ROUND-UP

There is a move afoot to amalgamate the Essex County Control Board with the South Essex Control Board. No decision has yet been taken.

Maurice Maitland is the new manager of Harefield Pirates. Brian Robinson is now captain, Bill Punter is vice-captain, and Roger Seymour is secretary. Harefield hope to enter two teams into the League.

A tour of Holland in August is being organised by Harold Smith and Roger Seymour. People interested should write to either of them. Addresses ? - Mr.Smith, 41, Danesbury Crescent, Kingstanding, Birmingham 22c. Mr.Seymour, 36, Melthorne Drive, South Ruislip,Middx.

The management of Craigton Eagles issued diplomas to all their 1958 riders as gratitude to them for Craigton's seventh league win.

The Eagles meet every Friday evening in Morrie Allans house, where the senior members (mainly Joe Letts) conduct lectures on team tactics and track craft. These lectures last one hour, and for the next hour the clubenjoy a record session. Soft drinks and cakes are then available at a small cost, and the proceeds go into the clubfunds. The average turnout is twelve riders. Team spirit and enthusiasm has never been higher.

Whitley Stars have now changed their name to Whitley Vampires, and have the use of THREE tracks for their matches.

Two of them are for the Coventry League, in which they have entered two teams, due to the low strength of the opposition, and one track (the best) is in use for their Birmingham League matches.

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CONTROVERSIAL CORNER

by RON BULL

2... "The National Finals".

In the second of my Controversial Corner articles, I have selected the National Finals as my topic of discussion. Many words have been expounded on this subject in the past and doubtless will be in the future. Here are some more.

I think it is ridiculous to have a "Champion of England" if he has not met and vanquished the best in the land. How can a rider feel any pride at knowing he is All England Champion, yet knows there are some good riders in another Association that he has not ridden against due to the fact that both organisations do not agree on the matter of how the sport should be run, across the table ?

NACSA and the BCSF must amalgamate their National Championships in the future to provide us with a genuine set of National Finals. Both at present hold their own. Admittedly, the BCSF did not call their championship winner the All England Champion, but then NACSA could hardly be expected to change the name of their Championships because some team set up their own ruling body. Let us see sense over this and let all enter the same hat and meet all-comers for the betterment of the sport.

How about both organisations running their own championships until both sides have four teams left in the battle, then put them all in the hat ? That should satisfy the die-hards who think that the two sides should keep separate, and also those who think that NACSA and the BCSF should unite altogether.

As for the Individual Championship, the top 16 from each side to compete in 2 semi-finals, one each to a track in the ruling Bodies, then draw the Finals track from two selected by NACSA or the BCSF.

To mention names, why should riders of the calibre of McGillivray, Deam, Worlock and Blackwell not have the pleasure and thrill of competing against riders like Jefferies, Jarman and Wood ?

Another aspect of the Finals is that organisation is always slack to what it should be. Both organisations in this country are subject to this fault. Too many people in the middle is the biggest fault. I say that NO-ONE but those absolutely necessary be in there, and that includes the announcer, time-keeper and scorer as well to be outside. Any person connected with the sport either as rider or official who runs out on to the track should be severely fined or banned. No other way will keep the centre clear. Everyone wants to get into the act, as the saying goes, and it spoils the class of the occasion !

Now to the size of the track. No matter what anyone else says, I maintain that riders and teams alike put up a more ATTRACTIVE TO WATCH show, on SMALLER tracks. This has been proved time and again in the past, and yet Finals continue to be staged on the larger tracks. One of the proposals that I personally put to the NACSA A.G.M. last year was that the track selected should be smaller. THIS WAS PASSED, and yet the subject was never raised in the selection of the track. All the organisers worried about was the surface of the track. Admittedly that is important, but it is not all !

MIDLAND NOTES by HAROLD SMITH

Hello there. Nice to be with you again.

So Barry Shapley in Issue 211 reckons that Cowley Eagles have the best track in the Midlands! I should imagine that the Birmingham Lions will probably challenge his claim when improvements are completed at their Balsall Heath raceway. Floodlights are up and a new surface of cinders almost laid. I would not like to be the judge. However, it is certainly pleasing to hear of more clubs having pride in the appearance of their tracks.

