

MAY 15 JUNE 14, 1950

6^D CYCLE SPEEDWAY MONTHLY



ACTION FROM HOLLAND

Exclusive Dutch scene showing Don Tyler (Cray Tigers) leading from Hans Bekkers (Hilversum) and Roy Kavanagh (Tigers). Note Bekkers has no saddle and uses 28" wheels

FOLLOW CRAY TIGERS DAY BY DAY DUTCH TOUR SEE p. 11



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More Pages, New Name Next Issue

By the EDITOR

NEXT month, **CYCLE SPEEDWAY MONTHLY** will take a huge step forward in cycle speedway journalism. The sport has progressed to such an extent that we must progress with it. Beginning with the next issue, **CYCLE SPEEDWAY MONTHLY** will have twenty pages and will be renamed **AMATEUR CYCLE SPEEDWAY**. This is in preparation for the time when the publication ceases to appear only once a month.

The up-to-the-minute news, the straight - from - the - shoulder - criticisms, the features by Roy Bullet, James Prentice, Rocky Hill and all your other favourites will be retained under the new title. In fact, but for the new name and four extra pages there is little change at all.

Now don't forget to tell your friends about this. We are having a new, super-coloured cover from next month and we do not want everyone asking if the **Monthly** has ceased publication. **AMATEUR CYCLE SPEEDWAY** incorporates **CYCLE SPEEDWAY MONTHLY**, it also incorporates the style and features you have grown to like during the past twelve months.

Much time and money have been expended to make **AMATEUR CYCLE SPEEDWAY** a success. You were proud of the **MONTHLY**, you will be delighted with our new issue. Just think of it. Four extra pages to include more news, more photos and more about your area, all the more reason why you must order your copy in advance. **AMATEUR CYCLE SPEEDWAY** will be in great demand, don't be disappointed. Tell your friends to order it too.

Above all, do not forget that **AMATEUR CYCLE SPEEDWAY** is your old favourite the **MONTHLY** with its new, up-to-date appearance. Watch out for the competitions, the unique news service, the thrilling strip cartoon with a difference, the new, super coloured front cover, and keep abreast with nation-wide news in the country's original, only and official cycle speedway magazine.

LONDON TO BRISTOL

At the end of May, London's Caledonian Lions are visiting Bristol's Clutton Pirates to play a series of three matches. They are the first London team ever to go to Bristol.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY MONTHLY

The Official Organ of the London & Home Counties, Manchester & Scottish Associations

May-June 1950 Vol. 2, No. 3

Editor - G. PAYNE
15 Locket Road, Wealdstone
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Tel.: UNDERhill 0098

N.A.C.S.A. official organ

As you read this, negotiations have been going on between this magazine and Officers of the N.A.C.S.A. concerning the Association's official organ. Naturally, at this early stage, nothing definite can be printed, but it is sincerely hoped that we may have the privilege of being the official journal of the Association.—EDITOR.

AT the Second General Meeting of the N.A.C.S.A. held in London on April 22nd, it was decided that insurance on a national scale should not be attempted at this stage, and quotations obtained by the executive committee will be made available to county control boards for their individual action, writes N. H. GUEST.

The final draft of rules was approved and is now in print, as are Riders' Licences. Diagrams of an approved track design were studied and are obtainable from the secretary at 2/- each. A badge design has not yet been finally adopted, but negotiations are in progress with manufacturers.

It was agreed that wherever possible, each county should organise a benefit match to assist the Association funds. Some of these matches are being held at Whitsun. All officers who were originally elected on a temporary basis were re-elected for the remainder of the year.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY FIRST NATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

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NEWS CHRONICLE

Club managers are invited to write to Cycle Speedway Championship, "News Chronicle", Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4, for full details.

STAN LEEDS' REPORT ON THE SCOTTISH TOUR

80 mile gale and Highland Pipers greeted Londoners

SWEDEN HAVE A NATIONAL BOARD TOO

THE West End Wanderers left St. Pancras on Thursday, April 6, and arrived in Edinburgh 8.50 the following morning. They had started their 1950 tour of Scotland.

Unfortunately, the recent smallpox outbreak prevented us from visiting Glasgow as previously arranged, but Edinburgh underwent last minute arrangements and our tour continued. All the riders were comfortably billeted, and I was luck enough to stay with Bob Hannah, control board secretary.

On the Saturday after Good Friday, we raced our first match against Lothian Select at Wallyford. The circuit there is ideal and a large crowd turned up to see the match off to a brisk start. We were led to the centre by a Highland bagpipe and drum band whilst a fierce gale practically blew our machines away. And in the racing it was so strong that although our lads were pedalling hard they never seemed to move! We lost 51-30 but our Jim Preddy was the day's top scorer with 12.

Full scorers: Lothian Select (51): R. Daly and D. Anderson 11, I. Henderson 9, W. Newburn 7, T. Ponton and B. Ross 4, A. Teagle 3, R. McKinnon 2. Wanderers (30): J. Preddy 12, B. Davison 7, Geo. Smithson 5, T. Marsh 4, T. Sweetman and S. Smithson 1, S. Leeds 0.

Our next match was at Prestonpans, about 7 miles from Edinburgh. And although only a village, a terrific crowd turned up. This time we got down to it and won 47-37. We were after an early lead and the team rode beautifully. Top scorers in this match: Wanderers (47): T. Marsh, B. Davison and J. Preddy 9, T. Sweetman 8, Geo. Smithson 6. Edinburgh Select (37): T. McCombe 8, B. Baptie 7, T. Ponton and J. Irvine 6.

The third and final match was against East of Scotland Select, and unfortunately this was marred by "doubtful" riding and the lack of good stewards. Our plan was to hold the racing to a series of 3-3 draws up to about the 10th heat then try to go ahead. But a little trouble cropped up. Jim Preddy—a great favourite up there—forced out a Scots rider in order to let his team mate in. But he was disqualified for boring. Jim, through me, lodged a protest to the steward, who, in turn, approached the bend steward. The latter declared Jim should not be disqualified, and it was announced that owing to the uncertainty of the whole matter, that the race would be re-run later. I was satisfied; but later a further announcement stated that the previous decision was cancelled. No re-run.

In a later heat, Jim and a Scots rider collided, and both jumped up and ran with their machines before riding away. But Jim was disqualified for taking more than four strides. Believe me, there is such ruling. Of course we protested, and very shortly the meeting had to be abandoned as the weather blew up bad once again. There was no score.

But differences were soon settled amicably, and I would like to thank J. Cullen and B. Hannah and the others who made our trip possible. In my opinion, organisation in Edinburgh is better than that of London, nevertheless, that remains to be seen. One thing though, our results were published in the big papers among the soccer classified in the stop press, and huge stories appeared on the sports pages. We will be going again next August.



