

1960

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CYCLE

SPEEDWAY

MAGAZINE

6D

5 - 1 FOR CYCLE SPEEDWAY

NEWS
AND
VIEWS

No. 7.

Price - 6d.

January 24th, 1960.

Every 3/4 weeks.

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St. Albans, Herts,

EDITORIAL

To all readers of '5 - 1' and all supporters of cycle speedway, I wish a happy 1960 and may every match be a draw. I must also thank those readers who were kind enough to send Christmas cards. Thank you.

.. .. .
This is the time of the year when rumours fly backwards and forwards. Which league will so and so join next year? Is it true that another league has been formed? Every year it is the same. Of course, in most areas there is no question of which league a club will be in. There is only one league, but in London the question has again arisen. Teams will be split between Essex, Middlesex and the Federation League. Possibly the Southern Premier may also be operating, but this seems doubtful. Although nothing is definite yet, a shake up between the leagues of up to a dozen teams is possible.

.. .. .
I am pleased to see that the opening of New Cross speedway sparked off a start in cycle speedway interest. A few youngsters have been drawn in from the ranks of the Rangers fans and this summer should see more.

RE - ORDER FORM.

Please send issues 8,9,10 and 11. I enclose a 2/8d p.o.

Name..... Address.....

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.....

WOLVES TAMED

YOUR REPORTER - BOB SAUNDERS

East Ham Wolves lost their third league match of the season when they went down at home to Wembley All Stars, 41-53. Wolves, without Bromley and Archie, only fielded 5 riders which were no match for Wembley's 7. Dixie Dean made one of his rare appearances and was unbeaten in his 3 rides. Eddie Hill was also back in the saddle after a 3 month lay off and rode well for 8. Pete Fraser was top Wolf with 11.

Wembley Hawks beat Whipps Cross 65-31, although the racing was far closer than the score suggests. Plenty of passing on this soft track was the order of the day. 'Professional' Brian Smith recorded a maximum and Keith Taylor (9) was the only Comet to get a good score.

Whipps Cross recently held their annual Individual Championship. The holder, Keith Taylor, was unable to take part, but 16 Comets still battled it out. In the early stages it was Sid Pipe, Brown and Hamilton leading. In the 20th heat, Sid Pipe won from Johnny Brown and so they became first and second in the event. Mick Currey came third.

In a challenge match at Tottenham, the Kangaroos defeated the Comets 51-42. Colin Booth, in his first match for 2 years scored 9 for Comets and Malcolm Reading (10) headed some consistent Tottenham riders.

A further challenge match was held at Bushey and resulted in a win for South London Hunters 58-38. The Hunters found how to ride the frozen track better than the Kangaroos. Daniels and Parsons with 13 each were best in a good Hunters line up, while Pete Saunders (13) was unbeaten up to the nominated for the home side.

BRIEFLY, It has been heard that Tolworth cannot field even one team now and must be considered doubtful starters for next year. The Wembley All Stars social club seems to be attracting riders from several teams now. Fred Routtall has been fined 10/- for non-arrival at the Britannia Shield final. THE N.W. MIDDLESEX A.C.M WILL BE HELD AT WESCOTT LODGE HAMMERSMITH ON FEBRUARY 23RD AT 7.45. ALL WELCOME.

BUSHEY KANGAROOS

FRANK MALES. A founder of the original Bushey Aces. Been riding since 1946. Known for his fearless riding and clowning. Likes coming from behind. Appeared in the National semi-finals at Whitley, but was so disgusted with the set up that he did not bother. Says he travelled more in 1959 than ever before. Age 28.

BRIAN GILLETT. Started riding again last year after a season's lay off and soon restarted where he left off. Appeared in the National Junior Final after qualifying at Whitley and being the Hertfordshire runner-up. Also a football star. High in the Middlesex Junior League averages and now striking top form. Age 16.

GEORGE PYNE. Rode for Black Panthers and Bushey Aces in the Watford League of 1953/4 time. Came back last year and is rapidly improving. Has the tough job of Club Treasurer. Age 22.

