

1956

THE CYCLE SPEEDWAY SPOTLIGHT

Issue No 2

Vol No 1



**Bringing The World Of
Cycle Speedway Into Focus**

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THE

VOLUME NO.1.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY SPOTLIGHT

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Internationals!

Full scale Internationals are to take place this year, on a triangular basis, between England, Scotland, and Wales.

Each Country will ride one Home and one Away Match every year, with the venues being reversed for the following year.

The matches to be played this year are as follows:

ENGLAND	V	WALES
WALES	V	SCOTLAND
SCOTLAND	V	ENGLAND

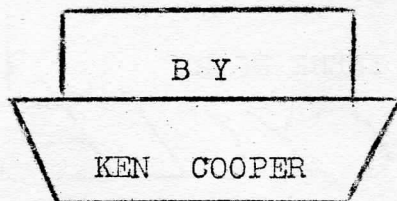
In our first issue, we hinted that such a series was likely to be arranged, and asked for your own nominations for a team to represent your native Country.

We are pleased to print elsewhere in this issue, the personal selection by Mr. James Mackie, Acting President of the Scottish Cycle Speedway Association, for a team to represent his country.

There can be no doubt, that this regular series will be the greatest boost that our Sport has received for some time.

Wales are also looking forward to this year's battles. To quote Mr. Edwards, the South Wales and Monmouthshire representative to N.A.C.S.A.,—"The Scots had better get their Haggisses well cooked, as the Dragons will be very hungry".

NOAH'S ARK



An Inter-City Representative match at Belle Vue Kangaroos track on Saturday June 25th., 1949, between Manchester and Birmingham, was keenly fought. The lead changed hands several times, and with only six heats to go, the teams were level with 41 points each. But the next two heats turned the match in Manchester's favour. Brian Moston followed Jack Pennington home, to record a maximum for the Mancunians. Then Will Green came second to Lew Grepp, to grab a lead which was slightly increased, for them to run out the winners 64-54.

MANCHESTER: J. Pennington 17, L. Grepp 16, B. Moston 13, D. Roston 7, L. Martin 5, W. Green 3, D. Newton 3, D. Maynard 0.

BIRMINGHAM: G. Burton 12, V. Halliwell 9, M. Westwood 8, B. Morgan 8, G. Silvester 7, D. Smith 5, J. Banks 3, M. Lawrence 2.

On Sunday October 2nd., 1949, the Manchester team visited Birmingham for the return match, and Birmingham were out for revenge. But it appeared that the Manchester lads were equal to the occasion, for they held a two point lead at the end of the third heat. But then the Manchester team suffered a series of mechanical mishaps, and the Birmingham side raced into a commanding lead, and although their opponents fought hard, they could not overcome the earlier disadvantages. The final score was 79-41 in favour of Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM: D. Smith 18, C. Anderson 12, V. Halliwell 11, J. Banks 10, R. Adams 8, G. Burton 8, B. Webster 7, J. Harbon 5.

MANCHESTER: L. Grepp 9, J. Pennington 9, B. Moston 7, W. Green 6, D. Maynard 6, R. Smith 3, D. Newton 1.

THE REPORTS FOR THE ABOVE TWO MATCHES WERE SUPPLIED BY MR. F. ASHTONHURST OF CHESHIRE.

From Far And Wide

PERSONAL INTERNATIONAL SELECTIONS - 1. SCOTLAND by Mr. James Mackie.

1. ALEX (DUCK) HUGHES, LINTHOUSE LIGHTINGS.

The first rider would be an automatic selection, that is Alex Hughes, who is really Scotland's Champion. He has ridden in several parts of England, and has met Brian Moston in several match races.

2. WILLIE WATSON, EDINBURGH FALCONS.

My next would be Willie Watson, clever track tactician, and a Edinburgh Test rider.

3. DAVE TAYLOR, EDINBURGH MONARCHS.

My third is Dave Taylor, Edinburgh Test rider, and one who can be depended upon to keep trying to the finish.

