BIRMINGHAM

Here in Brum, like other centres of our sport we cast our thoughts towards the new season.

During the "Lay Off" through the winter months (havent noticed much change) it was rumoured that Aldridge Hammers & Sutton Stars were doubtful starters. However both these teams made it certain at the A.G.M. that they will be operating.

Aldridge were badly hit by call-up, however they have signed on several riders and their main problem is their track in the Great Barr district, which will soon be built on.

Over at Sutton Coldfield things in the "Stars" camp did not look promising, as only two local riders were turning out. Manager Harry Loasby signed EIGHT riders from Wolverhampton, thus ensuring team racing at the Holland Road track. Well done Harry!

Kingstanding Monarchs will again field 'A' & 'B' teams in the league. Some of the older riders intend to retire after this season (so Harold Smith tells me), so some of their juniors may be promoted to the first teams. "Monarchs" hope to win their see-saw battle with the local tenants over their track.

The City's oldest club Birmingham Lions will be operated by Mr Fred Goode, only Ray Goode remains of the original riders. The rest of the riders will be selected from the two junior teams, Adderley Park and Hagley Comets.

Elmdon Bees will also be operating a junior team, to use the colours and revive the Elmdon Wasps again. The Bees will be riding several out of town clubs this season, including visits from Lindale Lions (Bradford), Knightswood Toffs (Glasgow). Also a tour of Ipswich and Torquay, not forgetting a much looked forward trip to Hellingley Lions (Sussex). The Bees are at present using the old Sheldon Boomerangs track, while waiting for their new council track.

RESULTS.

Adderley Park Pirates 59. D.Rodon 14, G.Morgan 13, P.Kiernan 9
Elmdon Wasps 49. G.Whyte 18, C.Deacon 8, M.Morrall 8.

Elmdon Wasps 45. G.Whyte 11½, M.Morrall 10½, C.Deacon 8.
Adderley Park Pirates 50. P.Kiernan 11, D.Rodon 10, K.Davenport 7

ADDRESSES.

B'HAM LEAGUE. H.Loasby, 60 French Ave., Milo Oak, Nr Tamworth.
KINGSTANDING MONARCHS. H.Smith, 41, Danesbury Crescent, Kingstanding B'ham 22c.
ELMDON BEES. N.Thompson, 90, Elmdon Park Rd, Solihull, Warwickshire

SOUTHERN NEWS

Things down here have been moving very well recently with the climax to preparations for the coming season, on Friday 7th March. This was the date that the first A.G.M. of the new league was held.

It was decided, by majority vote, that the title of the new would be the Southern Counties League and four teams have enterd for same- namely, Worthing Sputniks 'A' & 'B', Hellingly Lions & Brighton Scorchers. The league will be decided on a twice home, twice away basis, giving each team 12 matches. Also on the list is a Sussex Open Invitation Cup, toinclude any team, regardless of experience. This, it is felt, will give any new team in the area a chance to taste real competition. A League Individual Competition will also be held with each team nominating 4 riders. The Control Board will meet every six weeks.

Whilst thinking in terms of the Open Invitation Cup, I hear from a reliable source that the old Fishergate Flyers may be reformed for this competition. Riders eligible for same would be:- Johnnie & Geoff Patterson, Roger Brazier, Derek Goddard, Terry Burtonshaw and Brian Makepeace(all Brighton Scorchers) and Dan Nicholls(Worthing) who has recently decided to return to the sport of bumps and bruises. Young Terry Burtonshaw was the "Flyers" mascot in days gone by and now at fourteen intends to try his hand at the big stuff.

The new Chairman of the League is Police Constable Peter Kearns of Worthing. Although he has yet to see a match, he has shown a terriffic amount of intrest in the Worthing club, including the hiring of a bulldozer to clear the site allocated by the local Council. I am sure he will make a big success in his new position.

Hellingly Lions intend to to use the league as a training ground for their juniors and will ride their fixtures when their more important North London League fixtures permit. It is hoped that they may be able to arrange a few evening matches to help out in this aim.

The Worthing Sputniks are getting on famously with their new track and hope to open at Whitsun. It is hoped that Wembley Hawks will provide the opposition, as they have stated that they would like to tour Sussex tracks at that time. If this materialises they may also open the "Scorchers" track, though they have yet to start on the preperation of their circuit.

The first match of the season for "Scorchers" will be a

challenge fixture at Hellingly on April 26th, when the latter have an "open" date. The Brighton boys hope to find a way round the "Lions" tricky circuit, without the burden of league points at stake. It is also hoped that their junior riders will be available to show their paces.