PETE SAUNDERS. Originally rode for the Bricket Wood club and appeared in the National Junior Final 1957, 8 and 9. 1959 won the Middlesex League Junior Individual and was runner-up with Kangaroo captain Brian Gillett, in the Junior Best Pairs. Also in League Junior Test Team. League match race average 2.04. Age 16.

CLIFF WISE. Veteran former Bushey Aces rider. Good gater and excellent at team riding. Good club man who never enters for individuals. Has retired at various times but has been persuaded to continue. Age unknown.

BOB SAUNDERS. Club manager and a founder of the old Bricket Wood Kangaroos. Form always erratic - either likes the track bone hard or thick mud. Age 21.

BOBBY ROME. Commenced towards the end of last season, but has made good progress. Given half a chance, will take it. The club discovery of the season and will be a star rider with more experience. Starts 1960 on a new Phillips. 15.

BAZ 'HOWDY' CORNELL. Rode for Wembley All Stars, Finchley Sabres, Bushey Aces and Wembley Hawks before joining the Kangaroos at the beginning of 1959. Still only 17. Joined up with the Merchant Navy and aims to ride in every country he visits. Last heard of en route for Australia.

OVERSLIDES

MAGAZINE REVIEW.

Mick Green has produced a magazine entitled "Cycle Speedway News." The first edition features Essex, Middlesex and Norfolk, although it states that a couple of other areas may be included in the next issue. The magazine does not intend to become a National though. The "News" is very good from a local point of view, giving match reports and complete scorers. Although Mr. Green's editorial humour is a little questionable at times, the magazine is well worth buying if you are within the areas covered. It should also be of interest to those who are generally interested in the sport and not just in ones own team. Priced at 6d, it can be obtained from Mick at 6, Coppice Path, Chigwell, Essex.

Whipps Cross Comets have an old record player which plays 12 records. It needs a little attention but will be given away to any club needing one. (Comets have a new one.) It can be used with an amplifier for P.A. system on the track. Apply to J. Brown, 13, Amesbury Drive, Chingford, E.4.

COWLEY EAGLES require matches for April onwards home and away. The secretary is Mr. B. Shapley, 48, Ashurst Way, Rose Hill, Oxford.

BUSHEY KANGAROOS are anxious to meet any teams who intend to tour the London area next season. They are particularly keen to ride any overseas teams who may be visiting this country. Please contact B. Saunders. Address as this magazine.

POOR PETE.

Not a very happy Christmas for Pete Page. He had his house burgled on Christmas Eve.

Articles are invited for the Who's Who series and also the star pen pictures. You need not be a reporter to do this.

1959 SOUTHEND REVIEW

YOUR REPORTER - DEN WINCH

Sunday, September 6th 1959, a day to remember in the cycle speedway year, the day the old sport returned to Southend, the birth of a new club - Estuary Eagles.

The first meeting was held on the old Barling race bowl at Kimberley Road, Little Wakering, leased to the Eagles by a local builder Mr. R. A. Wyatt who was to become the club President. No less than 150 spectators saw a best pairs trophy won by skipper Alan Hockley and Pete Chilton. The following Sunday saw the first team match when the Lions were defeated by the Aces 38-58.

The Kimberley Cup was annexed by Roger French. A new star was discovered in John Pace, who defeated Roger French to become the Southend Match Race Champion. The Eagles defeated a team labelled The Rest 68-35.

On October 4th, the Eagles were hosts to Whipps Cross Comets, always great favourites at Barling. Eagles ran out winners 58-50. The next visitors were Kesgrave Panthers, who were defeated 54-50. The Graden Trophy (given by former Prittlewell Pirates stalwarts Graham Priest and Den Winch) was won by John Pace and Tony French. In their first away match at Ipswich in October, the Eagles went down to Kesgrave Panthers, 40 points to 67.

Their next visitors were Bushey Kangaroos whom they defeated 68-40. On their visit to East Ham Stars they kept up their winning performances by defeating the locals 68-40. In their return fixture at Barling the Eagles found the hard riding Stars a different proposition and ran out victors by 54-53.

