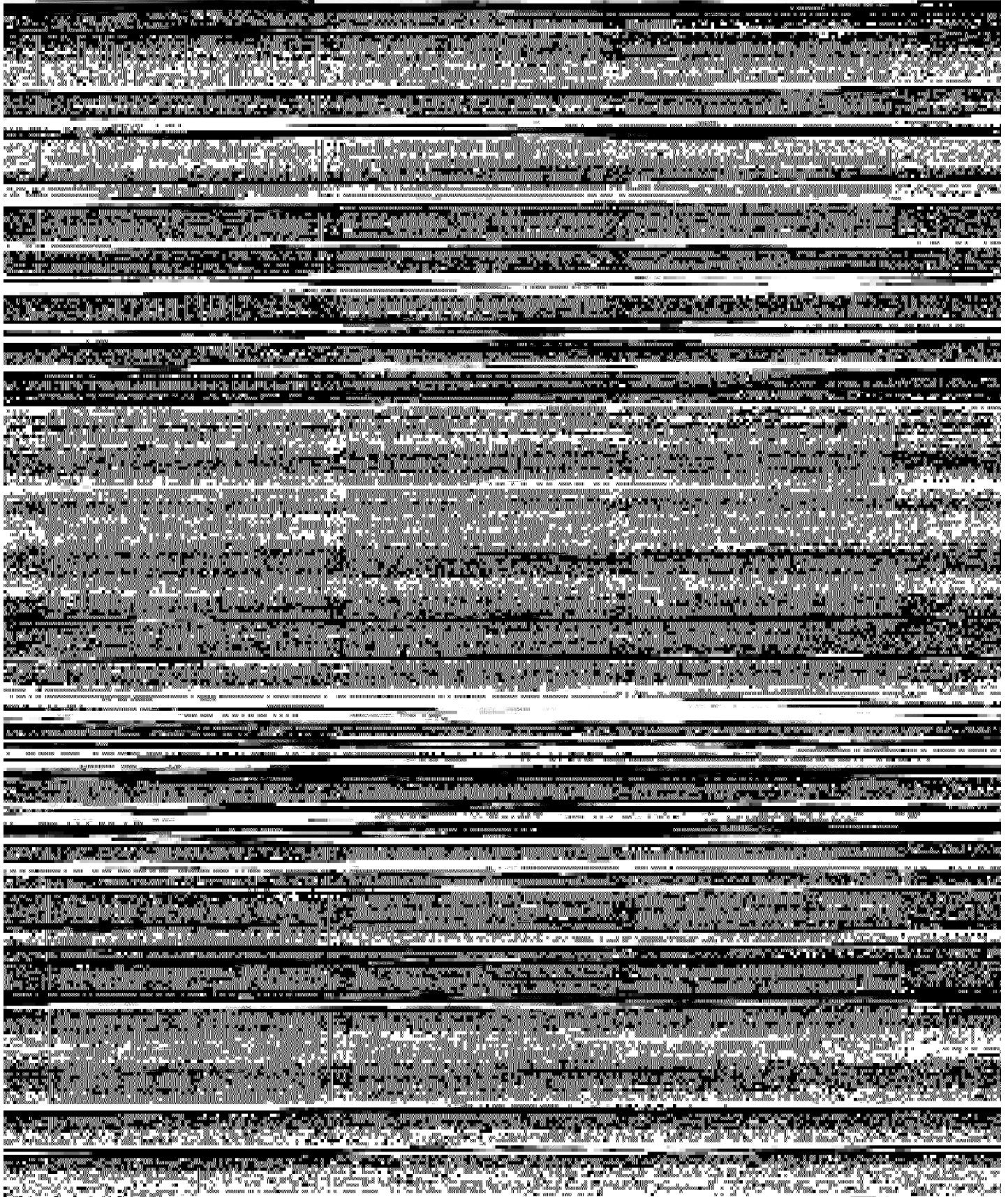


1948 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.

1948

In 1948 cycle speedway was really booming. You could find tracks almost anywhere - on bombed sites, in fields, in country lanes or old water emergency tanks. They were everywhere. Any starry-eyed kid who had a bike indulged in the sport somehow, somewhere. Enthusiasm for the sport was at an all-time high.



A Good Sixpennyworth!

1948

1948 saw the launch of the first national cycle speedway magazine, "Amateur Cycle Speedway" which was available each month, price sixpence. Introducing the first issue, editor James Prentice wrote -

"In the early days, the national press was slow to recognise the possibilities the sport had to offer. So in December 1948, we took the plunge. We started the sport's own magazine. We think it's a good sixpennyworth. You will have to buy a copy to find out! Put it down on mum's shopping list right away.

"The best thing about "Amateur Cycle Speedway" is that it is written in a rip-roaring journalistic style by a genuine bunch of chaps who are anxious to bring to you news and photos from all parts of the country and abroad. Yes, abroad! We've reporters in Ireland, Holland, South Africa, Australia, and all over the place.

We have also founded a special Readers' Club, of which Geoff. Duke, the T T Ace, is president. Other honorary members include: Petula Clark, Bob Hope, Arthur English, Tony Hancock, Gilbert Harding and Rhonda Fleming. Make a note, then, of "Amateur Cycle Speedway." Better still, send a sixpenny postal order to Sales Department, 15 Locket Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, for a copy".

Flash ⚡ back

Hillman cycles (popularly known as 'Penny Farthings') were used by Long Crendon (Aylesbury, Bucks) riders in scratch races.

Beckenham CSC (Kent) claimed to be only track in the country with a 'Fred Mockford' starting gate, a model used extensively in motorised speedway. Elsewhere Bristol Speedway donated cup to Bristol League champs St Martins Lions.

Becton Aces retained the East London League title. Bert Hudson completed a 'double' for Aces by winning East London Riders Championship. He was presented with his trophy by West Ham Speedway rider Aub Lawson.

'Red' Monteith of Glasgow's Crossmyloof Giants won the Olympic Commemoration Trophy which was run over three consecutive nights.

According to journalist Frank Gaines Sheffield side Boston Tigers had a 'smashing leg trailer' and their own photographer!



Stratford duo. Hammers' skipper Roy Garnham leads team-mate Johnny Livings during a league match at Janson Road.