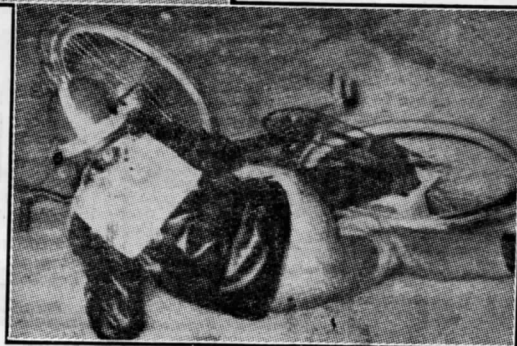
FIFTY Swedish cycle speedway riders and officials met in a club room in Stockholm recently and decided to form their own national controlling body called OSCAR—The Organisation for Swedish Cycle Amateur Racing—writes our Swedish correspondent.

Sven Dahlgren of the magazine Racing was elected temporary chairman until Gosta Straudberg famous motor cyclist was later unanimously elected. During the meeting, two cycle speedway machines were demonstrated. One from C.A. Erkssons cycle shop and other from A.B. Cycle and Sport manufacturers. The latter have presented a cycle to the best 1950 rider and sportsman.

Rules and regulations were drawn out and the successful meeting closed with Racing Editor, Erik Aruall giving a brief account of his journey by motor cycle through 15 countries of Europe.

Left, you see some exclusive shots from Sweden.

20 PAGES
AND A
NEW
NAME
NEXT
MONTH





Scotland enjoyed the tour

THE West End Wanderers from London visited us at Easter and played a series of matches against selected Edinburgh teams, writes **Jack Cullen**. On page 4 you will see Wanderers' manager, Stan Leeds report. I would just like to add a few words.

The press gave the sport a great write up. The Edinburgh Evening Dispatch published a full page of pictures and other devoted columns on the tour. Perhaps the highlight of the meeting was the win by Wanderers over East of Scotland Select No. 2 by 10 points. At their third and final match, a huge crowd of 2,000 turned up as the teams were presented to some of the following personalities. Provost Hunter of Musselburgh was there, as was Mr. G. M. Colville from Musselburgh, R. L. Rae, Meadowbank speedway director, Frank Varey, Meadowbank speedway manager, Dick Campbell and Don Cuppleditch of the Meadowbank Monarchs speedway.

London were determined to win two of the three matches, and after 15 heats, Wanderers' Jim Preddy, objected to a disqualification for dangerous riding, another rider objected to being disqualified for running more than four paces when remounting after a fall.

I am not a steward and not perhaps, qualified to say anything on the matter. But the upshot of this was a refusal by some of the Wanderers to ride under Scottish (Eastern Area) rules.

Edinburgh Corporation have granted four new tracks and are going to lay them at once. By the time this gets into print, we hope to be racing on them. We have been unable to race in the City under proper conditions for three years.

Prestonpans Pirates were recently defeated in a 14 heat match by Portobello Eagles 51-33. Pirates' captain, Jock Irvine was top scorer for his team with 9, whilst Tom Ponton notched 10 for the Eagles. Wee Jock Irvine is a treat to watch, he has perfect bend control. He did well in the Wanderers' tour and will certainly be picked in our touring

team who are soon making the trip to Norwich.

On Saturday, April 22, Musselburgh Giants overwhelmed Granton Griffins 66-18 in a league match. In a later tussle between Prestonpans Pirates and Leith Lightnings, Jock Irvine was again in top form and with team mate Rob McKinnon notched 12 points. Musselburgh Giants will be one of the strongest teams in the league. They already have Tommy McNeill from the disbanded Wallyford Aces and have signed on Danny McGrath, and Duncan, both former Aces.

NEW RULES FOR BIRMINGHAM

THE Annual General Meeting of the Birmingham League was held at Perry Barr on April 13th. The chairman, Mrs. H. Westwood, announced that two divisions would be in operation this year; a second division of riders under the age of seventeen, and a First or all riders up to twenty-two years.

A suggestion from the Sutton Racers' representative that all teams should compete in one league only was rejected, on the grounds that it would be unfair to the younger and less experienced riders.

Various new rules were introduced. The minimum width of a track must now be twelve feet, and not ten as in previous years. Also, the inside and outside edges are to be clearly marked. A third ruling was that all projecting parts, such as mudguards, wingnuts, brake levers, and large nameplates should be removed from machines before matches.

. Club Secretaries
no tax on these awards!

PLAQUES

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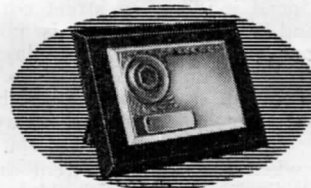
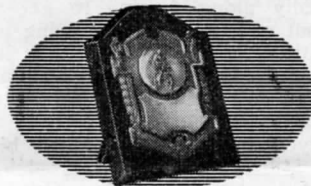
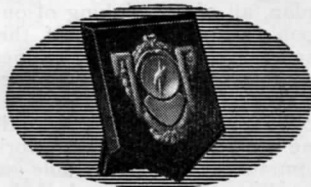
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Page 5

We have found a sport with that 'little bit extra'

Say B.B.C. script writers Alec Weeks and Harold Rogers

AS sports correspondents for the holiday programme "Hallo Children," we were on the look-out for interesting material to use in the Easter series. We had already covered boxing, football and swimming and had lined up table tennis and rowing. Then a newspaper cutting sent us off on what could be called "a voyage of discovery." What was this new sport called cycle speedway? We visited Mr. Bertram Duffield, chairman of the N.A.C.S.A., who gave us the facts and figures, and a short history of the sport. We found ourselves becoming enthusiastic—here was something new—a sport organised and run by youth.

Our next step was to contact a club, work out a script and arrange for a recording "session" without a car. Our programme was only scheduled to last 12½ minutes, and although we wanted to include several clubs, it was impossible to do so in the time. So all our material and programme had to be based around one club, and after much debating, we decided to visit the Jones family at Harrow, the headquarters of the Shaftsbury Broad-siders and Furness Flyers.

We went down to West Harrow one Monday evening by train, and were met by a rider dressed in full riding kit. He conducted us to Furness Road, where the Jones lived. The dining room, where we got down to writing the script, was crowded. We would ask a question, and twenty-five healthy, vigorous voices would scream back different answers. Nevertheless, we managed

to amass our material, assisted by Mr. Jones, who has the patience of "Job."