The Estuary Eagles record is.:P.6.W.5.L.1.

I have been in Cycle Speedway since early 1949 and have always had one ambition to manage a team winning the National Trophy. Could this year be my year? I certainly expect the Eagles to go far. As far as the World Championship is concerned I will stick out my neck and say that Nobby Watson will take some beating. Yes, Estuary Eagles will make a name for themselves in 1960.

Hoping to see you all around the tracks next season, good racing in 1960.

OXFORD A.G.M

YOUR REPORTER - "ALLOTT"

Before an extremely small attendance, the Oxford Cycle Speedway Association's A.G.M was held in the Carpenters Arms, Cowley, on Monday, 7th December.

After a resume of the 1959 season in which the retiring secretary Kev Rowland remarked on the achievements of the county in its first revival year and emphasised the need for responsible, independent adults on the board for 1960. The following officials were elected:-

Chairman- MR. A. BARLOW, Snr.,: Secretary/Treasurer- MR. R. CROSBY of Bullington Green, Cowley, and Chief Steward- MR. C. COOPER. A representative of each affiliated club will attend each meeting.

At the moment the new Board's policy is not known, but I will endeavour to keep "5 - 1" readers informed when it is made known.

Mr. Barlow is a relation of Baskerville's manager, Tony Barlow, but is not connected with the club. He is seen at most matches and his enthusiasm is 100%

If Mr. Barlow's enthusiasm is 100%, then Secretary/Treasurer Ray Crosby's is 200%. Ray is a local, but well known in Motor Speedway circles, trader has done much in 1959 to further the sport. Oxford will prosper with Mr. Crosby.

Mr. Cyril Cooper, the new Chief Steward, was formerly associated with Baskerville, but his work as a Community Centre Chairman, took him away from the club. He is expected to work hard for the sport.

WHO'S WHO (cont.)

The many club juniors include Captain ADRIAN GREEN (13), club Junior Champion GREVILLE BEDFORD (13) and GRAHAM BRABANT (13).

Not to be left out is the club's steward MICK MCCARTHY. Mick puts up with no nonsense from either team and is rapidly becoming a top steward, assisted by his right hand man MICKY FOSKETT.

PETE DENIES RUMOURS

Since the announcement of Tolworth Aces fold up, various rumours have been circulating regarding the future of Star rider Pete Page. It was said that Pete was interested in joining Raynes Park Tigers.

In an exclusive interview with Pete, '5 - 1' asked him whether this was true.

"Definitely not," was his reply.

It appears that this may have started when Pete met former Tolworth rider, Pete Rides, who now wears the Raynes Park colours. They discussed the Tigers, but Pete did not go as far as saying that he wished to join them. Who will he ride for? Pete prefers the senior Tolworth Team, the Tudors. If he does not join them, he will definitely join one of the Middlesex League teams. He has no intention of leaving the league's racing as he feels that it is good and clean.

DIARY(CONT) CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10. Read overleaf first. DECEMBER. All World Championship entries closed Dec., 31.

THE FUTURE SEASON.

It has been said that Cycle Speedway follows the trends of motor speedway. So far, this is true. But 1960 seems set for the revival season of the big boys stuff. Will cycle speedway follow suit? That of course remains to be seen. I sincerely hope so, but I doubt it. I doubt it.

MOANS DEPT.

So you don't like the '5 - 1' ratings. To choose the best riders in the country is a hopeless task. That is why Scottish, Dutch and other countries were not included. To do a world rating is impossible. Anyway, if you think you can do a better rating then send it in. If there are enough, the net result will be tabulated and published. If only a few are received, they will be published individually. So lets have you, but please make make your selections country wide and of honest opinion.

Now for some more controversial opinions of 1959, so over to "Allott."

1959

Nobody can say that 1959 did not have good weather for racing - which is half the battle of whether a season turns out to be a good one or not. One good thing was the fact that fewer teams folded during the year. Indeed fewer teams closed in 1959 than have for many years. This is just as well because there would be hardly any clubs left if things had continued as before. But there were no noticeable increase in new clubs. Perhaps it can be said that 1959 saw a stop to the rot that had been setting in since about 1953.

