SOUTHERN AREA CHAMPIONSHIP

The first of this seasons invitation competitions, promoted by the South London C.S.C. at Garratt Park, London, will take place on Saturday 16th May at 7.30pm. The occasion is the 1959 Southern Area Championship when Dave Chivers (Raynes Park Tigers) defends his title against a star studded field. Having gathered together a galaxy of top talent the South London Club are confident that the standard of riding will be of the highest calibre for among those riders who will be anxious to relieve Chivers of his crown will be last seasons 'Champion of Champions' Peter Jarman, Britannia Shield holder Mick Jeffrey (Edmonton Monarchs), Middlesex Grand Prix winner Roy Baker (South London Rangers), Midland stars Peter Blackwell and Gerry Kean of the Kingstanding Monarchs and Rex Smith, 1956 Berkshire Champion. Newcomers to the Garratt Park 'bowl' will be Malcolm Bell (East Ham Wolves) and young Rob Jordon of the Hungerford Panthers. One of the biggest threats to Dave Chivers on this occasion will be veteran Edmonton Monarch, Les Westwood who, on recent visits to the finest track in London has returned double-figure scores, while Ray Chivers, South London's latest capture from the Raynes Park club, is rapidly regaining his top form, following his Army service. Hellingly Lions will be well represented by George Hollebon and Ron Smith. Ex-Beckenham Monarch, Denny Daniel, who has been riding better than ever since joining the South London Hunters, Bernie Cable, currently hitting the top points with Tooting Tigers and Richard Baker, the rapidly improving Thornton Heath Cobra, making up this wonderful array of talent which should provide a feast of good racing with the winner receiving the magnificent Southern Area Championship Trophy.

J.R.Whittaker.

HANTS. & DORSET

On Sunday April 5th the Hampshire League season opened. Southampton Vikings, last seasons league champions, were away to Chandlers Ford Stars. Southampton Bombers were away to Tatnam Tudors. Tatnam Tigers were home to Vickers Viscounts while Shirley Bombers travelled to Tatnam in search of points and were not disappointed, they finally won after a very close match by 52-43. Although some dubious decisions were given by the steward, the match was enjoyed by all. Wale, Phillips and Dyett all gave of their best and with a little experience should prove good riders. Dennis Tarr returned to form scoring 10pts. The Bombers score chart was headed by D.Butcher who rode the track superbly.

The Tatnam Tigers entertained the Vickers Viscounts and won by the fantastic score of 73-23. Five of the Tatnam side scored 10 or more points. Only weak link was R.Nicholson, badly off form. For Vickers Jim Cooke rode extremely well but a one man team was not enough, he recieved hardly any support from his fellow team mates. A little more practice and work is needed by the Vickers Viscounts I think. The new loudspeakers were used and were very popular with the large crowd.

TATNAM TIGERS 73: Watkins 13, Tarr, Lilly, Nippard, Holmes 10, Bright 9.
VICKERS VISCOUNTS 23: Cooke 10, Sedwich 4, Palmer, Fall 3, Weight 2.

R. NICHOLSON.

SOUTHERN PREMIER

Every one in the S.P. and especially Edmonton supporters are very pleased indeed at the form showed by the Monarchs in their opening matche Of the five matches ridden up to date, four league and one cup, they have won four and lost one, this being against Raynes Park Tigers who defeated them 54-40 at Raynes Park. Mainstays of the team are former Saints rider Les Westwood who is averaging nearly 12pts a match and Britannia Shield holder Mick Jeffrey who is on the 11pt mark. Manager Vic Cowell is another helping to mould the Edmonton team into a hard riding combine, his average being just over 7pts a match. Other newcomers to the league this season, Hellingly Lions have as yet only ridden 2 matches, these being against Thornton Heath Cobras (League) and Tooting Tigers(Saunders Trophy), both away incidentally, and although they lost both they have shown enough to suggest they will be a force to be reckoned with when they get into their stride.

