

Sat. Feb. 7th. 1959

Edited by John Leith.
64, Tonbridge Road, Coventry.

BERKS. AWARD DANCE

On Saturday January 31st., the Bucklebury village Hall was the scene of the annual get-together and award presentation of the Berkshire Cycle Speedway Association. Organised for the first time by the Bucklebury Robins club, riders, officials, supporters came from all parts of the County to make up a hall capacity of over 200.

Music for dancing was provided by the Gay Trio from Theale, and games were introduced for the younger and non-dancing visitors.

The highlight of the evening came with the presentation of the awards won during the 1958 season. For many years the presentation of the awards has been made by Mrs. Norman Bragg, wife of the County President. It was unfortunate that illness prevented her from doing so this year, but in her absence a very charming and popular substitute was Mrs. Baldwin, wife of the Control Board Chairman. Much cheering greeted each team and individual as they went up to collect their cups and medals, and none greater than when the popular captain of Hungerford Panthers led his team up to collect the magnificent Bragg Trophy. The Panthers also received certificates for being County Champions in the National Team Championship.

A barometer was presented to Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Gower in appreciation for all they had done for cycle speedway in the county for many years. Mr. Gower said that although personal reasons had forced him to recently resign as chairman of the Control Board, he hoped that in the not too distant future he would again be able to take a more active part in the sport he loved so much.

Dancing and games continued until 11.30 p.m. and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very enjoyable and successful evening to a close.

AWARD WINNERS

Senior Individual = A. Warwick (Wallingford). Runner-Up = K. Worlock.
Junior Individual = B. Dolton (Thatcham). Runner-Up = D. Caister.
Bragg Trophy = Hungerford. Runners-Up = Wallingford.
St. Johns Cup = Thatcham. Runners-Up = Wallingford.
Jordan Cup = D. Caister (Wallingford). County Badge Winners = M. Cooper,
B. Geater, K. Worlock, A. Cox, R.
Junior County Badge Winners = Mitchell, A. Barratt (H'ford).
R. Jordon, P. North, B. Ponsford, B. Shapley (W'ford), T. Clark.
(H'ford), M. Watts, K. Hutchins, (Bucklebury).
K. Prout, D. Lyford, B. Dolton (T'ham).
P. Walsh (Bucklebury).

HANTS & DORSET

With the new season only a few weeks away, most Tatnam riders are making sure that their machines are in good order. Andy Bright recently spent a large amount of money on accessories, and so have I. Davey Tarr, the 1958 Dorset Champion, has recently had his frame resprayed, and believe it or not he takes it to bed with him to save it from being scratched! Davey tells me that he will soon have to sign on for his national service. If he goes, it will be very bad luck for Tatnam as he is the mainstay of the team.

Burley Broadriders will not be in action this season. Although no reason has been given, it is locally thought that lack of riders and the track being too far away for most riders seems to be the main reasons for their disbanding.

Vickers Viscounts are still without a track in Bournemouth, but rumour has it that they have been offered the use of the old Muddford Hawks track at Christchurch. Lets hope this will be to their liking, as a nearer one seems to be out of the question at the moment.

R. NICHOLSON.

NORTH KENT & EAST HAM

The "Fifteens Association" have already begun planning for the Annual Whit Monday Fair and Fete. The Cycle Speedway events will probably consist of a Kent v Essex select match followed by a Kent League match between Cray Tigers and Welling Wings.

To those who wonder at the name "Fifteens", the explanation is that it was formed after the war by Orpington Air Raid Wardens of Post 15, with the aim of raising money for charities.

Less riders than expected turned up for the latest Welling Wings meeting, probably due to the freezing weather. After Scratch Races and Handicaps, Dave Hoyt recaptured the Match Race from Terry Lucas and then showed how much he is improving by beating challenger Brian Lucas 2-0.

Congratulations to East Ham Stars' John Halloran, who now has a son to be named Mark. Incidentally John began in Cycle Speedway as far back as 1945, with the never to be forgotten Beckton Aces.

On Sunday East Ham were visited by Tottenham Kangaroos, and a tip-top match ensued. Stars piled up the points at first, but in the last six heats, Kangaroos finally mastered the tricky circuit and scored three 5-1 wins.

Nobby Dunn, home on leave, unselfishly refused to displace the juniors and in fact stewarded.

EAST HAM 64½ T.Walker 15, K.Barrett 13, J.Barrett 12, D.Stitchman 12.
TOTTENHAM 43½ W.Bracey 11, L.Adams 11, C.Hill 7, D.Wills 7.

SOUTHERN PREMIER

At a recent Control Board meeting, plans were finalised as to what competitions would take place in 1959. On the menu, apart from normal league racing, is the Saunders Trophy, which will be run on a one match only knock-out basis, with the luck of the draw deciding the home team. The Jack Hulbert Shield, the method of running being as yet undecided, and an Individual Championship for both Senior and Junior riders complete the events.