Many changes have taken place down here, namely the resignatio of Mr R.Carter, former manager of Mordon Pirates, from the office of manager to the "Scorchers". This vacancy will be filled by Miss P.Brazier. Change of secretary at both clubs:- Mr R.Geere of 18, Forrest Road, Worthing., takes over from Mr J.Hobden and Mr Goddard takes over the same position at the Brighton club. Mr Goddard's address is 34 Egmont Road, Hove 4., and he is also secretary to the Southern Counties League.

I hope in the next issue to report more goings on from the South and also have the league fixtures for 1958. Still I must say that all the work done by certain people here seems to have been well rewarded.

"IAT"

CLUB NEWS

TOLWORTH TUDORS

TOLWORTH ARE BACK TO STRENGTH AGAIN.

After a disastrious 1957 season, down to four riders for many matches, Tolworth emerge in 1958 with 20 riders, 12 senior, 8 junior and looking forward to the 'National'.

So far this season. although riding all matches away, we have not been beaten. Our record is:-

6 matches, 6 wins, points for 343½, points against 231½.

Although we seem to be on top of the teams that we've riden so far, we are far from satisfied. Unfortunatly the teams we have ridden have not all been up to strength, notably Weston Stars and Raynes Park Tigers. However, we are still trying to perfect our team and there are still problems to overcome.

Tolworth juniors are juniors in the true sense of the word, none having ridden on a track until this year. Having ridden only one match against another club, Raynes Park, who have a strong junior side, it was obvious that our juniors were to lose, but to quote Mrs Jones of Weston Stars, "They are the best set of juniors Ihave seen for a long time."

Any team that would like to try their luck against us should write to the address below, and supply dates etc.

Mr.D.Pearce, 135, Garth Road, Mordon Surrey.

NOTE. ALL MATCHES ON OPPONENTS TRACKS.

TOLWORTH 'A'	56.	TOOTING TIGERS	39.
White	11 (4)	Davis	15(5)
Pearce	9 (4)	Fairfoul	9(7)
Claydon	9 (4)	Cattle.D.	7(7)
TOLWORTH 'A'	64.	BECKENHAM MONARCHS	32.
Claydon	12 (5)	Jarman	6(5)
Murdon	12 (5)	Daniels	6(5)
TOLWORTH 'A'	59½	WESTON STARS	36½
White	12 (5)	Luke	10½
Murdon	12 (5)	Shaw	8
TOLWORTH 'A'	53	HAREFIELD PIRATES	43.
Murdon	12 (4)	Punter	10(5)
Little	9 (4)	Leckie	8(4)
TOLWORTH 'A'	58	RAYNES PARK TIGERS	38.
Murdon	11 (4)	Chivers.D.	10(5)
Rides	9 (4)	Bedford	7(5)
TOLWORTH 'A'	53	WESTON STARS	43
White	11 (4)	Jenkins	12(5)
Murdon	8 (4)	Luke	9(4)
Hurley	8 (4)	Betts	9(4)
TOLWORTH 'B'	33.	RAYNES PARK STARS	62.
Page	12 (5)	Gingell	14(5)
		Cross	10(4)

Figures in brackets denote No. of rides.

LANGLEY LEOPARDS

Langley have been working hard on their track throughout the winter and the bends are now much wider and the surface much improved. They will have Charlie Ross back this season and with Bren Harper due out of the army in a few weels time they will be a little stronger than last year. Big disapointments for the club are Johnny Drydens call-up and Billy Whyte signing for Harefield Pirates, both riders were expected to assist the Leopards this year.

LANGLEY LEOPARDS	41.	HAREFIELD PIRATES	55.
T.Kent	10	B.Whyte	12
J.Unsworth	10	P.Leckie	9
G.Pearce	7	D.Stonex	9
		D.Thompson	9.

SOUTHERN PREMIER

In these articles on the Southern Premier, I shall try to keep everyone informed as to what is going on in this area during the season ahead. To start with here are the officials who have been elected to the Southern Premier Control Board for 1958.

Chairman	Mr.W.Cattle	Tooting.
Vice-Chairman	Mr.P.Jarman	Beckenham.
Treasurer	Mr.J.Braden	Raynes Park.
Gen.Secretary	Mr.R.Johnson	Beckenham.
Div.Secretary	Mr.D.Cattle	Tooting.

