

## 1900

The 20<sup>th</sup> century began with race speeds increasing dramatically at some events; some race winners were now achieving average speeds in excess of 70 kph, but matters came to a head during the Paris to Roubaix race.

### **COURSE DU CATALOGUE, MELUN-RANGIS-MONTEREAU-MELUN, 17 February**

The entries for this 144 km (89.5 miles) event were divided into six classes, according to the value of the vehicles; the two and three wheeled vehicles contested Class A, with a maximum value of 3,000 Francs. Mercier was the overall winner; he completed the course in 2 hours 34 minutes 49 seconds.

Motorcycles & Tricycles: 1. MERCIER F (*Gladiator-Aster*), 34.68 mph, 55.81 kph, 2. Mourier F (*Gladiator-Aster*), 3. Léon Demesteer F (*Gladiator-Aster*), 4. Biguet F (----), 5. Hix F (----), 6. Thierry F (----).

Cars: Léonce Girardot F (*Panhard-Levassor-Phénix*); he contested Class F, for vehicles valued at over 15,000 francs and he finished fourth overall.

### **CIRCUIT DU SUD OUEST, PAU-TARBES-AIRE-DAX-BAYONNE-PAU, 25 February**

The race distance was 335 km (208 miles). Marcellin completed the course in 5 hours 47 minutes 14 seconds and finished third overall.

1. J. MARCELLIN F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 35.97 mph, 57.89 kph, 2. Delisle F (*De Dion-Bouton*), 3. Georges Osmont F (*De Dion-Bouton*), 4. Etienne Giraud F (*Bollée*).

Overall: René De Knyff F (*Panhard*).

### **COUPE DES VOITURETTES, PARIS-ROUEN-PARIS, 11 March**

This 218 km (135.5 miles) event started and finished in Saint-Germain. The outgoing route ran via Equevilly, Flins, Mantes, Rosny, Bonnières, Vernon and Gaillon, and the return route ran via Boos, Fleury sur Andelle, Econis, Saint Claire sur Epte, Magny en Vein, Puiseux, Pontoise and Conflans. Tart completed the course in 5 hour 46 minutes 5 seconds and he finished second overall. Camus was the only finisher in the class for water-cooled machines. The unnamed eighth finisher is likely to have driven a four wheeled quadricycle.

Motorcycles & Tricycles: 1. HENRI TART F (*Clément-Gladiator-De Dion-Bouton*), 23.43 mph, 37.70 kph, 2. Georges Osmont F (*Phebus-Aster*), 3. Camus F (*Teste & Moret-De Dion-Bouton*), 4. Delisle F (*Rouxel & Cie-Aster*), 5. Schrader F (*De Dion-Bouton*), 6. Emile Couturier F (*De Dion-Bouton*), 7. Léon Demeester F (*Gladiator-Aster*), 8. ? (*Georges Richard*), 9. Paul Ricard F (----).

Overall: Léon Théry F (*Decauville*).

### **NICE-DRAGUINAN, 25 March**

Florès completed the 96 km (60 miles) course in 2 hours 37 minutes 37 seconds; he finished fifth overall. Richards probably drove a four wheeled quadricycle, which was eligible to contest Class A for Motorcycles & Tricycles.

Motorcycles & Tricycles: 1. FLORÈS F (----), 22.70 mph, 36.54 kph, 2. Georges Richard F (Georges Richard).

Overall: Balton F (----).

### **NICE-MARSEILLES, 26 March**

The route ran via Auberge des Ubrets, Frejus, Bidauban, Le Luc, Brignoles, Saint Marimin, Frets and Garbanne, a distance of 201 km (125 miles). There should have been a return leg to Marseilles but the competitors refused to continue because rain was falling and the conditions were considered too dangerous; the outward journey had already been difficult on dry roads. Béconnais was declared the overall winner; he completed the course in 3 hours 23 minutes 11 seconds.

1. HENRI BÉCONNAIS F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 36.87 mph, 59.34 kph, 2. Georges Teste F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. J. Marcellin F (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Joyeux F (De Dion-Bouton), 5. Pierre Bardin F (De Dion-Bouton), 6. Louis Gasté F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 7. Gustave de Méaulne F (De Dion-Bouton), 8. Paul Baras F (De Dion-Bouton), 9. Allègre F (De Dion-Bouton), 10. Bertin F (Bertin).

Cars: René De Knyff F (Panhard-Levassor); he finished second overall.

