

Cycle Speedway GAZETTE

No 215

(6D)

EDITED BY JOHN LEITH. 64, Tonbridge Road, Coventry.

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SWEDISH/DUTCH TESTS

NEW REP. APPOINTED | JUNE 24, 27, 29.

The dates for the Sweden/Holland International matches have now been released. There will be three matches, all in Holland, and will therefore be a "Test Series". They will take place on June 24, 27, & 29.

There will also be a big individual event for both Dutch and Swedish riders during the week.

In September, the Dutch Association are sending six riders, all under 17 years of age, for a 5-day tour of England. All offers of matches which have been received by the Dutch Association will be considered.

Arrangements have also been made for the visits of English Touring Parties that will be in Holland this year. Thurrock Stars are to be fixed up with three matches, and an individual event, this will take place in July.

In August, the Middlesex/Birmingham Combination will be received, and three matches and an individual event are arranged for them also.

For the time being, the Dutch Representative in England is :-
Mr. Henk de Bruin, "The Paddock", Cranbourne Hall, Winkfield, Berks., and all correspondence intended for the Dutch Association should now go to him.

The above news is taken from a report submitted by HARTOG DE RONDE.

FLU' HITS THE "GAZETTE"

For the first time since publication of this magazine began, production was forced to a stop last week through myself and my wife both being down with influenza, which meant that the last issue was delayed, and we could not make any sort of start on the next. That is why we missed March 14th. as publication day.

However, all is now well, and we hope that readers will be kindly and understand why things seemed to go a little wrong !

J.K.Leith.

THE GOLD CUP

RAYNES PARK DUE FOR WORTHING

The BCSF "Gold Cup" draw has favoured the Worthing Sputniks with a wonderful 'plumb'. For Raynes Park Tigers (the strongest team in the South in my opinion) are due to pay a visit to the home of the Sputniks. With the recent track changes, narrowing of bends and the complete widening of the track surface, I feel the odds favour the Tigers even more - but they say at Worthing "Remember Norwich ; no one gave them a chance !"

Quotes : John Humphries, skipper of Sputniks "We're looking forward to their visit and we'll give 'em a good match. Just think of Norwich v Manchester United."

Peter Kearns, chairman of Sputniks : "We like the draw and I have no doubt the Worthing boys will give of their best."

Well, thats what to expect, and I for one will be there cheering for Sputniks, despite the things I've said about them in the past. "Good luck to the minnows !".

"Bo-Bo"

DRAW KIND TO S.P.CLUBS

The first round draw for the BCSF Gold Cup has been quite kind to the Southern Premier clubs. Of the eight teams entered, five have to ride in the first round, while the other three have been lucky enough to obtain byes to the second round.

Raynes Park Tigers have the longest journey, having to visit Worthing where the local Sputniks will be their hosts, while in two of the ties S.P. clubs have been drawn together, Tooting Tigers meeting Thornton Heath Cobras and South London Rangers entertaining Raynes Park Stars.

Tony Jones.

.....
The "GAZETTE" will bring you the latest news of the Gold Cup throughout the competition. Keep informed and buy the "GAZETTE".

LEICESTERSHIRE TEAM CHOSEN

The Leicestershire Team which will meet Middlesex on April 5th. has been named : 1. Dent. 2. Glover. 3. Simpson. 4. Rawson (capt.). 5. Newberry. 6. Evans. 7. Brant. 8. Cousins. Team Manager J. Greaves.

SOUTHERN PREMIER

Saunders Trophy Draw.
Thornton Heath Cobras v Raynes Park Stars
Tooting Tigers v Hellingly Lions
South London Rangers v Edmonton Monarchs
South London Hunters v Raynes Park Tigers
(Holders).

WHITLEY VISIT LIONS

Birmingham Lions 54
Edwards 13, Thompson
10, Sedgely 8,
Hancox 8, Gillett 6.
Whitley Vampires 42
R. Lewis 8, R. Colley 8,
Rollason, Butler and
Coltman 6 each.

DONT FORGET TO GET THE "GAZEETE" !!!!!

LEICESTER

At the time of writing, two clubs have so far returned affiliation forms, Leicester All Stars and Anstey. Belgrave are expected to do so shortly and this leaves Blackbird Monarchs, who have been invited, by person or persons unknown (!) as they say in the crime columns, to join the Federation. However, as the other three teams will be NACSA members, it seems likely that Monarchs will join NACSA also.

Prominent riders who now seem likely to appear this year include Brian Naylor and John Cross.

A Midland League meeting was due to have been held in Leicester last Sunday, but I have now news about this yet.