Teams who will be competing in the Southern Premier League 1959 are :- Beckenham Monarchs, Edmonton Monarchs, Hellingly Lions, Raynes Park Tigers, Raynes Park Stars, South London Rangers, South London Hunters, Thornton Heath Cobras and Tooting Tigers.

Ditton Devils have, as reported in recent issues, now disbanded, but with nine teams, some excellent racing seems assured in the coming season.

It is also hoped that one or two test matches can be arranged, as last years matches against the now defunct North London League provided some top class racing.

First Southern Premier clubs to get down to some serious racing in preparation for the new season are the Raynes Park Tigers and Stars, who in the next few weeks will be entertaining teams from the Middlesex League, as well as from our own league.

Among the teams due to visit the Raynes Park track are Edmonton Monarchs, Tolworth Tudors, Tottenham Kangaroos and Wembley All Stars.

There has been very little news from other S.P. clubs regarding team strengths, but impressions gained from talks with managers are that new clubs Edmonton and Hellingly will be quite strong in 1959.

TONY JONES.

MIDDLESEX

At the League AGM held at Hammersmith on January 27th. the following Board was elected.

Chairman = Mr.R.Seymour. League Secretary = Mr.V.Merner. Asst.Sec = Mr.B.Gadsby. Treasurer = Mr.M.Maitland. Recorder and Press = Mr.R.Saunders. Test Organiser = Mr.B.Gadsby.

Sub-Committee = Messrs. B.Punter, G.Pearce, T.Sear, R.Seymour, M.Maitland, R.Saunders.

Tottenham Kangaroos were accepted into the league and I hope they do well. It is hoped to arrange test matches this season, including junior. The Grand Prix will again take place over the August Bank Holiday - invitations will be sent out shortly. Two protests were dealt with ; Tolworth v East Ham and Wembley Hawks v Whipps Cross. In both cases the matches will be re-run (K.O.Cup).

Presentations were made to league winners Tolworth Tudors and runners-up Wembley All Stars.

This will be my last report, as from now all news will be supplied by Bob Saunders.

ROGER SEYMOUR.

SHAPLEYS VETERANS

In reply to Oxford man, Barry Shapley, here in Tolworth we have three who could qualify for a pre-1950 team, White and Claydon (1949) and old man Little (1946), and if he would include the 1950 season too, I would be eligible. So if you want them Barry, let me know, and I'll get them over for you.

While in Oxford I would like to praise Baskerville Hounds for the afternoons entertainment they gave us. After the matches we enjoyed a good tea and general get-together. Oh for a few more clubs like them, ours included.

D.PEARCE.

COMETS *Individual Championship*

This week, Comets held their Individual Championship to decide who would be the holder of the Trophy for 1958. The match should have taken place at the end of the year, but weather conditions did not permit it. The match was raced on frozen ground and under flood-lights.

It seemed as if heat 3 would be a pointer to the winner, with Taylor, Brown and Hemsley all meeting each other in this race. Taylor was away first followed by Hemsley, but on the third lap, Hemsley fell leaving Brown to take second place. Taylor went on to record two more wins, but dark horse of the meeting, Ted Sear, rode unbeaten and the decider came in heat 15, when Sear, with the inside berth, slipped on the icy starting gate, giving Taylor the race and the Championship for the third time. However, Sear was not finished yet as he met Brown in heat 18, which would decide runner-up position, and this time he made no mistake.

In the junior section a run off was needed between S.Gibbons and D.Hamilton. Hamilton won the toss and took inside, winning with considerable ease.

Final placings = 1st. Keith Taylor. 2nd. Ted Sear. 3rd. Johnny Brown. 4th. Eric Hemsley.

Junior Section = 1. Dave Hamilton. 2. Stewart Gibbons.

The Comets still have vacancies for riders with or without experience. Anyone interested should write to Mr.J.Brown, 13, Amesbury Drive, Chingford, E4.

LEICESTERSHIRE

At the January meeting of the Board there was an almost full attendance, the first for several months. Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting included the suspension of J.Pickering from Representative matches, which is to be continued indefinitely. It was also agreed that any Board member being absent without reasonable excuse for three successive meetings would lose his seat.

It was agreed that there would be no increase in rent to teams using the Slater St. track. The treasurers report was received, satisfaction being expressed at the healthstate of the finances. Support will be given to any moves by local organisations for the use of parks on Sundays. A stewards panel and secretary is to be formed.

ROY WRIGHT.

FLASHBACK

TO 1958

No. 4.

