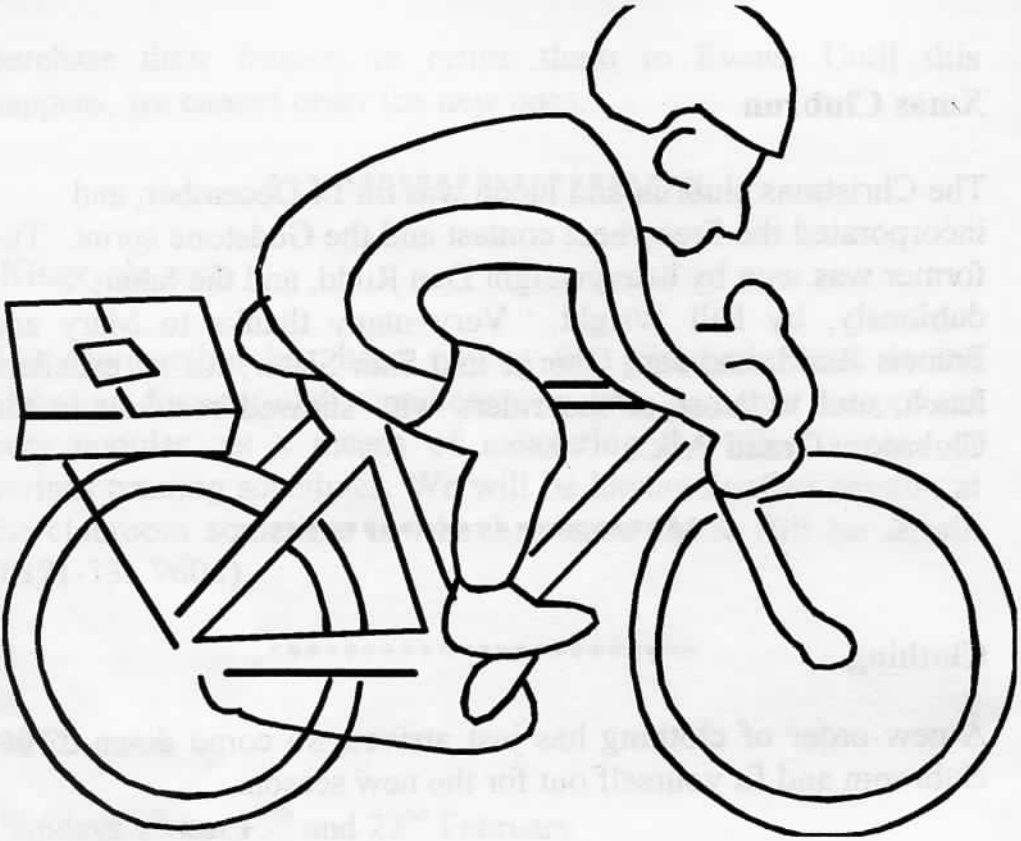
Clothing

A new order of clothing has just arrived, so come down to the clubroom and fit yourself out for the new season.

BILL WRIGHT





THE END

THE END

THE END

DATES FOR YOUR DAIRY

Subs Due!!!!!	1 January 1998
Committee Meeting	5 February 1998
Committee Meeting	5 March 1998
Annual Prize Presentation	7 March 1998
Committee Meeting	2 April 1998
OMA SPRING LUNCH	3 May 1998
Committee Meeting	7 May 1998
Committee Meeting	4 June 1998
Committee Meeting	2 July 1998
Fred Peachey '25'	19 July 1998
Committee Meeting	6 August 1998
Committee Meeting	3 September 1998
Committee Meeting	1 October 1998
Committee Meeting	5 November 1998
Committee Meeting	3 December 1998

SEE INSIDE FOR TT & MTB DATES

Please let us have your dates for 1998
So that they can be included on this page

THE LAST DAY FOR COPY TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT ISSUE IS WEDNESDAY 25th FEBRUARY
THIS SHOULD BE SENT TO US AT

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