

on April 26th. in the London area. The return match on the track
Hungerford Panthers on May 24th.

Selection of the team for the first match caused much discussion,
the selected team is :- R.Morse, F.Garlick, A.Barratt, M.Cooper,
D.Tarr, B.Merrett, R.Smith, A.Bright, K.Hancocks, A.Nippard.

Mr.C.Head was invited to be team manager, Mick Cooper capt.
Since the selection of the above team, it has been announced
Alan Barrett has been flown to Cyprus, a sad loss to Hungerford
the Test Team. K.Hancocks will replace Barrett at No.3 and R.
will come in at No.9.
No trials will be held.

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MANCHESTER

Although the season is only a few weeks away news is very scarce but the only team there seems any real doubt about is last years champions Belle Vue Cobras. Runners up, Wilmslow, look like having the same line up as last season, the only doubt being Peter Rollason but it is hoped Peter will decide to have another season in the saddle. It is hoped that Derek Garnett will take over as captain and have the same influence over the team as he did with his old club Offerton, last seasons skipper Hinchcliffe will be vice-captain.

Little is known about Openshaw but with their new manager Mr. Wilson at the helm the Monarchs should be a hard team to reckon with. Gorton will be making their debut in the first division and to strengthen their team the following riders have signed, Lee, Watling, and Batholamew from Levenshulme and Marsland from Longsight, this should make this young side a strong all round team.

Longsight Pegasus look a bit shaky with Marsland gone, and although famous for their juniors, new manager Elinstone is going to have a hard job finding a winning team. It is expected that most of the first division clubs will have a team in the second division as last season Bradbury manager Mr. Simms informs me that his team hopes to move up from the junior League and will be using the old Offerton track. Longsight Hammers also hope to move up and have signed Jeff Bradley from neighbours Pegasus. Jeff has ridden for the Pegasus first team at times and should strengthen the side.

J.D.MOTTERSHEAD.

SUFFOLK

The A.G.M. of the Suffolk C.S.A. was held recently in the clubroom of the Rendlesham and District Motor Cycle Club at Melton. There was quite a large gathering present covering in all some eight clubs spread over an area of some 50 miles. The secretary in giving his report said that he was very disappointed with some of the clubs and behaviour of some of the riders during the past season and if this persisted he would seriously consider retiring from the position he has served the county in since 1950.

The Treasurers report was very well received there being a balance in hand of just over £20, although the match returns were very much below that of preceeding years.

The officers elected for the coming season were as follows:- Chairman; Mr. F.Brett, V.Chairman: Mr. Ashford, County Secretary C.R.Jolly; County Treasurer R.Morgan; League and Competitions Secretary Mr. D.Lockwood, Mins Sec.: Miss Stafford and an executive to comprise all the Officers plus Mr. Williamson, Mr. Williamson, Mr. Benstead, Mr. Boar and Mr. Abrahams.

So far as can be seen the league will consist of the following 8 teams, Fordham Heath Hawks, from Essex, Ipswich Pirates, Claydon Greyhounds, Kesgrave Panthers, Woodbridge Wildcats, Melton Meteors, Leiston Aces and Aldeburgh Stars, all being from Suffolk.

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SUSSEX SCENE

MIDDLESEX TEST MATCH.

Arrangements have been finalised for the Test with Middlesex Juniors and it will be held at Hendon on Sunday, March 29th. The Middlesex team will be chosen from riders under seventeen, which is felt will improve the competition. The Southern Counties League side is as follows: 1. D.Goddard(Brighton) 2. D.Edney(Worthing), 3. J.Humphries(Worthing) 4. M.Bashford(Worthing) 5.B.Makepeace (Brighton) 6. K.Bagnall(Worthing) 7. P.Femberton(Brighton), 8. T.Skinner(Bognor). Rserve: R.Brazier (Brighton).

STARS IN KHAKI

Roger Brazier (Brighton) and Malcolm "Fats" Bashford(Worthing) are now lost to their respective teams for the regular racing as they are now in the Army. Both, however, hope to be home and in action over Easter - may I say "we hope so too".

FIRST MATCH.

The first match of the season will be on Saturday 28th March, when the Brighton Scorchers will entertain the Worthing Sputniks in the Fishersgate Flyers Memorial Trophy at Kingston Lane and they hope to provide the fans with a good close, entertaining struggle. The following day they join forces for the trip to Hendon - for the Test.

NEW TOURNAMENT FOR THE LEAGUE.

The Control Board have now organised a new tournament for the 1959 season. It will take the form of a 4-man Team Knock-out Cup. There should be about eight teams enter and good class racing should be resultant.

Another new thing will be semi-finals for the Individual Trophy and this should ensure that the best get through to the Final and thus improve the racing in the Competition.

