

A publication of the
VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This took place, once again, at the Waltham Abbey Sports Centre on Saturday February 24th and as usual there was a very good turnout of over 40 members.

As there were no nominations for new committee members and as all of the current members stated that they were prepared to stand for re-election, they were duly re-elected unanimously. The committee for 2001/2 will therefore be, John Brown, Alan Catley, Derek Cattle, Bert Hudson, Roy Garnham, Pete Saunders and Vic White.

With regard to the post of Secretary/Treasurer, there was only one nomination and this was for Vic White, who was re-elected.

There were three nominations for President for next year which were seconded another which did not receive a seconder and three who declined to have their names put forward for consideration. The three members whose names were included in the voting were, Jackie Wilson, Ron Holvey and Ray Black. As a result of the ballot our next President will be Jackie Wilson and we offer him our congratulations and to Ron and Ray our commiserations.

Statement of Accounts were provided for all members at the AGM and these showed a healthy balance, which was up on last year's by approximately £950.00. and memberships were 242.. Judging by the comments of the members who attended the A.G.M. the committee seem to be keeping things running along smoothly and to the satisfaction of everyone, which is nice to hear. Let us hope things continue in the same vein for another year.

Our President has asked us to request that the three members who still have race jumpers to kindly return them as quickly as possible. Derek has also asked if anyone has a photograph of him that was taken just after he had been inducted as President, as someone took one for him but had some trouble with the camera and if possible he would like a copy. Many thanks.



EVENTS FOR 2001

Our first Golf Tournament will take place at The Stevenage Golf Centre on May 17th. If you wish to play, or to come along and join us for a meal afterwards then please write to us as soon as possible and no later than mid April. The cost for a round of golf and dinner is £20.00 and for the meal afterwards £ 9.00. Please let us know when booking if a vegetarian meal is required. As always there will be competitions for the Ladies and the Gents. First tee time will be 1.00. p.m and we eat at 7.00. p.m.

HAWBUSH RACE DAY

This year we will be running this event on a Sunday, due to the limited response that we received last year compared to other years. The date is provisionally SUNDAY JULY 22nd .(this is subject to Hawbush fixtures) and the race committee will be working on a suitable afternoon's racing. At the A.G.M a letter was received from Pete Lomas, one of our Manchester members who asked us to give some thought to resurrecting the North v South Matches. This was discussed at some length and there were some members in favour. Brian Moston said that he would talk to his members in a few weeks time at their "Booze and Chat" night and see how they felt. It is essential that you let the committee know if you wish to take part, in whatever form the racing will be, as soon as possible so that they can ensure a good programme of events for everybody.



NOSTALGIA EVENING

This very popular and well attended event will take place, once again, at The Exmouth Social Club in Stepney on Saturday July 7th commencing at 8.00.p.m. The rules of the club state that any non member should pay a small entrance fee of £1.00. This, of course, means all of our members, except our President Derek Cattle !. A buffet will, once again, be provided and by popular request our musical members will provide entertainment for you all. Please return your acceptance slips as soon as you know if you will be able to come along.

DINNER AND DANCE



The Annual Dinner and Dance will take place on Saturday November 17th at the Plough House Motel, 7.00.p.m. start. So many people told us after last years event that they thought that it was the best one that we have had so far and we will be hoping that this year's Dinner will be every bit as good. The cost of the tickets will be the same as last year, £17.50. and accommodation will also be the same as last year, £50.00. for a double room which includes a full English breakfast.

SPEEDY'S SNIP ITS

SPEEDWAY AND ICE NEWS FEBRUARY 1ST 1951

1950 Club Reviews New Cross

Young Ronnie Genz, a former "skid kid", after shaping well in trials, had only one point to show from twelve outings !. He was not, unnaturally, just a shade too anxious.

SPEEDWAY ILLUSTRATED MAY 1962

Stan Stevens started his speedway career at Rye House in 1959, after many successful years on the cycle speedways.

Once a champion cycle speedway rider, Pete Jarman is fast making the top grade in the powered sport. He joined Stoke at the start of 1961, almost a raw novice and inside six months had developed into heat leader class.

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS MARCH 15TH 1968

Don Smith, popular tail end character at West Ham in 1966, until business pressures forced retirement on him, has re-applied for a speedway licence and the Hammers have re-listed him on their junior strength.

Don hopes to combine speedway with his interests at Britain's first commercial trials course at Stanford le Hope. He will probably be loaned out to a second division side, where he would undoubtedly be a star catch.