I turned up for a Control Board meeting the same day in the usual place, but no-one else was there, so I still don't know what happened to the others. Still, it was a nice day for sun-bathing!

Incidentally, the improved weather in February did the local tracks a bit of good, and some work is at last underway. The ruts have been filled in at Jean Drive, but quite a lot remains to be done.

When I last saw them, the lads down at Slater Street were still waiting for their elusive ashes to be delivered.

ROY WRIGHT.

ARE TOLWORTH ^{TO BECOME A} PIRATE CLUB?

Latest news is that our track in Davis Road, Tolworth, is on a plot of land bought by Neilsons, the ice cream company. Although no building has started yet, the situation is becoming a greater menace, with the milder weather. However, the club is used to riding on away tracks, we do all through the winter anyway, and maybe we could create a new record!

D. PEARCE.

STILL ONLY ON TWO CYLINDERS !!!

As a footnote to the item on the front page about the illness which has hit the 'House of the Gazette', I would like to apologise to anyone for any delay in answering correspondence, or in receiving GAZETTE'S, or in any other way in which all my friends have been inconvenienced.

I hope that by next week we shall be working on all four cyclinders once more. It has been two weeks now since any real work has been done by us in cycle speedway, but next week should see everything back to normal.

THE EDITOR.

BIRMINGHAM LEAGUE CLUBS are anxiously awaiting the 1959 Fixture List, and also details of the Easter Tour of the South. Not long to go to Easter now !

CONTROVERSIAL CORNER *By Ron Bull*

No. 4. STEWARDS

This surely, is the most controversial subject in our sport ; this matter of stewards and their dubious duties.

To be quite honest though, one must admit that they do have the worst job of all, they have to differentiate all the time between two completely alien points of view, they have to give a decision on something they cannot always see properly, taking in mind, conditions of the track, a particular riders style and a thousand and one other things ; No, not the most praised of professions !

Roughly two years ago, I had published in this magazine, a "Stewards Grading System", from which I would like to quote one or two of what I consider the more important items

"Upon initial registration, the applicant must furnish proof that he has taken charge of at least six meetings during the previous 6 months."

"No Steward to progress up more than one grade per year, thus taking at least three years to become a grade 1 steward, fit to take on Internationals and National Finals etc."

I believe, and strongly advocate, that the number of Grade 1 Stewards in the NACSA body be limited by the appropriate Sub.Committee to a small compact number, not as many as the counties care to register. I feel that it is too much of a case of "Jobs for the boys" and "You're a friend, you're a grade 1."

With tighter control thus exerted, NACSA could appoint their Finals and Internationals stewards in the knowledge that they would capably leave the job to the designated men, not keep their fingers crossed and trust to luck.

Too often, and I repeat that, too often in the past, stewards in important official meetings have failed, not because they have a favourite in the field, or because they are bad, but because they are not experienced enough at the job.

We have seen good and bad stewards since the sport started, and I will put it to you honestly now, that good stewards are extremely few and far between. One thing that does not help is the fact that a steward has to PAY to take the boos and derisive catcalls of both riders and supporters. That now defunct organisation, the N.L.I.L. had an excellent idea. They had two or three TOP GRADE STEWARDS on call, and they PAID these men to officiate at their league meetings. This idea paid handsome rewards. Riders know they would get a fair deal from a neutral steward, knew that the man in charge "Was in charge" so to speak. And the steward was paid for a job well done. All happy and satisfied !

Last word rests with the riders. YOU know when you have done wrong, yet YOU still try to bluff through in innocence, YOU know that you should be punished for unfair riding, YOU know otherwise it will ruin the good name of the sport, so YOU can keep quiet next season and do as you're told. PLEASE ???

RON BULL.

ESSEX *News and Views*

A few of the more social items of the teams in Essex is that Demi Pratt of The Gladiators gets married to fiancée Dawn on March 14th. in her home in Wales. Ex-Gladiator Alan Perham is to be Best Man. Alan was to have gilled the same post for Derek Littleton, another ex-Gladiator, but the dates clashed, and Demi had prior booking, so to speak, so it's Wales for Alan. Demi holds his wedding reception back in Romford on March 28th, the night before the season starts in earnest, so hangovers will be the order of the day.

Ken Taylor, the now retired veteran of the Essex tracks, had a birthday on March 7th. and was considering a party to celebrate, but then he received an invitation to attend the 21st. birthday party of Mary, the newly-wed Mrs. Ron Gibbons, on the very same date ! That settled the "Old Man". To the Gibbons house he went, arriving in red fez and dark glasses.