When we left, at 10 p.m. our heads were thumping, not only with the noise in which we had been working, but with information. Our next two or three weeks were spent in writing the script; making arrangements for the recording and making numerous phone calls to Editor, Graham Payne and Mr. Duffield.

"Mr. Payne, can you help me..."
"Mr. Duffield how many riders..."
"Mr. Payne, could you help me..."
And so on. They certainly have patience.

The big day arrived, and Mr. Weather beamed his approval. We had already been busy in the morning, making recordings for a feature on rowing, and by the afternoon we were thoroughly warmed up to our job, as were our grand pair of recording technicians, Ron Pantlin and Laurie Hayhurst. Most of you heard the broadcast a few weeks back, we hope you liked it.

After the recordings, we returned to London, all of us thinking of our afternoon's experience, and of this news sport. A sport that combines the essential ingredients for producing an intelligent and useful member of a community. To be a good citizen, one must understand teamwork and comradeship and be able to organise life. Nobody can wander dejectedly along, hoping to get a little out of life, but never being in a position to put anything into it. We won the last war by having that "little bit extra"; a British attribute that leaves foreigners perplexed.

In cycle speedway that "little bit extra" is being used again; used by youth to organise spare time. Others often spend it idling on street corners and planning evil. It is not often one has the chance these days to say "Good work. Keep it up." But here is an occasion where it is more than appropriate and where we do say and mean it.

And when the red light went on in a studio in Broadcasting House on April 17th, at 12.30, and we went on the air with Lionel Gamlin to introduce the listeners to our programme; we hoped that, in a very small way, we were able to give some assistance to that grand sport—cycle speedway.

MANCHESTER CHANCES FOR SUMMER LEAGUE

MANCHESTER teams are awaiting the Summer season with its competitions, and preparations are under way. A survey of the teams and their 1950 chances would not be amiss, writes G. W. Fernyhough.

Cheadle Hulme Rangers. Last season's league champions and knock-out trophy winners, they should do equally well this year. Losing W. Green and E. Waint to the Forces upset their well balanced combination, but they are ably led by Lew Grepp and assisted by D. Maynard. They will be adding to the team shortly.

Chorlton Aces. Led by Jack Pennington, the Aces were runners-up to the Rangers in both competitions last season. The addition of ex-Stockport rider, Brian Moston, makes them serious challengers for the Rangers' titles.

Belle Vue Kangaroos. Captained by Brian Rostron, the present match race champion, the Kangaroos are always a strength to be reckoned with. They can easily be the dark horses of the Summer League if they can show the flashes of brilliance as they did last season.

Salford Panthers. When half the team retired last Summer, the Panthers set to and built another from their reserves. Led by Dave Newton, who is ably supported by Ricky Smith, the league's veteran rider, the Panthers have recovered last year's form and will show it during the coming summer.

Lostock Pegasus. The Pegasus were formed during the Winter, and are just settling down to league racing. They have Colin Brown as their leader.

Broad Oak Acorns. The Acorns are looking forward to the Summer season. Their performances, although not exceptional, have greatly improved their successful Winter league debut.

Bredbury. Although near the foot of the table as present, their position does not give a true picture of their racing capabilities, and with better fortune, the Summer league should see them in a better position.

A team from Stoke will shortly visit Stockport to race the Chapel Panthers. The Panthers will make the return leg later. A Manchester representative team will visit Newcastle over Whitsun.

THE SPORT INCLUDED IN FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

Cycle Speedway was included in the Festival of Sport at Empress Hall this month. The exhibition was sponsored by the Central Council of Recreative Physical Training.

In a sixteen heat match, London played the Home Counties: Teams: London: J. Wilson, G. Stevens, T. Vinter, B. La Rue, T. Clifton, S. Gamage, J. Fortune, J. Cooper. Home Counties: P. Leackie, R. Russon, J. Henderson, L. Dean, K. Cooper, J. Outten, D. Clement, A. N. Other. Full report next month.

SPEEDWAY TRACK STAGE KNOCK-OUT TROPHY

HEARDED from Brian Johnston, B.B.C.'s "Let's Go Somewhere" man the other day. He thinks cycle speedway racing is an excellent idea as it keeps the younger generation active. Brian ought to know, you will remember he rode against colleague Wynford Vaughn Thomas recently.

I GET AROUND , GRAHAM PAYNE



"I also think cycle speedway can be dangerous for the wrong type of enthusiast," he says. "Look what happened to Wynford when he tried to get a bit too clever and cut a corner!" (You will also remember Wynford took most of the starting gate into the bend).

Brian hopes to be able to include cycle speedway in his "In Town To-night" feature soon.

First Air Training Corps to start a team are the 2146 (Brislington) Squadron from Bristol. They call themselves the Brislington Eagles and are fortunate enough to have Bristol's Billy Hole as club president.

During the past few weeks, I have been in contact with Arthur P. Buckley, manager of Poole Speedway, and he has decided to run a Poole Speedway Trophy for cycle speedway teams in and around Poole. Each team will be drawn from a hat and will battle each round on a home and away basis.

Draw for the first round was made at the Poole speedway meeting on Monday, April 24th by the Mayor of Poole, Ald. A. B. Haynes. It is: Langley Lions v. East Boldre Spitfires; Rossmore Tigers v. Ashley Broadsiders; Lawrence Saints v. Totten Tigers; Ringwood Aces v. Parkstone Devils; Pennington Jets v. Wareham Dragons; Gem Pirates a bye.

Had an unexpected visitor to these offices the other morning. Coming down for the Third General N.A.C.S.A. meeting, E. Greenwood, secretary of the Bradford League, decided to pay us a call. Unexpected but very welcome. Over a cup of tea we exchanged stories and views. I'm always pleased to hear from other delegates who are down this way.

Ken Cooper, secretary of the Hertfordshire League tells me that they will be sending the usual two

teams down to southend this year. They are to play a team every day. E.A.C. Hawks and Russell Eagles will be making the trip.

The Summer League has now started and Hoddesdon Kangaroos and Hilltop Vampires are included in the line-up. The Control Board has decided to run 4-heat junior matches during league match intervals. Harpenden Aces opened their new council track recently and despite torrential rain a large crowd watched the Aces lose by 13 points. Hoddesdon Kangaroos track is behind the famous Rye Sundays will race there. House Stadium, and on alternate Sundays will race there.

Norwich's Costessey Comets who started racing on an old field, will, this year, race in Costessey Park on an 80 yard banked track. Manager has gone into the forces, but Jack Leggett has become rider-manager.

