AUSTRALIA

The Annual Test Match between the C.C.S., O.V.S., and E.S.K. was postponed from 17th. Jan. to 28th. Jan. because of the weather. It wasm't raining - - - it was 110° F. in the shade !!!

The match was held on the Northfield (O.Y.S.) track. This was the first of the now regular meetings under lights at Northfield.
SCORES : C.C.S. 46 O.Y.S. 32 E.S.K. 7.

Although Green, Schammall and Lumsden (All O.Y.S.) were three of the best riders, they were beaten as a team by a better balanced C.C.S. combo. The E.S.K. riders just never seemed to really get moving, and were never a danger.
Best riders for each team =
C.C.S. = Ward 10, Hosking 10. O.Y.S. = Green 11, Schammall 7.
E.S.K. = Belanich 2.

The trophy for this event was a cup presented by "Joe Blow", racing name of Gordon Schubert, a speedcar driver who is very interested in Cycle Speedway.

On Wednesday night, February 11th, the S.Australian Individual Championship will be held. I think the winner will be either Ward, Green or Schammall.

RONNY FERGUSON.

HORSPATH HAMMERS

HORSPATH RIDERS AVERAGES 1958 = Mick Grant 12.8. Eric Butler 10.0 Doug Califano 9.6. Fred Tidmarsh 9.0. M.Cull 7.8. M.Honey 7.2. S.Barber 5.6. N.Hanks 5.0. P.Denmark 4.9. N.Berry 4.6. B.Selwood 3.3 G.Pithers 2.1. R.Plested 2.0.
Match Record = Matches 18. Won 15. Drawn 1. Lost 2.

We have signed 20 riders for this season, and we hope to persuade some of the 1956 Eastside League winning side out of retirement. Only two of that line-up are still riding.

The Hammers intend to enter a senior and junior team in the Oxford League for 1959. Captain for senior team = M.Grant. Captain for junior team = N.Berry.

M. GRANT.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Should anyone have difficulty in obtaining their copy of "Cycle Speedway Gazette", a postal order for 2/- pays for 3 issues plus postage. (6d. plus 2d. postage per issue.) Send direct to the Gazette offices, Your copy will then be delivered every week direct.

AROUND "BRUM" with "Brummie"

The Birmingham League this year will consist of two Divisions.
DIV. 1. = Aldridge Hammers, Birmingham Lions, Elmdon Bees, Sutton Stars, Hagley Comets, Kingstanding Monarchs, Whitley Stars.
DIV. 2. = Birmingham Lions, Chadwick End Pirates, Elmdon Wasps, Junior Monarchs, Walsall Meteors and possibly Quinton Racers.

* *

League Treasurer and NACSA Auditor Pete Dorman expects to be a father in two weeks time. Harold Smith is said to have entered the Junior Monarchs into the League competition on the strength of the forthcoming addition to the worlds population !

* *

Closing date for entry into the Birmingham League was February 16th. Whitley Stars expect to start their league fixtures a fortnight later. Birmingham Board members please note !

* *

Elmdon riders have been indulging in gating practice over the last two weekends. They have decided to live up to the reputation theyseem to have aquired. Because of this, a rider was sent to buy some strong line for manipulating the starting gate. On asking for the merchandise, the rider was calmly asked by the ironmonger "What do you want it for ? A ferret line ?"

* *

Chadwick End Pirates have almost completed their track which has an ash surface. It is about 100 yds. long, with extremely tight bends. Being situated alongside the main Birmingham-Warwick Road, matches should attract good crowds. Most of the side are local farmers and from what we have been told, must be very fit. They take great delight in following local fox-hunts - - - ON FOOT !

* *

Popular Monarch and English International Gerry "Sweeney" Kean has retired from the Cycle Speedway scene. While his club hope he will change his mind, he seems determined to stick to his decision, and has given his bike away.

* *

Another Monarch who is said to have retired is Willie Evans. He has a speedway machine for some time now and is to be given bookings at Coventry next season.

* *

Birmingham Lions are still bringing old riders out of retirement in an effort to strengthen themselves for their 1959 goal - - the National Team Championship. Latest recruit is Colin Fogg, the former Coventry rider who rode for the Lions back in 1955, retiring in that year. Could be that Colin's former buddy, Norman Thompson had something to do with the signing. Norman rode for Lions during the latter half of last season.

* *

Terry Blest recently claimed that with 5 teams available, a Wolverhampton League will be formed this season. I hope this is true - - - but I seem to remember similar stories this time last year !

