

ins," Andy and Jimmy Kent, are also well to the fore, as are the "not - so - terrible wins," Andy and Jimmy mythe (and they really are wins) and "Crash-a-day" Jim markie.

The big men up there now appear to be Pete Bell (Craig-on Eagles), Bill Ritchie (Sheildhall Greyhounds),

George Sutherland (Paisley Aces), Bob Browning (Charing Cross) and Barry Shapley (Crossmyloof Giants).

Most of these lads attend college, but there is no side with them, they are just honest-to-goodness riders of the old brigade.

Bill Ritchie, I learn, attends an art school, for it is his ambition to become a Press cartoonist, and from the drawings I've seen of his depiction of cycle speedway riders he would do even better at that than cycle speedway itself, and I am told that Bill is the kiddie" when it comes to riding a cycle.

One of Scotland's oddities is Barry Shapley, and I don't mean that unkindly, Barry. It seems that Barry, one of Scotland's "ace" riders, is, of all things, an Englishman, and he is justly proud that he can show his Scots pals a clean pair of heels on occasions.

TEST SERIES

All the above-named are included in the Glasgow team which is meeting Edinburgh in Test series shortly, but will

Members of the Cycle Speedway Control Board listen to their chairman.



proceedings are considerably enriched by Mrs. Sutherland's tea and home-made cakes.

(We have turned down Mr. Delderfield's request that we pay his fare to Glasgow to attend a Glasgow Control Board meeting.—Editor.)

REST OF THE NEWS

C. E. Killman, 60, Dickens Road, East Ham, E.6, is in urgent need of riders for his team of Plaistow Racers.

Can the Bath League lend the Stonehenge Streaks a track. The Streaks have recently lost theirs and now have no home track to run their "World" Cup rounds on. Address: Dave Mitchenall, The Stores, Bulford Road, Durrington, Wilts.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY BALL

As announced previously, the first Cycle Speedway Ball will be held at the Holborn Hall, Gray's Inn Road, on Friday, February 4. Dancing to Stan Fry and his band from 7.15 to 11. Masters of Ceremonies will be Split Waterman and Lloyd Goffe, and I'm told to expect a sensational cabaret, for it appears that our friends, Len Silver (East London Test Captain) and Jim White (Control Board Manager), have both been "on the halls" and have consented to oblige. Cartoonists, musicians and comedians! Cycle Speedway personnel are certainly versatile.

The Dutch Fietsers Apparently suggested this fixture some time ago and it was turned down as impracticable, but with the Dutch insistence, the "phantom" fixture was arranged, and this is how it will be run.

Each team will consist of six riders, who will each ride in three races. In each of the nine heats, two riders from each team will be timed to one-fifth second by a stopwatch. The fastest rider in each team will receive three points, second fastest two, third fastest one.

Each track will measure exactly 60 metres and each will be a replica of the other in shape. Each is a disused tennis court and the surfaces will be much the same. The only thing that Mr. White, the Control Board manager, is worrying about is the weather. If it is raining in one country and not the other, then the times will be seriously affected.

However, he thinks that will not matter so very much in view of the publicity that cycle speedway will receive in both countries. I understand that the National Press will have representatives at the track, in addition to the newsreel companies, and it is not unlikely that a well-known film star will make a personal appearance and invitations have been sent to various Speedway riders.

In short, this fixture looks like being the match of the year, for after the international at Middlesex All-

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Board's funds.

THE TEAMS

WEMBLEY.—Ray "Buster" Brown (Wembley Panthers) (capt.) and Del Green (Wembley Panthers); Dud Smith (Acton Acorns) and Don Morris (Acton Acorns); Roy Rogers (Wembley Hawks) and Don Mahoney (Colindale Aces).

HOLLANDSE WELPEN.—Henk de Bruin (capt.) and Pat Quist; Maub de Haas and Theo Binda; Tom Somers and Keizen Wetfer.

Cycle Speedway riders everywhere will wish both teams the best of luck, and I would remind readers that, whoever wins, this will be the greatest publicity that the

George Delderfield's Cycle speedway gossip page

sport has ever received, and I am sure we must congratulate both Hartog de Ronde, President of the Dutch Cycle Speedway Association, and T. A. White, Manager of the Southern Region Cycle Speedway Association, for their enterprise.

