

**FARNHAM ROAD CLUB
DINNER**

SUCCESSFUL YEAR CELEBRATED

Remarkable successes during their silver jubilee year were celebrated at the annual dinner of the Farnham Road Club, held at the Memorial Hall on Saturday. A gathering of 126 people, including the president (Mr. H. Sanders) and Mrs. Sanders, heard how the club had taken to heart their president's words when, at the dinner last year, he told them, in effect, "Go out and make this your best year ever, as a fitting celebration of your jubilee."

The achievements included the breaking of fourteen club records and at the end of the hall, below the delightfully decorated stage, was an impressive display of cups, shields and other trophies awaiting presentation by Mrs. Sanders. The president commented: "We have done extraordinarily well and I want to thank all you members for the way you have rallied to the club during the year."

Among the many visitors were Mr. J. W. F. Beagley (president of the Farnham Athletic Club and chairman of the Farnham Sports Association), Mr. J. D. Davis (president of the South Ruislip Cycling Club) and Mrs. Davis, Mr. A. J. Rumble (president of the Farnborough C.C.) and Mrs. Rumble, Mr. C. W. Martin (president of the Border Cycling Association), as well as members of 14 other road and cycle clubs and—happy evidence of the friendship which has grown up between the two clubs—the coach (Mr. Bill Sykes) and members of the Farnham Athletic Club, including Mr. Ron Stonehouse, who has done so much this year to make the name of Farnham known in the world of athletics.

Mr. G. Pickard, one of the members, acted as toastmaster.

The loyal toast was honoured on the call of the president.

HUSBANDS AND WIVES

During the meal, permission was given for cross-toasting and the many and varied calls caused a great deal of amusement. One of the most interesting of these toasts was drunk on the call of Mrs. W. H. Othen, wife of the popular chairman (Mr. W. H. Othen), who is still an active cyclist. Mrs. Othen asked to drink wine with all those husbands and wives present who had met through their membership of the Farnham Road Club. Present to drink with Mrs. Othen were her husband and three other couples, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Sprinks, Mr. and Mrs. Barry Stokes and Mr. and Mrs. David Backhurst.

The toast to the Farnham Road Club was proposed by Mr. C. W. Martin, chairman of the Border Cycling Association and a member of the Farnborough C.C. To him fell the pleasant task of telling the company something of the club's exploits during the year. The man who had done most for the club, he thought, was Mr. Charlie Sprinks. Not only had he kept in training himself, but he had occupied himself with the training of the youngsters so that, through his efforts, the club had had a most wonderful season. He was a man, too, who was held in high esteem by the Border Cycling Association because of his willingness to help, even though that help might take up hours of his free time.

THE RECORDS

Of the twelve new records which had been set up during the year, said the speaker, six had fallen to Mr. Tommy Lynch. Those were for

postponed, and that because of snow.

Mr. B. R. Stokes, responding on behalf of the club, paid special tribute to marshals and other officials who turned out whatever the weather, when events had been planned. In that connection he referred to the work of Mr. Martin who also served as a handicapper, assisted by Mr. J. Pickers, of the Camberley Wheelers. Another person to whom the club owed thanks was Mr. Fred Beasley, who had lent them field telephone equipment and a results board. Finally, came a tribute to the sportsmanship of the Westerley Road Club who, although they had won the May Cup outright, had agreed to accept replicas so that the cup might remain in the club in perpetuity to commemorate the late Mr. May.

THE PRESIDENT

A toast to the president was entrusted to Mr. David Backhurst and the terms in which this was couched left no doubt as to the esteem and affection in which Mr. Sanders was held by the club. Mr. Sanders had been their president—their only president—for 23 years, said Mr. Backhurst, and they were grateful to him for the help and advice he was always willing to give. It had been said that the Farnham Road Club partly died during the second World War, but the speaker had amusing evidence to prove the contrary—the fact that Mr. Sanders, either because of the difficulty of getting petrol or with the idea of keeping the spirit of the road club alive, took to riding a bicycle. "I think he had many a rag about this bicycle lark and has packed it up now," said the speaker, adding, "I have never seen him on a tricycle, but there is time for that yet." It was obvious that Mr. and Mrs. Sanders enjoyed this good-natured chaff as much as the rest of the company.

On a more serious note, Mr. Backhurst reminded the company that their president had presented the club with a cup for competition over 50 miles and this was still competed for over a local course. The honour of competing for that cup was appreciated by the members. Mr. Sanders' life had been devoted to the service of others and his association with the club had been an inspiration to the members.