### **NEWYORK, 31 March**

This 26 miles (41.83 km) race ran from the Waldorf Astoria Hotel to Ardsley-on-Hudson; Scott was the only finisher on a tricycle, in ninth place overall. This is the earliest race run outside Europe featured in this book.

Tricycles: 1. GEORGE SCOTT USA (De Dion-Bouton), possible walkover, 10.40 mph, 16.73 kph.

Overall: S. Davis USA (Locomobile steam car).

### **COUPE DE SALON, SALON-ARLES, 3 April**

This 100 km (62 miles) event was the fastest road race run to date, but it cannot have followed a direct route between the two towns. Béconnais was the overall winner; he completed the course in 1 hour 22 minutes 34.6 seconds.

Tricycles: 1. HENRI BÉCONNAIS F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 45.47 mph, 73.17 kph, 2. Louis Gasté F (Perfecta-*Soncin*).

Voiturettes: Léon Théry F (Decauville); he finished second or third overall.

### **COUPE PROVINCIALE, SALON-AVIGNON-ARLES, 4 April**

This race followed a more circuitous route than the Coupe de Salon run the previous day; the 180 km (112 miles) course ran via Avignon.

Tricycles: 1. CAVASSE F (----).

Overall: Cuchelet F (Peugeot).

### **PARIS-ROUBAIX, 15 April**

The third and final running of this event was held over the same 268 km (166.5 miles) course as the 1899 race; the route passed through Pontoise, Beauvais, Breteuil, Doullens and Arras. Baras's time of 3 hours 48 minutes was 1 hour 47 minutes 30 seconds faster than the time set by the previous winner; at one point he covered 30 km (18.5 miles) in 18 minutes. He took over the lead after the accident which sealed the event's fate; race leader Martin ran wide, Dorel attempted to pass him on the inside and they collided. The two tricycles flew into the crowd, and the wife of Charles Bos, the Parliamentary Deputy for the Seine region, was one of two people who broke a leg; two days later motor racing was banned in the Department of Seine-et-Oise and the Secretary to the Minister of the Interior ruled that all applications to run road races in France must be submitted to him for approval or rejection. The magazine which organised the race and the individual competitors were prosecuted and fined for criminal neglect of spectator safety. This was a race for tricycles but it ran concurrently with a bicycle race.

1. PAUL BARAS F (De Dion-Bouton), 43.82 mph, 70.53 kph, 2. Henri Tart F (Perfecta-Soncin), 3. Vasseur F (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Bataillé F (De Dion-Bouton), 5. Collignon F (De Dion-Bouton), 6. Delisle F (De Dion-Bouton), 7. Chénard F (De Dion-Bouton), 8. Bathiat F (De Dion-Bouton).



Second finisher Henri Tart. (Le Sport Universal Illustré)

### **MADONNA DEL PILONE HILL CLIMB, TURIN, 21 April**

Biscaretti was the overall winner and the only known tricycle finisher; he completed the 5 km (3.1 miles) course in 8 minutes 36 seconds.

Tricycles: 1. CONTE CARLO ISCARETTI I (Phénix), 21.68 mph, 34.88 kph.

Cars: Phil Stead GB (Daimler); he finished second overall.

NB. Conte (Italian) = Count (English).

### **TURIN-PINEROLO-SALUZZO-CUNEO-RACCOGNI-TURIN, 23 April**

The race distance was 130 km (81 miles). Gasté was the overall winner; he completed the course in 1 hour 57 minutes 15 seconds. Marcellin was the only finisher in the two seat class.

Tricycles: 1. LOUIS GASTÉ F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 41.34 mph, 66.52 kph, 2. J. Marcellin F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Guggiari I (?), 4. ? (Phénix-*De Dion Bouton*).

Cars: Cuchelet (Peugeot); he finished second overall.

### **TURIN-ASTI, 28 April**

The race distance was 48 km (30 miles); Gasté was the overall winner in a time of 52 minutes 12 seconds.

Tricycles: 1. LOUIS GASTÉ F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 34.28 mph, 55.17 kph.

Cars: Felice Nazzaro (FIAT); he finished second overall.

### **CRITÉRIUM DES MOTO CYCLES, ÉTAMPES-CHARTRES-ÉTAMPES, 13 May**

This was the first race run in France since the controversy created by the Paris-Roubaix race, organised by the same magazine which was facing prosecution for its organisation of that event; on this occasion the race was incident free. The race distance is given as 100 km (62 miles), the same distance as the one way event run in 1899, but this race must have been run over a more direct route; Marcellin completed the course in 1 hour 24 minutes 58.8 seconds, little more than half the time taken by the 1899 winner. This was a race for tricycles only.

