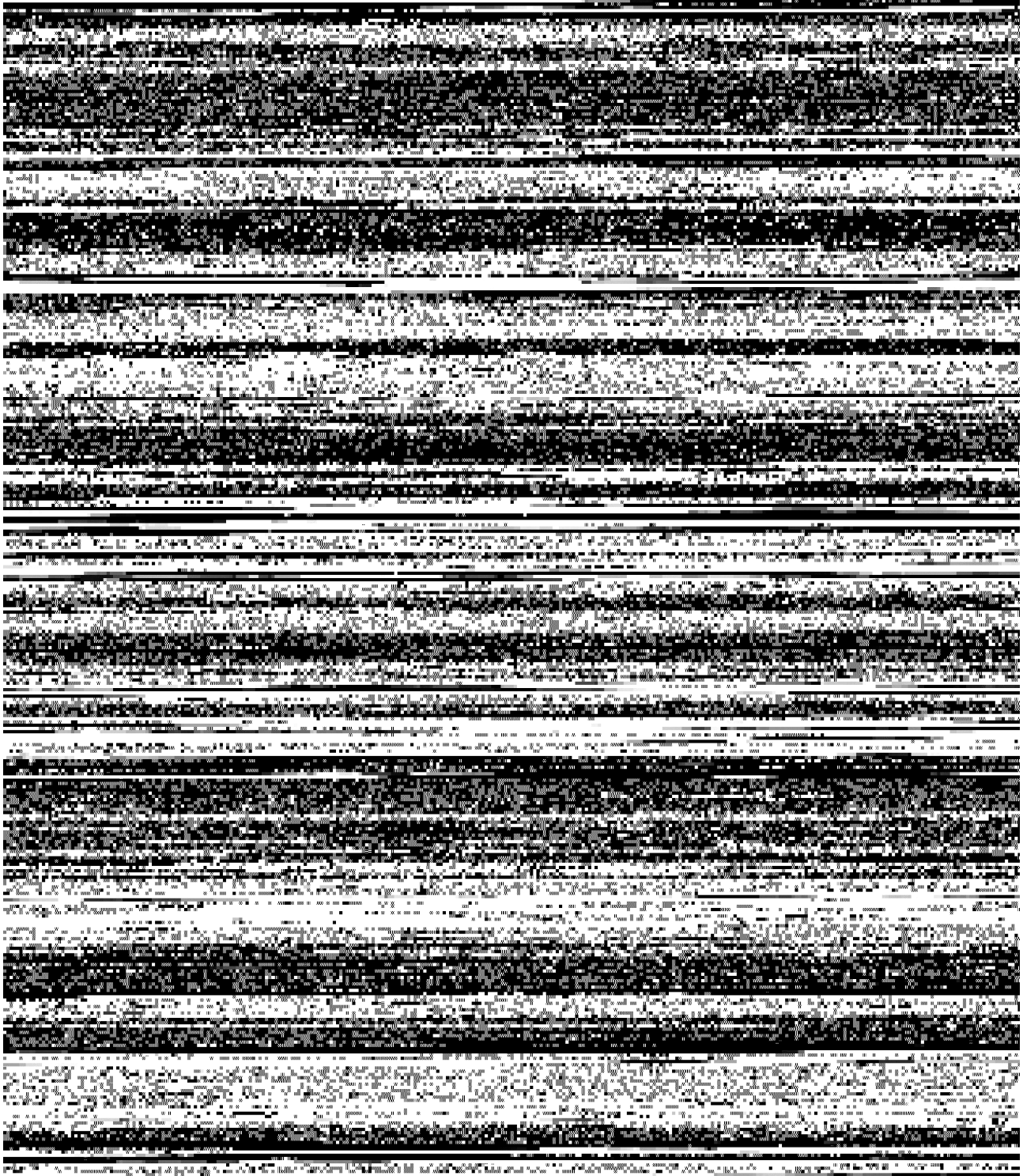


1949 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.

1949

England Win First Ever International....

The first ever international between England and Scotland took place at Rayleigh Stadium, Essex, on 26 May 1949. Although Scotland started off as favourites, no one expected them to



Scrap Book Cuttings

1949

The first meeting of the Southern Regional Cycle Speedway and Youth Association, held on 6 January 1949, saw the following officers elected. B J Duffield (Chairman). T Glover (Vice Chairman). T A White (Manager). Miss P Taylor (Secretary). Miss D Rayner (Assistant Secretary). E V Jones (Treasurer). Mr A E Simpkins and C Gibbs (Assistant Treasurer).

