

DECEMBER 1959

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CYCLE

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TOPS IN CYCLE SPEEDWAY

'5 - I', Edited by B. Saunders, 12 The Crescent,
Bricket Wood, St. Albans, Herts.
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Editorial

It is not often that new teams spring up out of the blue, but this is the case in a village in Oxfordshire. You can read more about this on the back page. Furthermore, the presentation is first class and well established clubs should look upon this with shame if their own organisation is not so hot, as is mostly the case with clubs these days.

It is with mixed feelings that we see Mr. McPate back in the NACSA office of Public Relations Officer. Mr. McPate has held this post for the past year and this magazine has not heard or seen one word from him. It is up to these P.R.O.s to see that all Cycle Speedway Press knows the latest about the affairs of the Governing Body. If they want publicity, a well worded release can bring them all they need. But to remain completely silent is the worst thing that can be done. This means no publicity and, furthermore, often results in misinterpretations of actions and decisions. This magazine intends to ignore NACSA next year if nothing is heard from them, and to be ignored by a national publication can do them harm, so lets hear from you Mr. McPate.

It just remains for '5)I' to wish its many readers a happy Christmas and all the very best for the new year.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Lew Grepp
2. Phillips, Viking, ex-Wally Green Special
3. Dixie Dean.
4. a-East Ham Wolves, b-Hellingly Lions, c-South London Hunters, South London Rangers, Tooting Tigers.
5. Tucklebury Robins, b-Knightswood Toffs, c-Claydon Greyhounds.
6. Craigston, Estuary, Cowley, Swindon, Boundary, etc.
7. Wormwood Scrubs.
8. Bill Ritchie.
9. 1956.
10. 1950.
11. Bill Punter.
12. a-Lupset Aces, b-Kingstanding Monarchs, c-Swindon Eagles.
13. a-White with red design, b-Red with black 'M' on white circle, c-yellow with red lettering.
14. Derek Wills.
15. a-Panthers, b-Wasps, c-The.
16. Gerry Keany, b-Len Kitching c-Terry Bunce.
17. Whipps Cross Comets.
18. Ivan Mauger.
19. Canada.
20. Edmonton Saints.

The winner is announced elsewhere in this magazine, but it was very close. The Editor has the final decision.

A LETTER FROM JOHNNY BROWN.

I must comment on the article in the last issue of your magazine "NACSA blunder again."

I must agree with you up to the reason you have given for NACSA's verdict. This I think is a piece of unworthy guess work on your part as I think you will find on checking, that NACSA decided to ban the East Ham Wolves riders after they had awarded the verdict to Whipps Cross Comets, so it would not have made any difference to the number of teams that would affiliate anyway.

J. BROWN.

HAGLEY TON FARM WOOD

YOUR REPORTER - BRIAN BUCKER

Although Sutton Stars have been disbanded for several weeks, their track, it seems, is still very highly thought of, for Hagley Comets and Elmdon Bees have both used the circuit for their challenge matches.

After a keen struggle, Hagley defeated Birmingham Lions by a 4 point margin. The final score of 50-46, was well in keeping with the excellent quality of the racing. With the scores even, prior to the start of the final heat, the match finished on an exciting note with the Comets taking a 5 - 1 through Johnnie Varnish and Tony Arnold, after Ewart Edwards had fallen whilst leading.

Impressive for the Comets were Varnish (13), Arnold (10) and Wilkinson (9), whilst Edwards (12), Paddy Kiernan (9), and Hank Hancock (8) were the Lions top men.

The following week, Manchester's Longsight Pegasus, and Gorton Pirates met Hagley Comets and Elmdon Bees respectively.

Longsight found Hagley too strong for them, losing by 59-36. Former Sutton rider Dave Hemus rode magnificently on his old track, to score a 15 point maximum. He received good support from Varnish (11) and Arnold (9).

A woefully weak Elmdon Bees team were no match for Gorton, who were easy winners by 57-39. The sadly understrength Bees did extremely well to score 39 points as several of their stars failed to put in an appearance.