Every club cannot rent a"miniature Wembley" from their local Council but where facilities are lacking, a neat and tidy circuit will always impress spectators.

Good, colourful presentation is all-important for the sports well-being. The new season is only a month away - just enough time to repaint those breastplates, renovate armbands and lap flags, overhaul starting gates, replenish first aid kits and order supplies of programme blanks.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if <u>every</u> club settled down to those jobs right away, and started the new race term properly equipped?

Still on the subject of tracks, it is a pity that venues for the next World Championship semi-finals have already been chosen....

I can now reveal that the track in Wolverhampton for which Terry Blest and I have been campaigning for over two years, is likely to be built in 1960. Aldersley, the tow's athletic and cycling centre, is the proposed site of the Midlands' first Super-track. Mr.H.Schofield Wolverhampton Engineer and Surveyor, tells me that his Committee would welcome the possibility of international events at the track.

How's this for enthusiasm: Sutton Stars England rider, Dave Hemus, attended the Birmingham Association's A.G.M. within 24 hours of returning home from overseas duty in the Army. "Dashing Dave" has now resumed as secretary of the Stars and can be contacted at 68, Rectory Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warks.

I hear that George Hollebon has signed Johnny Bradley for Hellingley Lions. Prior to moving to Eastbourne at the end of '58, nineteen years old Johnny rode for New Cross Pirates and represented his native Wolverhampton in the Midland League, as well as assisting Sutton Stars for whom he was a prominent scorer. His work as a cinema projectionist will prevent him from riding for the Lions in their Saturday night home fixtures, but Johnny's presence will doubtless be invaluable to Hellingley in their tough away programme on Sundays.

Kingstanding Monarchs' "Blonde Bombshell" Pete Blackwell is looking more cheerful these days. No doubt because of the improved political situation in the island, his posting to Cyprus has been cancelled. Pete will still be going overseas - to Malta in April - but in the meantime, he has put his name down on the list of Brummies who plan to tour Middlesex at Easter.

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YORKSHIRE

The Lindale Lions and Lupset Aces have been accepted into the Manchester, Stockport and District League for the 1959 season. This means that both teams will be travelling to Lancashire and Cheshire at least once each fortnight (a minimum distance to that area is 40 miles). Apart from racing in Lancashire the two teams will also compete in a small Yorkshire League, which will have its own League Championship, Riders Championship and a Match Race Championship. The actual size of this League is not yet known but there will be at least one team from the Bradford area. There will also be a series of representative matches between Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire.

Both the Lindale Lions and the Lupset Aces are affiliating to N.A.C.S.A. and also both teams are at present engaged in track repair. The Lindale Lions have now successfully banked their last bend almost making it into a wall of death while the Lupset Aces have commenced building a new track. The new track will be about 110yards long with a loose surface. Unfortunately it will not be ready for Easter but should be completed some time in May or June.

CLIVE BROOKE.

LEICESTER

A very enjoyable evening was had by all when recently the "Leicester All Stars" held their annual Award Social. Trophies were presented by the president of the Leicester Control Board, Mr. Fred White. Winners were: Highest average - Jep Newberry, Most points - G.Pickering; Most team points - Jep. Newberry. The team was also presented with certificates and placques for being Champions of Leicester. Next seasons captain will be Pete Rawson and vice captain Jep Newberry. Also appointed wasa new team manager, Mr. M.Halford.

Leicester All Stars are keen to arrange Challenge Matches home and away preferably in East Anglia, Southern Premier and Oxford Areas. Anyone interested should write to: Mr. C.Lymn, 68 Parker Drive, Leicester.

P.RAWSON.

NORTH LONDON

CLOSED

Official

At their Annual General Meeting held on February 12th 1959, the North London Independent League regretfully anno nced that due to circumstances beyond their control, the League would not be operating during the 1959 season."

M .Jeffery, Hon. Sec. N.L.I.L.

BIRMINGHAM CHALLENGES

WHITLEY STARS: 54:Rollason 15, Lewis 11, Abbott,M.Tromans 7,Coltman 6.
BIRMINGHAM LIONS 41:Hancox 8, Thompson,Goode 7,Gillett, Kiernan 5.