4. DOUG MAXWELL, LINTHOUSE LIGHTNINGS.

Fourth on my list is Doug Maxwell, Glasgow Test rider and a veteran to the Sport. He is a rider who makes Cycle Speedway look easy.

5. FRITZY FRASER, ABBEY HILL GIANTS.

Fifth is "Fritzy" Fraser, who rides hard, and never gives up. He is also a Test rider.

6. CHICK GLENDINNING, EVERARD EAGLES.

Number six is "Chick" Glendinning, another veteran Test rider who is seldom beaten, and who is well known on South of England tracks.

7. REG. TETHER, SIGHTHILL TIGERS.

Last but not one, is Reg Tether, Edinburgh Test rider, and one of Edinburgh's highest points scorers.

8. JOE LETTS, CRAIGTON EAGLES.

Last, but not least, I name veteran Joe Letts, a rider who plans his riding before every match. This would indeed be a worthy honour for Joe, who has so much good work for Cycle Speedway.

THEY'RE OFF!

On Saturday January 21st., the new Junior riders from Carrs Wood met a team making their debut in the League from Ladybarn Youth Club, Only one of these 16 riders has had previous League racing experience, and on an afternoon of steady rain, they gave a display of keenness and enthusiasm that makes one realize that there is really nothing wrong with Cycle Speedway.

Many League Matches have been cancelled because the conditions were only half as bad as this, but these riders never seemed to worry just how wet they were, nor for that matter did some of the spectators.

The racing was far from top class, but what was lacking in experience was made up for in enthusiasm.

Carrs Wood won 55-40, with M. Spray and H. Eastwick top scorers for the home riders with 12 points each, while R. Boole scored a similar number for Ladybarn.

On Sunday 22nd. January, Wilmslow Hammers opened up the 1956 season by staging an open Individual Championship for riders who were licensed for the first time during 1955.

After an afternoon of keen racing, honours went to the Junior Champion of the Manchester, Stockport & District League, B. Mc. Arthur of Blackley Flyers, who, after a spill in his first race when he collected only one point, went on to win his remaining races to finish with a total of 13 points.

Second place went to local rider, M. Mc. Donald, with 12 points, and Offerton's H. Wood was third with 11 points.

League Chairman, Mr. Ashtonhurst, congratulated all riders on their display on a heavy track, and also stated how pleased he was with the Wilmslow team for having the initiative to stage such an event.

HAS YOUR TEAM STARTED RACING FOR 1956 YET? IF SO
WRITE AND LET US KNOW.

KINGS OF HERTS

HERTFORDSHIRE "B" 52½ ESSEX REPRESENTATIVE "B" 43½

In the "B" Team match between the two Counties at Walthamstow on Sunday 15th. January, everybody was on their toes right from the start. All riders on both sides had good outings, with the lead changing hands four times in the first ten heats.

For Herts., Archie and Bell, of the local Wolves, were particularly outstanding, with Bell often team riding his partners home for a heat win. For the visitors, it was even scoring, with Tomlyn just top of the scorers.

KEN COOPER.

HERTS: BELL 11, ARCHIE 8, HOWSE 8, DOGGETT 6, JONES 6,
HANNINGTON 6, BUNCE 4, DELANEY 3½.

ESSEX: TOMLYN 8, STEVENS 7, HIBBEN 7, BOOTH 7, MCGILLIVARY 5,
JONES 4, BARKER 3, GRANT 2½.

HERTFORDSHIRE "A" 52 ESSEX REPRESENTATIVE "A" 44

The Herts "A" Team got off to a bad start, with the Essex boys taking a 5-1 in the first heat. But the home team recovered well in heat three, thanks to skipper, Greenaway, and Frazer. Heat eight proved to be the start of the Essex downfall, when Walker was excluded for touching the tapes, and Herts. went on to record a 5-1 win.

There were quite a few points thrown away needlessly by both sides, and until the teams check this fault, I can not see them winning many representative matches.

Most of the Herts. team were good in patches, while Lamacq rode well for Essex, despite an early exclusion for touching the tapes.

ROY DELANEY.

HERTS: GREENAWAY 10, FRAZER 10, BREWER 9, JEFFERY 6, TAYLOR 6,
HITCH 3, BROWN 3.