In Noel Thompson, Elmdon have a manager who has put his heart and soul into the game, and despite many setbacks, Noel tells me that he is still prepared to start again, and build a new team from scratch.

Far better support is deserved than that which is given by Martin Rose, Dave Hickman, Graham Whitehouse and others. Through these "stars" not turning up, the club, in addition to losing the match, lost heavily financially on the hiring of transport. IF YOU RIDERS WONT RIDE REGULARLY, WHY DONT YOU GET OUT.

COWLEY GRAB TROPHY

YOUR REPORTER - "ALLOTT"

On Sunday 29th November - 2 months late - Oxford's Battle of Britain Trophy was won by 3 points 49 to 46, by Cowley Eagles from league winners Horspath Hammers.

Hammers started with 5 riders but had 16 points to Cowley's 14 at heat 5. Shapley and Robinson scored 4-2 in heat 8 to make it 24 all, again got another 4-2 in heat 11 to turn the tide, and when Rowland and Sutherland got another 5-1 in heat 13, it was nearly over. NEARLY, for John Lillis and Paul Denmark did likewise for the Hammers in heat 15 and 3 points separated the teams. In the nominated Cowley fielded Rowland and Byles in grids 2 and 4 against Butler and Grant in 1 and 3. To cut the story short, George Byles did his usual heat 16 show and won from the gate. That was that. It only remained for Cowley's Jock Sutherland to receive the handsome trophy from the Battle of Britain Individual winner of 1958 - Jock Sutherland. NEWS.

Rumour has it that Barry Dawes, Oxford's most successful rider of 1959, may leave Baskerville for Cowley, for 1960.

Barry Shapley, top of Oxford's 1959 averages, aims to quit, apart from week-end riding, in 1960. He may have to - he's a night shift worker now.

An under strength Cowley team recently beat Hawbush Hammers of Essex, 56-40. Scorers - Eagles ; Shapley 15, Mullett 12, Taylor 8, Denmark 8, Califano 6, Berry 4, Brooks 2, Joy 1. Hammers ; Chubb 9, Wells 8, Green 7, Koehler 7, Cox 4, Warren 3, Spence, J 2, Swinchatt 0.

More news from Allott elsewhere in this issue.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPORT.

Don't look through this excellent book in search of Cycle Speedway, because there is none there. In fact its the only fault to be found with it.

sit down on December 25th and read this

A STORY FOR XMAS EVE

Written by THE SLIDER.

Bill Brown lazed peacefully in the armchair, cracking almonds. 'Twas Christmas Eve. The fire was blazing, the decorations were up and the tree was lade with coloured lights. No work for a couple of days. An the big event down the track tomorrow afternoon. Bill leaned back and mused. All the top riders would be there anxious to win the handsome Christmas Trophy. He closed his eyes and pictured himself amongst the fabulous line up. Roy Milwatto, Brian Hoston, Dixie Bean, yes they were all there. And there he was, Bill Brown out in the lead. Nobody could catch him. A brilliant maximum and the trophy. Maybe he had'nt shown much form during the season, but this was it. Bill opened his eyes. He knew he would do well on the next day.....

Midday, Christmas Day. Bill, wearing a paper hat and blowing a sharp edged tin whistle, glanced at the clock. Time he started preparing.

"No dinner for me, Ma," he said, mouth watering and glancing at the delicious slices of turkey being put on the plates "gotta be fit for this afternoon."

Heat 1, grid 4. That was the unfortunate start to his rides. The 4 riders went up to the tapes. The steward, Mr. Wildcat, blared out some indecipherable instructions. Up went the tapes. Bill made a full blooded drive round the outside and found himself in 2nd place behind Joe Haverty. On the 2nd lap he came out of the bend on the inside of Haverty, but Haverty was just in front. As Bill reached the top bend he realised he could not quite do it. Across came Haverty and - crunch. Bill glanced at the steward - the steward looked blank. Spokes jingling like sleigh bells, he took chase again. Last bend, this was it. A terrific drive round the out. He was almost there, neck and neck. But Haverty was drifting out. Bill was almost on the outside line. He was being driven off the track in the direction of the starting posts. He was going straight at the post. Help - crash. CONT.