THE ENTERTAINERS.

Why does Cycle Speedway fail to attract the spectators these days? A big reason for this is the lack of entertainers. Nowadays everybody concentrates on making the gate and staying there. Racing therefore tends to become more professional. '5 - 1' salutes the following riders who are entertainers. These boys are not all great riders (but they are certainly good) who win championships, but are selected because they make a spectator sit up and watch.

Pete Hudson (Thurrock Stars), Archie Warren (Hawbush Hammers), Alan Hockley (Estuary Eagles), Jim Cooke (Vickers Viscounts), Larry Davenport (Wilmslow Hammers), Les Westwood (Edmonton Monarchs), Pete Page (Tolworth Tudors), Fred Bouttell (Wembley Hawks), George Abel (Spixworth Comets), Graham Mullett (Cowley Eagles), Bert Harkins (Mansewood Lions), Tony Rookyard (Kesgrave Panthers), Del Goddard (Brighton Scorchers), Dave Chivers (Raynes Park Tigers), Frankie Garlick (Swindon Eagles), and Ewart Edwards (Birmingham Lions).

'5 - 1' OPINIONS OF THE YEAR.

TEAM OF THE YEAR. Wilmslow Hammers.

RIDER OF THE YEAR. Brian Moston.

MOST IMPROVED RIDER. Neil Goodrum.

TOP VETERAN. Ted Walker.

TOP ENTERTAINER. Les Westwood.

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BEST FIRST SEASON RIDER. Fred Bouttell.
 BEST TRACK. Garrett Park.
 BEST LEAGUE. Birmingham.
 TOPS IN ADMINISTRATION. Mr. P. Kearns.
 TOP AREA FOR ENCOURAGING JUNIORS. Wiltshire.

'5 - 1' ENGLISH RATINGS 1959.

1. Ron Gibbons	East Ham Wolves.
2. Ted Walker	East Ham Stars.
3. Les Westwood	Edmonton Monarchs.
4. Keith Taylor	Whipps Cross Comets.
5. Larry Davenport	Wilmslow Hammers.
6. Pete Fraser	East Ham Wolves.
7. Mick Jeffery	Edmonton Monarchs.
8. Archie Wilkinson	Hagley Comets.
9. Vic Hinchcliffe	Wilmslow Hammers.
10. Mel Vickers	Lupset Aces.
11. Brian Moston	Carrs Wood Hunters.
12. Bill Punter	Harefield Pirates.
13. Derek Garnett	Wilmslow Hammers.
14. Dennis McGhee	Linsdale Lions.
15. Vic Halliwell	Kingstanding Monarchs.
16. Roy Baker	South London Rangers.
17. Reg Squires	Tolworth Tudors.
18. Dave Chivers	Raynes Park Tigers.
19. Fred Bouttell	Wembley Hawks.
20. Dave Johnston	Lupset Aces.

DIARY OF 1959 EVENTS.

JANUARY. The many critics who expected NAGSA to fold up were once again wrong when the Association held their A.G.M at Southampton. In fact, they even showed more spirit and fight.

FEBRUARY. The official closure of the North London Independent League, despite efforts by Secretary Mick Jeffery to keep it going. It was formed in 1957.

MARCH. Essex announced the final details of their revolutionary system of graded leagues. Under this, riders were separated according to standard.... Once again the Southern Premier were the first league in the country to commence the current year's league racing.... Bill Punter, of Welsh origin, and John Eveleigh of Barry Dragons, attempted to form a Welsh International team. Despite several qualifiers, this project was dropped.

APRIL. The start of the qualifying rounds for the new Federation team championship, the Gold Cup.

MAY. A dead month from the news point of view.

JUNE. In the first international ever, between the 2 countries, Holland defeated Sweden. It is of note that Sweden originally intended coming to England. Also, they were more than impressed with Holland... Brian Moston won the famous Manchester Grand Prix, for the 2nd year running. A foretaste of things to come.

JULY. England inflicted their annual defeat on Scotland, 76-32. Scotland were not impressed with the set up.