Now here are the winners & runners up for the various competitions held during 1957.

	winners	runners up.
League.	Raynes Park Tigers.	Tolworth Tudors.
Saunders Trophy.	Sth.London Rangers.	Tooting Tigers.
Jack Hulbert Shield.	Raynes Park Tigers.	Tooting Tigers.
Chairmans Trophy.	Ditton Devils.	Raynes Pk Stars.
Ind.Championship.	P.Jarman(Beckenham)	B.Wood(Sth.London)
Junior Ind.	P.Rides (Cheam)	R.Gingell(R.P.Stars)
Southern Area Cham.	D.Chivers(R.P.Tigers)	B.Wood (Sth London)
Battle of Britain.	R.Chivers(R.P.Tigers)	R.Webb(Sth London)

Also of course League Champions Raynes Park Tigers won their way thruogh to the National Finals, where after injury to County Champion Roy Baker had handicapped them, they were beaten 47-49 by Carrs Wood Hunters.

For the 1958 season there will only 9 teams competing in the League, Tolworth Tudors have withdrawn for personal reasons while Cheam Cherokees have now disbanded.

It has been decided that the Saunders Trophy competition, normally run on a home & away basis, will now be run one match only, the luck of the draw deciding the home team.

March 9th should have seen the start of League racing, but unfortunatly a heavy fall of snow the night before put paid to any hopes of racing. Not a very good start, but heres hoping every thing will run to plan from now on.

RESULTS.

TOLWORTH TUDORS strengthened by the inclusion of several ex-Cheam riders, proved too strong for RAYNES PARK TIGERS and won easily by 58-38. A week later RAYNES PARK had North London League Champions TOTTENHAM KANGAROOS as visitors, and despite the fact that the Tigers included 3 juniors, they easily

overcame their opponents 68-28. Geoff Penniket was at his brilliant best on a heavy track, to score 14 points, while skipper Fred Lawrence (12) Dave Chivers & Derek Dorman with 10 points each gave first class support. Only Kangeroos to master the heavy going were M.Smith 8 & L.Adams 7.

South London Rangers and Tooting Tigers (they both share the Garratt Park track) held their annual opening of the season battle, with Rangers well and truely trouncing the Tigers with a 58-38 victory. Former National Champion, Brian Wood was in brill iant form, to score 14pnts, while Roy Baker 9, Terry King 8 & Pete Milton 8, provided sound backing. For Tigers only Brian Greatley with 11pnts offerd any real opposition. Afterwards it was the turn of the junior teams, who provided plenty of exciting racing before South London Hunters won 49-47 against Tooting Wildcats. For Hunters Rob Coleman (15) & Ron Smith (12) were best, while for Wildcats Tom Fox and Brian Greatly with 10 each kept the scores close.

To close this article, I would just like to say that everyone here in the Southern Premier are hoping for Test matches against North London, N.W.Middx and South Essex leagues during the course of the season.

HANTS NEWS

This year the Hampshire League will be brought up to ten teams, whereas last season the number was six. The new teams are Vickers Armstrong 'A' &'B', Bransgore Bulldogs and Tatham Tigers 'B' with last years teams; Chandlers Ford Stars, Southampton Bombers, Southampton Vikings, Southampton Gremlins, Tatham Tigers and Burley Broadsiders.

Tatham Tigers are a Dorset team, but as there isn't a Dorset league they race in the Hants league. In the next few days a Control Board official is visiting the Tigers track to inspect it. The shape and length of the track have been alterd and there is now a cinder surface.

Between now and June there is to be a future main road mark-out, it should miss the track by about 12 feet, but thats cutting it a bit fine. The Borough Surveyor has said that we may loose the track.

This years Dorset junior Individual champion will almost certainly be 15 year old Robby Frampton, while the senior rider will probably be Alan "Skid" Nippard.

ANDY BRIGHT.

CLUB NEWS (cont)

WEMBLEY ALL STARS

have been riding throughout the winter, and have had some and have some intresting matches, including a visit from Dorset club Tatham Tigers. The return takes place at Poole at Easter, after which the All Stars travel on to Devon for their annual visit to Devon, to compete against local teams. Roy Fraser who was recently married will be accompanied by his wife on this trip. 3 Wembley riders:- Dixie Dean, Keith Bristow and Brian Carter are making the trip to Holland for the World Championship

HAREFIEL

also raced Tatham Tigers recently, this was an intresting match and it was in the last 6 heats, that the Pirates pulled away to win 61-35. Following this they raced the Tatham 'B' team which consisted mainly of juniord, this was also won by Harefield $56\frac{1}{2}$-$39\frac{1}{2}$. Harefield hope to visit Southend at Whitsun and are also sending riders to the Essex Grand Prix at Easter. Riders going to Holland are Bill Punter and Roger Seymour, Mick Seymour will be going as a supporter.