S.P

CARRY ON

ON

YOUR REPORTER - KEN ARCHER

A general meeting of the Southern Premier League was held on Tuesday November 10th and at this meeting it was established that there would definitely be a Southern Premier League next year, even though the four clubs that form the "Federation block" have broken away.

Much was discussed at this meeting, the biggest item being the Tooting club's expulsion from the Federation. The executive committee of the Federation refuses to make any further comment on this matter, yet many questions still remain unanswered, and what guarantee have clubs still left in the Federation got that they wouldn't be treated in this manner by the executive committee. The main facts in the case are -

1. What was the crime committed?
2. Why wasn't anybody called before the Executive Committee to defend their case?
3. Was the Steward called before them?
4. Why did the proposer and seconder of the motion sit on the five man committee?
5. If any riders were guilty, why were they not asked to attend?
6. And why is there no appeal against their decisions?

Is the constitution of the Federation to deprive riders of their racing, when they were in no part to blame for the actions of the Steward at that meeting?

RESULTS

SOUTH LONDON R 46 Baker 12, Webb 10, R.Chivers 10
TOOTING TIGERS 50 Cable 12, Cattle 9, Archer 7.

RAYNES PK TIGERS 64 Coleman 14, Bedford 10, Trigg, Rides 8
THORNTON HTH COBRAS 32 Baker 11, Goodrum 10.

RAYNES PK TIGERS 66 Cracknell 15, D.Chivers 11, Coleman 10
SOUTH LONDON H 29 Parsons 11, Daniels, Adams, Mills 4

SOUTH LONDON H 39 Parsons 9, Daniels 8, Adams 8.

RAYNES PK TIGERS 57 Rides 12, D.Chivers 12, L.Baker 8

WILTSHIRE'S GOOD YEAR

YOUR REPORTER - DAVID. V. SCOTT

This has been the most successful season in Wiltshire for several years. The best achievement was that of Swindon Eagles juniors - winning the National junior Team Championship at Coventry, and the first National honour for Wiltshire.

Frank Garlick, the Swindon captain, won the junior individual championship for the 3rd year running, and took 3rd place in the National Final at Hungerford, as against 2nd place the year before.

Other riders on form were John Davis and Bob Merrett of Cleverton Hornets who gained 1st and 2nd places respectively in the Berkshire Grand Prix at Hungerford.

In county matches Wiltshire were much too strong in the junior field. After 10 heats at Southampton, Wiltshire dropped the leading scorers for the reserves to ride, and still won by a large margin, 56-40. The return match at Marlborough gave the younger Wiltshire riders a fine double, winning 66-29. Against Berkshire, Wiltshire were without Richards, Hudd and Chesterman, but even so gained the double over the Berkshire opponents, 25-23 at Bucklebury and 60-36 at Marlborough.

In senior racing Wiltshire came out against better riders, losing by the odd point at Southampton, 47-48 against Hampshire, but gaining revenge at Marlborough with a 49-46 win, while against Berkshire, at Bucklebury, the Wiltshire team took a commanding lead to win 52-43. They completed the double at Marlborough, which was a much closer match although Wiltshire won 50-44. Top riders in the County team were Ray Morse, Bob Merrett and Keith Hancock in the senior teams, and Frank Garlick, Mike Hudd and Bob Thomas in junior matches.

The county rounds in the W.T.C were much as expected apart from Swindon defeating Cleverton in their senior semi-final both at home and away. While Wroughton Racers retained the senior title, Swindon won the junior. The semi-final against near rivals Wroughton Racers, was the toughest match in the whole of the competition, with the Eagles only just winning on aggregate scores. CONT.

LEAGUE PLODS ON

YOUR REPORTER - BOB SAUNDERS

The 1959 Middlesex Summer League plods on. Some teams still have 6 matches to ride. Sounds fantastic, doesn't it? What is the reason for this? You may well ask. The league consists of 11 clubs. A couple of these did not make much effort to ride off their matches during the summer and also some teams had good runs in the National Trophy. The result - havoc. If the same number of teams enters the League next season, it is essential that there be 2 divisions.

