

THE 24 HOURS PATH RACE FOR THE CUCA COCOA CHALLENGE CUP. VICTORY OF SHORLAND.

Cycling records are becoming wearisome to all but a select band of enthusiasts who seem to think of nothing else. Foremost amongst these is Mr Lacy Hillier, hon. sec. London County Club, who conceived the idea of establishing one for 24 hours on a path, and he certainly has brought his design to a successful issue in the race under notice, which took place on Friday and Saturday at the record breakers' track at Herne Hill, all previous records after the first 30 miles having been displaced. Mr Hillier was fortunate enough to secure the assistance of the Cucca Cocoa Company, who furnished a 100 guinea Challenge Cup, with suitable prizes for the winners, and a good entry was secured, all of whom except T. A. Edge, North Road C.C., started. As briefly reported in the Sportsman of Saturday, the field consisted of J. H. L. Bates, Surrey B.C., and London County; F. T. Bidlake, North Road, Stanley and London County; A. Brundrett, Keighley C.C.; S. F. Edge, Surrey B.C.; M. A. Holbein, North Road; J. M. James, Stanley C.C. and London County; H. P. Moorhouse, Stanley and London County; F. W. Shorland, North Road; and J. F. Walsh, Bath Road and Catford. How these sped away at 8.5 p.m., at a rate of over twenty miles per hour, Bates leading the first sixty minutes, and Shorland the second, is a matter of history that need not be further dilated upon. Suffice it to state that admirable arrangements as regards lighting up the ground had been made, and the riders kept on the even tenor of their way during the weary watches of Friday night. Moorhouse was the first to leave, with 45 miles 1/2 laps to his credit. Bates followed suit in the fifth hour at 55 miles 1/2 lap, and Holbein at 167 miles 1/2 lap, the score at the expiration of the first twelve hours (3.5 a.m., Saturday) being: Shorland, 223 miles; James, 215 miles 1/2 lap; Edge, 212; Walsh, 209 miles 2 1/2 laps; Brundrett, 208; Bidlake, 172 miles 2 laps; Holbein, 167 miles 1/2 lap (retired); Bates, 95 miles 1/2 lap (retired); Moorhouse, 43 miles 1 1/2 laps (retired). Meanwhile, Shorland, who led to the end, had commenced record breaking at ninety miles, and in another two hours (fourteen from the start) was well nigh that time to the good. Holbein, who was a great favourite at the start, one enthusiast having accepted 60l. to 40l. about his chance, soon began to go wrong, something being amiss with his saddle, and though he repeatedly changed his machine, it was no good, and he eventually had to abandon the race to his friend Shorland, who certainly kept up the reputation of "the stable," his first place never being in doubt. At 11.5 (fifteen hours), the score was Shorland, 264 miles; Walsh, 253 miles 1/2 lap; James, 253 miles 1/2 lap; Walsh, 253 miles 1/2 lap; Brundrett, who had left the track for a few minutes, 250. Two hours later Shorland who was going "great guns" had brought his total to 297 miles 1/2 lap; James being second, with 5 miles less. Brundrett had added 27 miles to his total, and Walsh was third with 281 miles 2 1/2 laps, Edge having dropped out at 225 miles 3 laps. During the next two hours Shorland added another mile to his already long lead, the totals at 19 hours being: Shorland, 330 miles 2 laps; James, 324 miles 3 laps; Walsh, 311 miles 1/2 lap; Brundrett, 307 miles 1 1/2 laps. After this there was very little to enliven the monotony of affairs. Shorland and James, the former in particular, were very fresh, while Walsh and Brundrett seemed particularly fagged out, so much so indeed that at 3.30 miles Walsh could not keep his eyes open, and dropped much hurt, being able to finish out the time, when the final scores were:

Table with 2 columns: Name, m. yds. Shorland 413 1615, James 407 80, Walsh 384 713, Brundrett 379 640.

