

Enclosed Spokes.

I fancy I am the only one who has tried the idea of riding a racer with enclosed spokes. It may be of considerable interest to know that my experiment was a complete failure. One evening last week I worked from nine o'clock until half-past one in the morning. I enclosed the wheel with cardboard cut to measure, and covered over with a waterproof composition; I made a good job of it, too, and in a private trial (in the kitchen) that wheel seemed to go as if charmed, and without any motive power whatever. I went to bed with a humping headache, and dreamt that I had lapped Arthur Du Cros without an effort. I walked the machine up to the Ulster grounds on Saturday, and *en route* excited as much attention as if I had been the veritable "Bogie Man." When I mounted there was a fair wind blowing. Operations were suspended all along the line and the boldest held his breath for a time. A crowd of excited admirers (!) seemed prepared for anything even to the machine and myself going straight up into the air like a balloon. I got around the first corner splendidly, and with the wind dead ahead got up a fast pace; at the next corner the wind caught me fairly amidships. I made one wild wobble and went straight for the railings. The vessel—I mean the machine—righted, however, just in the nick of time, and I continued my wild career. Almost every corner was the same, and a very short experience convinced me that the enclosed wheel was a fraud, a delusion, and a snare. I got down and tore off the whole business, and got along much better without it. The man who races with enclosed wheels will distinguish himself by killing a few competitors. I would prefer to be either 100 yards in front or 100 yards behind him.—"The Crank" in *The Wheelman*.

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