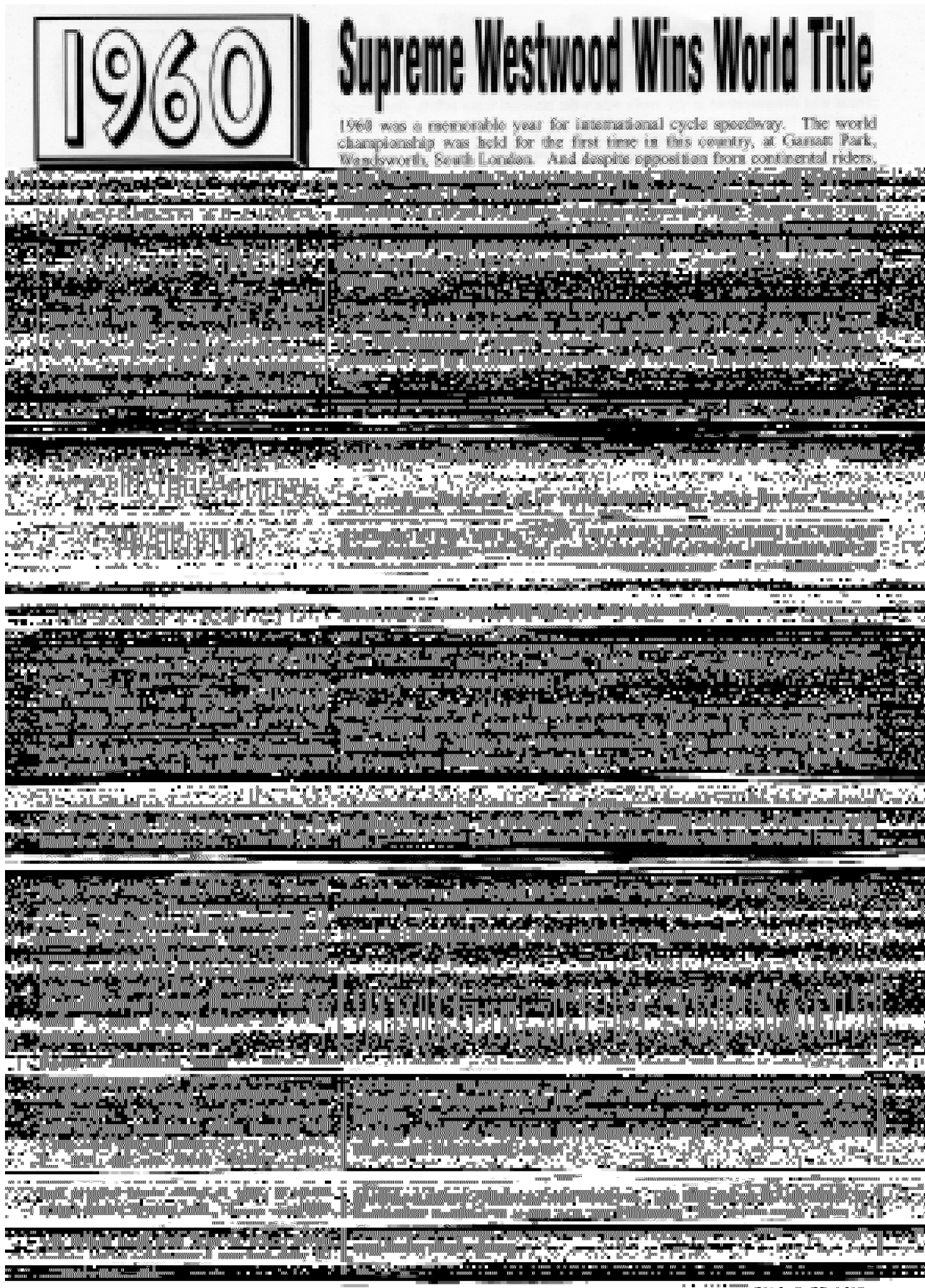


1960 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.



Thurrock in Trouble

Thurrock cycle speedway club have been hit by shock resignations. Club chairman Mr R Rayner and team captain Derek Gray have resigned and Mr Stan Leeds has also left the club. Things looked bleak for the Essex side in March but new secretary R "Bluey" Waterson and club manager Len Busby are determined that the club will survive. They will put the emphasis on new riders but could still do with a couple of established competitors.

British League Gets Underway

The British Cycle Speedway Federation launched a "showpiece" league of their own at Easter. Seven teams entered the inaugural competition - Beckenham, Edmonton, Hellingly, Thurrock, Tottenham, South London Rangers and their second team the Hunters. However Thurrock fell by the wayside before the league, known as the British League, got underway. The new set up was dominated by two teams, Edmonton and South London. Only points difference could separate the teams at the end of the season, Edmonton edging home thanks to superior scoring. Edmonton went on to complete the double winning the knockout cup competition, known as the Gold Cup, when they beat Tatnam by 75 points to 32.

British League 1960

	P	W	D	L	FOR	AGN	PTS
Edmonton	10	9	0	1	624	334	18
South London Rangers	10	9	0	1	613	346	18
Beckenham	10	4	0	6	405	550	8
South London Hunters	10	3	0	7	425	534	6
Hellingly	10	3	0	7	421	539	6
Tottenham	10	2	0	8	385	570	4

1960

BIRMINGHAM BREAK-UP

Enthusiasts everywhere were stunned by the break up of Birmingham Lions. The oldest combination in the city, Lions were originally known as Balsall Heath Panthers when formed in 1948. The late Percy Shurmer MP took a particular interest in the club and was instrumental in obtaining their track site. Their excellent cinder circuit was at one time considered fastest in the Midlands. Fred Goode's team earned a reputation of doughty cup-fighters. Three times they reached the semi final of the national team championship. Their clashes with local rival Kingstanding Monarchs highlighted every season.



1960 BCSF Gold Cup Champions Edmonton pictured with club president Irene Handl.
l to r: Brian Robbens, Mick Jeffery, Paul Bowden, Derek Wills, Irene Handl, Les Westwood, Vic Cowell, Charlie Read, Micky Hall