1. J. MARCELLIN F (De Dion-Bouton), 43.87 mph, 70.60 kph, 2. Paul Baras F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Henri Béconnais F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 4. Henri Tart F (De Dion-Bouton), 5. Delisle F (De Dion-Bouton), 6. Bertin F (De Dion-Bouton), 7. Basseur F (De Dion-Bouton), 8. Renaux F (De Dion-Bouton), 9. Romain F (De Dion-Bouton), 10. Victor Rigal F (De Dion-Bouton).

### **MANNHEIM-PFORZHEIM-MANNHEIM, 13 May**

The race distance was 165 km (102.5 miles). Vasseröth was the overall winner; he completed the course in 4 hours 25 minutes.

Tricycles: 1. VASSERÖTH D (Adler), 23.2 mph, 37.4 kph, 2. Mosler D (---), 3. Mann D (---).

Voiturettes: Richard Benz D (Benz); he may have finished second overall.

### **EXELBERG HILL CLIMB, 13 May**

Racing machines: 1. LOUIS GASTÉ F (Perfecta-*Soncin*), 24.45 mph, 39.35 kph,  
2. Jakob Dietrich AH (Perfecta-*Soncin*).

Touring machines: 1. PHIL STEAD GB (Buchet), 2. Arnold Spitz AH (De Dion-Bouton),  
3. Graf Carl Schönborn AH (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Graf Gyulai AH (De Dion-Bouton),  
5. Graf Draskovich AH (De Dion-Bouton).

NB. Graf (German) = Count (English).

### **BOLOGNA-CORTICELLA-POGGIO RENATICO-MALALBERGO-BOLOGNA, 28 May**

The race distance was 75 km (47 miles). Bugatti was the overall winner; he completed the course in 1 hour 14 minutes 52 seconds.

Tricycles: 1. ETTORE BUGATTI I (Prinetti-Stucchi-*De Dion-Bouton*), 37.35 mph, 60.11 kph.

Quadricycles- Gian Gulinelli I (Prinetti-Stucci); he finished second overall.

Cars- Lorenzo Ginore I (Bolide); he finished third overall.

### **CRITÉRIUM DES MOTO BICYCLES, ÉTAMPES-ABLIS, 31 May**

This was another 100 km (62 miles) event; entry was restricted to two wheeled machines. Bucquet completed the course in 2 hours 17 minutes 11 seconds.

1. AUGUSTE BUCQUET F (Labre & Lamaudière), 27.18 mph, 43.74 kph, 2. Bonnard F (----),  
3. Cousin F (----), 4. Léonard F (----), 5. Carreau F (----), 6. Paul Rivière F (----),  
7. Lesaint F (----), 8. C. Bucquet F (----).

### **SALZBURG-LINZ-SALZBURG, 1 June**

Five tricycles started this race but none finished.

Tricycles: No finishers.

Overall: Richard von Stern AH (Daimler).

### **NEWYORK-PRINCETOWN-PHILADELPHIA, 1-2 June**

Metz finished third in the overall classification, 20 minutes behind the winner. The majority of entries used two drivers but Metz appears to have completed the course by himself; his time was 7 hours 40 minutes but the race distance is unknown.

Tricycles: 1. C. METZ USA (----), walkover.

Overall: George Chamberlin / George Mach USA (----).

### **BORDEAUX-PERIGUEUX-BORDEAUX, 3-4 June**

There were two races run over different routes; the long course measured 318 km (197.5 miles) and the short course measured 260 km (161.5 miles). The tricycles contested the short course, but it should be noted that the majority of races in the modern era are run over much shorter distances. Cormier was the overall winner of the 260 km race; he completed the course in 4 hours 26 minutes 39 seconds. This was the first French race to feature cars since the partial ban on the sport was announced in April.

Tricycles: 1. CORMIER F (De Dion-Bouton), 36.35 mph, 58.50 kph, 2. Jourde F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Joyeux F (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Chrétian F (De Dion-Bouton).

Overall (short course): Léon Thérn (Decauville); he contested the Voiturettes class.

Overall (long course): Alfred Velghe, also known as "Levegh" F (Mors).

NB. It is likely that the two races were run on successive days, but we have no information as to which race was run first.

### **BADEN-GRAZ-BADEN, 9-10 June**

This race started and finished at Oeynhausen near Baden; the race distance was 330 km (205 miles).