A league has been formed in the Thurrock (Essex) area called the East Essex C.S. League. Members are: Grays Stars, Grays Rangers, Vange Vultures, Homestead Tigers, Thurrock Thunderbolts, Aveley Beavers and Tilbury Hammers. Racing started last month and the first results to reach me are: Grays Stars 71 (J Bullock 15, P. Batty 13, B. Martin 13) Aveley Beavers 36 (P. Price and Ried 9). Tilbury Hammers 61, Thurrock Thunderbolts 47. In a later challenge match, Homestead Tigers beat Prittlewell Pirates 57-47.

Team with initiative is the Highworth Wolves (Wilts). They have a supporters club of over 250 and their own club room which was once a loft in Bristol speedway rider Roger Wise's farmyard. The committee and riders set to and distempered the walls yellow and stained the wood work to a "Tudor" look. Supporters gave very freely and the Wolves bought some games.

they have now two billiard tables, a table tennis set, table skittles and through the Winter months ran knock-out tournaments. They have also held a social and three concerts.

More recently, they staged a Treasure Hunt and six riders took part. They followed clues on their bikes which led them roughly seven miles out. Winner received the hidden treasure—a huge bag of sweets. At the moment however, the Wolves are downcast, for Old Man Weather (British version) has, as usual, let them down. They are keeping their fingers crossed and will shortly race their first league matches.

The Walthamstow Test team visited Edmonton to race off a test. Walthamstow won 47½-36½. Edmonton were without Captain J. Trew and T. Woods but never gave up trying. Walthamstow were off to a fine start and notched two 5-1's at once. By heat six, they were leading 23½-16½ and never looked like losing their lead.

The Edmonton & District League have decided to have no age limit to their riders.

The Baliffe Bridge Dragons (Halifax) recently rented a large piece of ground from the Bridge-house Corporation and have built a new track on the site. It has a surface of brick dust. Dragons' 1950 line-up is: Manager, J. W. Sutcliffe, Secretary, W. Halstead; Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Sutcliffe. Team, T. Hendry (Capt.), H. Binns, J. Bottomley, M. Scott, W. Halstead, E. Greenwood, F. Marsden, G. Mitchell, D. Robinson and C. Arthur.

Tooting Tigers, although officially in S.W. London have joined the S.E. London League this year. It seems that the Tigers applied for admission to the Thames Valley Board and they were unanimously elected to join at a Valley meeting. However, just as forms etc. were ready, Thames Valley sent word to manager W. J. Cattle informing him affiliation was impossible, no reason stated.

So the Tigers were, for many weeks, without a league or opponent to race against. As members of S.E. London Board, the Tigers will have to come to some arrangement regarding the county trophy put up by the News Chronical. Knowing the Tigers, they shouldn't have much difficulty.

New Cross Rangers are building a new track facing their old track in Grove Street, Depford.



FIRST MATCHES OF 1950 ARE

A general view of the competitors in the All London Grand Prix at Stratford.
Photo.—D. Bentley

PACKED WITH USUAL SURPRISES

THE first matches of the season brought with them the usual surprises and unexpected results. New names found their way among the winners in the early battles for 1950 honours.

East London opened their fixture with the Third All London Grand Prix at Janson Road. Sixteen top class riders from London and Home Counties competed for the trophy put up by the manufacturers of "Three-in-one oils." It was obvious from the start that local rider Jack Wilson (Stratford Hammers) was well at home on his own track. In heat 4, when well out in front, Wilson found the race had been stopped owing to a double crash up. In the re-run, with Ken Randell disqualified, Wilson again had no difficulty in taking the lead and holding it all the way.

When Dixie Dean (South Harrow Greyhounds) beat Dennis Bottazzi (W.E. Wanderers) in heat 14, he was one point behind Wilson, who was unbeaten with 12 points. Bottazzi being out of the running by now, the interest was centred on heat 17, when Wilson drew away from the poor opposition to win the championship.

The rider of the day was, in my opinion, Wembley's Dixie Dean. He settled down to the track beautifully, and was unlucky to be drawn continually on the outside. Wilson, however, was lucky enough to race on the inside most of the time. Without a doubt, biggest surprise of the day was the success of reserve E. Lamacq (Portway Penguins). Hitherto an unknown rider, he will do well in future meetings. In three outings, he notched 8 points and beat star riders as Reg Gale, Tiger South and Ken Randell.

Leading scorers: J. Wilson 15, L. Dean 14, D. Bottazzi 12, P. Leckie 10, E. Lamacq and A. Newsom 8.

ON Easter Monday, Gem Pirates (Dorset) opened their fixtures with a two leg challenge match

against the Slough Flyers. Although riding on a new shaped track, the Pirates won 63-21. The margin of score does not suggest that the racing was completely one sided, there was never a dull moment throughout. The Pirates had a man home first in every heat, but the Flyers continually battled for the second places. Jim Gale, Pirates' captain, winner of the N.F.S. Benevolent Fund Cup a fortnight previous, set up a new track record and scored a maximum. Vic Cave (Pirates) was another maximum scorer. For the Flyers, Armour was best with 5, Clemmit with 4.

MORE than 300 spectators saw the Halifax and Brighouse District League get off to an official start at Clare Hall recently. Organised last October, the League now boasts of 11 teams who will compete in the Summer season which lasts until August 26th. The opening meeting was between the local Skircoat Saints and Forest Aces. The track was admirably decorated with a centre garden and lights to denote Go, Race Void and Danger were rigged. Refreshments were on sale and everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.

Ald. C. H. Lucas opened the track and watched some of the closest racing seen for weeks. With one heat to go, it was anybody's match, and spurred on by the cheering, the Saints forced a narrow 43-41 win. Leading scorers: SAINTS (43): P. Stead, T. Shaw 10, B. Baldwin 7. ACES (41): A. Cose 9, L. Drake 8. In the interval, Saints manager, B. Vernon, and three members of the Halifax speedway team took part in a special attraction race. Billy won with spokes to spare.

LONDON'S Leyton Aces gained a 55-29 away win in their first East London League match this year, at the expense of Albion Hawks of Bow.

Harry Taylor was in good form for the Aces and scored 11 points, while skipper Bert Parsons notched 10. Highlight of the meeting was the cheer-jerking ride by Aces' reserve Ron Gearing. Left at the gate, he came through the inside on the last bend and led to the gate. The Aces are shortly to lose Bert Scot, who has passed A.1. for the Army. Bert was just a second string when he signed for the Aces 18 months ago, but he quickly rose among the top riders and with his tearaway, spectacular style, was a great favourite with the supporters.

His team partner, Harry Taylor, has also signed for the services, and together they have scored many 5-1 wins. But the Aces have started the season well and have a few surprises in store for their opponents.