"BRUMMIE"

A

MANCHESTER

At the A.G.M., the Chairman expressed his disappointment with the 1958 season which had been nowhere as good as the previous one, although he stated it was by no means the worst. He said the highlight of the season was our contact with Wakefield and he hoped there would be more pleasant matches with them.

The Treasurers report was favourable with the XMAS DRAW being a great success. The following officers were elected = Chairman = F.Ashtonhurst. Vice-Chairman = B.Moston. Treasurer = V.Hinchcliffe. Secretary = M.McDonald. Press Officer = J.Mottershead. Executive Committee = V.Marsland, N.Collier, C.Holmes, R.Betts, J.Darling, C.Brooke, D.Lawler, J.Wilson, T.Simms.

* *

The 1959 season will open the first week end in April with our friends from Yorkshire taking part in all competitions. The Handicap Trophy, which was started two seasons ago, has been dropped for the coming season.

* *

At Easter, a visit from Cowley Eagles is expected. For a number of seasons we have been disappointed with teams changing their minds at the last moment. Let's hope this does not happen this time and the Eagles have an enjoyable tour.

* *

During the last season, a number of teams lost their tracks and it is hoped that by April all of them will be settled in their new homes. Gorton have been working hard on their track, but Longsight, who have had their site for a few months, do not seem to be keen on hard work. It was agreed at the February meeting of the Executive Committee that if the track is not finished by the commencement of the season, Longsight would not be admitted into the League.

J. D. MOTTERSHEAD.

NACSA TRACKS AND STEWARDS *Committee*

The Tracks and Stewards Committee of NACSA intend to call a meeting early this year of all NACSA registered Stewards at a central point, to discuss and interpret the racing rules. The time and place of this meeting will be notified later.

If anyone wishes to become a NACSA Steward for 1959, please send a postal order for 2/6d. to J.K.Leith, 64, Tonbridge Road, Coventry. This 2/6d. fee is used to cover all stewards with insurance to, from and during a Cycle Speedway match, in addition to enabling the Committee to be self supporting in regard to postage etc.

County Boards submitting applications en bloc are requested to give their opinion on grading.

CONTROVERSIAL CORNER

by RON BULL

I have been approached by the Editor of the "Cycle Speedway Gazette" to write a series of articles on our sport that might arouse a little feeling amongst it's readers and followers, with the idea of getting more riders interested in the other side of Cycle Speedway.

The first of these articles I have decided to devote to the title of "England" ; meaning the team that cycle speedway looks to to represent our mother country, and bring to light a few of the many points that riders and officials alike have spoken of from time to time.

1. .."England". I think, first and foremost, that both NACSA and the BCSF should get together on this subject, for in what other sport either amateur or professional, does a team labelled "England" get selected only from a part of the entire sport ? Contact too, the areas that belong to neither of these organisations - let the title of "England" be rightly so. Let me make it clear that I do not condemn the attitude of NACSA for calling their side "England"; but for them Internationals may still have been a thing of the past, and not an annual affair. The next point I have is that we should have a SENIOR and a JUNIOR "England". Why ? Well, isn't the massacre of the Swedes a good example ? And had "England" met the Dutchmen when they were in our country, that would have resulted the same. I say that the English riders on their own tracks are unbeatable by any known county at the present time. Therefore, a Junior side could have been selected of first-rate youngsters that would have given a better meeting. By all means, if you want to, label it "Junior England", but for heavens sake, let us have it. Another couple of internationals like that and we shall lose what few supporters and spectators we have. Don't forget, we have plenty of notice of what these other national teams arelike, for the Dutch, the Scottish and the Swedes have all partaken in club matches here before they meet our national side !

Thirdly, the highly controversial question of teams of English riders travelling overseas. This has long been a sore point. Until our sport is in a sound enough financial position to pay for it's riders to travel abraod, and I do not mean to Scotland, but places like Holland and Sweden, England will have to rely on only Home internationals. NOW THINK HARD ON THIS ..... the Dutchmen did not field their best side when they came over here a couple of years back, but - THEY CALLED THEIR TEAM HOLLAND ; the Swedish authorities DID THE SAME with the team they brought over, They ADMITTED that they had BETTER CLASS RIDERS in their own country, but that the lads COULD NOT AFFORD TO COME, nor could their organisation afford to pay for them. Yet the English authorities REFUSE TO ALLOW their travelling teams to represent their country ! Time after time, this has happened and ALWAYS they end up JUST AS A TRAVELLING GROUP without official sanction or recognition. What does it MATTER if England loses occasionally ? As long as the lads ride their best, what more can we ask, and at least it would show that the English are not "got-to-win-at-all-costs" types. If that party goes to Holland this summer, I shall be the first to crusade for it's official sanction, for the purposes of international matches there. Who would say otherwise ?
DO YOU AGREE ???

