

MSS. 3287 N16/4/5



tising" trophy, he searched until he found the very thing he was seeking. A certain famous West of England town possessed a civic relic of great value, a silver Georgian

(Left) Start for the first 24 hours race for the Cuca Cup, at Herne Hill, 1892. The riders (from left to right) are: J. M. James (No. 7), M. A. Holbein (No. 6), S. F. Edge (No. 4), A. Brundret (No. 3), F. T. Bidlake (No. 2), J. E. L. Bates (No. 1). In the back row, behind Holbein, is J. F. Walsh, and behind Edge is F. W. Shorland. Other notable persons in the group are the timekeeper, Pem. Coleman, between Holbein and Edge. James is started by C. W. Nettleton, over whose left shoulder is A. W. Gamage; Holbein by Harry Andrews, Edge by S. E. Williams, Brundret by R. G. Merry, Walsh by H. D. Wall, and Shorland by R. C. Nesbit. The Cuca Cup may be seen on the extreme left of the picture.

Result of the race: 1st, F. W. Shorland, Southgate C.C. and North Road C.C., 413 miles 1,615 yds.; 2nd, J. M. James, North Road C.C. and Anfield B.C., 407 miles 285 yds.; 3rd, J. F. Walsh, Catford C.C., 384 miles 874 yds.

More About the Cuca Cup

Some Reminiscences. By H. W. BARTLEET

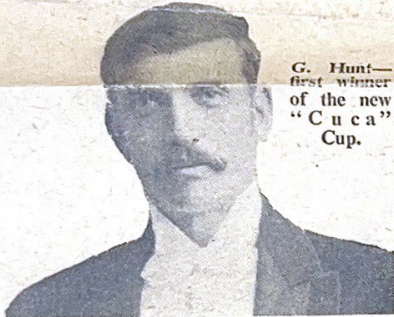
AS one of the few still living who saw each of the five "Cuca" 24 hours races right through from start to finish, I was very interested in the brief

donors of the Cup, undertook to replace it if and when it was won outright. This is far from being the truth. Messrs. Roots gave no such undertaking. When, by winning the race in 1892, 1893, and 1894, Shorland made the Cup his own property, the London County Club was faced by the problem of having a race which had—in the short space of three years—acquired a goodwill of great commercial value, with no cup for the winner to hold!

A New Cup

But the Hon. Secretary of the Club, G. Lacy Hillier, was equal to the emergency. Determined not to have another "adver-

bowl with side handles, weighing some 400 ounces. The local authorities had had a replica of this made, intending it as a wedding present for the Duke of Clarence—elder brother of the late King George V. But the Duke died, the present was not needed, and the bowl came on the market. After some bargaining it for £100, the Hillier secured London County Club and its friends sub-



G. Hunt—first winner of the new "Cuca" Cup.

references to the races in a recent issue of *The Cyclist* (March 4th, 1936). The illustration in the centre of the page made me rub my eyes in wonder, until I discovered that, owing to the transposition of two blocks, the trophy illustrated was not the historic "Cuca" Cup after all!

A sketch of the original "Cuca" is shown on this page; also a photo showing Shorland's baby daughter "Glory," seated in it. This young person grew into a stately lady who, arriving at years of discretion, became Mrs. Phillips, her husband being the son of Walter Phillips, the old time Wolverhampton racing man, who was for many years manager of the great Humber Co. Incidentally, Walter Phillips looked after Shorland in his second and third "Cuca" races.

An Error

A slip crept into the article in *The Cyclist*: perhaps the author was writing from memory; perhaps he was not familiar with the intimate conditions of the Cup and the race. As I have said, I saw all the races, and was a member of the London County Club which promoted them. It was stated that Messrs. Roots and Co.,



Shorland's baby daughter "Glory" seated in the "Cuca" Cup, which Shorland won outright.



The original "Cuca" Cup.

scribing the amount. The new trophy was put up in 1895 and was won by George Hunt, of Nottingham, with a score of 458 miles 1,459 yards.

The year 1896 saw the last of the series of "Cuca" 24 hours races, when F. R. Goodwin won with 476 miles 1,702 yards. Then the London County Club decided to give up the promotion of long distance events. Its officials were thoroughly disheartened by the lack of support—amounting in some cases to active opposition where co-operation might have been expected. They sold their "Cuca" Cup to the Crystal Palace Co., who put it up for a 20 miles professional race in 1898, when it was won by Jack Green.