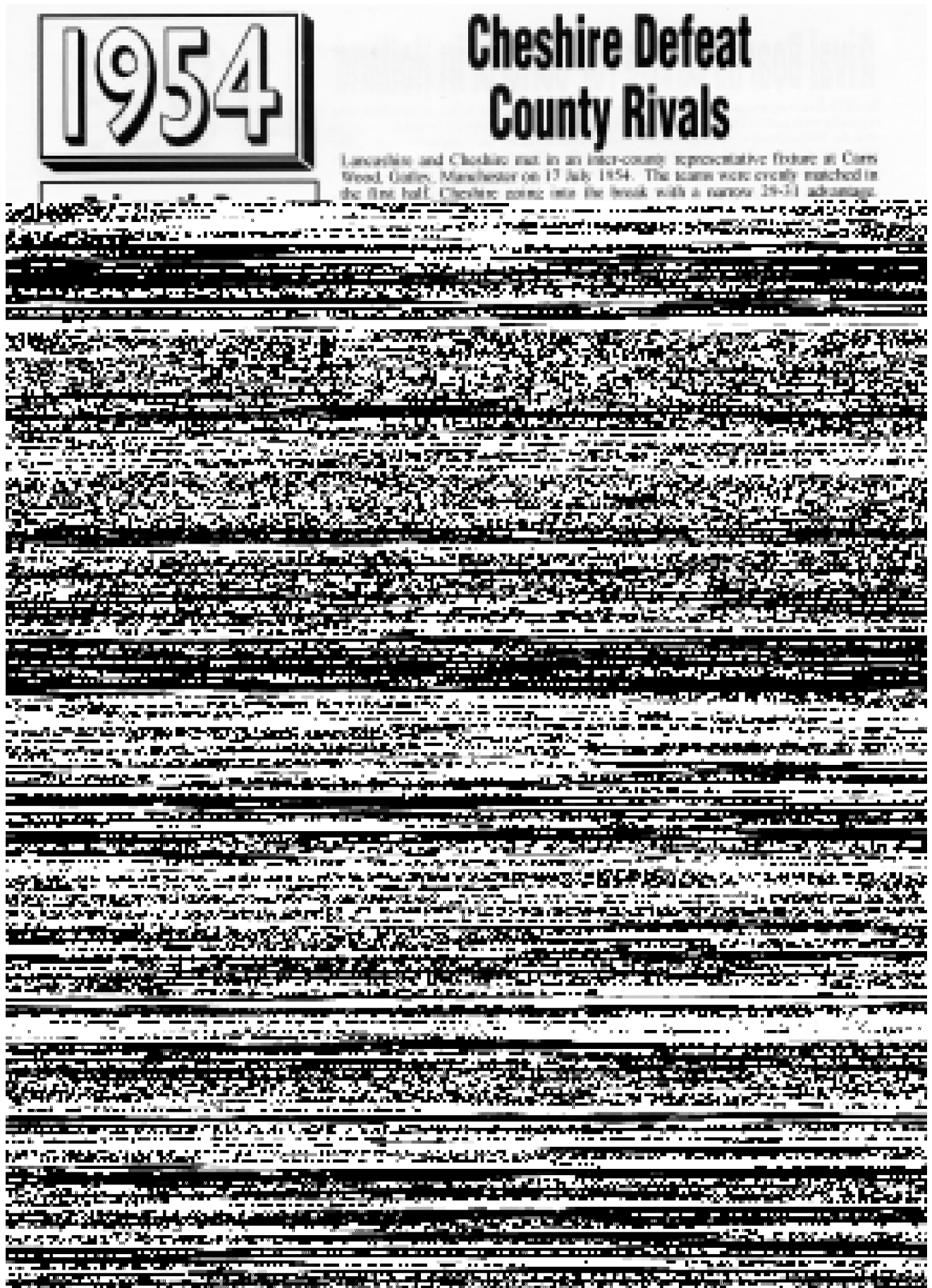


1954 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.



Southend Beat Dagenham

1954

A test match between Southend and Dagenham took place at the Eastwood track, Thundersley. Southend took an early lead and held it for the whole of the match. Final result: Southend 53 points, Dagenham 42. In the Southend side J Robinson was beaten only once - by Fred (Kid) South in the final heat. Also riding well were G Hammond, T Crabb and Mashford. Best for Dagenham were "Kid" South, George Wakeman, Alan Wood and Arthur Warren. The match was over in 15 heats and was Southend's third test success this season. They have already beaten the Romford area twice.

Dagenham Diamonds beat visiting Stapleford Stars 64-44. Arthur Warren scored a very fine maximum, with Alan Wood unbeaten by a visitor. Pete and Tom Chubb also did well. For the Stars, Gordon Avery and Peter Fuller were best. The Kenp brothers had a bad time. They each fell twice and scored only three points each.

McGrath Speculation

Paddy McGrath, left without a team because of the Dagenham Diamonds fold-up, joined Longbridge Leopards.

The Champions

The respective county team champions in 1954 were:- Cheshire - Offerton Devils, Devon - Foulston Eagles, Hampshire - Chandlers Ford Stars, Hertfordshire - Whipp's Cross Comets, Lancashire - Carrs Wood Hunters, Leicestershire - West End Cyclones, Middlesex - Wembley All Stars, Suffolk - Claydon Greyhounds.

The individual champions were:- Bedfordshire - D Hutson (unknown), Cheshire - Derek Garnett (Offerton Devils), Essex - Ernie Lamacq (The Penguins), Hampshire - Alan King (Southampton Racers), Hertfordshire - Bernie Hart (Clay Hill Aces), Kent - D Read (Cray Tigers), Lancashire - Jack Pennington (Chorlton Aces), Leicestershire - Jim Benthall (West End Cyclones), Middlesex - Pete Leckie (Harefield Pirates), Suffolk - Terry Abbott (Ipswich Vampires), Oxfordshire - Terry Foster (unknown), Staffordshire - John Heaton (Aldridge Hammers), Surrey - Malcolm Crawley (Chobham Rockets), Warwickshire - W Sollis (Birmingham Lions), Wiltshire - Malcolm Smith (Wroughton Racers).

Essex Control Board Re-Formed

A general cycle speedway meeting of all South Essex clubs was held at the Campbell Youth Centre, Langley Crescent, Dagenham on November 19 at 8 pm when it was agreed to re-form the Essex Control Board.



*Carrs Wood Hunters - National Team Champions 1954
(Left to right): Arthur Bailey, Derek Tegg, Roy Carter, Brian Moston, Alec Clark (captain),
Gordon Riley, Dewi Williams, Norman Collier*