LEICESTER

It has now come to racing on ice in Leicester ! After several weeks of deep mud or deep snow, we had at last a week end when the ground was frozen hard with just a light covering of frost and snow.

Journeying hopefully to Jean Drive, I found several hardy types who were making the most of this chance to get a ride. The going was slippery and spills frequent. I borrowed a steed but soon gave up this unaccustomed exercise. Work on the track, however, is still at a standstill, with the surface bone hard.

* *

It seems as though the rumours about the Blackbird Monarchs track could be well founded. I had a look at the site and found that tipping and leveling for a new building was going on within 20 yds. of the track. If it extends much more towards the north, there will be no track !

ROY WRIGHT.

FREE FOR ALL

YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM : Vic Duffy, 19, Exning Road, Canning Town, E.16.

Dear Sir,

Although not wishing to start another 'slanging' match, I must reply to some of Derek Pearce's comments in this week's "Gazette".

Let me assure Mr.Pearce we have as good a collection of tools as most clubs, also a small roller. Derek says the following statements were made by a person or persons.

A. "Is there a match?". B. "You can't help to clear the track" (in a very unfriendly manner). C. "We haven't any tools anyway."

Now. "A". All my riders knew about the match. "B". They are mainly a friendly crew. "C" They all know where the toolshed is.

Are you certain, Derek, that the person who made these statements has anything at all to do with the Stars ? I admit that Joe Bennett (Secretary) and myself were, unavoidably late, for which we apologise, but when we arrived, you said nothing about this persons statements to us. You merely said that the majority refused to ride.

Also, some of us had put down cinder on the bad patches early that morning, and as you say, cinder was piled at neat intervals round the track (well at least something looked tidy to you).These neat piles were to be spread and rolled <u>immediately prior to the first race</u>, but never once did you mention that providing some work was done to the track your team would race. I know that you and two others were prepared to ride, and all credit to you, but your other riders wanted perfect conditions. When I informed the Middx. C.B. I suggested that if Tolworth require perfect conditions, they <u>should not enter a winter competition.</u>

EDITOR : I think that both gentlemen have now made their point,and nothing further on this subject will be accepted for publication.

MIDDLESEX

It seems that I shall be Middlesex Reporter for a little longer, as Bob Saunders is not yet ready.

Last Sunday, a depleted Harefield side took on Tolworth in a friendly. The Uxbridge track started to thaw on the bends, leaving puddles. From the start, it was obvious that Tolworth were on form, and fast-gating Pete Page scored a 15-point max. Tolworth finally won 57-39. Only Brian Robinson 12, and Bill Punter 11, were able to hold them.

After the match, the Harefield Match Race Championship took place the first two challengers were Brian Robinson and Bill Punter. The first race was won by Bill Punter, but in the second the tables were turned, making it 1-1.

In the decider, Punter gated round Robinson, and went on to win. The next challenger is Bren Harper.

Wembley All Stars match at Tottenham was cancelled, so they had a football match instead. All Stars won 7-5.

ROGER SEYMOUR.

FLASHBACK TO 1958 No. 6.

BRINKWORTH PIRATES

Brinkworth Pirates started the season with wins home and away against Swindon, but for some reason their mid-season form lapsed and they could never regain their best form. Four riders reached the County Final, Chesterman finishing runner-up.

D.PELL. Experience gained at Cleverton helped him. Fast gater. Collected many exclusions for touching tapes, but still top points scorer. Qualified for County Final. Rode for County v Berkshire.

G.CHESTERMAN. Second highest scorer. Hard rider to beat once in front. Forceful rider from behind. Highest scorer for County v Berks Juniors. Second in County Final.

M.EDWARDS. Steady and very consistent. Rather overshadowed by the former pair. Reached County Final. Reserve for County team.

J.MERRETT. Youngest rider in club. Very fast gater. Rode well in County Final.

P.PARSONS. Very hard trier, but slow gating handicaps him.

C.STEVENS. Slow gater. Always tries hard.

D.BUTCHER. Gained useful experience.

A.HEAL. Rode well in his only match.

D.LAW. Tries hard, but rather erratic.

League record = Matches 12. Won 5. Drawn 1. Lost 6.

Challenge = Matches 4. Won 2. Lost 2.

R. H. JACKSON.

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A FIRM ORDER IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN A CHANCE COPY !!! ORDER N O W !!!

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