HULL and District Cycle Speedway Association, who were forced to disband completely a few months ago, have made a startling recovery. A league has been reformed and there is high hopes that the Corporation will lay a track soon. One of the League's first matches, between the local Belle Vue Aces and Hull Angels, was fast and attracted a good crowd. Aces won 49-33.

The Aces were in a sound position by the half way mark, and although captain G. Brown and W. Rawson were both excluded, the Angels failed to take the advantage. They were, however, without star rider T. Lawson. N. Baggaley scored a maximum 12 points—his second in succession—for the Aces and was ably supported by W. Rawson with 9. Former reserve Tich Oliver collected a useful 7.

For the Angels, B. Chatterton notched 9 and A. Weliborn and H. Greaves scored 6 each. The Angels are last season's League champions and on this showing, the Aces will be strong challengers to the title.



**M. Flood (Norwich) leads B. Platford (Norwich)
R. Garnham and J. Wilson (E. London)**

Hastings do not lack trophies

RACING started last month in Hastings when Slough Flyers paid their first visit to the seaside town to ride a representative team. Bad weather caused several cancellations in league matches, but the table is taking shape, writes **Stan Burton**.

Interest will soon settle on the various competitions in store. The News Chronicle Trophy, the Hastings Individual Championship, the tests between Hastings and Sedlescombe and special events will all be in full swing soon. League racing saw Ridge Eagles take an early lead, although at the time of writing, they are third to Hoadswood and Swifts with three matches in hand.

On Saturday, June 1, the Hastings Carnival Week opens and the local control board is organising the usual meeting there. It will be in two parts, the Hastings one lap championship competed for by 24 riders over 20 heats and a triangular match with teams from Hastings, Bexhill and Sedlescombe competing. Winners receive the Morris Cup, held for a year.

Sedlescombe and District have started their league, but not to the extent where league positions can be terminated. The Saints are so far unbeaten, and one rider has new

teledraulic front forks. The following are the teams in the Sedlescombe league: Sedlescombe Saints, Staplecross Swifts, Battle Bulldogs, Rye Aces, Icklesham Vikings, Northian Knights, Peasmarsh Panthers and Westofield Wolves.

The East Sussex Board who are organising the test series announced that the newly admitted Hellingly Lions, although not competing in any league, will be entered for the East Sussex team championships.

Top dogs of the Hastings League are: Headwood Hatcghets P5, W3, D0, L2, Pts. 6; East Hill Swifts P4, W3, D0, L1, Pts. 6; Ridge Eagles P2, W2, D0, L0, Pts. 4.

NORWICH WON FROM THE GATE

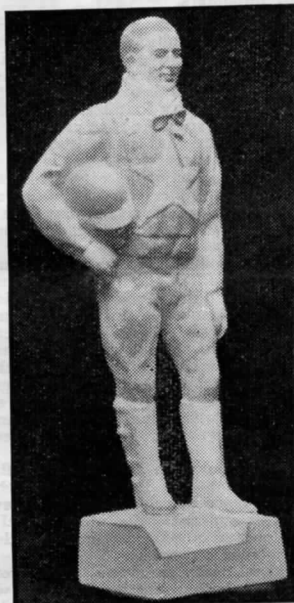
THE second leg of last year's Norwich versus London test match was run off at the Earlham track, Norwich on April 16th, and by winning 77-43, Norwich won the series on aggregate 133-107.

Norwich never looked like losing and started with three 5-1 wins to be halted in heat 4 by London reserves who record a maximum against Cushine and Warnes. Norwich came back with three more 5-1s, Clicker Claxton coming through brilliantly on the last bend in heat 7.

Malcolm Flood, Norwich captain dropped only one point, while Jack Leggett would have equalled Flood's score but for a puncture whilst leading. For London, Jack Wilson rode well for 12 points and Len Silver on his new Phillips Speedtrack had bad luck, finishing with 9. Outstanding men of the match were London reserves, A. Catley and R. Gale, who recorded two 5-1s together.

Final scorers: **Norwich** (77): M. Flood 17, J. Leggett 14, C. Claxton 13, W. Vickers and T. Eaglin 11, B. Platford 9, S. Cushine and W. Warnes 1. **East London** (43): J. Wilson 12, L. Silver 9, R. Gale 6, J. Heard and A. Catley 5, R. Garnham 4, F. Duffy 2, White 0.

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The Editor invites all Control Boards to submit to this office the following data for inclusion in our 1950 Cycle Speedway Annual (see back page): (1) Full name of your Control Board, when formed, number of members. (2) Number of teams, their names. (3) Your trophies, past winners. (4) Number of leagues, past winners. (5) Name of your N.A.C.S.A. representative. (6) Track records. (7) Any photos or interesting matter for publication. Be sure of inclusion, don't delay!

DUTCH DIARY

Thrills, Spills at 1/3 a time!

By MICK SLATER, Chairman of Kent's Cray Tigers

APRIL 7: Left St. Mary Cray for Harwich, where we boarded our ship, "Arnhem." We made sure all the machines were carefully stowed away and then had supper in the dining room. There was a thrill awaiting us for Victor Silvestor was also travelling and he nodded to many of our party who, of course, rushed for autographs.

We were in our bunks by 11.30 p.m. and after a fine crossing, landed at the Hook of Holland next morning.

April 8: We managed to find the train to Amsterdam, and changed for Hilversum, where, on the platform, Mr. Hartog de Ronde met us. He is the President of the Dutch C.S. Organisation and arranged our tour.

We arrived at Hilversum at 10 a.m. and were met by the Hollandse Welpen team, who took our machines to their track. We went to Laren, our home for eight days. A quick wash and lunch and we eagerly returned to Hilversum, where we saw our first Dutch track.

BANG ON! Says Hartog de Ronde

YESTERDAY the Cray Tigers from St. Mary Cray left us after a successful tour. I am the manager of the Hollandse Welpen and would like to write a few words to English cycle speedway enthusiasts.

In Holland, we have seen for the first time the riding, organisation, dress, machines and style of an English team. It certainly surprised us. We in Holland have seen what cycle speedway really is. The Cray Tigers have given us a lesson, a big lesson.