ESSEX: LAMACQ 10, WALKER 6, WOOD 6, STEVENS 6, PADGETH 5,
GOODE 5, SOUTH 2, TOMLYN 2.

DOWN

With the end of 1955, and one of the most successful seasons for Cycle Speedway in Essex, comes the announcement of the final tables for all

three Divisions of the "South Essex League".

In Division One, it was always a battle between last year's Champions, Dagenham Aces, and the West Ham Penguins. Victories came with almost monotonous regularity to both teams, but Dagenham Aces gained the League title by reason of forcing a draw at Tottenham against the Kangaroos "A" in the middle of the season. Stapleford Stars withdrew early in the season.

Surprise of the year was the form of the Kangaroos, who had many of the bigger names worried by their fast and clever riding. The acquisition of Tommy Chubb from the disbanded Dagenham Diamonds, gave them further strength, and they took advantage of this fact.

LEAGUE TABLE, DIVISION 1.

	P	W	D	L	PTS
DAGENHAM ACES	14	12	1	1	25
WEST HAM PENGUINS	14	12	0	2	24
HAWBUSH HAMMERS	14	7	1	6	15
WARWICK LIONS	14	7	1	6	15
TOTTENHAM KANGAROOS	14	6	3	5	15
WARESCOT STARS	14	3	1	10	7
WHIPPS CROSS COMETS "B"	14	3	0	11	6
LONGBRIDGE LEOPARDS	14	2	1	11	5

ES

In the Second Division, it looked like a triangular fight between Fyfield, Shelley and Ferndale, but the Gladiators won their last six matches to pip neighbour, Falcons and Demons, when they defeated Tottenham on their own track on Tottenham Marshes, in their last fixture. Ferndale Stars, after losing Gibbons and DeCoursey, and being thrashed at home by the Gladiators, faded from the limelight. Tottenham Kangaroos "B" gained their only League win, at home, at the expense of Barkingside Cobras, who, although keen, had no "big-guns" to force them to victorious habits. Altogether a very interesting Division, despite the early withdrawal of Whipps Cross "C", Warwick Lions "B", and last season's West Essex League winners, Dagenham Diamonds.

LEAGUE TABLE, DIVISION 2.

	P	W	D	L	PTS
THE GLADIATORS	10	8	0	2	16
FYFIELD FALCONS	10	7	0	3	14
SHELLEY DEMONS	10	7	0	3	14
FERNDAL STARS	10	4	0	6	8
BARKINGSIDE COBRAS	10	2	0	8	4
TOTTENHAM KANGAROOS "B"	10	1	0	9	2

Division Three was started at the beginning of the season, as an experimental Division, to encourage the junior riders in Essex, but it was not a great success due to the fact that one or two teams used several senior riders in an effort to win their League Matches. However, several close matches resulted, and several lads were discovered, who should play a big part in the future of Cycle Speedway in Essex. Foremost of these were the Brittain brothers of Fyfield Falcons "B", Arthur and Les. Their performances have already earned them several outings for Fyfield senior team.

LEAGUE TABLE, DIVISION 3.

	P	W	D	L	PTS
THE CRUSADERS	10	7	0	3	14
FYFIELD FALCONS "B"	10	7	0	3	14
FERNDAL STARS "B"	10	7	0	3	14
BARKINGSIDE BOOMERANGS	10	4	0	6	8
SHELLEY DEMONS "B"	10	3	0	7	6
ARCHWAY STARS	10	2	0	8	4

In the Essex Rounds of the National Team Championship, Dagenham Aces beat West Ham Penguins home and away, to become Essex Champions, but due to transport difficulties, had to forfeit their Inter-County match against the Herts. Champions. Warwick Lions did well early on in the Rounds, but went out "on default" in the semi-finals. Tottenham Kangaroos "A" shocked most teams, reaching the semi-finals.

Now, with the close of 1955, and the dawning of a New Year, and the publication of a new magazine on Cycle Speedway, I should like to wish all readers a "Happy and Prosperous New Year", and may 1956 see Essex the Champion County of British Cycle Speedway.