Former Raynes Park Tigers rider Roy Chivers, elder brother of Tigers' Dave, has now joined South London Rangers and will undoubtably help them in their bid for honours this season. Roy recently made his debut for the Rangers against South London Hunters and although it is well over a year since Roy last straddled a track bike, he turned up trumps, scoring 12pts from 5 rides to help his team record a 62-34 victory over the Hunters.

Another well known rider who has recently had a change is Pete Jarman, former Beckenham Monarchs, and S.P.Test team captain, who has now joined Tooting Tigers. Petes first match was against Hellingly Lions in the first round of the Saunders Trophy and although he only recorded 7pts he showed that providing he can ride regularly he will still be a force to be reckoned with.

SAUNDERS TROPHY 1st Round.

S.L.HUNTERS 29 - RAYNES PARK TIGERS 66; S.L.RANGERS 46 - EDMONTON M. 50.
THORNTON HEATH COBRAS 43 - RAYNES PARK STARS 53;TOOTIN T.55-HELLINGLY 41.

LEAGUE

RAYNES PARK STARS 57-THORNTON H.C. 39; S.L.RANGERS 62 -S.L.HUNTERS 34
TOOTING TIGERS 42 - EDMONTON MONARCHS 54;R.P.TIGERS 61 - R.P.STARS 34
S.L.RANGERS 56 - HELLINGLY L. 40; S.L.HUNTERS 42 - HELLINGLY L. 54.

LEAGUE TABLE (Up to April 19th.)	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raynes Park Tigers	4	4	0	0	255	126	8
Edmonton Monarchs	4	3	0	1	200	182	6
South London Rangers	4	2	0	2	207	177	4
Tooting Tigers	4	2	0	2	188½	195½	4
Raynes Park Stars	4	2	0	2	185	198	4
Thornton Heath Cobras	4	2	0	2	161	222	4
Hellingly Lions	3	1	0	2	138	150	2
South London Hunters	5	0	0	5	197½	281½	0

The above table does NOT include Thornton Heath Cobras v Tooting Tigers match on April 19th.

TONY JONES.

MIDDLESEX

Easter Sunday will be recalled by most readers as a day of wind and rain. On the track of Wembley All Stars however, in driving rain, the Middx. "Under 17" test team took on the Southern Counties. This resulted in a convincing win for Middx., despite a slight pull back b the visitors towards the end. The final score was 65-31. The whole Middlesex team rode well and it is hard to single out any rider, but the brilliant maximum by Fred Bootell cannot go unmentioned. Watch this rider, he will hand out plenty of shocks by the close of the season. Other Wembley Hawks riders Bernie Mason and Eddie Osborne obtained paid maximums. By far the best visitor was Johnny Humphries, who had to really fight for his well earned 8 points.
MIDDX JUNIORS 65: Boutell 12, P.Rides 11, Mason 10, B.Smith 9, Osborne 8.
SOUTHERN COUNTIES 31: Humphries 8, Bagnall 6, Goddard 5, Edney 4, Hoyle 2.

At the Control board meeting of 31st March, the test team forthe match against Leicester was selected. It reads: P.Murden-Tolworth; K.Taylor-Whipps Cross; B.Rankmore; R.Fraser-Wembley A.S.; B.Punter-Harefield; D.Dean(capt.)- W.A.S.; M.Bell, P.Fraser-East Ham Wolves; Reserves- P.Page, E.Hurley-Tolworth.

The first leg of the K.O.Cup Final was won by Tolworth 56-39. Wembley A.S. were without star riders Dean and Roy Fraser and this largely contributed to their big deficit on their own track.

Tottenham Kangaroos travelled down to Tilbury to ride Thurrock Stars and won a close match 55-53.

Bill Punter, secretary of the Middx Grand Prix committee, tells me that plans are going according to schedule for this years event which is to be held over the August Bank Holiday. The track is that of Weston Stars and anybody going along is assured of a really entertaining week-end. After the racing, riders and spectators will no doubt visit the mammoth fair which will be in full swing on the Scrubs.