AUGUST. A dead area, Southend, started up again with Estuary Eagles. Shambles at Coventry-the NACSA semi-finals. Swindon Eagles win the first ever Junior National Team Championship. Lupset Aces tour the Midlands and Home Counties - there's too few of these nowadays.

SEPTEMBER. South London Rangers won the Gold Cup after a final which led to further things. The Britannia Shield went to Dave Chivers. In the NACSA finals, Wilmslow won the team championship, which also led to other things. Moston took the senior title after years of trying, and Brian Smith the Junior. '15 - 1' first appeared.

OCTOBER. The Tooting club expelled from the BCSF re the Gold Cup. Nothing exciting at the Federation A.G.M. Bert Harkins won the Glasgow Championship.

NOVEMBER. Nothing exciting at the NACSA A.G.M. Some East Ham Wolves riders suspended re the Nationals. New team discovered at Burford. Cont Page 7.

THE DECLINE OF HAREFIELD PIRATES

INVESTIGATED BY
BOB SAUNDERS.

There are few clubs still going who have been great names in the past. Once a club has passed its heyday, the tendency is to disband, but not so Harefield Pirates. The club was born in 1949 when the North West Middlesex clubs of Northwood Pirates and Harefield Hellcats combined. They immediately recorded many wins and gradually became one of the most famous teams in the South. Harefield won the league in their first year. And again in 1950. And again in 51, 52 and 53. There was certainly nothing to touch them in the area. Don't let's forget the great names, Pirates all. There was Leckie, Collett, Peters, Lofty, Sheldrake, Hawkwood, Evans, Vanderburghen and so on. Riders great.

The success story of the Pirates must also be the success story of Pete Leckie. Pete was with them all through these years and was one of the top riders in the land. Few were the honours which didn't come his way. Cups and trophies galore. One of the most level headed and likeable riders the sport has ever known, Pete earned respect wherever he went. But don't let's forget Pete's right hand man, manager Eddie Collett. Ed was never a brilliant rider, but he was more than useful and a finer club man you could not wish to have.

To be a Pirate was not just to be a cycle speedway rider. It was more than that, it was an honour to be a member of the Harefield club. Ask Roger Seymour. He was delighted at being asked to join Harefield in 1956 and, judging by his reaction, anybody would have thought he had been asked to ride for England. Many's the team that came away from the famous Harefield chalk pit track smarting from a thrashing. Many's the rider who saw Pete Leckie's polo styled bike go flashing past. But they would be full of praise. Yes, that's the reputation that Harefield had.

1954 and 1955. The Pirates didn't make the League championship those years. But they were back at the top in the small league of 1956 - unbeaten throughout. Barrett, Stonex, Seymour, Leckie, Collett, Richards, Carter, etc., - no mean team. END OF PART ONE.

ALLOTT ATE IT ALL (CON'T)

The last named -Norfolk- aren't even BCSF let alone NACSA. Perhaps the Suffolk domain of King Jolly did alright, but who knows?

Then the NACSA business of "laissez-faire" - or, "We'll get tough but God knows how," sickened me. At least the BCSF try.

With BCSF and NACSA working together, the World Championships and the picking of the England team race -(who?) may be sorted out. The former seems to be going along quite alright too.

But one word of warning on the "World", don't lets forget the riders in our haste to make it a spectacle. Make sure the TOP riders are there. Not, as in NACSA's last 2 senior finals. And I'm praying Garrett Park is a RACING track, not like Hungerford's.

One point of interest on a top person - Bill Cattle - Tooting's manager. When, in 1957, the Southern Premier formed the BCSF, Bill was in the centre of the controversy with NACSA, which led to its formation - now he's out on a limb with BCSF. Why is it? He and I should get together! Arising from that - the position of Cowley Eagles - they want to race in the Southern Premier, but is the Southern Premier still in the BCSF? If not, Cowley will leave the Southern Premier. Or so they say.

On racing standards - messrs., Smith, Dawes, Rowland, Saunders are heralding a new top standard to challenge the present day "stars." Surely the seniors aren't that bad, to be beaten by the old men - say Moston, Dean, Shapley and Co., consistantly.