SPEEDWAY PIX MAY 9TH 1969

Further news of the ubiquitous Don Smith, who as reported a fortnight ago, is thinking of adding motor racing to his many motor sport activities. In fact Don has been progressing so well at Brands Hatch, that a businessman has expressed an interest in sponsoring him. This means that Don is likely to be lost to the two wheeled sport for good, if all goes according to plan.

SPEEDWAY ARGUS OCTOBER 1968

Billy Bales goes down in speedway history as the first cycle speedway rider to make a name for himself in the senior sport.

Reminiscences from our ex-Warwick Lions correspondent in Canada.

As I sit in my office to type this on Friday, 15th. December 2000, the wind is blowing the snow into drifts in front of my house and makes the 25 degrees below temperature seem more like 40. It's been like this for two days and the forecast is for minus 33 overnight with no change tomorrow although relief is in sight. By Monday, the prediction is a balmy 7 below!

It makes me think that the damp cool weather that I experienced on my two month holiday in England and Europe was not so bad after all. A neighbour is shovelling the snow from his driveway and I am contemplating doing the same. This will be the third time this week. The law requires that the sidewalk in front of your home must be cleared within 24 hours, mainly to prevent the few pedestrians to fall on their noses. If the wind would only stop, it wouldn't be so bad, but as it is, bare skin can freeze in about ten minutes or less.

My holiday this year was a great experience for me visiting Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France. But the highlights for me was the End of an Era banquet at Wembley (where I sat with Vic and Ann White and former USA world champion Sam Ermolenko) and the annual skid-kid dinner & dance at Bulphan. I did not care for the prices they were asking for booze at Wembley but Vic and Barry Briggs did a super job with everything else so I got my money's-worth and then some. Even at the hotel, we only paid a third of the regular rate. Well done chaps.

And it was marvellous that Vic and Ann, former Stratford Hammer, Ken Baxter and Betty and old Warwick Lion Alan Catley and Laly made me feel so welcome when I stayed with each of them. I even got to sing with Alan's little group entertaining the old age pensioners. As they didn't throw things, I can only assume that either I was OK or they were all stone deaf!

I had a terrific evening at Bulphan and it was grand to see so many old friends again. The selection of Derek Cattle as our new president was a wise and worthy one. His acceptance speech was I'm sure, a reflection on how most of us think about our association.

Now here's a suggestion that our new president can think about. Why don't we have the 2,002 AGM at Nobby Dunn's villa in Molokai, Hawaii? Nobby told me he would buy the beer. Frank Duffy, Ray Goodwin, Ron Woolley and Alan Catley can provide the entertainment as they did for the Nostalgia evening and the rest of us could tell stories after the meeting has ended. I'm sure Vic could get some deals on travel and all the ladies would look great in grass skirts!

May the New Year bring everybody health and happiness and may we live to meet again.

Until next time,

Ron Tarrant

From the Archives

An unusual match in 1950

An amusing story was reported in the pages of the "Cycle Speedway Monthly " dated Feb 15th. 1950. It came about as the result of a challenge issued by a road racing cyclist against one of our sport's most useful riders and alongside a photograph, went as follows:- (and I quote)

"Here you see Dennis Bottazzi, 17 year old North London champion shaking hands before one of London's queerest matches. The gentleman on the left called himself "Prometheus" and in a local paper debunked cycle speedway. He picked Dennis as his opponent in a match "where he would prove or eat his words." He turned up in ordinary clothes on a sports model. Dennis won with lengths to spare.

Note. Our members will not need reminding that Prometheus, in Greek legend, was known to be daring and inventive. Wonder if he told Dennis?

Did Cycle Speedway begin in 1929?

Those of us who thought that our sport began in 1946 may be in for a surprise. A photograph was received last year from Bob Spence, an ex-rider, now in his eighties. The photo, taken in 1929, showed Bob astride a lady's bicycle with no brakes or mudguards and a low saddle. In his exact words, Bob wrote to us as follows:

"1929/30 Dirt track cycling.

Track: Cinder surfaced recreation ground on Tooting Bec Common. 4am to 6am before park keepers and bobbies came on duty. (Coppers were all on foot in those days.)

Bikes: No crossbar (ladies) Bikes bought for 5/- (25p) in London street markets. (They'd probably been stolen!)

Clothing: Well padded knees and elbows. Football boots (sometimes with a tin jammed on the left toe cap) since all action was Australian leg trail. Foot forward hadn't been brought down from N.England then!

Races: Standing or flying start. All individual—No team events."