League matches have been affected by the recent bad weather and only one has been ridden. For this Tolworth Tudors only scraped up 4 riders and consequently met with their first defeat of the season at the hands of Tottenham, 46-43. Reggie Squires and Derek Pearce fought hard for Tolworth and both recorded maximums.

Rushey Kangaroos have been riding a series of challenge matches, but without much success. At Southend against Estuary Eagles they went down 70-38, Pete Saunders scoring 12. At Hawbush, Kangaroos lost 63-45, this time Brian Gillett was top scorer with 14. Rushey, by the way, have now joined the federation.

Wembley Hawks are hoping for a new track to ride on next year. The Council have their application under consideration at present. Hawks prefer a site on Northwick Park, which was the rendezvous of the famous Sudbury Rising Sun.

Harefield Pirates and Lions are to combine for the winter. The club is pleased with the way some of their riders have rode during the season, particularly the year's top discovery, Steve Viner. Captain of the Lions, Reg Lester has also shown some dynamic form. Harefield though, are rather short of riders in the Pirate ranks and anybody wishing to ride for them should contact Maurice Maitland at 132, Manor Way, Uxbridge.

TOTTENHAM K 46 White 8, Dunn 8, Hill 7.

TOLWORTH T 43 Squires 15, Pearce 12, Claydon 8, Kirk 8

TOOTING TIGERS

FACTS SUPPLIED BY KEN ARCHER

WHO'S
WHO.
No. 2

DEREK CATTLE. Born Earlsfield, London 1930. Founder member of club in 1947 and has been with them ever since. Captain for the past 4 seasons. A consistent league scorer over the years, but never has luck in individuals, except when he came 2nd in the Southern Premier Final of 1957.

KEN ARCHER. Born Battersea 1933. First rode in 1948 for Mitcham Broadside Cubs then Tooting, but struck form when captain of Battersea Bulldogs. With Battersea Eagles rode in all but one of the Empress Hall matches. After leaving the forces in 1955, rejoined Tooting for whom he has been a steady scorer. Bachelor.

BERNIE GABLE. Born Bermondsey 1937. First rode when only 12 for the Bermondsey Greyhounds. Afterwards rode for Peckham Stars, Tulse Hill Rockets and Weston Stars. 1957 joined Tooting and this year won the Southern Area Championship. 1959 his best year ever.

PETE JARMAN. Born New Cross 1936. Rode for several South East London teams before joining Beckenham Monarchs in 1954. Allocated to Tooting after the Monarchs folded last year. Has done little riding in 1959, due to motor speedway.

BOBBY WILLIAMS. Age 17, only started riding in 1958, but has good style and should prove good in the future.

MAX CATER. Born 1936, first rode in 49/50 for Nunhead Dragons. Retired in 1952 on their collapse and only restarted this year with Tooting. Reliable second string.

DAVE FAIRFOUL. Born 1936, started riding for Wimbledon Stars in 1951, followed by Tooting Wildcats and graduation to the Tigers. Rides the worst maintained bike in the Southern Premier. Married, one daughter.

TOMMY DAVIS. Born 1937 and when 14 rode for the Wildcats. soon promoted to the Tigers and rode in Tests. Spent 3 years in the army and has not been out long.

PETER OLIVER. Born 1952, been riding for a year. Selected for the S.P. Junior Test team and was top scorer.

And of course there is manager and founder of the Tigers, **BILL CATTLE**, who is known by practically everybody. He is assisted by his youngest son, **GERALD CATTLE**, who is an excellent steward and was "Sportsman of the Year", 1958.

TATNAM TOP LEAGUE

REPORTED BY "TEAM-MATES."