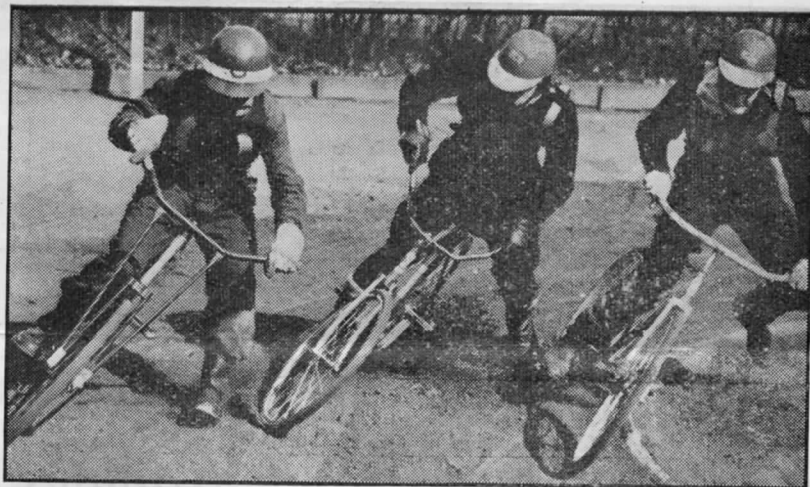
Mr. Slater is a first class manager and an all round sportsman. With this kind of leader, cycle speedway will go places. His colleague, Mr. Forrester is a first class leader. He was the intellectual winner of the races. Joe Abbott is a spectacular rider, and a fair one. Captain Jim Henderson is a rider from the top shelf as are the others.

The organisation of the Tigers, their dress, machines and manner of riding is a great boost for the sport. The whole tour was bang-on!—Hartog de Ronde, "Hollandse Welpen," Hilversum.

WE WILL PROFIT

I MUST confess that I had a very limited knowledge of cycle speedway before the visit to us of the Cray Tigers. The playing and racing of young boys on delapidated cycles on self-made tracks did not attract my attention and interests in the least.

In connection with my position as a sport official and educator, I was more or less compelled to be present at the first introduction of the teams at Hilversum, and I had the opportunity to make a better



It was beautifully set out with white concrete edges, grass centre, flower beds, a perfect red shale surface, and a wire mesh safety fence.

At 2 p.m. we started the match, and we managed to win by 41-31. Joe Abbott broke the track record of 46.4 secs., whilst Henk de Bruin and Walter Dorland offered our only resistance. We visit Herr Dekker, Director of Sports and Physical Culture in the evening and later went to bed after a tiring day.

April 9: After a quick tour, we raced the Feynoord Tigers of Rotterdam and gained another win by 56-28. The margin of the score does

acquaintance with the sport as well as the riders and promoters.

The manager of the Hilversum team, Hartog de Ronde kindly offered me some press reports on the progress and practise of this sport in England and so I learned that many adults had become enthusiasts. With reserve, I can say that I am now able to judge this new sport and its riders.

I am able to state that cycle speedway is a thrilling and attractive sport. It is obvious that the majority of the Dutch boys were in many respects not quite as clever as their English rivals, but I am sure that they will profit by the lessons given at the recent matches.

In addition to the supreme sportsmanship and skill of our visitors, I must comment in the orderly manner in which they conducted themselves during this tour. Undoubtedly, they will leave behind a very good impression in this country and I am sure that their visit will encourage the interest among other younger sportsmen. The organisation of the trip was difficult as the officials on both sides never met and the whole arrangement made by letters only.

Great credit is due to Mr. Slater of the English team and Mr. De Ronde for the supreme confidence in each integrity. I am in full agreement with the ideas of Mr. Rush, the probation officer, whose articles appeared in your magazine.

I hope that cycle speedway may grow and flourish in both countries and that we will see many prominent teams besides the Cray Tigers.—C. A. M. Dekker, Ambtenaar voor de lich. opvoeding en de sport te Hilversum (Holland).

A STUDY IN BIKES. (L. to r.) Henk de Bruin (Welpen) on a dutch machine, E. Bulmer (Tigers) on a Phillips Speedtrack and J. Henderson (Tigers) on his polo.

not present a true picture of the Dutch lads' determination and skill, but we were quite at home on their "suicide" bends. Joe Abbott again lowered a record and Jimmy Henderson notched a maximum.

April 10: Torrential rain kept many people away from our match against The Yellow Stars, but over 500 turned up to see our boys gain their third win by 41-25.

April 11: Off to Voorburg, another 70-mile trip, and we met the West End, Holland's leading team. Awaiting us was a 1,500 strong crowd, super track, floodlights, and a stiff match. West End had not been beaten for three years and it turned out that we were to be the first to lower their colours. We won the match 50-46, and Abbott broke yet another record.

April 12: We visited Arnhem and the battlefield.

April 13: Today we toured the Broadcasting studio and afterwards played Hilversum. We won 52-30.

April 14: A busy day this. We toured the vast bulb fields and visited the Hague, where we were matched against a representative Dutch team. Another 1,500 strong crowd turned up, and after a struggle we forced a 51-30 win to receive a gold medal from the Dutch newspaper, Haagse Courant.

April 15: Our farewell match was against The Hollandse Welpen and this time we fielded our second team. In a thrilling match we won 44-40.

DUTCH JOTTINGS: Dutch clubs charge 1/3 gate money. Our results were broadcast after the News. The amount of wins obtained on the Phillips "Speedtrack."

HAMMERS WIN BATH LEAGUE

OLDFIELD Hammers won the Bath Winter League losing only to Odd Down and Norton St. Philip writes **B. Frost**. They were presented with silver medals by the chairman R. Anstey at the North Somerset Board's End of Season Dance. Runners-up, Norton St. Philip also received medals. They have been runners-up for three successive seasons.

Weston Tigers, second from bottom last year, showed great improvement this year, and would have finished higher than third but for end of season injuries. The control board have decided not to race any further matches until the summer season (June). After two years they consider the sport must have a closed season, as several riders have lately been feeling the strain.

The summer league will commence with the open rounds of the News Chronicle Trophy and Somerset's Individual Riders' Championship. The semi-finals of the latter being held at the Bath City F.C. Carnival. It is expected that a crowd of over 10,000 will be present. The cup to be presented by H. H. V. Guest, vice-chairman on Bath F.C. is valued at over £50, and is at present held by John Lander (Norton Knights). He can expect strong opposition this year from Ken Worlock (Oldfield Hammers) ex-Bristol rider. P. Anstey is the dark horse, but B. Jones (Odd Down) is my tip.

NEW HALIFAX TRACK TO OPEN SOON

CROSS ROAD Panthers of the Halifax and District League have been working hard these past few weeks putting the finishing touches to their track in readiness for the official opening this month, writes **D. C. Smith**. Mr. and Mrs. Bruch Booth of Odsal and Halifax power speedway will open it. From a humble beginning, the enthusiasts have made it into one of the finest in the whole of Yorkshire. It has a 65-yard circuit, banked corners, and the surface is covered with hard rolled cinders. A concrete starting gate area has been laid, and soon a starting gate designed by Panthers' manager C. Rouke, will be erected.