Forecasts?

World Champion - a Scotsman.

BCSF Champion - George Byles or Wally Deighton.

NACSA Champion - George Byles or Brian Moston.

TURNED DOWN AGAIN. by The Editor.

I see that professor Bob Pike put forward more of his revolutionary ideas at the Essex A.G.M. These were duly turned down. You may remember that similar suggestions have been submitted to NACSA in the past. Of course they too were refused. The answer is that Bob is trying to create a new sport, its not speedway.

"ALLOTT" 'ATES IT ALL

I don't hate it all, not all of 1959's doings, but nearly all. My home county of Oxford was not a howling success - more like the opposite. The league was a success even without Baskerville - and should be greater still with them and Burford next year. But the Individual fiascoed with 5 out of the top 10 riders out of the final because of sheer apathy on the part of the organising club of one of the rounds. Then the 2 senior representatives at the Whitley semi-final just weren't scrambles men and failed. Rowlands and Dawes, the juniors, being exceptions of course. The September scheduled Battle of Britain Trophy was finished in late November. The Oxford City Individuals just didn't happen. The proposed Midland League participation fell through, as did inter-county tests with Berks and Wilts. For the first Middlesex Test, a scratch team failed miserably. The control board may as well have given up - the members did. Who to blame? I blame (1) A chairman who didn't even take the chair, (2) the Secretary who finally packed it up and gave 15 year old Kev Rowland an unsolvable mess to sort out, (3) NACSA for not taking action over Baskerville's resignation from the league.

Oxford 1960 prospects? If present plans prevail then as said before, the league will be o.k. The new Secretary has the confidence of most, so perhaps - with the prospective fly-in-the-ointment Cowley Eagles with their BCSF, NACSA AND Oxford commitments- it'll be o.k. The Eagles should be capable of doing these things, why, by May they'd raced in over 20 matches in 1959 - and they thrived on it.

Over in Berkshire only Bucklebury and Hungerford - oh how I'd love to race for Hungerford - did alright. Leicester - well I don't pretend to understand their press reports at all. Scotland, as a result of NACSA not holding sensible enough trials to pick a side from, were snubbed, and how.

Of all the leagues only Southern Premier, Wiltshire, Oxford, Manchester's lot, and Norfolk seemed to prosper. The first named now consisting of Tooting, Raynes Park and Cowley - now not the premier league anywhere.

COMPILED BY "ALLOTT"

1946 to 1960, and still near the top. Never has been at the top but has had a good innings. Rates his 6 points for Scotland in 1957, as top achievement in racing, though scored a "max" versus Sussex for Scotland in 1950.

From '46 to '51, Barry was a Craigton Eagle of Glasgow. During that time, captained Glasgow versus Edinburgh, 5 times in 1949; rode for Scotland v Sussex in 1950. Was the first Englishman to do this. Topped league averages in 1949-50 and was 2nd in points scored for Scotland in 1950, first being the legendry Bill Ritchie. Was super-keen then, going 12 miles to every match.

From 1951, was in the forces till 1956. Racing for Ipswich Vampires, Woodbridge Wildcats, Felixtowe Flyers - all Suffolk, and Wallingford Panthers of Berkshire. Was top scorer for all these bar Woodbridge. In 1952 came second in Suffolk Individual and won the Felixtowe Championship in 1954.

1956, and back to Craigton Eagles, but not to top form. Although picked for Scotland - scoring 3 - was not satisfied. Transferred to Knightswood Toffs in 1957, went right to the top of the averages, scoring 5 maximums in as many weeks, but by the time he was picked for Scotland, was "off" again.

In August of that year went to Oxford, and Drayton Vampires, doing quite well. On Drayton folding signed for Wallingford Panthers, and headed the score chart for the year. By 1958 was interested in Cowley Eagles and joined them for 1959. That year was top scorer in nearly all matches up to July, but then found it hard work. Bought a new bike and then sold it again. Hopes 1960 will be his top year.

Ambitions - (1) To reach NACSA final and avenge his 1957 four points return.