NORTH LONDON LEAGUE

Final League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Warwick Lions	12	6	1	5	668	624	13
Tottenham Kangaroos	12	6	0	6	655	637	12
Hellingly Lions	12	5	2	5	638	656	12
Edmonton	12	5	1	6	624	668	11

Results

	WARWICK	TOTTENHAM	HELLINGLY	EDMONTON
WARWICK		61-47 54-43	60-48 54-54	69-39 55-53
TOTTENHAM	56-51 48-60		60-48 61-47	52-56 54-53
HELLINGLY	57-51 59-49	56-52 46-61		63-45 54-53
EDMONTON	55-51 55-53	64-44 41-67	54-54 56-52	

N.L.I.L. Individual Final

W.Bracey (Tot) 13 ; L.Westwood (Ed.S) 13 ; L.Adams (Tot) 12 ; M.Smith (Tot) 12 ; M.Jeffery (Ed.M) 10 ; C.Read (war) 10 ; T.Walter (War) 9 ; R.Smith (Hel) 8 ; T.Ede (War) 7 ; T.Mobbs (Ed.S) 6 ; G.Hollebon (Hel) 4 ; P.Smith (Hel) 4 ; J.Smith (Hel) 3 ; V.White (War) 3 ; A.Jackson (Ed.S) 3 ; V.Cowell (Ed.M) 2.

How they scored in League Matches

	Pts.	+Bonus	Matches.
WARWICK			
C.Read	152	159	12
V.White	133	137	12
T.Ede	114	132	11
T.Walter	105	117	12
K.Baxter	63	77	9
A.Muncer	42	49	12
T.Gooch	20	22	6
A.Catley	10	16	2
L.Adams	11	12	4
T.Ede (Jnr)	6	9	4
J.Chalkley	6	7	8
T.Emmons	6	6	1
T.Lewis	1	1	1
T.Bonella	1	1	1
E.Hears	0	0	1

TEST MATCHES

@ Hackney
N.L."A" 63 Suffolk"A"45
N.L."B" 50 Suffolk"B"57

@ Suffolk
N.L."A"55 Suffolk"A"53
N.L."B"30 Suffolk"B"78

@Garratt Park
N.L. "A" 42
Southern Premier "A"54
North London "B" 29
Southern Premier"B" 67

@ Edmonton
North London "A" 58
Southern Premier"A" 49
North London "B" 51
Southern Premier"B" 56

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"FLASHBACK" continued

	Pts.	+Bonus	Mat.
HELLINGLY			
R.Smith	125	135	12
P.Smith	110	128	12
G.Hollebon	105	113	12
J.Smith	84	102	12
G.Page	76	83	8
R.Prodger	53	66	10
F.Parsons	52	59	12
M.Brett	33	41	11
N.Bennett	4	4	1
D.Lancaster	2	4	4
T.Richardson	2	3	1
J.Myles	0	0	1

TOTTENHAM

L.Adams	138	153	12
M.Smith	142	150	12
W.Bracey	112	126	12
C.Hill	72	77	12
T.Saunders	66	74	12
D.Wills	52	56	4
J.Thick	29	37	12
K.Bennett	23	31	10
J.Jackson	17	20	6
B.Travis	4	6	1
F.Bracey	0	0	2

EDMONTON

M.Jeffery	134	148	12
V.Cowell	92	104	11
T.Porter	84	95	12
D.Keay	73	85	11
D.Cox	59	79	8
B.Isaacs	58	76	12
P.Bowden	55	66	9
T.Elliott	46	49	8
R.Sherlock	10	12	4
M.Boddy	4	7	3
J.Healey	5	5	3
P.Brazier	4	4	2
J.Lewis	0	0	1

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP @ TOTTENHAM

1. K.Bennett (Tottenham)	13
2. J.Healey (Edmonton Mon.)	12
3. T.Lansley (Tottenham)	10
4. A.Balding (Tottenham)	8
M.Boddy (Edmonton Mon.)	8

MIKE BODDY

THE YEARS ROLL BY

by
Barry
Shapley

Yet another year goes by, they grow many, these years do (too many, Mr.Dunsford ?) and yet each one remains indelibly fixed in my mind.

1946 The start for me; and a year of 48-18 gears and Dunlop Roadstar tyres ; of people like Andy Kent and Matt Cogan of Glasgow, or Pete Bell, all stars, and great.

1947 Craigton Eagles ; Bill Ritchie ; a HOT, DRY (!) summer ; my mums bike going for a burton - and my dads !; no organisation ; the Smythe twins and Pete Bell and Tom Ellison, all stars, and great.

1948 Wet, rainy days ; chicken pox and racing ; a match in Glasgow White City grass centre ; the Red Monteith era of low gears ; Jim Sharkie and Pete Bell - all stars, and great.