FINAL HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tatnam Tigers	10	9	0	1	602	352	22
Southampton Vikings	10	9	0	1	559	399	22
Chandlers Ford Stars	10	5	0	5	473 $\frac{1}{2}$	478 $\frac{1}{2}$	12
Shirley Bombers	10	3	0	7	426 $\frac{1}{2}$	526 $\frac{1}{2}$	7
Vickers Viscount	10	3	0	7	381	505	7
Tatnam Tudors	10	1	0	9	385	566	2

For the first time in its history, the Hampshire League has been won by a team which resides outside of the county. The Tatnam teams compete in the Hampshire League as there are only two teams in Dorset.

The line up for next season is not straight yet. It has been said that Vickers Viscount will not ride in the league next season. Their manager however, hopes to form a team elsewhere.

There is also talk of another team being formed in the Southampton area.

ESSEX GRADED CUP STANDINGS

RIVETTS CUP.

East Ham Stars 'A'	6	5	0	1	193	79	10
East Ham Wolves 'A'	6	5	0	1	142	131	10
The Gladiators 'A'	6	1	0	5	122	157	2
East Ham Wolves 'B'	6	1	0	5	102	164	2

GIBSON CUP

Whipps Cross Comets 'B'	6	5	0	1	171	109	10
Thurrock Stars 'A'	6	4	0	2	160	120	8
East Ham Stars 'B'	6	2	0	4	119	161	4
The Gladiators 'B'	6	1	0	5	110	170	2

RESULTS

CRUSADERS/HAWBUSH 64 Bull, R 15, Bull, B 12, Philpot 10
EAST HAM STARS JUN 32 Spalding 9, Biddle 6, Duffy 5

GLASGOW K.O. CUP

YOUR REPORTER - JOHN A. LETTS

SURPRISE. PRIESTHILL WIN KNOCKOUT CUP.

Priesthill have won the knockout cup; and what a surprise this has been. It was obvious that the final match of the season would be a tough, closely fought contest, but few people had little doubt about the result - Mansewood to win. The score went 57-50 in favour of Priesthill. And if the match were to be summed up in a few words the words would be:- Mansewood were losers, Priesthill were winners; there lay the difference.

Priesthill Giants were the more constructive team, partly because of their team riding tactics and partly because of their superior starting, while Mansewood had to develop a more negative style of riding. When the Giants broke through in one heat the Lions had to go all out to prevent a similar break through in the next heat. The match was certainly not one sided, as the score proves, and Mansewood battled on to claim some good heat wins; but their all round team strength was not sufficient to stand up to the powerful Priesthill combine. Harkins, who was unbeaten by the opposition, needed more backing from his heat leaders to give the Lions some punch. This punch was not forthcoming, so Priesthill were allowed to deliver the knockout blow. The Giants took the cup and credit must go to all their riders.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP.

The boys up here are awaiting news of the World Championship. So far we know that the final will take place at Garrett Park in London. As yet we have no information about the method of selection, the date, or the organising committee. There are one or two Glasgow boys who are anxious to compete in this event, thus if anyone could bring us up to date on the World Final we might be able to get some arrangements made.

SOUTHERN PREMIER RESULT

9. LONDON RANGERS 57 R.Chivers 13, R.Baker 9, Toy 9.
THORNTON HTH 39 Goodrum 11, R.Baker 10, Smith 9.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES LEAGUE A.G.M.

YOUR REPORTER - BRIAN MAKEPEACE

At the Annual General Meeting at Worthing, the deputy Chairman welcomed new members in Wantley Wasps and Findon Flyers and added that also we hoped to include Crawley Comets in the 1960 line up. This will make a league of 5 teams - a distinct improvement on past years.

An invitation by Southern Premier was turned down by both Worthing Sputniks and Brighton Scorchers who pledged allegiance to the league.

The Deputy Chairman gave his report and said that it had been a most successful season for the League but the interest had waned more than a little towards the end, due mainly to the lack of new faces. The prizewinners were congratulated and other riders given encouragement for 1960.

The officials for 1960 were elected as follows: CHAIRMAN..B. Makepeace, HON. SECRETARY..D. Goddard, TREASURER..Mrs.B. Makepeace, HON PRESS & P.R.O.. J. Holden., and other members of the board are to be elected (2 from each team), C.B meetings are to be held monthly in season and every 6 weeks out of season.