The fixtures are as follows:-

March 28	Brighton v Worthing (F.F.Mem. Trophy)	Brighton
29	Test Match - Middlesex Juniors	Hendon
April 25	Worthing v Bognor - League	Worthing
May 9	Brighton v Bognor - "	Brighton
23	Worthing v Brighton - "	Worthing
June 6	Bognor v Worthing - "	Bognor
20	Brighton v Worthing - "	Brighton
27	South. Prem. Junior Test	S.Prem.
July 4	Bognor v Brighton - League	Bognor
18	Ind. Semi-Final	Brighton
25	Ind. Semi-Final	Bognor
Aug 8	Knock Out Cup Final	To be decided
15	Ind. Champ. - League	Worthing
29	Worthing v Brighton - F.F.Mem Trophy.	"
Sept 5	Southern Prem. Junior Test	"
	(Probably: Presentation Dance)	"Bo-Bo"

A TRIBUTE TO BRIAN MAKEPEACE

I first met Brian Makepeace when I was just making the grade with the now defunct Fishersgate Flyers, maybe some of the older riders will remember them. Well, I never had much to do with him, I thought of him as just another rider wanting to make the grade and I was never a good mixer then. I was so shy!!

I remember Brian and another rider Dan Nicholls always laughing together and examining other riders machines and getting to know the visiting teams especially the London lads. He was then keen to learn anything about the sport and when the Flyers disbanded he was no doubt like myself, choked!!

It was not until 1957 that I saw Brian again. I was in the local cinema and said hello to Miss Pat Brazier an ex-supporter of the Flyers, little did I know Brian was with her and then I found some-one leaning over my seat, with a big mop of hair. It was Brian and when he said he was forming a cycle speedway club I was on air. After four years wondering whether I'd see the sport again you can imagine my feelings. A week later I went to a club night and found a few of the Flyers riders there.

Time passed and we had a match with the newly formed Worthing Sputniks on their "track", it was then a miniature scrambles course. Then came the real organisation for which Brian is so renowned in this area. He fought like mad to obtain a track site from the Council. After two appeals had been turned down luck came our way and we were granted a site. It took quite some time to get it ready but it was worth it. But I'm boring you by now!!

Well, Brian has built the club into something from nothing. He's had a lot of disappointments and not many successes and I've known him keep a rein on his temper when things have annoyed him.

However the main thing is I think he's a darn good personality and a true sportsman. This year he'll be riding in both Test and our League Individual. He missed 'em last year through illness but I'm sure he'll make it this season, come what may.

Those of you who have met Brian or dealt with him will bear with me in saying that he's just great and I'm proud to know him as a pal and rider. On or off the track he's a gentleman.

Now he's married and everyone here in Sussex connected with the sport will join in wishing him a long and happy married life and I'm sure that he'll give a good account of himself on any track this season.

Thank you for putting up with me!

"SCORCHER"

LAPEL

BADGES!

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Dear Readers,

Thank you for your good wishes to my wife and myself. We are now fully recovered, and everything is now back to normal.

Yours John Keith

HUNGERFORD A.G.M.

The Hungerford Panthers Cycle Speedway Club held their AGM on February 8th. at the Railway Hotel. It was the best attended meeting for several years. The chairman, Mr.A.G.Mansbridge, said how encouraging it was to see so many people present, and thought it must show good signs for the 1959 season.

The Bragg Cup had been won for the second year running by the club, they were county champions, the C.May cup had been won back from Leicester All Stars in one of the best matches yet seen at Hungerford. The Wilts. Herald and Advertiser 4 rider K.O.Cup was won by the club senior 4 for the second year running. In the National Trophy, misfortune before even leaving Hungerford, in the shape of Ken Worlock having a motor-cycle accident on his way to join the team from Bristol, did nothing to dampen the spirits of the riders. Against Carrs Wood Hunters, the cup holders, ridden in the worst weather possible and with only 7 riders, the team put up their best fight ever. At the 14th. heat they led by 1 point, but then the missing rider told, and Carrs Wood pulled away to a 9point win.

Ken Worlock was runner up in the county Ind. Championships after a run off, Brian Geater scored 11 and Alan Cox 9 in this event. In the Junior event, Rob Jordan, Pete North and Bob Ponsford all scored 9. A vote of thanks from the National Association for the organisation of the 1958 National Finals was passed on by the Chairman.

Prospects for the coming season were good, with 14 signed riders and it was hoped that one or two more juniors would come along.

Matches already arranged for the season include : away match at Bucklebury on April 12th. Plans for the Berks. Grand Prix are well advanced and entries have been received from several counties and from Scotland. The annual fete and gymkhana is also being held on August Bank Holiday.

A vote of thanks was passed to the Parish Council, the Football Club, St.Johns Ambulance, Chiltonian Coaches, The Press, Kintbury Boys Club, and the Ramsbury Scouts for help and co-operation in 1958. Miss L.Franklin proposed a vote of thanks to Mr.Mansbridge for all he has done for the club, which included travelling some 3,000 miles during 1958. Replying, Mr.Mansbridge spoke of the World Championships which were coming to Hungerford in 1960, which he thought was not only an honour for the club, but for the town and county, and he hoped that an extra effort would be made by everyone to make sure that the track was in first class condition.

Officers Elected

Chairman and Team Manager - Mr.A.G.Mansbridge.

Secretary - - - - - Miss L.Franklin.