"OLD BOYS AND FRIENDS"

Replying, Mr. Sanders remarked: "As an old man—and I say that advisedly—this annual gathering gives me the chance of meeting again many of my old boys and friends of the cycling club. And it gives me, too, a very real opportunity of recapturing something of the spirit of my own youth. I think it might be as well if we were to take a little time to reflect on the past 25 years. We might reflect for a moment on the loss of those most excellent colleagues whom we lost in the defence of their country; or on the pleasant memories we treasure of things that have happened during those past 25 years. I think that the wealth of good comradeship and sportsmanship engendered by the club during that period is appreciated by all its members. Some people like to say that the club has not continued for 25 years; that there was a break during the second World War. But I don't regard that as a break in the club's history for it was a period of—I prefer to think—"suspended animation", which was forced upon us."

Mr. Sanders' reflections on those early years were occupied for a time with thoughts of the pioneers who had laid the foundations on which the club was now building. Mr. Len Lampport, who was present

records would be based. In Border Cycling Association events the club's success had been phenomenal. In all but three of the 16 or 17 events for which the club had entered, they had taken the team prize. In many their members had won high individual placing. They had also won team and individual prizes in open events run by other clubs. During the year, members had covered 14,878 miles in time trials, compared with 7,776 miles the previous year, and neither of those totals took account of training miles. On the touring side, at least one woman member had covered a distance of 3,942 miles, the longest run of the year being one of 125 miles to the Blowing Stone. Only one club run had been

club on the national map of cycling. Finally, he mentioned another of the older members present, Mr. William Macklin, the second secretary of the club, who during the last war had looked after the club's records, trophies and finances. He was happy to report that the committee, after careful consideration, had decided that those seven people should be presented with life membership of the club, in recognition of their valuable services.

THE FUTURE

Turning to the future, Mr. Sanders warned against any feeling of cockiness because the club had done so well. "I don't think that we want to be too satisfied with what we have done or to feel that, having reached the heights we have, that we have got to the top of everything," he said. "There are still higher classes to be won. Last year I appealed to you to make this, your 25th year, a memorable one. You have indeed made it an exceptional one and I want to thank you for the way you have rallied to the club—and for all you have accomplished in spite of the worst summer on record in the life of the club."

Finally, Mr. Sanders referred to the link which had been built up during the past year with the Farnham Athletic Club and expressed the hope that from these two very fine sports, cycling and athletics, might come worthy sport and excellent entertainment in the years to come.

The toast to the ladies, visitors and press was proposed by the club's chairman (Mr. W. H. Othen) who extended a most friendly welcome to those present.

Mr. Ken Bowden, a member of the staff of "Cycling" who responded, referred to the club's "fantastic" record during the past year. His experience had always been that the older a club got the less it had to shout about. That was not so in the case of the Farnham Road Club, who had reached their 25th year with more successes than ever to their credit.

As at the dinner last year, the toast to past members and absent friends was most ably proposed by Mr. A. Brooker.

THE AWARDS

As mentioned above, the presentation of the awards was made by Mrs. Sanders and there was prolonged applause when the recipients of the life-membership certificates were called, several of them being present at the dinner. Instead of giving Tommy Lynch six medals for his six records, the club presented him with a silver beer mug—"for out-of-season use," commented the racing secretary (Mr. Charlie Sprinks).

Club award winners were: The Herald Cup, T. Lynch (club record); the Borelli Cup, C. Stone; the 30 Shield, T. Lynch (club record); the Sanders Cup, G. Pound; the Best All-Rounder Cup, T. Lynch; the Tommy Leake Memorial Hill-Climb Cup, G. Pound; the Bonner-Greenfield Memorial Shield, P. Bradshaw; the Kettering-Stone Memorial Cup, W. Norman; the Ladies' 10 Cup, fastest 10-mile T.T., Miss B. Sedgwick (club record); Best Member's Cup, C. Stone and G. Pound. Open club trophies: Open 25 Cup, D. Silk (Southdown C.C.). Open 25 Team Trophy, Westley R.C.

Winners of medals were: M. Barbara Sedgwick, ladies' 25, 30 and 50-miles time trials; R. Mant, medium-gear 25, second place

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the Ketteringham-Stone Memorial Cup handicap, bronze standard for 50 miles and silver standard for 30 miles time trials; Mick Bowden, club 100 and third place in Ketteringham-Stone handicap; Tony Bond, club 25; George Pound, club 50 and Glen Lea hill-climb; Tommy Lynch, club 25, 30 and 12-hours time trials, best all-rounder, and highest average speed at all distances from 10 miles to 12 hours (242 miles, 1,335 yards).

The evening concluded with dancing to the music of the Swing Quartette, with Mr. Bill Henham acting as M.C.