The track is covered by a full comprehensive £10,000 insurance policy. Many adults have joined the club in an effort to lessen the work on Mr. Rouke's shoulders. Adults have joined as assistant manager and

groundsman. Rider Vic Thorpe rides his own designed machine, "The Colthorpe Special."

Another team in the Halifax League making good headway is the Skircoat Saints. At the time of writing they have yet to lose a league match. They have signed on B. Darbey and G. Rushworth from Cross Road Panthers, and captain Tom Shaw has so far scored 46 points out of a possible 60. Paul Stead, one of the best riders, fractured his wrist during a challenge match on Easter Monday, but he will soon be back in the saddle.

Top dogs of the league are: Cross Road Panthers P4, W3, L1, Pts. 10. Forest Aces P4, W3, L1, Pts. 10. B.B. Dragons P4, W3, L1, Pts. 10. Skircoat Saints P3, W3, L0, Pts. 9.

WEMBLEY V. NORWICH SOON

OUR first important match this year was the second of our tests with East London, a report of which appears elsewhere in this mag. We expect to arrange another pair of tests with East London later

this season, and we may ride the first leg at Janson Road, Stratford, writes **Wog Vickers**.

A Wembley test team is also due to visit us in Norwich shortly. Wembley's Fred Smallwood (ex-Norwich rider) assures me we are in for a hiding. Norwich captain, Malcolm Flood is a great friend of Fred's and they were the formidable Earham Eagles first pairing in '47 and '48.

League racing has started in Norwich. First match was at Seething, when Seething Stars beat Red Devils 45-39. Result was in doubt up to the 13th heat. Top scorers: Seething stars (45) Walker 11, Moore 11, Carpenter 8. Red Devils (39): Horth 12, Heldson 8, Cannell 6.

In the Docking area, it seems that Hells Angels will force the pace this year. They recently defeated Docking Falcons 75-21. Colin Mack (Angels) scored 11, Whilst W. Grey, D. Cawthorne, D. Seppings and S. Yallop all scored 10 each. Best for the Falcons was D. Allen with 4. Three of the Angels were riding new Speedtrack machines and were pleased with the results.

Beetley League starts fixtures this month, matches will be ridden on Sundays as tracks are miles apart.

Opinion in Norwich is divided as to the best type of starting gates. Some say the Fly-up type looks better; others contend that the Fly-across model is just as efficient, and less trouble to keep in order.

L. Taylor, who has been riding since '45, has gained regular reserve position in Earham team. He expects to be called up very soon now.

At least three Norwich tracks have started a new fashion in design. All have long straights and very sharp bends.

M. Flood, Earham Eagles' captain, intends to collect all the track records this year. On his first visit to Seething Stars track he clocked the fastest time in the last scratch race.



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ABOVE you see Surrey's newest track, home of the Thornton Heath Tigers. On the left are the Tigers, to the right, their Cubs. In the centre is Councillor Stewart, the Club President, Mrs. C. Baker, manageress and Mr. Duffield, N.A.C.S.A. Chairman. In the background can be seen members of Surrey's Stewards' Association.

But Surrey and S.W. London have a great track problem on at the moment. There are at least half a dozen teams without grounds, although negotiations are going on with the local councils and soon official tracks should be forthcoming.

Several Surrey teams have been making the trip to the Cray Tigers,

SURREY WANT MORE TRACKS

latest being Manor Saints, who were beaten by 9 points. We are hoping that it will be a Surrey team who will beat the Tigers in their lair.

Excitement in our Winter League is reaching fever pitch as it nears completion. Unluckiest team seems to be Wimbledon Wildcats, who are at the foot of Div. I without a win. In Div. II battle royal between Beddington Indians, Manor Saints and Wandsworth Eagles for the honours whilst Thornton Heath Tigers are

close behind. In Div. III Raynes Park Racers are top dogs.

On May 28 we are holding our Div. III Riders' Championship at Clapham Panthers' track. Manager Mr. Malyon tells me that he has lengthened his track. This should ensure faster racing. All teams wishing to enter our Summer league and Cup Competitions should write to: Mr. D. Hyland, Gen. Sec., 88 Claremont Ave., New Malden, Surrey, before May 24.

J. A. Phillips, Birmingham cycle manufacturers of the Speedtrack held their official press trial at the Thornton Tigers track, mentioned earlier in this article.

Unfortunately, two of the four chosen riders failed to turn up, but Stratford's Len Silver and Tooting's Arthur Newsom, who were present, soon felt at home on the new surface. The specially designed sharp bends suited Newsom, who overtook Silver in one race after being well back on the outside. Pressmen saw the new struts on the front forks of the Speedtrack, and most of them rode round themselves. One reporter much as he was told only four times round, completed at least twenty laps before he realised his machine was minus braking apparatus!

HILLTOP TIGERS POOL RESOURCES

BIRMINGHAM'S Hilltop Tigers have combined with the Great Barr Olympic Harriers, and Tigers' old manager Roy Sedgwick considers the team the best best for Div. II this year. The Tigers were forced to disband as Roy transferred his star riders to Kingstanding Monarchs, who were badly in need of riders.

Roy ran his own Nursery school and hoped he could depend on his novices. The combined team includes many of them, who can easily give the experienced racers a good thrashing.



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LONDON	4 pts.	NORFOLK	1 pt.
BIRMINGHAM	3 pts.	MIDDLESEX	1 pt.
KENT	2 pts.	SOMERSET	1 pt.

MONTH'S BEST SIX

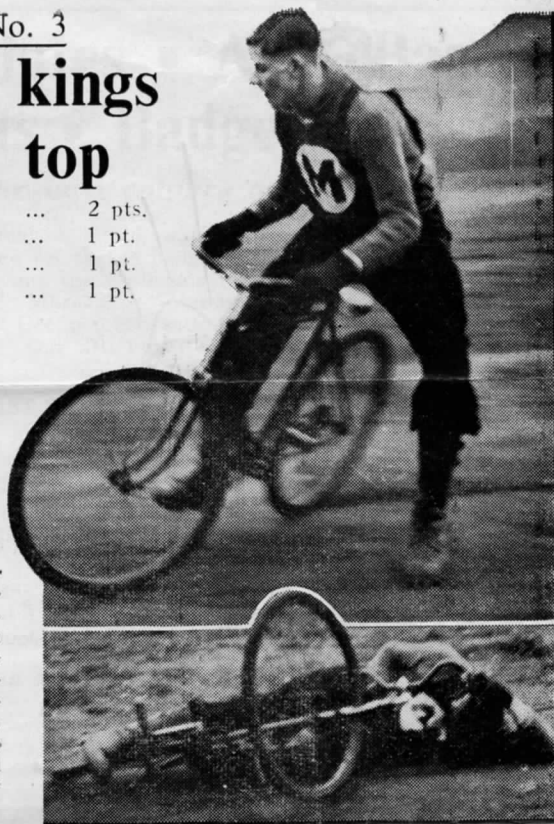
Rider and County	m.p.h.	Yds covered
1. J. Gale, Dorset	22.56	375
2. V. Cave, Dorset	21.85	375
3. P. Bennett, Dorset	21.58	380
4. D. Bunter, Dorset	21.54	375
5. K. South, Essex	15.55	73
6. A. Castle, Somerset	14.73	260

THE battle for honours in my Time Table is becoming fiercer each month. At the beginning I published speeds around 15 m.p.h., and thought them quite astonishing. However, this month I received from Dorset, feats that averaged 20 m.p.h. and naturally the speed kings from that county have pushed Dorset well up among the top liners.

