

BIG EVENT FOR ESSEX

Racing has already commenced in Essex; the Southend League

CYCLE SPEEDWAY

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HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

Glasgow's new team, Arden Flyers, will be managed by former Glasgow President James Mackie; Mr. Mackie is very well known in the sport and we all welcome his return. The Flyers will race on the old Redhill Circuit. I had a look at the track recently and they certainly look like having their work cut out to have it raceworthy for the start of the season.

Knightwood, who open the season with a visit from Craighton Eagles on the 12th April, are anxious to sign Jim Deans, ex-Linthouse Lightenings and Govan Rams star. At the moment Jim is an unknown quantity for he did not race last season but the Toffs are hoping for great things from him.

Another boost for the sport in Glasgow will be a televised broadcast from the "Scottish Schoolboys Exhibition" which takes place later this month. Joe Letts and myself expect to make history at Easter when we fly down to Southend for the Essex Grand Prix; surely we must be the first riders to fly to a match? John Gillies.

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THREE TEAMS — ONE TRACK!

Leicestershire riders should be able to look forward to their best ever season this year although there only seems to be three confident starters in the league. The teams, Aylestone Aces, Belgrave Red Devils and Leicester All Stars, will all be using the council track at Slater Street, Leicester, which will save them nightly travels to the far corners of the county.

The track has had a great amount of money spent on it by the Control Board and this should be appreciated by the riders; the Board themselves seem more alert and have already decided to reimpose some of the lacking discipline, especially amongst the younger riders.

Many challenge matches have already been arranged, mostly by Leicester All Stars; the Stars have spent the Winter fund raising with the result that they have ordered new breastplates, new badges and possibly a shed in which to store their equipment. Chris Lynn.

NOTABLE VISITOR

New faces in the Middlesex League this season will be Tolworth Tudors "A" and "B" teams and a team from the Whipps Cross Comets club; the league will probably number eight teams with the other entries coming from Harefield Pirates, Langley Leopards, Wembley All Stars, Wembley Hawks and last year's champions, Weston Stars. League racing commences on the 13th April.

The league's A.G.M. was held recently at the Hammersmith Town Hall; notable visitor was the deputy Mayor of Hammersmith. New secretary of the league is Vic Merner, manager of Wembley All Stars. Vic takes over from Pete Leckie, who has held the post for the past ten years and was a founder member of the Association.

Roger Seymour.

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No League Racing for Wolves

Everything is ready for a new cycle speedway track at Wolverhampton, except the money to build it, reports Harold Smith.

This is one of numerous municipal projects it was hoped would be in progress this year, but which have been held up by the credit squeeze. A site at Aldersley Playing Fields had already been surveyed and approved by the Parks Committee.

Mr. W. Mervyn Law, M.B.E., the Borough Engineer and Surveyor told me: "Unfortunately it was just at that time that the full impact of the 7% Bank Rate on the Corporation's finances was felt, and they have been making a very thorough review of all Capital Works proposed for this year, with a view to the postponement of any that are not absolutely essential, and the cycle speedway scheme is one of those which has been deferred." The scheme will be re-examined in November.

A "full house" at the Wolverhampton and District Association's A.G.M. heard that since no further news had been received from Blakenhall, Low Hill, Pelsall or Stow Heath, it would not be possible to revive league racing this season.

However, a full programme of challenge events was proposed for Wolverhampton's Inkerman Street circuit and the 5-man Committee elected to supervise racing arrangements consists of Messrs. T. Blest (Secretary), P. Pedley (Treasurer), G. Langston (Riders' Representative), P. Blackwell and J. Bradley. It was agreed that Wolverhampton would enter the Midland League and also that every assistance would be given to riders to enable them to secure additional rides with neighbouring Birmingham League clubs.

A Spring Cup local derby between New Cross Pirates and Walsall Meteors will open the Wolverhampton season. New Cross will visit Leicester's Aylestone Aces on Easter Tuesday, April 8th, and two days later will play hosts to Yorkshire's Lindale Lions. A 2-day stay in Coventry is planned for Whitsuntide.

MONARCHS/COBRAS JOIN FORCES

One of the Southern Premier League's most successful teams last year were Raynes Park Tigers. In addition to finishing runners-up in the National Team Championship they won the S.P. League and the Jack Hulbert Shield; outstanding as individual riders were Dave Chivers and Fred Lawrence. Recently they met North London League winners Tottenham Kangaroos, and after a hard battle run out winners by 68 points to 28.

Other S.P. teams in the news are Beckenham Monarchs and Thornton Heath Cobras who have recently amalgamated. Ron Johnson, who becomes general manager, hopes to keep both tracks, and teams, running. The Monarchs will again be led by veteran star Pete Jarman and are hoping to have Dave Davison back in the saddle following his National Service.



