

Photo of the month - September 2023

The "Cyclists' Club All Heil" Bocholt



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The photo shows the board of directors, various active club members and their relatives in front of the shooting house.

"Today, let us look backwards and rejoice in our cycling club" - these are the opening verses of a four-stanza poem dedicated to the cyclists' club All Heil on the occasion of its 40th anniversary in September 1933. When the club was founded, the cycling enthusiasts from Bocholt included the greeting "All Heil" in their club name, wishing not only accident-free rides at all times, but also good success.

The cyclists' association always gave 1893 as the year of its foundation, although 5 June 1894 has also been handed down as the official date of foundation. The cultivation of cycling and socialising were the focus of the club, which had about 25 members in 1901. Caps and badges were procured for them and in 1896 a standard. They cultivated indoor sports and undertook hiking and parade rides,

They put together touring programmes and took part in the festivities of other cycling clubs in the vicinity and further afield. At the 7th foundation festival in 1900, the new ball game "polo" was introduced, in which the cyclists tried to drive a wooden ball into the opponent's goal with the help of a polo mallet. The number of members rose to 45 by the First World War.

The joy of cycling

The World Fire caused a sudden interruption of the club's activities, but they were revived from 1920 onwards, when many younger cycling enthusiasts joined the club. At this time, the association had 190 members, who at times achieved very fine successes in cross-country rides and bicycle ball.

The photo shows the executive committee, various active club members and their relatives in front of the Schützenhaus. It was most probably taken on 28 May 1922, when the association invited the riders to a reception and prize-giving ceremony in the Schützenensaal after the long-distance reliability race "Der große Straßenpreis vom Münsterland". The riders proudly presented themselves with their racing and penny-farthing bikes, surrounded by the Ladies' Reigen team, who presented a banner ribbon made with much effort and skill. The youngest cyclists even had a tandem with them.

Among the people will be chairman Carl Küppers senior, who led the cyclists' club All Heil with merit for decades and died in the bombing raid on Bocholt on 22 March 1945. After the Second World War, the association did not revive and the local court revoked its legal capacity on 13 April 1953.

The **photo of the month** is presented once a month by the Bocholt City Archive.

Photos and text information come from the holdings of the city archives. The contributions to the picture are written by the following employees of the city archives.

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The picture series was launched at the Bocholt Culture Day 2006 and showed the first photo with the "Meckermannin *Langenbergpark*" in October 2006.

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