Racing tricycles: 1. JAKOB DIETRICH A (De Dion-Bouton), 24.7 mph, 39.7 kph.

Touring tricycles: 1. GRAF CARL SCHÖNBORN A (De Dion-Bouton), 23.4 mph, 37.6 kph.

### **NUREMBERG-BAMBERG-NUREMBERG, 17 June**

The race distance was 110 km (68 miles).

1. HASEMANN D (Gebr. Kaiser), 21.5 mph, 34.7 kph.

Côte de Malchamps (Malchamps hill climb), Spa, 24 June.

Tricycles: Baron Pierre de Crawhez B (Antoine-Kelecom).

### **CRITÉRIUM DE PROVENCE, SALON-ARLES-SALON, 1 July**

This was the third race of the season between these two towns. The 100 km (62 miles) distance was the same as the distance for the one way Coupe de Salon event which took place in April; the distance between the towns is 44 km (27 miles) on modern roads, therefore the route for this event must have been more direct than the two previous races. Vitalis completed the course in 1 hour 41 minutes 28.6 seconds and he finished fourth overall. Bonnard rode a two wheeled machine.

Motorcycles & Tricycles: 1. VITALIS F (De Dion-Bouton), 36.74 mph, 59.13 kph, 2. De Sylvabelle F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Donjou F (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Bonnard F (---).

Overall: Camille Jenatzy F (Bolide).

### **PADUA-BOVOLENTA, 2 July**

This was a 10 km (6.2 miles) sprint. Gasté was the overall winner.

Tricycles: 1. LOUIS GASTÉ F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 46.4 mph, 74.7 kph.

Quadricycles: Ettore Bugatti I (Prinetti-Stucci); he finished second overall.

Cars: Vincenzo Lancia I (FIAT); he finished third overall.

NB. Vincenzo Lancia later founded the Lancia car company.

### **STRASBOURG-KEHL-DINGLINGEN-KAPPEL-RHEINAU-BOOZHEIM-STRASBOURG, 22 July**

The race distance was 90 km (56 miles). Dublon completed the course in 2 hours 9 minutes and he finished fourth overall.

1. DUBLON D (Benz), 26.0 mph, 41.9 kph, 2. Freiherr Hirsch D (----), 3. Lesage D (----).

Overall: Freiherr de Durkheim D (Bollée).

NB. Freiherr (German) = Baron (English).

### **PARIS-TOULOUSE-LIMOGES-PARIS, 25-28 July**

This was a three day event (the second day was a rest day), run over a total distance of 1,467 km (911.5 miles) as a supporting event to the Paris Olympics. The race started and finished in the suburb of Vincennes and the overnight checkpoints were in Toulouse and Limoges.

Teste completed the course in 23 hours 54 minutes 1 second to win the Tricycle class by more than 3 ½ hours; he finished fifth overall. Times at the lower end of the field were less than creditable; Durand was the last timed finisher in a total time of 70 hours 31 minutes 40 seconds (20.8 kph, 12.9 mph), while Vial and Demeester are simply listed as having arrived. These last three finishers must have completed the course later than the scheduled finishing date.

This was the first time permission was granted to run a race from Paris since the sport was banned in the region in April; by this time the controversy had temporarily faded away.

Tricycles: 1. GEORGES TESTE F (De Dion-Bouton), 38.14 mph, 61.38 kph, 2. Collignon F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Pierre Bardin F (De Dion-Bouton), 4. Louis Gasté F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 5. Gleizes F (De Dion-Bouton), 6. Henri Fournier F (De Dion-Bouton), 7. Durand F (De Dion-Bouton), 8. Vial F (De Dion-Bouton), 9. Léon Demeester F (Aster).

Overall: Alfred Velghe also known as "Levegh" F (Mors).



An image purporting to show Georges Teste on his way to victory in the Tricycle class. The visible wheel spokes reveal that the image was posed. (Wikimedia)

### **FRANKFURT INTERNATIONAL ROAD RACES, 29 July**

This was a 24 km (15 miles) event. Wiesner was the overall winner on a touring machine.

Racing tricycles: 1. FRITZ KIRCHHEIM D (Wartburg), 35.3 mph, 56.7 kph.

Touring tricycles: 1. JOHAN WIESNER D (Gladbach), 37.1 mph, 59.8 kph.