Another club to realise that the accent must fall on youth inthe future is Brickett Wood Kangaroos. After seeing many old timers come and go last season, the Kangaroos found themselves with hardly any riders a couple of weeks back. Several young riders, but with a little experience, have been signed on. These include Barry Cornell, ex-Finchley Sabre, Wembley All Star, Bushey Ace and Wembley Hawk, Terry Crouse - Bushey Aces, Wembley Hawks, Billy Knight - Oxhey Eagles and Bill Jefkins - Bushey Aces.

Odds and Ends.

Tolworth Tudors may be given some ground by the local council for a new track.

Whipps X are trying to run off some of their League fixtures early in the season under floodlights.

Roger Kirk, Tolworth Tudors, has returned from Cyprus and is riding again. Tottenham, however, have lost Len Adams to the Forces.

Bill Gadsby has taken over from Geoff Pearce as organiser of the Junior League.

BOB SAUNDERS.

SUSSEX

NEW LEAGUE TEAMS. With the closure of Bognor, the Southern Counties League now consisis of Worthing Sputniks Seniors, Worthing Juniors, Brighton Scorchers Seniors, Brighton Juniors. The Junior teams will meet each other twice and meet the opposing seniorteam once at home. The Seniors will ride each other twice - home andaway and away to the opposing Junior team. At last it seems we shall at least have some method of deciding the Championship this season.

BRIGHTONS LUCKY SIGNING The Brighton Scorchers are pleased with their new capture, Mick Court, who signed for them last week. Mick was one of last seasons "stars", whilst riding for Worthing, he finished well up in the League averages and was capped for the League team against the S.P. Juniors. He crowned the season by finishing third in the Leagues Individual Championship, a position which he also occupied in the Clubs Championship. As skipper of the Brighton club I would like to say "welcome Mick, I really am pleasdd to have you in our side! This signing plus the signings of about 6 more juniors looks well for the Scorchers future. Juniors to watch are Oram and Stevenson.

MIDDLESEX GRAND PRIX.The entrants from our League for this event are yours truly, Brian Makepeace and Dennis Hoyle of Worthing Sputniks. Dennis has shown remarkable form and in this seasons first match he scored a maximum against Brighton. His style particularly suits the type of track, that is Weston, and his main asset is sheer speed, which will be of great use on the wide bends of Weston.

"BO-BO".

MANCHESTER

After the two trial matches held at Carrs Wood Hunters track recently the following team were selected torepresent the North against the Midlands on the 26th of April. B.Moston (capt), Marsland Hinchcliffe, Garnett, Holmes, Vickers, McGee, Mills, Davenport, Scales, Bates and McGuiness. Team manager - N.Collier.

The trials produced some interesting racing and surprises, Moston dropped only one point, to Marsland. Garnett also dropped only one point. Hinchcliffe showed some good flashes, McGee and Davenport rode well, but this weeks league matches should see them back on top form. Belle Vues youngsters rode well and did well to finish so far up in the field.McGuiness was not outstanding but pegged away for his points. The Yorkshire lads showed great improvement on last season only Holmes, Vickers and Bates made the team.

Carrs Wood and Wilmslow both had a stiff start to the season making the long trek over the moors for double headers with Lupset and Lindale Champions Belle Vue open with a home match against last seasons second division champions Gorton and Openshaw entertain Longsight.

Longsight Hammers have decided to change their name to the Lions and this was approved by the Board. Bredbury seem to be having trouble forming a team but manager Simms hopes to have one before the second opens at the beginning of May. Nobby Collier has taken over the stewards panel, and has so far had 13 volunteers.

J.D.MOTTERSHEAD.

FREE FOR ALL

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PAGE!