(2) To get in England team.

(3) To retire and get married.

B.C.S.F. GOLD CUP DRAW. (Result on one match only.)

Preliminary Round - Before April 24th.

Cowley Eagles v Edmonton Monarchs.

First Round - before May 29th.

*Thurrock Stars v Hawbush Hammers.

Beckenham v Brighton Scorchers.

Cowley/Edmonton v Raynes Park Tigers.

Tatnam Tigers v Estuary Eagles.

South London Rangers v South London Hunters.

Wembley Hawks v Hellingly Lions.

Tatnam Tudors v Tottenham Kangaroos.

Bushey Kangaroos v Worthing Sputniks.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ESSEX NEWSLETTER.

Essex will again revert to an 8 a side, 18 heat formula league. This replaces the graded cups of 1959. (About 8 teams are estimated to take part.) There are to be various other competitions including a knock out cup featuring 4 league champion teams. The Essex Association intends to publish a newsletter periodically for Essex riders and officials. The county also plans to send a touring team to another area for a week in the summer. The Association has tightened up on several rules and Steward's meetings are to be held. Racing commences on March 20th. Further Essex news in the next edition.

RESULTS

WHIPPS CROSS CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP.

S.Pipe 15, J.Brown 14, M.Currey 12, C.Booth 11, D.Hamilton 10, J.Pipe 10, P.Cockerell 10, S.Gibbons 7, G.Reeves 7, D.Spring 6, P.Collins 5, M.Wraith 6, P.King 3, M.Mason 2, A.Collins 1, D.Fitzgerald 1.

TOTTENHAM K'ROOS 51. M.Reading 10, N.Dunn 9, K.Bennett 9,

WHIPPS CROSS 42. C.Booth 9, P.Cockerell 8, /C.Hill 9
K.Taylor 8.

WEMBLEY HAWKS 65. P.O'Grady 13, R.Smith 12, F.Bouttell 11.

WHIPPS CROSS 31. K.Taylor 9, S.Pipe 6, J.Brown 5.

EAST HAM WOLVES 41. P.Fraser 11, M.Bell 9, J.Wells/R.Gibbons

WEMBLEY A.S. 53. R.Fraser 10, K.Bristowe 10, D.Dean 9. /3

THE GOLD CUP FINAL
WILL BE AT
EDMONTON ON
SEPT. 4th.

BRITANNIA SHIELD
FINAL AT GARRETT
PARK, SEPT 11th.

THE DECLINE OF HAREFIELD PIRATES (CON'T)

1957 saw the Middlesex League spreading out again and the start of Harefield's downfall. They failed to take the championship that year. Also, Eddie Collett left the Pirates when he moved over to Mill Hill. 1958 was the year of several retirements, but this was somewhat offset by the signing of Bill Punter, who joined Harefield for the second time in his career.

So to 1959. Not only did Harefield fail to take the championship, but they failed to make the halfway mark, finishing 6th from 11. Pirates were really in trouble. They only managed to field a full team in 4 of their league matches. Pete Leckie retired during the 1958/9 close season and there is no doubt that he was sadly missed. Pete did turn out in 3 matches halfway through though and recorded a maximum in his first match. He happened to wander over to Wembley one Saturday evening to watch the Middlesex v Oxford test matches. Middlesex were short and so Pete was forced into the saddle - wearing the colours of the county which he had worn 10 years previously. And still as great a rider. But we stray.

How do we account for this decline of the famous Pirates then? The answer must be based on the following facts. In the early days teams were many and, consequently, leagues were more localised. The North West Middlesex League was one of these, as its name suggests. Harefield Pirates were by far the best team in the area. But nowadays, with fewer teams, riders are drawn from a far greater area for each team. In other words, many teams are the old equivalent of league representative teams. And in this company, Harefield are not so outstanding.

One factor that could see the club back at the top in a couple of years, originated in 1959, though. This was the formation of a second team, the Lions. They consisted of practically all juniors and were showing vast improvement by the end of the year. The future of the Pirates is in the hands of these lads. Yes, THEY could put Pirates back on top.