WHITLEY JUNIORS 21: Butler 9,Bailey 5, K.Tromans 4, D.Evans 3.
Birmingham Juniors 9: P.Williams 7, Wood 1, Hackson 1.

VETERANS v PRESENT DAY STARS

At last someone supports a Shapley idea - and a Tolworth man at that - Mr.Pearce. With the support, the plan unfolds itself thus :-

On Sunday June 14th. at Cowley Eagles track, Oxford, the following match will be held : VETERANS v PRESENT DAY STARS at 3 p.m.

If any pre-NACSA (pre-1950/51 winter) riders will write to me at 202, Herschel Crescent, Littlemore, Oxford, perhaps Mr.Pearce and myself could get together and pick a side. The Present Day Stars team will almost pick itself I guess, but we would have to consult on that, Mr.Pearce.

The teams will be picked as soon as possible and directions as to how to get to Cowley sent to all concerned. Transport (and digs where needed) from Oxford Station would be laid on by Cowley.

Incidentally, on matches, Cowley still require July, August, September and Whitsun fixtures (Sats. or Sundays). Please write to me.

BARRY SHAPLEY.

FREE FOR ALL

YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

FROM : M.Hudson, 105, Cowley Road, Littlemore, Oxford.

Dear Sir, Sorry as I am to have to tell Mr.Saunders this, and shatter all his dreams, but Mr.Shapley is not the greatest (edition No.209)

I would, by request of my club, like to correct Mr.Shapley's facts for you. a). Mr.Shapley had four rides that day and not three as he said. b). In the second ride of his three on the trot, he dropped out after being last for two laps. This was his only race against Wembley team men. c). Wembley only had one reserve anyhow, so he was guaranteed at least six points if his team mate let him through.

CORRECTION TO RECENT CLUB DIRECTORY.
WEMBLEY ALL STARS - MR.V.MERNER, 32, ISLIP GARDENS, NORTHOLT, MIDDX.

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FLASHBACK TO 1958 No. 7 — SOUTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE

Team of the season was undoubtedly Raynes Park Tigers, who, apart from winning the League title for the third year running, also became the first team in the League's six year history to carry off the three major trophies, League, Saunders Trophy and Jack Hulbert Shield in one season. The Tigers also came near to taking the Individual title as well, Geoff Penniket being runner-up to Champion Roy Baker (South London Rangers), incidentally, another former Tiger.

Runners-up in the League and Jack Hulbert Shield, South London Rangers led the League for a six week period, but were never able to keep up the hot pace, fading gradually in the closing weeks of the season. So apart from Roy Bakers Individual title victory, it's only runner-up medals for the Rangers.

Third in the League, and runners-up in the Saunders Trophy. That was the record of a Beckenham Monarchs team beset by rider troubles throughout the whole season, but to Monarchs lasting credit, with only five riders for some matches, they were beaten only four times in League racing.

So much for the top three teams in the League. Here is the Honours List for 1958.

League Winners = Raynes Park Tigers. Runners-Up = S'th London Rangers.
Saunders Trophy = Raynes Park Tigers. " " Beckenham Monarchs.
Jack Hulbert Shield. = Raynes Park Tigers. "" Soth London Rangers.
Individual Championship = Senior - Roy Baker (S.L.) 1.
Geoff Penniket (R.P.) 2.
Junior - Mike Bartlett (R.P.Stars) 1.
Brian Lamond (R.P.Stars) 2.

The Champion of Champions event, and the Southern Area Championship were staged by the South London club.
Champion of Champions = Pete Jarman (Beckenham Monarchs)
Southern Area Championship = Dave Chivers (Raynes Park Tigers)

In summing up on 1958, it was all in all a very good year, with the only black spots being the disbandment of Tooting Wildcats early in the season, and, as I reported recently, also the closing of Ditton Devils.

TONY JONES.

Individual Team Reviews of Southern Premier clubs will appear later in this series. EDITOR.

Bluey Waterson reports seeing a track in the ABRIDGE area of Essex. It is hoped that someone who lives near the area will investigate.

****

THURROCK STARS are to tour Holland this summer.