(Which is not surprising if they started at 4am
but we'd love to know more Bob.)

A win for Manchester in 1949

Reported in the Cycle Speedway Monthly dated August 1949 was a representative match where Manchester defeated Birmingham at Belle Vue by 64 points to 54. Points scorers as follows:

Manchester: J.Pennington 17. L.Grepp 16. B.Moston 13. B.Rostron 7. L.Martin 5. W.Green 3. D.Newton 3. D.Maynard 0.

Birmingham: G.Burton 12. V.Halliwell 9. M.Westwood 8. B.Morgan 8. G.Sylvester 7. D.Smith 5. J.Banks 3. M.Lawrence 2. Those were the days!

By.



Bill Gadsby.

The Veterans Cycle Speedway Star

Herts League Disbands

The Hertfordshire League, one of the oldest in the Country, has now disbanded and most of their teams have now joined new leagues. Walthamstow Wolves and Whipps Cross Comets have joined the South Essex League. Edmonton have split into two teams, Saints and Monarchs and with Finchley Sabres have joined the newly formed North London Independent League. Langley Lions have joined the North West Middlesex League and Hoddesdon Kangaroos will ride friendly matches only. (they later joined the N.W.Middx League) Clay Hill Aces have disbanded.

Former South Essex League teams Tottenham Kangaroos and Warwick Lions have joined the North London League, making with Finchley and the two Edmonton teams a total of five.

South Essex have gained two teams from Herts, but lost two to North London. Teams taking part are Whipps Cross Comets A & B teams Walthamstow, East Ham Stars, Gladiators, Longbridge Leopards and Fyfield Falcons.

N.W.Miidx seem set for one of their best years, they now have a total of eight teams. Newcomers in addition to Langley Lions are Wembley All Stars and Hendon Stars, Weston Stars and South Ruislip Aces. The other teams in the league are Harefield Pirates, Hillingdon Stars and Langley Leopards. The Leopards who come from near Slough, should not be confused with the Lions who come from Stevenage.

Cycle Speedway Star

That report came from the first copy dated April 1957. Do you remember Cycle Speedway Star? Smudged copies, bashed out on an old typewriter, then printed on a hand duplicator. How much easier it would have been if there had been computers then.

It has been suggested that the magazine be revived in this format and added to the news letter. What do you think?

I am indebted to Pete Leckie for the loan of the first two issues of "Herts Cycle Speedway Spotlight." This magazine, edited by Ken Cooper first appeared in January 1952. The following is from the first issue.

Hertfordshire League final placing for 1951.

Team	points
E.A.C. HAWKS	45
RUSSELL EAGLES	38
CLAY HILL ACES	25
EDMONTON SAINTS	23
ST. ALBANS COBRAS	23
HODDESDON KANGAROOS	17
HITCHEN ACES	15
HILLTOP VAMPIRES	15
FINCHLEY SABRES	14
HARPENDEN ACES	10

All teams rode 18 matches.

The second issue dated April 1952 showed that neither the top team E.A.C. Hawks nor the bottom team Harpenden Aces took part in the league in 1952. They were replaced by Lea Valley Knights, Cheshunt Devils and Whipps Cross Comets.

THE TRACK RECORD

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THE TRACK RECORD

In an effort to take some of the workload from the shoulders of your overworked and underpaid secretary, Alan has agreed to have a go at taking over the publication of our Track Record. For some time now Alan has done a considerable amount of the publishing and has offered, no has had his arm twisted! to go it alone, well almost and see how it works out. I will of course be on hand to help him out, if needed, but I feel sure that he will handle it with no trouble at all. If anyone has any articles or requests that they would like included, please send them direct to Alan.

Hawbush -- the dilemma

Our race meeting at Hawbush this year, with kind permission of the Hawbush C.S.C., is to be held on Sunday 22nd July at 2.0pm. In order to make this event a success, it is essential that members wishing to race should inform Johnny Brown, race director, tele: 020-8529-0463 or Vic or Alan as soon as possible. Last year this was not done and some members failed to appear or even contact any of the organisers after promising to be there. This meant that, after considerable work and expense, the day was not the success it could have been. This year with your help, we can make it work.

Racing will include an individual championship for over 65's and for under 65's as last year and all are welcome. Other "fun" races are planned. This is the only remaining official function in our calendar retaining a direct link with our sport and brings members together in an atmosphere we used to enjoy many years ago. Please help the committee to recreate that atmosphere by picking up the telephone and supporting this mid-summer gala race day!