Of the retired division, Edge was first with a total of 225 miles 3 laps. Bidlake covered 200 miles on his first cycle, which is a record performance, about the previous best being A. L. Bower's 150 miles in 10hrs 13min 23 1/2 sec. Holbein, as previously stated, dropped out at 167 miles 1/2 lap, Bates at 55 miles 1/2 lap, and Moorhouse at 45 miles 1/2 lap.

Table with 2 columns: Name, mls yds hr. 1 Bates 20 910 13, 2 Shorland 40 270 14, 3 Shorland 60 910 15, 4 Shorland 73 1250 15, 5 Shorland 93 450 17, 6 Shorland 114 100 18, 7 Shorland 131 250 19, 8 Shorland 166 49 20, 9 Shorland 184 1440 22, 10 Shorland 202 1240 23, 11 Shorland 220 140 24.

The times and leaders at each hour were as follows:

The previous best English record (amateur) was 361 miles 1445 yards by Holbein in November, 1891. Frank Walter, Acme B.C., Oakland, U.S.A., holds the American amateur record with 363 miles 1590 yards, and Stephen, a French rider, is credited with covering 352 miles 1210 yards at the Buffalo track at Paris. The crowd throughout the persons being present was something enormous, quite 6000 in management of Mr Hillier and his committee, under the excellent, Messrs G. Pembroke Coleman, J. Dring, Mr P. V. J. A. Webber, H. Sturuey, and Harry J. Swindley took the official times. Mr F. G. Dray was the ground man, steward, Dr. H. B. Turner and Mr-Hillier selected the pace-makers, of whom we noticed, Messrs Hillier, Galvin, Mulr, Warr, Newland, Adrian, Rowley, Rowe, and Merry.

The annexed table shows F. J. Bidlake's doings at the end of each hour. He takes up the record for two hours and holds it to the termination of the fourteenth hour:-

Table with 4 columns: HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS. 1 ... 30 890, 2 ... 40 2548, 3 ... 55 1743, 4 ... 69 40.

The appended table shows what the leader did at the end of each hour. The records from the fifth hour to the twenty-fourth (inclusive) are the best on record for any style of machine, Shorland having the honour of leading the world in this respect. The hourly return is:-

Table with 4 columns: HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS., HRS. MLS. YDS. 2 ... 40 270, 3 ... 60 910, 4 ... 78 1250, 5 ... 98 450, 6 ... 114 100, 7 ... 131 250.

The following table shows what the nine contestants did while they were on the track:-

Table with 4 columns: Name, Club, Distance, Time. *F. W. Shorland, North Road C.C., 413 1215, 24 0 0. *J. M. James, North Road C.C., 407 285, 24 0 0. *J. F. Walsh, Bath Road and Catford C.C., 384 874, 24 0 0.

The conditions under which the Cucca Cocoa Challenge Cup is held are as follows:-

- The cup is to be run annually by amateurs under the N.C.U. definition. The holder will be entitled to enter without any fee. The cup will become the property of any rider winning it three times (not necessarily in succession). The London County C. and A.C. reserves to itself the right to limit the number of starters. Five to be the minimum. The winner shall hold the cup upon giving satisfactory guarantees for its return in good condition one month prior to the date of the next competition. Any point not provided for shall be settled as the rules of the N.C.U. provide, and failing any rule, the matter shall be referred to the National Cyclists' Union for final decision.

Shorland did not use peptonized gruel in the all-day track race, and the cheerful way in which he munched bread and marmalade did not suggest much need for invalid's food.

J. M. James's smile when the crowd cheered his four hundredth mile was too wide for words to describe. It lasted quite four hundred yards, and was wonderfully refreshing.

Frank Shorland turned up on the Monday after his tremendous feat on the track, at a North Road committee meeting, looking as fit and well as if he had ridden a quarter-mile dash, instead of 413 miles. He has entered for the half-mile scratch at Biggleswade on Bank Holiday, and hopes to stay the distance.

Shorland, in silk hat and commercial garb, half-an-hour after his big ride of 413 miles, was a rare stumbling-block for those folk who prefer charges of physical harm against long-distance competitions. There was no sign of dissolution in his dancing eye and fresh complexion. "Fitness" is a thing worth living for, and Frank Shorland is a proof.