BY
RON
BULL

WAY

F E E S !

At the N.A.C.S.A. A.G.M., a few weeks ago, a great deal was said about affiliation fees.

Briefly, the two points of view were for and against making affiliation cheaper for the teams not wishing to take part in the National Competitions. Those in favour of a lower fee, held that the fee must be reduced to bring in unaffiliated teams who couldn't afford £1. Everyone has a great deal of sympathy for this point of view, but considering the perilous state of N.A.C.S.A.'s finances at the moment, it is impossible. The suggestion that a reduced fee would attract enough teams to balance the financial loss on the teams already with N.A.C.S.A. is absolutely haywire—there weren't enough new teams to do that in 1954, and the number has fallen. We would need about 50 additional teams to cover the loss.

We all feel for the junior teams who don't stand an earthly chance in the National Competitions, but dare I point out an old truth—that a sound thrashing from a first class team is much better training than an easy victory over a slightly newer bunch of novices.

One argument is that it is these junior teams which cannot raise the present fee, but my experience is against this. When I was Secretary of the S.E. London League, the teams which paid their fees most punctually were always the juniors. This was possibly because they still had enough enthusiasm not to question what "They" were going to do with their money. Whatever the reason, they always paid up N.A.C.S.A., County and League fees without a murmur.

Of course, we ran the League on a shoe-string budget, and N.A.C.S.A. and the County together took more of the fees than the League. But then it's all wrong for a League to be boasting of a large bank balance. It should just about cover itself for the year's expenses, without making an undue profit.

Might I suggest that League organisers consider cutting local fees? I know that N.A.C.S.A. has its faults, but a lot of its expenses are unavoidable due to the large distances which the officers often have to travel.

N.E. GOODDY (Miss)

THE FOCUS ON

HELLINGLEY LIONS

The Spotlight in this edition focusses on the pride of Sussex, the Hellingley Lions.

The club was formed eight years ago, has ridden under several names, but it is as the Lions that they have achieved most of their honour. They were County Champions in 1951 and 1952, and have won the League K.O. Cup, and the local R.A.F.A. shield on several occasions.

Ron Smith was 1955 County Champion, and along with the captain G. Hollában and G. Page, formed the back bone of their successful line up last season. Although the Lions are the kingpins of Sussex, they have not met with much success in the area finals. As their secretary says, "We have done well in our own County, but outside, we have not come up to the standard of others". Being aware of their shortcomings, I am sure they will rectify them in the future, and figure better in major competitions. Indeed, on a visit to London last Summer they did exceedingly well, on a track which was not easy to ride, leaving no doubt in the minds of their supporters, that they will carry their red and white colours to many a notable win this season.

VIC COWELL.

AT THE N.A.C.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON SATURDAY 14TH. JANUARY, THE "CYCLE SPEEDWAY GAZETTE" WAS ADOPTED AS THE BOARD'S OFFICIAL ORGAN.

WE REGRET THAT THERE ARE NO FURTHER COPIES OF ISSUE NO 1. OF THE SPOTLIGHT AVAILABLE.

OFFICIALS OF THE SCOTTISH CYCLE SPEEDWAY ASSOCIATION ARE AS FOLLOWS:— MR. JAMES MACKIE, ACTING PRESIDENT; MR. P. TAYLOR, SECRETARY; MR. J. DEANS, ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

SUFFOLK SCENE

Arriving at Ipswich Airport, I wandered across the landing field to a very little used corner, where, a year or so ago, some very hard fought battles were waged. For here it was that one of Suffolk's most successful teams began.

Early in 1948, a few lads built themselves a track, and very soon a new name began to get around—Ipswich Vampires.

During the next four years they gained experience and strength. In 1952, the Vampires were fielding two teams, the second team called the Aces. But this was not successful as the district was only running one League, and it was therefore decided to drop back to one team. All this time, up to 1954, the team was getting more formidable, with still the same riders. On advice of their manager, the team were wise enough to join the Priory Heath Youth Club en bloc.