WEMBLEY HAWKS

This team was only formed at the end of last year and comprises riders from the former Bushey and Wembley Tigers teams. The track is that of the latter team, although it has since been considerably lengthened and improved. A bank of earth some 4ft high had to be removed at one end, to make a complete new bend.

The opening match took place on Feb 2nd, when the Hawks entertained Wembley All Stars, losing by 12 points. This was the first of five defeats (Wembley H & A, Tottenham H & A, and Harefield A.) It wasn't until March 9th, that they recorded their first win, beating a much strengthed Warwick Lions by one point, the following week they beat a weak Edmonton Monarchs 72-36.

The team have just aquired a lock-up garage adjoining the track, for keeping bikes starting gates etc. It is hoped to purchase a small trailer for towing bikes, so that the team can have their own independant means of transport to away matches. It is hoped to tour Sussex and Leicester, and possibly Oxford and Essex, during the season, in addition to competing in the N.W.Middx league Team, with points average including bonus in brackets:-
J.Woods (12.5) J.Pinnock (10.3) R.Dewhurst (9.8) P.O'Grady (9..)
A.Axton (7.5) B.Gadsby (7.5) T.Cruse (6.0) R.Mallet (5.5)
E.Osborne (3.0)

BARNEY'S BIT

So once again the proposed Middlesex visit to Manchester has been postponed. First arranged for last October, then Easter it has again been put off. Reasons given are many and varied, but none of them very convincing. Main reason seems to be that Manchester is a long way away and the expense is great. These factors should have been considerd earlier, after all it was Middlesex who proposed the Tests in the first place, and Manchester has moved any further away, nor (by some miracle) have the train fares been increased.

It appears that a local riding stable has been using the Harefield Pirate's track for exercising their horses and so doing considerable harm to the surface. The Pirates appealed to the Uxbridge Council (who built the track) and it is believed that they are willing to make good the damage. Until this is done they will continue to use the old Uxbridge Meteors track. Harefield used this track at the tail end of last season, due to the poor condition of their own. One of the matches raced their was against Weston Stars, the match that decided the League Champ ionship, it ended in a draw and Weston became League Champions. Now this track is very similar to Westons.....If the Pirates had worked on their own track and got it fit for racing, they would have had a tremendous home track advantage, as only two Stars had ever ridden this rathet tricky track and chances are that Harefield would have won this match and so the League.... Must be a morale there somewhere.

When Cycle Speedway first started, every thing was as near as possible an imitation of real speedway; lay out of tracks, starting gates & areas, breastplates and even (at one time) crash helmets and riding boots. Both sports have changed considerably since those days and nowadays there is little connection between the two. But there is one example that we would do well to follow from our "big brother". I refer to the concrete starting grid, speedway did away with it long ago, we should do likewise. It serves no useful purpose, except that it looks pretty when it is painted with nice white lines (which isn't often.)

I see that entrants for the World Championship are dropping out already. As I see it £28 has to be paid into a Dutch bank as an act of faith, so what happens if only about 20 riders make make the trip. who makes up the difference. Remember the organ-

isers stated that the £1 entry fee will be refunded if the rider does not qualify or CHANGES HIS MIND. This in my opinion is all wrong, if a rider enters then drops out, surely he should lose hie entry fee. Not that there is any reason why a full 28 riders should not make the trip, official closing date was Jan 31st, the reason for this being that such a large entry was expected, that it was intended to run qualifing rounds, now that it is known that these won't be needed there is no reason why the closing date shouldn't be extended to early May, that way you would atract several late entrants.

Glad to see that Bricket Wood Kangeroos have at last found themselves a track, even if it isn't strictly legal. They are now entering their third season as a team, and up till now they have had to ride away matches only. During this time their manager Bob Saunders has approached about 35 local land owners, with out success. Finally in desperation, they have decided to make a track on some local common land. It is time this young team had a break, Bob is the only manager for miles around to consider Junior riders, consequently they have had to travel long distances to find suitable opponents. Now at least they have some home matches to look forward to.

The proposed Midland league, comprising teams from Birm'ham Coventry, Leicester and Wolverhampton is an excellent idea. Why doesnt someone organise a similar event for London and the Home Counties.

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EDITORS FOOTNOTE. In our last issue we stated that this magazine would in future be printed by L.D.P. duplicating, publishers of the Cycle Speedway Gazette. Agreement to this was made in a telephone conversation, but a subsequent letter to Mr Leith has so far been ignored. The result being that we have again had to print the "Star" ourselves, it is hoped that other arange ments will be made in time for the next issue. However we do make the following guarantee, Cycle Speedway Star will appear regulary, every month, throughout the coming season.

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