

WONDERFUL WHITSUN

Blackpool baking in the sun. That's pretty nearly holiday perfection. And that's how it was for most places, for most of the Whit week-end. And after all those weeks and weeks of cold, how welcome was the chance to bask in the sun at last.. Of course, the temperature on the sands isn't a guide to what the water's like, but a few brave spirits all round the coast seized the opportunity and went in.

At Blackpool they weren't all lazing about. There was that cycle race, the Tour of Britain, a very serious business indeed. The eleven teams represent seven countries, and about 70 riders competed in the first stage of 103 miles, from Blackpool to Rhyll. Total distance for the 13 days, 14-hundred miles. There were five Continental teams. Here's a rider all the way from Spain, Uronia. A prominent Englishman, last year's winner, Bill Holmes.

Tommy Cooper conjured a little humour out of the Start. And with an escort of scooters to see them safely on the way, the quick-cyclists showed Blackpool a clean lot of back-tyres. By the way, the Tour of Britain is sponsored by the Milk Marketing Board, to prove to the athlete that in the saddle he's twice the man on a daily pinta.

Something less hectic was seen at Norwich: dogs sitting for the general certificate of canine education. The subject now - Road Safety. Just to prove that, going the right-way about it, any owner can train a dog to be thoroughly wise, traffic-wise.

This Holy Loch technique calls for a bit of nerve on Rover's part, but it's safer all round, than scurrying away, only to land under the wheels after all.

Then they have to learn to ignore the most tempting diversions even a feline version of the electric hare.

The Chief Constable gave the first prize to a Bedlington, Andy Capp; not a name you associate with a good citizenship.

Even now, that cat was quite safe.

Over to the Isle of Man for the most sporting of motor cycle races, the Senior T.T.; the big machines, mostly in the 500 c.c. class. Derek Minter, Norton. Alan Shepherd, Matchless.

R.J. Langston, Norton, coming in for a little domestic admiration.

Gary Hocking, M.V. Augusta. There were 63 riders lined for the start, getting off in pairs, at 10-second intervals. In front of them lay six laps of the 37.7 mile circuit.

Another M.V. Augusta, Mike Hailwood.

Tony Godfrey, Norton.

Gary Hocking (he comes from Southern Rhodesia) was soon going great guns on his M.V. Augusta.

By hurtling round one lap at a hundred and five Point Seven, Gary Hocking clipped nearly two miles an hour off the record set by John Surtees 2-years ago.

Gary Hocking won at the amazing average of 103.5 miles an hour.