

*The Forty Plus Cycling Club*

*Year 1951*

At the conclusion of our first year of existence, we can congratulate ourselves at the success we have achieved as a new club. The inaugural meeting took place on March 8th at the offices of the National Cyclist's Union when the decision to form a club restricted to cyclists over 40 years of age was made. On 5th April the first general meeting was held when 18 founder members enrolled and officials were elected.

Following this there was a steady flow of new members throughout the year and we ended with a total of 68. It is significant of our members that over half of these renewed their subscriptions for 1952 by the end of January, and some were accompanied by a donation in addition!

The scheme which I proposed at the start by which the area covered by the club's activities be divided into four regional sections with a leader to each for the purpose of planning and conducting runs, recruiting new members and local publicity has worked extremely well, thanks to the work and enthusiasm of these leaders who were elected for the job. I would like to offer them my thanks for their help which has made my own job so much easier and I hope this arrangement will be allowed to continue.

Runs have been carried out each week-end without a break, alternating the four quarters of the Home Counties and the support for them has been really remarkable, the attendance exceeding 20 on many occasions with some members riding 100 miles or more in the day to attend the runs, whilst those who prefer shorter distances were catered for by the runs nearer home. It has been the aim to combine runs with a visit to some place of interest such as that which was carried out recently to the ancient city of Verulamium and the Abbey at St. Albans and we hope to extend this feature during the coming season.

A very successful first annual dinner was held in November, the arrangements for which were in the capable hands of Mr. & Mrs. E.P. Groom to whom our best thanks are due.

It will be noted from the attached statement of accounts that we have just managed to pay our way on the nominal subscription of 5s.0d per annum but we shall have to rely upon a substantial increase in membership in 1952 to keep the ship afloat. The decision of the committee to issue a quarterly leaflet with list of runs and other announcements will inevitably mean more expense but it is felt that this is a necessary step to keep members au fait with the Club's programme and will, we hope, avoid the need for the issue of notices at odd periods.

The Club has already succeeded in bringing together cyclists of similar age and outlook and some firm friendships have been made, so it has soon justified its forming. It is most gratifying to see the success of a venture long overdue in the sphere of pleasure cycling in this country. Four meetings of the committee have been held at which the attendance has been quite good and it is hoped that the alteration to rule which will include the founder members ex officio members of the committee will make for a larger attendance at these meetings as well as being a gesture which it is felt is deserving towards those who took the responsibility of launching the new venture. I would like to conclude by thanking all our officials who have worked so unselfishly to put the club on a sound footing, not forgetting our Honorary Auditor, Mr. D.A. Osborn, who has been most helpful with the accounts.

March 15th 1952.

CECIL W. COOKE. Hon. Secretary.

FORTY PLUS CYCLING CLUB

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1951

TO:	£	s.	d.		BY:	£	s.	d.
Printing, Duplicating & Stationery.....	9.	4.	11		Subscriptions:-			
					40 @ 5/- .....	10.	-.	-
Postages .....	4.	13.	6		25 @ 2/6 .....	<u>3.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>6</u>
								13. 2. 6
Advertising .....	3.	-.	-		Joining Fees:			
					52 @ 5/- .....			13. -.
Handbooks .....	4.	17.	-					
					Donations .....			10. -
Badge Block .....	4.	10.	2		Proceeds of Raffle .....	2.	10.	-
					<u>LESS</u> Dinner expenses.....	<u>12.</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1.18. -</u>
Balance in Hand at 31st Dec.1951.....	2.	4.	11					
								<u>£ 28.10. 6</u>
								<u>£ 28.10. 6</u>

I have audited the accounts of this Club for the year 1951 and certify them correct.

(Signed) D. A. OSBORN  
Hon. Auditor:

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MINUTES of preliminary Meeting held at 35 Doughty Street, W.C.2. on Thursday, 8th March, 1951 at 6.30 p.m.

In attendance, the following ladies and gentlemen: Mr & Mrs R Coleman (Plumstead) Mr & Mrs D M Irving (Fulham) Mrs M A Lang (Leyton) Messrs. T.F Evans, (Bromley, Kent) R.L.Reid & brother (Wimbledon) H Scouse (Hornchurch) John White (Feltham) F Woodham (Tottenham), and the convenor, C.W.Cooke (St.Alban's)

Mr.C.W.Cooke as convenor of the meeting acted as chairman and explained the motives for the proposal to form a Club for cyclists over 40 years of age of a social character in the London Home Counties area. He stated that he was responsible for making the suggestion in the cycling Press and in consequence felt that the response thereto justified the calling of this meeting. Correspondence from interested persons unable to attend the meeting, but prepared to support the movement if inaugurated, was read.