With a feeling of disappointment I pen this as a warning and protest on the way visiting teams can be expected to be treated by Sussex's lone wolves, Hellingly Lions. At 2.45 on Easter Monday, 16 Cowley Eagles riders, changed for action and raring to go, arrived at Hellingly. It was then raining and the track was soaked but firm and we hung on waiting for someone to tell us what was what. No-one did. So after 20 minutes or so I went across and asked George Hollebon "What about it?" "Sorry", he said, "We can't race on that!" - Eh? -Why? He then went on to say his lads wouldn't race on it. So Mick Hudson, Sutherland and Major put forward the proposal tht we race two teams of our own for the sake of a ride - after our 120 miles, 15/- a head journey. Mr. Hollebon turned this down! Reason:- We would churn it up so much that they wouldn't be able to have it ready for their first league match the following Saturday.

After much discussion Muggins - yours truly - got his bike ready and tried very hard to make a mess of the track surface. This I found was impossible. A small, insignificant, normal type rut appeared on the bottom bend - that was all. Still Hollebon, harassed by nearly all the Eagles plus one John Eveleigh (all the way from Wales for this?) persisted in his refusal to let the racing go on. Eventually with the words of Jock Sutherland expressing all our feelings - "I'm not disappointed, just plain disgusted," we left for beer and better thoughts.

This is not the usual biased Shapley report, this is just what happened. So anyone who is contemplating a trip to Sunny Sussex, I advise this, go to Worthing or Brighton, they've got the Cycle Speedway spirit there, not this Sunday afternoonish cricket attitude.

That's all. Only I hope Mr. Hollebon's conscience really squirms at this. It must make him really happy that the track into which he puts all his energy, is not going to be mucked up by these "blasted skid kids" racing round. That would be terrible wouldn't it ?"

BARRY SHAPLEY.

EDITORS NOTE: On the receipt of this letter I wrote to Hellingly asking them for their opinions on what happened. I would however like to point out that the above letter was not shown to Mr. Hollebon, who gives below his own independent comments on what happened:-

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To defend our good reputation and to answer Cowley Eagles critiscms our match with them was postponed for the following reasons:-

1. After heavy Easter rain the newly resurfaced track was in a very wet and soft condition.
2. An inspection of the track was made on Easter Sunday afternoon and at that time it was under water. Immediately we tried to send an over-night telegram to Cowley to postpone the match, but, being Bank Holiday time we could not guarantee a telegram would get through by time Cowley left on Monday morning. We threfore hoped that Easter Monday would be a hot sunny day to dry the track, but it still rained. Even when Cowley arrived it was raining heavily.
3. When it had stopped raining Barry Shapley did 2 laps round the track, at a slow speed and finished plastered in mud from head to foot.

4. We have learned our lesson after riding matches particularly with Sweden last year in identical conditions.

We wish to point out that this was the first home match that we have had to cancel on the day because of track conditions for a very long time. We also have suffered the same fate as Cowley, but have taken it without fuss even though we have to travel at least fifty miles for all away matches. We consider the abusive language used by Cowley riders and officials afterwards as not being in the best interests of the sport. Criticisms or not, we shall still fulfill our away fixture with Cowley as it is not our policy to cancel away trips when the team has visited us unless forced to. If Cowley wish to make a return visit to Hellingly they will be most welcome, so it is up to Cowley to forward some vacant dates.

I hope this answers Cowleys criticism sufficiently as we have a good reputation in most areas and do not want it ruined. We have given our views on the matter and shall make no further comments.

G.HOLLEBON Manager)

WILTSHIRE

The news from Wiltshire this week is very good. Bedwyn Swifts are reported from a reliable source to be reforming and to be taking their place in the Wiltshire League. Still nothing definite from Heytesbury or Deverill, still with Cleverton changing their minds the following teams are almost certain to be competing. Bedwyn Swifts, Brinkworth Pirates, Cleverton Hornets, Marlborough Meteors, Swindon Eagles and Wroughton Racers.

The Brinkworth Pirates have completed surfacing their track, six loads of ashes have been laid. Their first practise took place on Sunday, the going was hard due to steady rain rain the day before, but junior David Butcher showed up well. Six riders turned up and an Individual event was ridden. Jackson scored a maximum. The eagerly awaited clash between Jackson and Peel fizzled out, Jackson took the lead and Peel could not make up the lost ground at all.