1949 Gls gow beat Edinburgh five times ; Scotland lose to England ; Ritchie beats everyone ; I captain Glasgow ; I race for Stratford Hammers "B" v "A" at Janson Road ; George Sutherland, Bob Devine, Bell, Ritchie, Monteith, Ian Henderson, Wilf Newburn (Scotland's star from Yorkshire) and the fabulous Danny McGrath - all stars, and great.

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THE YEARS ROLL BY by Barry Shapley (continued)

1950 Sunny Sussex ; Edinburgh beat us twice ; Jim Freddy, Tommy Sweetman , George Wallace, Mick McBride, Jim and Bob Shields, Bell and Ritchie - all great.

1951 Ipswich Vampires ; Ron Bagley, Roy Emerson, Rocky Morgan, Vic Keeble ; leave in Glasgow ; the Bell/Shapley fiasco pairing v Lanark ; Retire. Ritchie retires ; Bell joins R.A.F.

1952 Just RAF leave racing ; 15 at Redhills Glasgow ; Ritchie, Bell and I deplore passing of "good old days" over beer in Glasgow. Alex Young and Joe Letts are stars of these days.

1953 Woodbridge Wildcats and Felixtowe Flyers ; Peter Ford, Derek Lockwood, Bagley, Ian Powell, Derek Presscott (20 a day smoker) ; Good days, nice people.

1954 Felixtowe Champion ; leave in Glasgow ; Bob Forrest, Robert Bond, Chic Glendinning - are too good for Ritchie, Bell and Shapley.

1955 Wallingford Panthers ; First view of Hungerford - a max. ; First view of Abingdon White Harts - 2 points ; Barrett, Robbins, Cox, Whale - all stars, and great.

1956 Back to Craigton ; Scotland lose to England, beat Wales ; Young, Letts, Hamish Orr, Maxwell, Alex Hughes - all stars and great. My worst ever season.

1957 Knightswood Toffs ; wet year again, but racing great ; still Orr and Co. ; Drayton Vampires ; Nice track and people ; Hoddesdon and Carrs Wood - Ugh ! ; Freddie Tidmarsh, Dave Rusher, Tony Yeates ; the Nationals - Tegg, Moston, Blackwell - all stars and very great ; Floodlights.

1958 Wallingford Panthers ; Alan Mundy, George Warwick , Ken Worlock, Berks. Final ; Cowley Eagles- 8 riders to 32. Stars - Sutherland, Elliott, Hudson, Rowlands. Next Years stars - Mullett, Gammon, Winters.

Great racing ahead - Carry on 1959. All strength to NACSA and Oxford.

BARRY SHAPLEY.

FOR NORTHERN NEWS :-

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BULLETIN ^{6d.} _{monthly}

From:

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SOUTH ESSEX

As talk invariable does, it got round to deciding what we were going to do about next season. It was at a recent Control Board meeting in South Essex, and these were ideas put forward by various members in an effort to increase local cycle speedway, and to boost it's popularity as well.

- 1..... That the present teams of 8 riders split next season into teams of four riders, thus doubling the number of teams, also allowing various odd riders an easy chance of collecting in a foursome and thus gaining regular racing. This idea did not gain a lot of support in general.
- 2..... That the present teams race only in various local cups versus each other next season, and that the South Essex League be abandoned for a trial season, allowing all clubs more chance to compete in friendlies versus distant clubs. Another idea not greatly supported.
- 3..... That a cycle speedway school be set up where experienced riders make themselves available to train and coach youngsters in the arts of the sport, during the winter and spring, thus having them ready for competitive racing by the start of the 1959 season. This idea was taken up by all, and Ron Gibbons and myself will attempt it. We will contact the local Whipps Cross Comets with the view of using their track and possibly their newly installed floodlighting for the School. If we get the "go-ahead" we shall start early in the year.
- 4..... That the South Essex clubs contact the teams in Colchester and Norwich with the idea of forming an Eastern Counties League in 1959. The Board generally thought this a good idea as far as seeing new tracks and new faces was concerned, but it was pointed out that the involved high travelling expenses would deter and new and hard-up clubs, thus reducing the active number of clubs in the area.
- 5..... That the South Essex League be reformed for 1959, but with a single new rule upon riders. That no team competing to contain more than 4 riders with 2 years experience in racing. This would make all teams use juniors in their clubs and increase the teams, as several clubs would thus have enough senior riders for two or more teams. This idea was well supported, and will probably go along with the idea concerning the School. If this idea comes into force, new teams are almost certain, and juniors will come into their own.
- 6..... That a town league be set up, similar to the successful league in the Midlands, with possibly South Essex, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Colchester as the competitors. Another well supported idea. All in all, a very constructive meeting.

What think the readers ?

Ron Bull.

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