This was followed by an informal discussion in which various suggestions as to the chances of success were mentioned. The chairman then invited a proposition when it was proposed by Mrs M A Lang and seconded by Mr H Scouse that a Club on the lines suggested be formed. On being put to the meeting this was carried by 8 votes in favour, 3 abstaining.

The chairman, before declaring the motion carried, expressed regret that it was not unanimous and invited those who had not supported the proposal to express their views. Mr.John White said that he felt some endeavour should be made in the districts represented by those present to secure further support and that in the meantime the matter should remain in suspense pending another meeting at a later date. This was supported by Mr.R.L.Reid on behalf of himself and his brother. Mr.Scouse said that one could hardly invite people to support an organization which did not exist and one or two others spoke on similar lines, whereupon the chairman declared the motion carried nem.con and the meeting proceeded to consider the draft which has been circulated of proposed conditions of membership.

These were taken item by item and the following final recommendations were made, after certain revisions had been agreed to, for ratification by the first general meeting of the Club to be held at a later date, viz:-

1. The Club shall be known as "THE FORTY-PLMS CYCLING CLUB" and membership shall be open to cyclists over 40 years of age.
2. The objects of the Club shall be to encourage social intercourse amongst the members by the promotion of cycling fixtures of a sociable character in the London Home Counties area, and in such other ways to provide for the interests of members as may be decided upon from time to time.
3. The management of the Club shall be in the hands of a committee consisting of a secretary general and eight other members, four from each district north and south of the River Thames respectively, with power to co-opt and appoint others for special duties

as may be required.

4. The committee shall meet as required to decide the programme of events for the ensuing period, to elect new members and generally to transact the Club's business.
5. Fixtures shall be arranged for meets at suitable venues for luncheon and/or tea at alternate week-ends during the summer months (except bank-holiday week-ends) with venues alternately on the north and south side of the River Thames.
6. An entrance fee of Five Shillings shall be paid on application being made for membership of the Club and an annual subscription of Five shillings shall be due from each member on election and on the 1st January in each year thereafter, except that one entrance fee only shall be required in respect of husband and wife on joining the Club together. Members joining after 1st July shall pay one-half of the annual subscription for the remainder of the current year.
7. A member whose subscription is three months in arrear may be deemed by the committee to have resigned his membership in which case such member shall not be eligible for re-election unless he pays the entrance fee as provided for new members.
8. The annual general meeting shall be held in London in the month of March to receive reports, elect officials for the ensuing 12 months and deal with other competent business.
9. Members shall be entitled to receive notices by means of card or other form of communication giving the list of fixtures for the ensuing period as may be decided from time to time. Those requiring meals booked must inform the responsible official one week in advance
10. Members may be accompanied on club fixtures by members of their own family under 40 years of age.

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The Meeting then proceeded to the election of officials as provided for, under Rule 3 which resulted as follows :-

Hon. Secretary C.W.Cooke.

Committee North district - E.P.Groon (Bushey) H Scouse (Hornchurch) and Mrs.M...Lang (Leyton)  
One vacancy.

South district - R Colman (Plumstead) D.M.Irving (Fulham), J White (Feltham) One vacancy.

Mr.Cooke stated that having initiated the scheme, he felt obliged to accept the office of hon.secretary for the time being but that he was not desirous of adding to his present commitments and asked for another volunteer for the office. Mr.Irving remarked that the need for someone with Mr.Cooke's experience was essential in early stages of a new venture such as this and the appointment was thereupon confirmed.

NEXT MEETING: It was decided that a further meeting be held at an early date which would constitute the first general meeting of the Club at which members would be enrolled, the Rules and Conditions of Membership ratified and other necessary business transacted. The date of this meeting was fixed for THURSDAY, 5th APRIL 1951 at 6.30 p.m. at the N.C.U. Offices or other suitable place.

The hon secretary was requested to distribute a fair copy of the Rules & Conditions of Membership as agreed at this meeting to all who had communicated with him on the proposed formation of the Club, and to invite them to attend the next meeting.

The members present undertook to contact any prospective new members in their own districts in the meanwhile and endeavour to bring them along to the meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

MINUTES of the First General Meeting held at the N.C.U. Offices, 35, Doughty Street, London, W.C.2 on Thursday, 5th April 1951 at 6.30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Fourteen ladies & gentlemen signed the attendance register.