Cleverton also had a trial match, their second. Riders present were B.Merrett, J.Davis, D.Walker, G.Vizard, M.Giles and new boy David Lane.

Recently Tolworth visited Brinkworth and went home with a treble. Star of the meeting was junior rider M.Kick of Tolworth. Tolworth thoroughly deserved their victory, the Pirates were unable to do anything to stop their brilliant team riding.

BRINKWORTH PIRATES 41:Hancock 12, TOLWORTH ACES 54: Page, Brimson 10.

BRINKWORTH 30:Jackson, Carter 8. CLEVERTON 66:Davis 12, Walker 11.

BRINKWORTH 35:Peel9,Merrett 6. TOLWORTH TUDORS 61:Claydon12,Pearcel0.

MARLBOROUGH METEORS 52:Wardl0,Dyball 9.SWINDON EAGLES 44:Morse 12.

CLEVERTON 72:Vizard 15,Merrett 13, BRINKWORTH 36:Chesterman 10,

Junior Challenge Matches.

Marlborough Meteors 16;Chilton 8. Swindon 25: Gilbert 8, Morse 7.

Brinkworth 13:Parsons 6,Gale 5, Brinkworth 'B' 28:Butcher 12,Merrettll

Brinkworth 23:Chesterman 8,Edwards 7.Tolworth 37:Kick 12,Biggs 8,Squires7.

R.H.JACKSON.

B.C.S.F. Open Meeting

The first ever open meeting of the BCSF was held on March 31st.

This meeting had almost 100% attendance. The meeting opened with the Chairman Mr. Bacon welcoming the large audience. He then introduced the officials of the Federation Mr.Richardson, Gen Sec. Mr Whittaker, Ass. Gen Sec. Mr. V.Cowell P.R.O. and Mr.C.Shelley Treasurer, to those present. Public Relations Officer, V.Cowell then gave an address on the BCSFs growth and future plans. In this he said that the Gold Cup competition introduced for the first time this season was causing a lot of speculation and quoted the recent article in the Gazette by the Sussex reporter Bo-Bo on the Worthing Sputniks v Raynes Park Tigers tie to emphasize his point. After Vic Cowells speech it was the turn of Gen Sec.,Mr. Richardson to say a few words. He said that competitions scheduled for 1959, included the Brittania Shield Individual Competition for Senior riders and the Gold Cup team Championship. When asked if a Junior Championship would be held this season, Mr. Richardson said that it would not, but would most probably be held in 1960. Asked how many Leagues were affiliated to the Federation, Mr.Bacon stated that only one, the S.P.League, was at present, but that Ind. clubs from all over the country were members, although Leagues as a whole were not.

A period for questions on the general running of the BCSF was then declared. From this many points and suggestions were made. One question to which the answer did not seem to receive general favour was that if Edmonton Monarchs reached the Gold Cup Final would this match still be held on the Monarchs track, as scheduled. The answer was Yes and many people seemed to disagree although nobody voiced dissent. Asked by Mr. Braden (Raynes Park) if the Gold Cup winners could challenge the National Team Champions of NACSA, it was stated that the matter would be given due consideration by the Executive Council. A question by Mr. Jarman as to whether or not medals would be awarded to the Brittannia Shield Finalists and the Gold Cup winners, it was stated that pennants would be given in addition to the Trophies in the Britannia Shield Final, while in all probability medals would be given for the Gold Cup winners.

This then is just a brief outline of some of the very interesting points raised at this meeting, and it can most certainly do the BCSF no harm in holding these meetings and keeping members well informed.

TONY JONES.

HAREFIELD v BASKERVILLE

On the wettest, most dirty track I've ever seen, Harefield Pirates Seniors beat Baskerville Hounds by six points. But for wrong gearings the margin may have been greater. However, Hounds captain, Pete Barlow was absent. Tops for the Hounds was John Turner and Pirates best were Punter, Seymour, and Pearce. THe Pups v Pirates 'B' match was abandoned. The following day Hounds took on Wroughton Racers (Wilts) and lost 48-47.

"HOUND"