SURVEY NO. 2—GLASGOW

Miles away from East London to the banks of the Clyde, where the ships that carry our "Hearts of Oak" are built. But they build other than ships in Glasgow; they have built a flourishing cycle speedway organisation and some first-class riders.

Tracks in that area alternate from 50 yards to over 100 yards total circuit, so their riders get plenty of varied experience, and the fact that most of the top riders have had three years at the game, and will contest 1949, suggests that the Scots laddies have one of the strongest organisations in Britain.

The call-up problem has affected Glasgow, to the

NEWS REEL GIVES WARNING TO OUR CYCLE AUTHORITIES

In a little News theatre in Oxford Street I saw the greatest tribute yet paid to a great Youth sport, the news-reel account of the "phantom" cycle speedway match between Hollandse Welpen and Wembley.

For two minutes I sat enthralled as the cameras flashed to and from England and Holland, giving us the most thrilling moments of each match.

Shots of the Dutch track should serve as a pointer to the Control Board when our Dutch visitors arrive here, but more especially when our lads go to Holland. The film shows the reason for the English riders' failure, for, although the tracks measured exactly the same, there was a vast difference in the shape; the Kingsbury track with sweeping bends and the Hilversum track almost suicidally sharp.

Track surfaces were different, too, with the Dutch track looking slick and hard, as hard as Birmingham Speedway.

Longer straights and a slicker surface, coupled with broad-siding and bend control which is unequalled in England, puts the Dutch cycle speedway scene far in advance of our own. Add to that their specially-constructed frames, and I am prepared to state that, although England may be streets ahead in organisation, our riding ability is still in the novice class compared with the Dutch.

A WARNING

I want the English riders, and particularly the Control Board, to make no mistake about this—and I am the last person to spread gloom and despondency — everyone must redouble their efforts, or we have lost the first International Test series, not only in Holland but on this side of the water as well.

This is a final warning; every rider in the country must affiliate to the Southern Region Control Board so that the National Association may be formed, and this must be done AT ONCE.

"WORLD" CUP RESULTS

PRELIMINARY ROUND

(Second Leg)

(First leg scores in parenthesis)

Ashley Aces (W. Underwood 11) 41 (26); Alpertons Penguins R. Lupson 12) 54 (70). Aggregate: 67—124.

Harefield Pirates 38½ (31); Stratford Hammers 57½ (65). Aggregate: 69½—122½

St. Albans Swifts (P. Dawson 15, C. Colletta 14) 61 (67); Walton Broad-siders 34 (29). Aggregate: 128—63.

Wembley Hawks (S. Baldock 14, R. Rodgers 12) 53 (48); Kingsbury Rangers 42 (45). Aggregate: 101—87.

FIRST ROUND

(Second Leg)

Fordingbridge Saints 31 (22); Acton Acorns (D. Morris 13, D. Kidd 12) 64 (73). Aggregate: 53—137.

FIRST ROUND

(First Leg)

Boreham Wood Stars (K. Cooper 11, K. Parker 10) 60; Dagenham Aces 36.

*Bromley Lions. — New Cross Rangers.

Colindale Aces (G. Meredith 14) 62; Feltham Aces (R. Bird 10) 34.

Cranford Stars (B. Lipscombe, R. Annveld 11) 52½; Preston Eagles (J. Coleman 14) 41½.

Eastwood Monarchs (D. Pegrum 13) 53; Ripple Greyhounds (S. Larkin 12) 42.

Foxland Panthers (G. Dower 13, L. Ratcliffe 12) 54; Tooting Tiger Cubs 42.

Greenford Aces (M. Costin 13) 50; Beckton Crusaders (P. Mansfield 11) 46.

Hawkwell Hammers 35; Albion Romans (Wall 15, Still 12) 59.

Northwood Broad-siders (D. Mannucci 12) 53½; Shaftsbury Broad-siders 41½.

Peckham Stars (R. Braddon 14, C. Buckingham 12) 67½; Ruskin Flyers 28½.

Plaistow Racers 33; Wembley Panthers (B. Brown 15) 63.

*Southend Lions — Norwood Lions.

Stadium Stars (T. Coell 13½) 51½; Honor Oak Aces (E. Bulmer 11) 44½.

Stockwell Aces (E. Wallis 14) 52; South Harrow Greyhounds (L. Dean 12).