CHAIRMAN: Mr.C.W.Cooke was asked to take the Chair.

MINUTES: The Minutes of the preliminary Meeting held on 8th March, having been circulated, were taken as read and passed as a true record of the proceedings.

RULES & CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP: These having been circulated with the Minutes, were now submitted for ratification. Mr.Groom (Bushey) expressed the opinion that these had been well drafted and covered the requirements for the management of the Club. Mr.Cooke drew attention to the alteration which the preliminary meeting had made in respect to the division of the regional sections from that which he had originally suggested and pointed out that the area covered was extensive allowing a radius of 50 miles in each direction from central London and he considered that it would facilitate the work of district secretaries if divided into four sections rather than two only and proposed that this should be done with the area divided into North-east, north-west, south-east and south-west respectively. This was approved and Rule No.3 was revised accordingly. The wording of Rule 2 was amended. Rule 5 was altered to provide for fixtures continuously each week-end, each of the four districts to be catered for in rotation. It was agreed that a quorum at general meetings should be fifteen and at committee meetings four, and this was embodied in the list of rules,&c. when were then adopted as amended.

OFFICIALS. In view of the above, the Chairman asked for nominations to fill the offices of district honorary secretaries, when the following were elected, viz:  
North-east: Mrs.M.A.Lang.  
North-west: Mrs.D.M.Groom.  
South-east: Mr.T.F.Evans.  
South-west: Mr.D.M.Irving.  
with the following to form the committee in addition, viz:  
Messrs.A.G.Harris, C.P.Meers, T.W.V.Rowe, R.Coleman.

RULES BOOKLET,&c. Mrs.Lang proposed that this should consist of a booklet size 4" X 2 3/4" or thereabouts, with stiff card cover and inset of 4 pp. or 8 pp. as required by the amount of space required. This was approved and the hon.secretary was authorized to obtain estimates for printing same. It was also suggested that the quarterly notice of runs should take the form of a 4 pp. loose inset which could be slipped into loop or rubber band inside the booklet if found practicable.

Continuation Sheet

MINUTES, 5/4/51.

CLUB BADGE. The hon. secretary pointed out that it would be necessary to obtain a design for badge for the purpose of having a printer's block made for note-headings, &c. An idea for this was considered and the hon. secretary instructed to proceed on the lines suggested.

FIRST SOCIAL EVENING. The hon. secretary announced that he had made preliminary arrangements for a social evening with tea at the "King George" P.H. Barnet on Saturday, 14th April and that he had had leaflets duplicated giving all required information for distribution. This was approved by the meeting and Mr. Cooke thanked for his initiative.

FOUNDER MEMBERS: On the proposal of the chairman, it was decided that the first 20 members to enrol should be known as "Founder Members" of the Club. At the conclusion of the Meeting, 18 members were enrolled on payment of entrance fees and subscriptions, to the amount of £7.10.0.


COMMITTEE MEETING: After the conclusion of the general meeting, members of the committee remained to fix runs for the ensuing 3 months commencing May 6th.

The proceedings concluded at 9.20 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Adopted on .....

Signed: .....

Chairman.

 - 19/6/51.



A Meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday, 19th June 1951 at the "One Tun" P.H. Saffron Hill, E.C. commencing at 6.30 p.m.

### MINUTES.

The following members were in attendance: Mr & Mrs. E.P.Groom, Mr. & Mrs.D.M.Irving, Mrs.M.A.Lang, Mr.C.P.Meers and the Hon.Secretary Mr. C.W.Cooke. Miss E.Woolven (a new member) was also present.

Chairman: Mr.Groom was appointed chairman.

Minutes: The Hon.Sec. read the Minutes of the First General Meeting held on 5th April 1951 and of the meeting of committee which followed the same. These were approved and signed by the Chairman as having been read. Some correspondence, mainly from prospective members was read by the hon.secretary.

New Members: The names of fourteen ladies & gentlemen who had applied for membership since the previous meeting were submitted and the election of these was duly confirmed. This made a total membership to date of thirty-four.

Financial Statement: The Hon.Sec. gave details of the income & expenditure to date by which it was shewn that subscriptions amounted to £15.5.0 and that £21.3.10d. had been incurred in printing, stationery, postages and sundry expenses to date leaving a debit of £5.18.10d to be met from future income. Mr.Cooke explained that he had budgetted on a commencing membership of about 50 and included in the above statement was an outlay of £3 on advertising in cycling journals.