Other riders there during the festivities included Stan Stevens Sid Tomlyn, Malcolm Bell and Peter Fraser from last years champions Walthamstow Wolves, and myself from Gladiators. Also joining in the festivities was Mike Broadbanks, the England International speedway rider, who reckons Stevens is his best result from the winter training school he's been running.

Other who have recently taken to the dirt game at Rye House from this area of Essex include the 1958 National Champ. Sandy McGillivray, who recently got his own bike built by brothers Les (Rayleigh & Poole) and Jim (ex-Rayleigh). Also there is Terry Stone recently demobbed from the army and a member of the Gladiators club. Terry, whose nick-name is "Stone-Bonkers" for more than one reason, is reported to be on the lookout for a machine, and according to Stevens and McGillivray has had to have extra large steel shoes and crash helmet built to fit !

South Essex League and the Essex County Control Boards hold their 1959 A.G.M. at my home of 13, Manor Road, Romford, Essex, at 8 p.m. on Thursday March 19th. ALL local clubs, and any other interested parties are invited to attend if they can.

I have proposed that League racing as we know it be scrapped in the County for 1959. In place I have formulated a racing season full of events that cover racing for teams of 8 and 7 riders ; 4 - team - tourneys, Pairs and Single events. Over 40 meetings in all that should build the county back to it's previous interesting level of racing.

Two interesting, to my way of thinking, points about my proposals are ..1.. All events are graded, with riders being graded by their position on the 1958 league averages list.

..2.. Monies will be collected at the tracks, with each rider paying 6d. for taking part in a meeting. That way, more than enough money will be collected during the season, instead of breaking the poorer clubs at the start of the year by kicking them for a £1 or 30/-.

FLASHBACK

TO 1958

No. 8.

WORTHING SPUTNIKS "B"

This was quite a strong side, and the only side to beat the champions. The majority of this teams riders will form the new senior side at Worthing next year and no doubt they will again be skippered by John Humphries, the present captain.

M. Bashford, K. Bagnall and E. Williams joined Humphries in the Test Team, but only Humphries had a good match. Humphries was runner up in the League Individual and won the club championship.

Chris Bedford accompanied "Dall" Goddard to Hendon for the Middx. Grand Prix, but since then has lost confidence in his own ability.
Pen Pictures of the Team.

John Humphries. Captain, and vice-captain of Test Team. Runner up in League Individual, winner of club individual, top league scorer with average of 14. Terrific speed from the gate, but does show a slight lack of fight from behind. Very polished rider for first year. Malcolm Bashford. Very fast round the fence type of rider. Unfortunately sometimes lets his enthusiasm get the better of him. Prolific scorer in all matches finished the term with an average of 8.3 for league matches. Gained a test place, but was sadly off form with only 3 points.

Keith Bagnall. Fastest gater in the league and towards the end of this campaign he came into prominence. Average of 6.5. Selected for Test Team. Scored seven from 3 rides in the Ind. Final. Temperamental.

Ernie Williams. Probably the fittest rider in the area, has sparks of brilliance, which entail riding round the outside of good riders. Gating bad. Came into Test side as sub. and did well to score 4. Keen and shows willingness to learn. Will develop into first class rider and club man.

Chris Bedford. Poor Chris has lost all form since competing in the Middx. Grand Prix, perhaps due to lost confidence in his own ability.

Has shown that he knows how to handle a bike on fast bends of Hill Barn. Dick Shepherd. Has come a long way since he first turned out for Wembley Hawks as a reserve and is now showing his back wheel to many and recording valuable scores. Probably one of the most improved riders in the team.

Ian Mills. Suffers from lack of fight and now seems to have lost confidence. Started this season as a star man but now is just another rider. In fairness to Ian, he seems to have been treated rather harshly by his many critics.

Ken Bishop, Terry Payne and Pete Badger. These youngsters completed the 'B' team line-up and showed fairly good form. Terry Payne in particular showed that he is a valuable find.

"BO-BO".

STILL THEY ROLL IN !!! We now have Team Reviews from : Beckenham, Lupset, Rosehill Hounds, Elmdon Bees, Hungerford, Brinkworth, Cray, East Ham, Welling, South London Rangers, Aylestone, Tooting, Tolworth, Bricket Wood, Brighton Smorchers, Cowley, Tatnam.

Just to let you know you are 'nt forgotten !!!

OXFORD

NEW STAR TAKES PLACE OF OLDSTER IN COWLEY 'A'.