The fees were reviewed and the Treasurer's statement shows a slight balance in hand. And the accounts in the future look a little healthier now.

It was anticipated that a "Pride of the South" trophy will be held in 1960 with top riders from the south of England being invited. The Brighton club also booked the dates for a "Championship of Sussex" and an invitation Best Pairs Cup. All these meetings are good for publicity and it looks good for the future.

A Stewards Exam was also planned to take place before Easter and there was also a good following for the BC&F Stewards Exam and 4 members showed a deep interest.

The League also have decided to run all their meetings and League matches under BC&F rules and abide by these. Yes things certainly look very good for 1960. Roll on Easter..

About 40 people attended NACSA's 10th annual general meeting at Leicester on 28th November. Those 40 did not include any official representatives from Essex or Middlesex. Could it be that these 2 counties, disgruntled at the shabby treatment meted out to several of their clubs, are contemplating a change of allegiance?

NACSA however are far from being "finished." 1959 showed a small increase in numbers and next year, they will again be assured of 100% support from the North (Lancs, Cheshire, Yorks) also presumably from the South-West (Dorset, Hants, Berks, Wilts) and from at least Leicester and Coventry as far as the Midlands are concerned.

Mr. J. Leith surprisingly stated that the Coventry Association had pledged its support to the "Old Firm" in 1960. Coventry have been notorious isolationists in the past. Norfolk, too, are considering joining NACSA.

NACSA's new committee comprises Messrs., G. Fernyhough (Chairman); A. Mansbridge (Vice-Chairman); F. Bennett (Secretary); F. Ashtonhurst (Treasurer); J. McPate (Press Officer); B. Moston, J. Leith, N. Thompson, G. Davis, D. Johnston, R. Rolfe (Executive).

Mr. Ashtonhurst takes over from Mr. Branch as Treasurer. The letter of resignation was read at the meeting. Mr. Branch wrote to say that he has insufficient time for his cycle speedway duties now that he has acquired a smallholding in Gloucestershire.

A pity, though, that he could't manage even a provisional balance sheet. And 2 years running without any audited accounts despite numerous applications by the auditors to have sight of the books is a very poor show which hardly encourages confidence in the Association.

You'll have to do better than that, Mr. A.

QUIZ WINNER

With 49 points from a maximum of 60 - a very good performance - the winner of last month's quiz was Brian Makepeace. Brian certainly knows his Cycle Speedway.

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TEAMS

YOUR REPORTER - FRED SIMPSON

At the Annual General Meeting held in Norwich it was sorted out that there would be eleven teams wishing to compete in the 1960 season. It is now left to the Control Board to sort out whether there should be a first and second division or one big division.

The Control Board was elected for the 1960 season and is as follows - B. Edwards (Chairman), A. Forster (Secretary) and M. Parkins, M. Colman, F. Simpson and R. Tungate. The Board will work throughout the winter months preparing ahead for our next season.

Mike Parkins, Boundary Eagles manager, has entered riders from his team into the 1960 World Championships.

RESULTS. GALLEY CUP, at Galley.

1st D. Howard (Stars) 14, 2nd B. Woodcock (Galley) 14,
3rd M. Parkins (Eagles) 11.

GENE TEMPEST CUP at Drayton.

1st A. Forster (Lions) 14, 2nd B. Woodcock (Galley) 14,
3rd D. Howard (Stars) 12.

NORWICH BEST PAIRS at Galley.

1st B. Smith and T. Olley (Lions) 19, 2nd Simpson and Parkins 17, 3rd Goodson and Craske (Galley) 15.

FUTURE EVENT.

BOXING DAY TROPHY

Mousehold track, Norwich.

December 26th, 2.30.

Riders competing - Humphries, Hurrell, Paternoster (Hellesdon), Goodson, Craske, Woodcock, Simpson, Harris (Galley), Waller, Forster, Howlett, Hunt (Mousehold), Olley, Cubitt, Fisher (Stars), Parkins (Boundary).