Club Badge: The Hon.Sec. submitted an estimate he had received from Messrs.L.Simpson,Ltd. for the manufacture of coat badges for sale to members viz: 2s.0d each plus a capital cost for a Die of £6-6s. Inasmuch as only about 50 badges were likely to be needed in the near future, the cost of the Die made it impossible of consideration at the moment. It was agreed to defer the matter until the next meeting, meanwhile members would endeavour to ascertain cheaper methods for producing suitable badges.

Fixtures for next 3 months: Regional leaders submitted programme of runs,&c. for months of August, September & October, and these were generally agreed upon. Owing to the absence of Mr.Evans (S.E.leader), no runs for this district were available but Mr.Meers undertook to see Mr.Evans forthwith & arrange for these to be sent direct to the Hon.Secretary as soon as possible. A week-end at Dial Post,Sussex was provisionally fixed for September 15th-16th. It was decided that the meeting place for S.W. runs should be the North Side of Putney Bridge, and that the time of meeting for all runs advanced to 9.30 a.m.

Next Meeting: It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Committee on Tuesday. 14th August at the same venue. The meeting concluded at 8.25 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

MINUTES of Committee Meeting held 14th August 1951 at "One Tun", P.H. 3  
Saffron Hill, E.C. at 6.30 p.m.

Attendance: Ten members attended as follows - Mr. & Mrs. Groom, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. M.A. Lang, Mrs. Cooke and Messrs. Peet, Mears & Cooke (hon. sec). Mr. Coleman wrote expressing **regret** for absence.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Groom was appointed chairman.

MINUTES: Minutes of previous meeting held 19th June were read, approved and signed by the chairman.

CLUB BADGE & COLOURS. Arising from Minutes, Mrs. Lang proposed that the club colours should be emerald green and red and this was agreed to. Suggestions were made for dealing with the question of a badge but no progress was made with this until the funds permitted an outlay for the cost of Die.

Hon. SECRETARY'S REPORT: The hon. secretary reported addition of 13 new members since last meeting, making a total of 47 to date & 3 more had been promised, bringing the total to 50. Correspondence was read from several prospective members & names & addresses of these were passed on to the respective district leaders. Mrs. Lang read correspondence with Mr. Sherman relating to the run on Sunday, August 12th on which the committee decided on no further action. The hon. secretary reported financial position shewing total expenditure from the formation of the club to date of £22-14-10d. with income from fees & subscriptions of £17-17-6d. plus £1-12-6d in respect of 4 new members fees from Mrs. Lang this evening. The chairman stated that this might be regarded as satisfactory.

WEEK-END (Sept. 15-16). Bookings for this fixture from members present totalled 11. The hon. secretary stated that arrangements had been made with Mr & Mrs. Farrant for accommodation at "The Gables", Dial Post, Sussex in accordance with the notice issued to members after last meeting.

WINTER SEASON 1951-52: The decision was made to continue with the usual week-end runs from November to March inclusive as hitherto and district leaders would be asked to send their respective lists to the hon. secretary before next meeting in order that members could be circulated with same. In connection with this, it was agreed that if funds did not permit these to be printed as before, they should be duplicated and Mr. Marshall kindly offered to undertake this at cost price of paper, &c.

NEXT MEETING: At this stage, the date of next meeting of the committee was fixed for Monday, 15th October 1951.

ANNUAL DINNER: The question of holding a club dinner during the winter season was discussed. It was agreed that anything in the nature of an expensive west-end function was not desirable

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and on the chairman proposing that a less formal affair could be held at our present venue, the "One Tun" P.H. at a moderate cost, it was agreed that this should be done, arrangements being left in the hands of Mr.Groom. The provisional date fixed was Friday, November 30th 1951, commencing 7.0 p.m. A weekly club night at a venue in town was suggested by Mrs.Lang. The meeting decided that this would preferably be arranged by the respective district leaders in their own area & the matter was left for them to arrange as & when they thought fit.

ALTERATION TO RULES: The item on agenda for proposed change of two rules was then discussed and it was agreed to recommend to the next A.G.M. that founder members should be ipso facto members of the executive committee, one member dissenting. The proposal to delete paragraph in rule 6 permitting new members to join after July 1st for one half the annual subscription was amended to provide for new members joining after October 1st to be entitled to carry their membership to end of the year following on payment of the first annual subscription. This was carried without dissent.

OTHER BUSINESS: Mrs.Lang stated that members were asking for a mid-morning stop to be included in next list instead of meeting-places. It was pointed out that the decision to appoint meeting places was made by a general meeting & it was not advisable for the committee to over-rule this but that there could be no objection to a second meeting place being included in lists if this was considered desirable. This was agreed to.