August 1949 saw the visit of two Dutch riders, Theo Binda and Map de Haas, to England. Both impressed on outings on the Stratford Hammers track with their broadsiding and speed.

Two riders who thrilled the fans in 1949 with their defiance of the laws of gravity, although hundreds of miles apart, were a couple of leg-trailers - Sam Fraser of Glasgow's Shieldhall Stars and Bill Watson of the swashbuckling Grays Stars from Essex.

On 17 September a cycle speedway meeting was held at the Pilot Field Stadium, Hastings, and was attended by a crowd of over 2,000.

First fatality on cycle speedway track. A verdict of accidental death was recorded by the Tottenham (North London) coroner on George Hope Wynne (77) who had rushed onto the Caledonian Lions' track when a race was in progress. He was hit by an oncoming rider Ken Scott who tried to avoid Mr Wynne but could not help crashing into him. Mr Wynne was taken to hospital where he later died.

The first indoor cycle speedway match took place at South Woodford, Essex in November 1949 - in a marquee! The match between East London teams Warwick Lions and Stratford Hammers was sponsored by Speedway Cyclists Association (under auspices of National Cyclists Union). Only 200 spectators turned up instead of an expected two thousand and the SCA incurred a financial loss.

Cycle speedway proved a big attraction during Plymouth's Carnival Week. 5,000 thousand spectators, including the Carnival Queen, saw Foulston Eagles beat Manadon Lightnings by three points in a thrilling knockout competition. South Harrow Greyhounds raced before a crowd of 10,000 in another carnival. This resulted in 3,000 turning up at the Greyhounds next meeting on their home track. Previous best attendance had been 700.

Cycle speedway featured in the Youth and Sports Exhibition staged at Glasgow's Kelvin Halls in July. A large crowd gathered round the cycle speedway stand and the Scottish riders had a busy time answering all the questions.

Stratford Hammers, on a visit to Dorset, were beaten by Oakdale Gem Pirates 61-35, which was their heaviest defeat since their formation in 1946.

First individual international at Janson Road, Stratford, East London won by Dennis Bottazzi (North London) after race-off with former Norwich rider Fred Smallwood (Wembley). The second London Grand Prix, on same track, was won by Terry Coell (Dagenham) again after a race-off this time with South London's Dave Collins.

There were 32 races in the London v Middlesex test match at High Beech Stadium Essex. Score was close - 96-95 to Middlesex. The same number of races were on the programme in the Essex/Herts v London Test match at the same stadium with the same formula - four pairings meeting each other twice with two reserves standing by. Essex/Herts won 102-90. Five East London riders were picked for the London v Scots Tourists match at Camden Town. They were Cyril Prince, Ken Randell and George Stevens, (all Becton Aces) Phil Fishon (West Ham Eagles) and John Livings (Stratford Hammers). Cyril Prince scored maximum points.

Sir Waldron Smithers MP for Orpington (Kent) switched on Cray Tigers floodlights.

A Year of Firsts in Manchester

After the success of a pilot midweek league during the 1948/49 close season, the Manchester and Stockport Control Board promoted a summer league competition which was won by Cheadle Hulme Rangers with Chorlton Aces runners-up. So Cheadle became the first winners of the McQuillan Trophy which was donated by Vic McQuillan's father - and is still contested for today as the Manchester League Division One trophy.

Indeed 1949 was a year of firsts in Manchester. On 21 May the first regional "Test" match took place between Manchester and Bradford (Yorkshire). This match was ridden on Harbour Cobras track at Wibsey which was only 80 feet - yes feet! long. Bradford won the match 77 to 40.

The next first was the inaugural knockout cup final which was run over two legs. The first leg was ridden at Chorlton on 20 November and resulted in Chorlton Aces beating Cheadle Hulme Rangers 54.5-47.5. After two postponements the return was contested at Cheadle Hulme on 2 January 1950. The result was a win for Cheadle Hulme 60.5-45.5 with Cheadle winning 108-100 on aggregate.

BATTERSEA AND DISTRICT LEAGUE

P W D L PTS

Battersea Wildcats	14	8	3	3	19
Battersea Eagles	14	9	1	4	19
Wandsworth Racers	14	7	4	3	18
Grayham Aces	14	7	4	3	18
Kennington Eagles	14	8	1	5	17
Fulham Lions	14	5	0	9	10
Chelsea Tigers	14	2	4	8	8
Putney Eagles	14	2	0	12	4

PRITTEWELL PIRATES 1949

This photograph of Essex side Prittlewell Pirates was taken in 1949. Pictured second left is well-known cycle speedway stalwart Den Winch who today runs the Great Wakering cycle speedway team.

