

I began to wish I'd never seen her. Graham had fifty yards handicap from a lot of us on the scratch mark, and I fully recognized the severity of the task set me.

The fateful day arrived. The sun shone in all its Merryvale glory, and the sports ground was filled to overflowing, the gay colours of the ladies dresses enhancing the brightness of the scene. Graham and I, in order to reserve all our strength for the desperate struggle before us, "scratched" for all events except the "Bracelet," which was timed for four o'clock,

"Are you all ready? Bang!!"

Thank goodness we were off! During the first two rounds little or no change took place in our positions, but in the third I left the ruck and set out alone after Graham, who was leading and riding well. The pace must have been fairly fast, as the two or three who essayed to follow, retired after going one lap. Entering the fourth lap Graham was only ten yards ahead, and the crowd became intensely excited.

On we struggled, and when the bell rang for the last round only five yards separated us; coming up



Fido had settled matters.

so I was in no hurry to reach the scene of battle.

On arriving at the grounds, however, I noticed Graham and Miss Carsten chatting together, with that wretch of a Fido, he had given her, barking at their feet. This helped to nerve me for the coming struggle, for strange to say, a nervousness—a great failing in any cyclist—had previously taken possession of me.

It was close upon four. In a few minutes we were on our marks waiting for the starter's pistol shot.

the back stretch I caught him, and turning the corner into the straight we rode wheel for wheel. The excitement increased tenfold. Only a hundred yards! Would it never end? I exerted every muscle, but to my dismay failed to gain another inch on my opponent.

Suddenly something white darted out of the crowd, and—crash! we were lying "hors de combat" across the track amid broken bicycles and whole constellations of stars.

Fido had settled matters.

Though no bones were broken I