No further business arising, the meeting terminated at 9.0 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Date 15. October 1951

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Chairman.

MINUTES of Committee Meeting held 15th October 1951 at 108, Hatton Garden, E.C.1 at 7.0 p.m.

Attendance: Mr. & Mrs. Groom, Mr. & Mrs. Irving, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. M.A. Lang, and Messrs. C.P. Meers, T.W.V. Rowe, Charles Pett, and C.W. Cooke (Hon. Sec).

CHAIRMAN: Mr. D.M. Irving was appointed Chairman.

MINUTES: The Minutes of meeting held on 14th <sup>August</sup> ~~March~~ were read and confirmed.

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT: The hon. secretary reported membership to date of 64, and a cash balance of £2-0-11d. in hand. The only item of correspondence was a letter from Mr. T. Evans regretting his inability to be present at the <sup>ing</sup> owing to business and making the request that the S.E. runs sequence should be restored to either the second or fourth Sunday starting with the month of November, to enable him to be free to attend his own runs.

WINTER RUNS LIST: The hon. secretary stated that he had prepared the runs lists for November-March from details sent in by the leaders of the N.W., S.W., and S.E. districts but that, although he had made several applications to Mrs. Lang by post for her list, this was not to hand and, as at this stage Mrs. Lang had not arrived at the meeting, the committee authorized the hon. secretary to fill in the N.E. district runs in order not to further delay the distribution of the lists. Mrs. Lang however subsequently arrived and this was cancelled. Mrs. Lang apologized for lateness and explained that she had been waiting for particulars of a run to be conducted by Mr. Pett. It was decided to meet Mr. Evans' wishes by transposing the N.W. and S.E. districts' dates and the lists as now completed were approved. The secretary reported that he had obtained a local quotation for duplicating at 19s.5d. for 100 copies. Mr. Marshall had brought stencils to the meeting and explained that he would have the sheets run off if the hon. secretary would type the stencils but the latter said he was not used to this and geared the result would not be satisfactory. Mr. Groom came to the rescue with an offer to get the work done by a London firm at a cheaper cost and this offer was gratefully accepted. The hon. secretary stated that it was important these runs lists with details of the dinner, &c. should be in members' hands this week.

CLUB DINNER: Mr. Groom reported that he had made all arrangements for this event which would take place as arranged on 30th November at the "One Tun" P.H., Saffron Hill, E.C. He had been able to engage two musicians and another artist without any expense to the Club other than the cost of their dinner tickets.

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Invitations had been sent to Mr.R.C.Shaw, secretary of the C.T.C. to Mr.H.H.England, editor of "Cycling". Mr.Shaw had accepted the invitation but Mr.England regretted being unable to do so owing to a previous engagement on that date. It was proposed that Mr.C.W.Cooke should be asked to act as chairman and that the toast list following the dinner should consist of that of the Forty-Plus Cycling Club which Mr.Shaw should be asked to propose coupled with the name of the chairman who would respond. This was agreed. Dancing and concert items would complete the evening's programme. Mr.Cooke suggested that, as this was the first dinner of the Club, a suitable souvenir menu card might be appreciated by members and that an additional 6d. on the cost of the ticket would go towards the cost of this. The idea was unanimously approved by the committee and it was agreed that the cost of the ticket should be 10s.6d. each. Mr.Groom said that the hotel charge for the meal would be about 8s.6d. and he felt sure it would be very satisfactory. It was explained that owing to the size of the room, only about 60 diners could be accommodated and that members would be given priority until November 15th by which date available- any seats not taken up would be available for members' guests.

**NEXT MEETING:** The date of the next meeting of the committee was fixed for Monday, 14th January 1952, the place of meeting to be left over for the moment.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Under this heading, Mr.Groom informed the meeting that he hoped to arrange a visit to "Big Ben" on November 3rd. He also referred to the presence of Mr.Rowe, a founder member of the Club, who had been prevented from attending any fixtures during the summer owing to an unfortunate accident from which he was only now recovering. The meeting expressed pleasure at Mr.Rowe's attendance. A message of sympathy to Mrs.Coleman who also had had accident recently was conveyed from the meeting by Mr.Meers.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:** The date of this was discussed and provisionally fixed for Saturday, March 15th 1952 in London, the venue to be decided later.

The MEETING terminated at 8.45 p.m. with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

\* Date..... 14th Jan. 1952.

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Chairman