NEW NATIONAL BODY FORMED

Many well known personalities were present at a recent meeting called with a view to forming a new governing body. It is proposed to call this body the British Cycle Speedway Federation and although no final steps have yet been taken it is thought that at least two areas are interested in the new venture.

This magazine has undertaken not to disclose the leagues represented at the meeting, but we can give you some idea of the set up. It is proposed to split the country into three regions—the South, the Midlands and the North; each region will be responsible for its own administration and individual leagues will be given self-determination. Affiliation fees would be lower than the present £1 charged by N.A.C.S.A. and providing enough entries are forthcoming it is hoped to stage an individual championship during this year.

As more information becomes available we shall let you know, meantime any areas who wish for more information on the venture are invited to write to the B.C.S.F., c/o this magazine—all letters will be forwarded unopened to the secretary of the organisation planning the Federation.

Dave Stevens.



The rumour of teams operating in the Shipley and Menston areas of Yorkshire has now been definitely denied by Ian Thomas, Kirkthorpes new signing. However Ian hopes to stage some open meetings at Menston during the season using league riders. With several of their top riders signing for Lindale, Bradford's only team, Grange Aces, have been forced to disband.

Birmingham Star Marries

The past month has been notable for a remarkable increase in enthusiasm amongst the Aldridge Hammers and manager Ken Myring now proudly announces that the club, which was on the brink of collapse at the turn of the year, will enter two teams in the Birmingham League.

Following the retirement of Malcolm Holland, captaincy of the senior team has been passed to hard-riding, Yorkshire-born John Heaton who possesses the right qualities of leadership to mould the Hammers into one of the League's strongest combinations this term. Terry Blest, again riding on loan from Wolverhampton's New Cross Pirates, has been entrusted with the job of organising the newly-formed second team. New signings include Garry Langston, loaned from Walsall Meteors, Richard Martinali and Pat Parton (Aston Boys' Club) and Aston's former top pointsman, Barry Hewlett, who has been persuaded to try a "comeback".

The signatures of the A.B.C. riders were quickly obtained when it became known that the club did not intend to continue with its cycle speedway section.

The loss of Aston, pioneers in introducing cycle speedway to Boys' Clubs, will be bitterly regretted although the sport has gained an able administrator in Malachy Brady. It is also gratifying to know that the effervescent Mr. Brady has succeeded in arousing interest in cycle speedway in other Boys' Clubs, from whom there may be some very good news within a month or so.

Nothing further has been heard from Balsall Heath, but Lions' Ewart Edwards made news on March 8th when he married Miss Beryl Rice at Quinton Parish Church. Beryl has been Ewie's No. 1 fan since they met six years ago, and she has travelled the length and breadth of the country to see him ride. Here's wishing them every happiness!

In a challenge match, Elmdon Bees (J. Elmer 13, M. Morrall 9, M. Rose 9, G. White 8) defeated Adderley Park Pirates (D. Roden 12, P. Kiernan 7) by 54—42. Pirates' Paddy Kiernan notched a maximum 15 points to head the scorers in an individual event at Hagley Comets' track.

Harold Smith.



One of Suffolk's premier teams, Kesgrave Panthers, hope to make visits during the season including Southend, Tottenham, Edmonton and Bricket Wood. Teams wishing to race the Panthers should contact their assistant secretary, Mr. A. Rookyard at 824 Foxhall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

ENGLAND v. SWEDEN THIS SEASON

Cycle Speedway is fast becoming an International Sport; two months ago this magazine was proud to publish the first full account of racing in Australia and now it gives us great pleasure to announce that Swedish riders will be seen in England during 1958.

A recent letter from Mr. Karl-Eric Holm, leader of Stockholm club Niokarna (the Hawks), says that he hopes to bring the full Swedish Test Team to England in August for International and club matches and hopes for a return in Sweden during 1959. It is also expected that two Swedish riders will make the trip to Essex over the Easter Holidays when they will be competing in the Essex Grand Prix, and an International Best Pairs Championship. Dave Stevens.

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One of the sports most popular riders is DIXIE DEAN (left), captain of Wembley All Stars. "Dix" first started riding with South Harrow Greyhounds in 1948 and has been with Wembley for the past four years. In 1956 he finished runner up in the National Individual Championships; last year he took part in the trials for the England team and rode several times for the Middlesex Test Team.

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Another "old timer" making a comeback to the sport is Stan Leeds, former manager of West End Wanderers (North London). Stan has now moved to Tilbury (Essex) and has taken over as treasurer of Thurrock Stars, who hope to enter the South Essex League this year. The Stars have a track site at Charringtons Playing Fields and are now working against the clock to have it ready for an April opening.

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