### **MEETING DE SPA, 28 August**

The 'Meeting de Spa' was the title of a six day motoring and motor sport event in the area of Spa which ran from 25-30 August and was attended by King Léopold II. The highlight of the week was this 82 km (51 mile) race on a route via Francorchamps, Trois-Ponts, Salmchâteau, Fraiture barracks, Aywaille and La Reid to the finish at Spa. Baron de Crawhez completed the course in 1 hour 59 minutes 9.8 seconds to win by over 1 hour 28 minutes.

Tricycles: 1. BARON PIERRE DE CRAWHEZ B (*Antoine-Kelecom*), 25.7 mph, 41.3 kph, 2. J. Deprez-Joassart (Légia), 3. Dratz B (----).

### **BERLIN-AACHEN, 30 August-2 September**

This was a 700 km (435 miles) race, run in three stages with a rest day. The route ran via Potsdam, Magdeburg, Braunschweig (Brunswick), Moritzburg, Hanover, Münster and Münchengladbach. Gleizes was the overall winner; he completed the course in 14 hours 46 minutes 22 seconds.

Tricycles: 1. GLEIZES F (Cudell), 29.44 mph, 47.38 kph, 2. Kittsteiner D (Cudell), 3. Vogel D (Patria).

Cars: Emil Kraeutler (Peugeot); he finished second overall.



Ostend Speed trials, 3 September

Motorcycles (single seat)- Henri Béconnais F (*Perfecta-Soncin*).

Motorcycles (two seats)- Gustave B (----), Motocyclettes- Bonnard F (----).

Motorcycles & Motocyclettes without chain- Henri Béconnais F (*Perfecta-Soncin*).

The Toronto Exhibition races were run on an 0.5 mile (0.8 km) dirt oval from 4-6 September; it appears that cars won the first three races.

Race 4: James Short CAN (CCM).

NB. The Canadian CCM brand had no connection with the later British brand of the same name.

### **SEMMERINGBERG HILL CLIMB, 8 September**

Dietrich was the overall winner.

Tricycles: 1. JAKOB DIETRICH AH (De Dion-Bouton), 25.5 mph, 41.0 kph.

NB: The car winner is unknown but the event was significant because Ferdinand Porsche entered the event with his Lohner-Porsche hybrid car (petrol / electrical).

Four tricycles entered the 5 km (3.1 miles) Brescia Sprint on 9 September but none finished.

### **BRESCIA-CREMONA-MANTUA-VERONA-BRESCIA, 10 September**

The race distance was 223 km (139 miles). Soncin was the overall winner; he completed the course in 3 hours 52 minutes 38 seconds. Maserati was the only two wheeled finisher.

Motorcycles & Tricycles: 1. LOUIS SONCIN F (*Soncin*), 35.74 mph, 57.52 kph, 2. Noury F (?), 3. Louis Gasté F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 4. Carlo Maserati I (Carcano), 5. Sanguinetti I (----).

Cars: Alberto Franchetti I (Panhard-Levassor); he finished second overall.

### **LISSIEU-MÂON-LISSIEU, 23 September**

The race distance was 100 km (62 miles). It is unclear who was the overall winner because there are no timings available.

Tricycles: 1. BERTHET F (De Dion-Bouton), 2. Jacob F (De Dion-Bouton), 3. Rival F (De Dion-Bouton).

Cars: Oillion (Panhard-Levassor).

Vienna horse racing track, 13 October.

Open class: Pittelkow (*Phébus-Aster*).

### **DRESDEN-LEIPZIG, 19 October**

The race distance was 105 km (65 miles). Cudell completed the course in 2 hours 59 minutes 27 seconds, and he finished seventh overall.

1. MAX CUDELL D (Cudell-*De Dion Bouton*), 21.82 mph, 35.11 kph,
2. Reinhold Munkwitz D (?), 3. ? (Cudell).

Overall: Niederbronn (De Dietrich).

### **GAILLON HILL CLIMB, 11 November**

The second running of this event featured four motorcycle classes.

Motorcycles without chain: 1. HENRI BÉCONNAIS F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 40.23 mph, 64.75 kph, 2. Pierre Bardin F (*De Dion-Bouton*).

Motorcycles with chain: 1. HENRI BÉCONNAIS F (*Perfecta-Soncin*), 38.40 mph, 61.80 kph, 2. Georges Teste F (*De Dion-Bouton*).

Motocyclettes: 1. BONNARD F (----), 20.67 mph, 33.27 kph, 2. Auguste Bucquet F (*Labre & Lamaudière*).

Motorcycles (2 seats): 1. GUSTAVE F (----), 20.23 mph, 32.55 kph.

Overall: M. Brasier F (*Mors*).