Within a week of Ken McMinn, 1957 NACSA finalist, announcing his retirement, to get married, Cowley 'B' vice-captain Graham Mullett the Cowley 1958 "final", announced his intention to transfer to the 'A' side.

Although this will weaken the 'B' side a great deal, this means that Eagles 'A' are still favourites for the Oxford League. League engagements in Oxford commence weekending April 24th, the most interesting first week fixture being Cowley 'A' versus Cowley 'B'. The 'A' side will win but it hoped by yours truly that the score won't be 73-23. Why 73-23? Well, on Sunday, Rose Hill's Hounds went to TATNAM TIGERS hide-out in Dorset and lost by that rather fantastic score! Ex-Eagle Mick Elliott, scored 2 and if Pete Barlow hadn't been around I guess it would have been easier still for Tigers top trio, Bright, Lilly, and Tarr.

The Pups aided by myself, only lost by 10 to Tigers 'B' but this was easier.

At Tatnam I was impressed by the fine team riding of Dave Tarr and Den Lilly and the form of junior Woodrow. A nice set-up Tatnam. TATNAM 'A': Bright 15, Nicholson and Nippard 11, Lilly 10, Tarr 9

Watkins 8, Barnes 5, Holmes 4,

HOUNDS: Barlow 9, Turner 5, Treadwell 3.

TATNAM 'B' Woodrow 14, Frampton 11, Cox 10, Hayes 5, Drewitt 5, Cross, Wale and Tarr 3.

PUPS: Shapley 14, Allan 10, Dawes 8, Hicks 5, White 2, Wilkinson, Butler and Thomas 1.

BARRY SHAPLEY.

WILTSHIRE

At the last Control Board meeting the dates of the National Individual Championships were decided. 1st. Round - May 4th. to 18th. Semi-Finals - June 14th. Final - June 28th. Junior Team Championship results must be in as follows :- 1st. Round - April 26th., Semi-Final May 9th. and Final - May 23rd.

It was decided to run both leagues again this year. Brinkworths proposal for 6 a side junior teams was turned down. 5 a side was decided on, number 5 not being allocated a ride.

The invitation to send two riders to compete in the Berks. Grand Prix was accepted. It is hoped County matches can be arranged between Wilts and Oxford and Wilts v Hants.

The news last week that Cleverton had disbanded is not so. Mr. House and several members of the CB I am glad to say persuaded them to continue if they possibly could. Latest news is that they have 8 riders, so we expect them to take their place in the league this year.

R. H. JACKSON.

RESULTS

8.3.59
South London Rangers 44 Milton 12, Ron Webb 8, Roy Baker 8.
Edmonton Monarchs 52 Mick Jeffery 14, Les Westwood 9, Tony Mobbs 9.
South London Hunters 44½ Danny Daniel 12½
Tooting Tigers 51½ Bernie Cable 13, Derek Cattle 13. Tony Jones
Thornton Heath Cobras 22 Neil Goodrum 6, Geoff Smith 5, Keith Dawson 5.
Raynes Park Tigers 74 Wally Dighton 15, Roy Trigg 15, Eric Averall 13.
No date given.
Raynes Park Tigers 59 Chivers 13, Cracknell 11, Dighton 10, Bedford 7.
Tolworth Tudors "A" 37 White 8, Claydon 7, Page 6, Squires 5.
Raynes Park Stars 64 Sabourne 15, Smith 11, Cracknell 11, Chivers 10,
Tolworth Tudors "B" 31 Brimson 8, Squires (Robin) 7, Squires (Reg) 6.
D. Pearce.

STEWARDS IMPORTANT NOTICE

County Boards are requested to apply for Stewards' Application Forms to the Tracks & Stewards Committee, J.K. Leith, 64, Tonbridge Road, Coventry. A 2/6 fee should be paid by all applicants, which will cover all stewards with insurance.
Present licences held, if any, should be forwarded with application forms.

FREE FOR ALL YOUR LETTERS

FROM : ~~B. Morgan~~ 38, Kirby Rise, Barham, Ipswich. who describes himself 'of the late Eastern Counties League'.

Dear Sir,

In reply to Ron Bull's article, particularly para 4. No. 210.

It seems that Mr. Bull has a very short memory as his suggested Eastern Counties League was started and run for one season only - 1957, as the clubs involved in Norfolk, Suffolk, and N.E. Essex found travelling expenses too heavy to continue in the 1958 season.

An entry was made in the "Cycle Speedway Gazette" regarding entries into this league and a personal letter forwarded to Mr. Bull, but all now seems forgotten ???

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