Treasurer - - - - - Mrs. F.M.Mansbridge.

Press Officer - - - - - Miss N.Hollister.

Committee - - - - - Mrs. M.North, Mrs. F.Bowley, Mrs. M. Gooper, Miss M.Cox, Miss M.Hollister, Mr.F.Ritchins

Captain - - - - - Mick Cooper.

Vice-Captain - - - - - Rex Smith.

MIDDLESEX

Firstly, I must thank Roger Seymour for compiling this column over the past three years. His work has always been of high standard and of great interest. Don't think Roger is going to sit back now though, this bloke just revels in work. To begin with he is co-editor of the "Star", he runs two teams at Harefield, he is chairman of the Middlesex League and he is organizing a tour to Holland with Harold Smith. Incidentally, this tour will take place during the week commencing August 15th. If anybody is interested will they contact either organiser ?

The main topic here is the official resignation of Langley Leopards from the league. Langley have been consistently bothered by track troubles and this time have decided to call it a day. It is a great pity to see this team fold up as they were the only Buckinghamshire team left out of a once popular area. Clubs which spring to mind include Slough Flyers, Wycombe Wildcats, Hazlemere Hurricanes and Flackwell Aces. However, all Langley's riders are not to be lost to the sport. Geoff Pearce, Bren Harper, Reg Lester, Dave Kent, Dave Willis and possibly Derek Donoghue have moved over to the Uxbridge track to assist Harefield. This enables Harefield to enter two teams into the league this year.

On Easter Sunday, the Middlesex Junior Test Team entertain the Sussex Test Team. The match was scheduled to take place on the Wembley All Stars track. The line up :- Rides, Robin Squires (Tolworth), Cornwall, Boulwood (Weston), Boottell, Osbourne, Mason, (Wembley Hawks) P.Saunders (Bricket Wood).

Progress is still being made with the proposed Junior League. The latest move has been the appointment of Geoff Pearce as organiser. League racing will commence on April 19th,

Laslty a result. Tolworth visited Raynes Park for a challenge match and lost 37-59. For the Raynes Park win, Chivers 13, Deighton 10 and Cracknell 11 were largely responsible, whilst for Tolworth, White and Claydon tried hard.

BOB SAUNDERS.

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LATE MIDDX. NEWS FLASH !!! PEARCE RESIGNED POST AS JUNIOR LEAGUE ORGANISER. MORE NEXT WEEK.

HANTS. MARCH FIXTURES.

Mar.29. Tatnam Tigers v Vickers Armstrong. Bombers v Tatnam Tudors.
Vikings v Chandlersford Stars.

LEICESTER TEAM TO MEET MIDDX. ON APRIL 5th.

R.Cooper, B.Dent, J.Simpson, P.Rawson, J.Newberry, C.Evans, D.Brant, M.Cousins.

CONTROVERSIAL CORNER

THE ADMINISTRATIVE MUDDLE.

To any of you who reads through any magazine account of a cycle Speedway match, it brings up a picture of four riders, racing their way around a track or something along those lines. How many, if any, think of the other side of the sport, the administrative side?

Most teams in the country can be divided into three main groups. They are: A...The teams with one man behind them, who organises their fixtures, does all the correspondence, contacts other teams, attends Control Board Meetings, and probably is a sitting member too.

B... Teams run by a Committee of too many people, all doing each others tasks, all letting their own get behind, all leaving something they should do to someone else, and a team where constant new posts are being formed and soon forgotten.

C... Teams not really run by anybody, teams that come and go, with a change of officials every time they lose a match, where riders always threaten to join another club where team-spirit is almost non-existent.

I think the majority of you will agree that your club falls into one of these three categories? Certainly they do!

Because of that, the sport of Cycle speedway is one heck of a lot lower in popularity, appeal and support than it should and could be!

All clubs should have a secretary capable of handling all the Administrative business, making sure the riders know who, when and where to ride; that opponents have plenty of confirmation of matches; local Councils are fully informed of the activities on council-owned tracks; Control Boards fully informed of all club events, Board Meetings attended regularly and club members informed of Board discussions and notices.

All clubs should have a Manager capable of getting the best of both co-operation and team spirit at all times from his riders, who makes sure his riders are happy at all times, that his juniors get enough practice and a friendly word from the senior riders occasionally; ensuring that all members share in the work involved on track maintenance, and that they all pay up their dues promptly.

With the possible exception of a Press Officer to ensure that the local papers get results and news, that is all a good club should need. In many years of dealing with cycle-speedway clubs, these jobs get put from one person to another, I have noticed, and the person I write to this week, may next week not have the job, and just not pass my letter on. Club secretaries should remain permanent, so should managers.

I myself run my club alone because I prefer to do it that way. At least we get few arguments in the club, and very, very few riders have left the Gladiators for another club, unsatisfied. I always attempt to answer each days letters the same day, but occasionally they pile up and I get behind, but a good secretary with just one club to run can and should run his correspondence that way. This ensures quick replies and prompt action by all concerned. How nice to get replies the same week!!!

RON BULL.