Most of the credit for their many successes must be given to their manager, Freddie Friend, who, in his quiet, efficient manner, has overcome the many setbacks that all clubs encounter.

Owing to expansion to the landing ground, the club had to move to Hayman Road.

1954 came, with the Vampires getting nearly to the top. Bagley & Gorham won the Suffolk Best Pairs, Terry Abbot won the Suffolk round of the N.A.C.S.A. Individual Championship, to finish 9th. in the Finals. The Vampires forced Claydon Greyhounds to a draw in the Suffolk round of the Team Championship, but were beaten in the re-run. In the County Leagues, they could not quite make winners form, but finished the 1954 season very satisfied with themselves.

The 1955 season saw them on top. They won every major event in the County. The N.A.C.S.A. all England Individual Championship was won by Ron Bagley. The team won the Suffolk section of the County Championship, the Suffolk Individual Championship, the Deben Area League, the Bryden Individual Championship, the Suffolk Inter-League Cup, and the Battle of Britain Trophy.

All these successes have made the Vampires worthy Suffolk Champions.

CLAUDE R. JOLLY.

MANCUNIAN

THE 1956 SEASON IS UNDER WAY

The joint Annual General Meeting of the Manchester, Stockport and District, & the Lancashire and Cheshire Associations, was held in Manchester on Thursday January 12th. Even though all teams were represented, the actual attendance was a little dissapointing, with less than 50 members present. It would seem that the total number of teams in this year's League will be less than other years, but even so, the announcement that Carrs Wood have decided to split up and enter two teams this year seems to have caused a new wave of enthusiasm. Given another Summer of fine weather, there is no reason why this shouldn't be the best season ever in the Manchester, Stockport and District League.

The opening date for the League is March 3rd., which is similar to the previous two seasons, and the closing date for application to enter this year's League is January 30th., to enable all applications to be considered at the Executive Meeting on February 1st.

Previous officials, F. Ashtonhurst (Chairman), D. Moston (Vice-Chairman), and L. C. Nanfan (Treasurer), were all re-elected to their previous posts, whilst, due to the retirement of Miss M. Fielding, Miss M. Liggat was elected Secretary.

All correspondence regarding matters in Lancashire and Cheshire & Manchester, Stockport and District, should be addressed to the Secretary, at 70, Springfield Road, Gt. Gt. Cheshire.

The Executive Committee, still 9 members, was elected, and is as follows:— D. Garnett, A. Clark, K. Graham, D. Tegg, N. C. Lier, R. Carter, D. Bull, J. Yacoby, E. Deeks.

As in past seasons, the Executive Committee will meet at 8.0 p.m. on the first Wednesday in every month, at Peacock Street, West Gordon. No one else is permitted to attend without permission of the Committee

F. ASHTONHURST.

SPARE

SPINDLES.

BIRMINGHAM: It's "As you were" with the Lambeth Aces of Birmingham for 1956. Manager T. Slater, has retained all his riders, and their prospects seem bright. Fly in the ointment however, is the lack of a permanent track. Good friends and rivals, Kingstanding Monarchs, reported to have offered use of theirs. A Star transfer is expected soon.

HOLLAND: Wedding bells for Dutch Champ. Henk de Bruin, says our correspondent, The young lady is a Miss Smith from Slough, who Henk met over here in 1950. She kept up correspondence, and is now over in Hilversum.

LEICESTER: We regret to announce the death of Mr. F. Lancaster, who was for some time the Chairman of the Tracks and Stewards Committee of N.A.C.S.A.. Mr Lancaster was a regular representative to the National Board since its inception in 1950. He will be missed locally and National-ly.

HERTFORDSHIRE: Les Westwood, former Herts. Test rider, is due for demob in February. He will be linking up with his old club, Edmonton Saints, and will be seen once again during the coming season at the Montague Road track.

DEVON: A two week holiday tour has been arranged in Devon by a Scottish side during the summer months. A large bus has been hired for the trip, and the Scots. boys expect to combine business with pleasure.

SUFFOLK: Claude Jolly, of Ipswich, has asked that any teams who would like to visit Suffolk this year, get in touch with him at 22, Burlington Road, Ipswich.