SO 'TIS SAID....

Track news in Middlesex. Wembley Hawks have applied to the council for a new site and have been told that it is under consideration. Bushey Kangaroos who were expecting to lose theirs, have fought hard for it and things are pointing to a success for the Kangaroos.

WILTSHIRE '93 SUCCESSFUL SEASON (CONT)

The county individual titles were closely fought, with a triple run off at Brinkworth for the senior title, between Chesterman of Brinkworth, and Merrett and Davis of Cleverton, the honours going to Davis with Chesterman second. The junior was won by Frank Garlick, with heat 18 almost a run off for second place. Thomas led on the first lap but a fall left Hudd and Richards to tie, in the run off Richards defeating Hudd.

A CHRISTMAS STORY (CONT)

The ward was gaily decorated. Nurses were pulling crackers with patients. Bill sipped a glass of water. The moral of this story is - don't invite Joe Haverty to your next big event.

SOUTHEND NEWS

YOUR REPORTER - DEN WINCH.

Southend's only club Estuary Eagles look like having some opposition in the area. If the Southend Corporation approve the old Leigh Aces circuit in Oakwood Park, Eastwood will be opened again. An old Leigh rider tells me he plans to reform the Leigh Aces. Plans are already in hand for the formation of another team to race on the Barling race bowl. The present club Estuary Eagles are to join both NACSA and BCSEF.

Nice to see Nobby Watson back in the saddle again. In his first appearance for the Eagles against the Stars at East Ham he collected a dozen well earned points.

Recent breach of rules brought Pete Moss 14 days suspension for failing to arrive for a fixture. For being guilty of failing to appear at a meeting and without giving any suitable reason John Pace and Tony French were each fined 5/-. Novice Bert Wilson was fined 4/- for the same offence.

The Eagles latest recruit is Dickie Heywood. This brings their riding strength to 18.

It is understood that Fred Munro has retired. Stan Thompson recently got married. Congratulations Stan. Skipper Alan Hockley came back to form when he collected Roger Rolph's Match Race Championship.

Estuary Eagles New Year Dance is to be held at the Village Hall, Great Wakering on Saturday 9th January. Dancing 7.30 till 11.45 to Ted Stock and his Band.

NEWS

Turford is a large village astride the A40, midway between Gloucester and Oxford. No one would expect Cycle Speedway to flourish in a place like this but it does - and how.

300 people watched the Pirates, as their team is called, lose 28-72 to Cowley's second stringers, the Kestrels, on 29th November. Their first ever match. As an incident, Kestrels scorers at the top were Gerald Lee ex-Baskerville cast off, with a 15 point max and the track record; Tony Strange 14; Gray Miles 13. But the main thing was the crowd - farmers in their cars (including a new Jaguar), a tent for refreshments and a good old fashioned presentation. For those who can't remember, this means things like the steward wearing a white coat, the white lines being white, the two captains going to the centre for the toss up and the like. But how did it happen? We in Oxford don't really know. It just sort of sprung up. No one ever knew of cycle speedway or had ever seen it, at Turford, before it started.

We've helped since with rule books, etc., but most of the credit must go to two local grass-track men who've done most of the work. One of their names is Mr. T. Yeatman, 41 Oxford Road, Turford, and if anyone wants the time of their lives then write to him and sample a bit of Turford hospitality - its great.

MORE ESSEX RESULTS FROM RON BULL

RON BULL TROPHY FOR JUNIOR RIDERS

1. M. Green (Hawbush Diamonds) 15, 2. R. Bull (Crusaders) 14, 3. A. Philpot (Crusaders) & J. Spence (Diamonds) 12.

GRADED BEST PAIRS. 2nd round Division I.

1. T. Walker (18) & K. Barratt (9) East Ham Stars FT 57
2. J. Halloran (16) & D. Kiley (10) E.H. Stars FT 46
3. N. Lillywhite (16) & J. Barratt (ns) E.H.S FT 42
4. G. Siddons (13) & G. Gibbs (8) Thurrock Stars FT 39