Stonebridge Rockets (G. Gibson 13) 56; Regent Rockets 40.

Teddington Tigers (G. Com-fort 12½) 48½; West End Wanderers 43½.

Tooting Tigers (J. Giddings 15, A. Newsom 13) 75; Kings-bury Falcons 21.

Verney Lions (Butterfield 13, Hurrell 12) 61; Hendon Pirates (Richardson 10) 35.

Wembley Panther Cubs (H. George 13); Hillingdon Racers (A. Scowan, M. Bacon 10) 53.

West Ham Eagles (P. Glover 14) 61; London Pirates 33.

*West Ham Pirates — Islington Flyers.

Whipps Cross Comets (R. Stevens 13) 63; Cricklewood Cobras (B. Johnson 10) 32.

* Result not to hand.

CHALLENGE

A challenge flung down by Peter Lynch, secretary of the Bournemouth Olympic Road Club, via the columns of a national daily, has been fiercely taken up by the Wallisdown Whippets, the match to be run off at

Wallisdown (Bournemouth) on Saturday, February 19, at 3 p.m.

In his challenge, Lynch asserted that any normal club cyclist paying attention to handlebar and saddle position could "lick" a cycle-speedway rider any day.

The match conditions are that the Olympic Club compete under Speedway rules but may wear their orthodox track dress: singlets, shorts and soft shoes. This match, the first of its kind since the sport's inauguration, has aroused great enthusiasm locally and, with the promised support of Poole riders, big crowds are expected.

Broadstone Bulldogs are holding their first Social and Dance on February 19, at 7.30 p.m. at the Broadstone Institute.

Charlie Hayden and Cyril Quick have promised to attend.

CHANGE OF DATE

The All London Grand Prix will not take place on March 6 as previously announced. The Southern Region Control Board have asked the Stratford Hammers to alter the date to March 13 owing to the clashing with "Speedway World" Cup matches.

George Delderfield's Cycle speedway gossip page

BROWN RESIGNS

Terry Brown, the East London Control Board Chairman and manager of the Beckton Aces', winning championship side of 1947 and 1948, has resigned from all positions in cycle speedway.

In a statement he said that he had been working hard since early 1946 and felt he needed a rest before entering the Forces.

He will be missed by the East London clubs, and in future will club secretaries please note that all correspondence for Beckton Aces should be sent to 22, Shaftsbury Avenue, E.13.

DISTRICT SURVEY No. 3: N.W. MIDDLESEX

Like Hertfordshire, the North-West Middlesex League is a small but widely-scattered organisation, covering Northwood, Hillingdon, Harefield and Watford, but I would venture to suggest that this district, which seldom hits the headlines like the other districts

with slicker publicity agents, is more secure than any other in the country, for it is in Northwood that the first-ever council-sponsored track is being laid, it will be no second-rate effort, either.

The 120-yard circuit has been scooped out to a depth of six feet with a mechanical shovel and filled with brick-dust and hard-core, with a six-inch layer of fine cinder laid on top. The inside and outside "white lines" are in concrete, as is the starting area. A local firm is providing magnetic starting-gates and the pits will be covered in. The track will be fenced off and a clearing is being made for spectators, and the centre of the track will be a smooth, billiard-table-like lawn with flower-beds on each bend.

This track, when completed, will undoubtedly be the finest in the country and, whilst the Control Board are negotiating for various stadiums to accommodate the Dutch visitors, they should not overlook the Northwood Council track.

Johnny Andrews, the League secretary, tells me that full praise is due to Miss A. Cowan, M.B.E., leader of the Northwood Boys' Club, who has insured the 50 odd Northwood riders against injury and presented them with a magnificent 16 in. high silver League Cup, which the Northwood Broad-siders, the only team in the country affiliated to the National Association of Boys' Clubs, hold.

Outstanding riders in the League are Harefield Pirates' Ron Hawkwood and Peter Leckie, and the Broad-siders' Dennis Peters. These three carried the main burden in North-West Middlesex's unsuccessful attempt in a Test series with Wembley.

They claim yet another distinction, that of having the most isolated track in the country. This belongs to the Harefield Pirates and is situated in a chalk pit in the heart of Harefield Woods, and its banked sides form the most natural stadium. Officially in their close season, the North-West Middlesex boys are in strict training, for they intend to stake a claim for several places in the English team to meet Holland.

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