You can help your county do the same. Send me your track records, holders, distance and whether standing or flying start and the six fastest I receive will enter my Month's Best Six Table and score a point for their county. Records must be signed by a team secretary or manager to prove their genuineness, and no rider can score more than one point for his county. If he breaks his own record which has already been mentioned in my articles, he cannot score again. And if two or more riders jointly hold a record they can all score a point providing they are among the Month's Best Six.

This month, by virtue of the exceptionally fast times, Dorset leads

Top picture shows King standing Monarchs (Birmingham) captain D. Fewtrell in a Graham Warren slide with the body off the saddle: Unfortunately, bottom picture, explains why Warren does it easier. In the top picture, Fewtrell could easily be mistaken for Norman Parker also.



the table although only equaling London on points. Somerset are the other newcomers.

Dorset: Led from Poole's Gem Pirates take the credit for Dorset's leap into the table. Four of them—Jim Gale, Vic Cave, Dick Bunter and Pete Bennett—hold records which average 20 m.p.h. and practically all the team (so manager D. J. Dean informs me) have clocked no worse than 40 secs., an average of 19 m.p.h. No doubt the reason for this is the almost squareness of the track with its suicide bends. Jim Gale holds

three records, but can only score one point for Dorset. He holds the three 125-yard lap record with 34 secs. (22.56 m.p.h.); the Ringwood three 140-yard lap record with 44 secs. (19.52 m.p.h.) and the Pennington three 130-yard laps with 42 secs. (19.05 m.p.h.)

Vic Cave completed three 125-yard laps in 35 2/5 secs., which is approximately 21.85 m.p.h.) whilst team mate Dick Bunter recorded 35 3/5 secs. (21.54 m.p.h.) over the same distance. On the Wareham track, Pete Bennett did four 95-yard laps in 36 secs. (21.59 m.p.h.).

Essex: At the Dagenham Diamonds' track, the South brothers are the speed kings. Kid South holds the one 73 yard lap flying start record with 9.6 secs. (15.55 m.p.h.) and Tiger South the three 73 yard laps standing start with 31.7 secs., which is 14.13 m.p.h. Tiger just failed to enter the Month's Best Six and so only Kid scores for Essex.

Somerset: A. Castle, captain of From Stars of the Bath and District League, completed four 63 yard laps in 36.1 secs. This is just 14.73 m.p.h. and good enough to put Somerset on the table.

Well, that's how they stand this month chaps. Quite a close affair at the top, don't you think? But I don't see your county there, what about it?

HELP

LONDON

The Walthamstow Wolves would like to hear from any unattached riders in their area who are looking for a team. The Wolves have a team in Div. 1 and Div. 2 of the East London League, enquiries to: **C. Kaufman, 29 Pembar Avenue, Walthamstow, E.17.**

The Whippis Cross Comets III are prepared to challenge any second or third teams of clubs in the London area. Please write to: **J. Woolnough, 81 Hatherly Road, Walthamstow, E.17.**

MIDDLESEX
There are vacancies for riders in the Hanworth Vampires C.S. club. Age between 15 and 20 years. All riders joining will be covered by insurance. Contact: **W. R. Ingham, 16 Grove Crescent, Hanworth, Feltham, Middlesex.**

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
The newly formed Slough Aces require home and away matches. Are prepared to travel within 15 mile radius of Slough.

Challengers reply to: **J. Graham, 91 Elliman Avenue, Slough, Bucks.**

HAMPSHIRE
Riders between the age of 14-18 in the Hampshire area are invited to join the Oakley Eagles. Riders accepted will ride in the Eagles league matches. Applications to: **C. Tizard, 167 Oakley Road, Millbrook, Southampton, Hampshire.**

SUSSEX
Clubs in the Sussex area are invited to join the Hastings and District Control Board. This is a great opportunity for clubs in this district as the league consists only of four clubs at the moment. All interested should write to: **Mr. Ely, 36 Cleveland Road, Brighton.**

DORSET
Broadstone Bulldogs would like to arrange challenge matches with a Salisbury club and require riders urgently. Contact: **B. Hanham, "Orduna," York Road, Broadstone, Dorset.**



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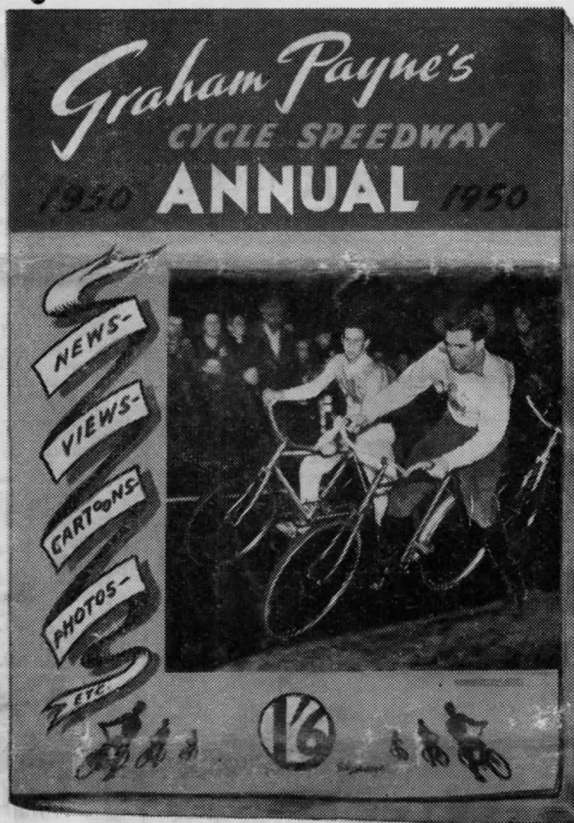
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