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2001

For one reason or another subscription renewal slips were not sent out with the last Track Record and as a result the response has been very poor. Forty members who attended the Annual General Meeting all re-joined on the day, but since then only around forty have renewed their membership at the time of this article. This leaves around one hundred and seventy who haven't and we find this very disappointing. We have included renewal slips with this Track record for all of those who have not yet rejoined and we hope that you will do so by return. If you have sent your subs and receive a renewal slip, please ignore it. Thank you. Annual subscription is £6.00. .

RACING RULES.

At the recent AGM a request was made by members for the standardization of racing rules at meetings over which the VCSRA has control. The committee has therefore produced the following brief, basic rules to be used at Hawbush and wherever else the VCSRA has influence.

1. Racing at any meeting shall be over two laps.
2. All riders shall wear helmets, gloves and protective clothing
3. Points scoring to be:- 3 for first place, 2 for second, 3 for third., 0 for fourth.
4. Riders will be expected to conduct themselves in a gentlemanly way and accept the decision of the steward at all times.
5. Members wishing to ride at any event organised by the VCSRA are requested to answer invitations to ride as soon as possible.
6. The VCSRA accept no responsibility whatsoever for any illness or accident incurred at any meeting and riders must be fully aware of this proviso before taking part.

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MY TRIP TO AUSTRALIA by Johnny Brown.

On a recent visit to Australia I thought I would look up a couple of Cycle Speedway's best known riders, **Ernie Lamacq** and **Bernie Cable**. After several days of trying with many phone calls, I finally made contact with Ernie on my last evening before leaving Sydney. Ernie had been on holiday and had just arrived home but the journey had aggravated his back problem and he had to go to bed to relieve the pain. {Ernie has had some fifteen knee operations in recent years} The fact that he lived some distance outside Sydney made it impossible for me to meet him before leaving but we had a long chat about old times. He still remembers the highlights of his racing days and I passed on all the good wishes from his old pals and rivals back home. Ernie has been in Australia for forty three years now and I am sure he would be pleased to hear from some of our members who remember him. I have since sent Ernie some photographs and memorabilia so my efforts were not completely wasted. {Ernie's address is on page 3.}

On visiting our son on the Gold Coast, I attempted to make contact with Bernie Cable who lived a short distance up the road, but I was told that he had moved, without leaving a forwarding address. I would still like to make contact. Does anyone know his new address?

A PAINFUL ENDING in AUGUST 1949 by Roy Delaney

Edmonton Saints awoke from their early season doldrums when they narrowly defeated the Aldsmead Aces from Enfield on the Southbury Road track last Sunday. Without a doubt, this was the finest meeting seen at the Enfield track this season. The crowd were kept on their toes with this "see-saw" match and with three heats to go, both teams were at level peggings. The visiting captain, Bill Poole, was lucky to escape an exclusion when he drifted Saints' Brian Lewis rather harshly, allowing Stan Gleaves to pick up the third point to give the Aces a two point advantage. The Saints then returned the compliments in the following heat, thanks to skipper Roy Delaney and Johnnie Cawley. As the four eager riders approached the line for the final race, with the scores level, Edmonton's Bill Withers returned to the pits due to a front wheel puncture. Team mate Brian Lewis came to his assistance and fitted his spare wheel, thankfully enabling Bill to make the start within the two minute time allowance.

As the tapes went skywards, Saints' Tommy Kilbey swept around the outside to pass Aces Den Harper and George Smith, a position he retained. Bill Withers was not a good gater but made up with his daring last minute dash as was proved when he split the Aces' pairing on the final bend. As he pulled on his handlebars, to gain maximum power his front wheel came adrift and he was catapulted over the finishing line to claim third position! This heroic effort cost him a fractured left leg !!

Scorers

Edmonton Saints.	Roy Delaney 12	Tommy Kilbey 10	Bill Withers 8.	Johnnie Cawley 7
	Brian Lewis 5.	Dave Scapens 5.	Roger Scapens 2.	
Aldsmead Aces	Bill Poole 11.	Den Harper 10.	Stan Gleaves 9.	Dinky Neale 7.
	Fats Butcher 6.	George Smith 4.	Billy Stevenson 0.	

Footnote:- After this match, Bill was known as "Wheel Withers".

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Congratulations to Vic, our secretary, who was recently also elected as secretary to the Veteran Speedway Riders Association. Vic has served on the committee of the V&SRA for many years and is a former president. He was also responsible for much of the "behind the scenes" work at the very successful End of an Era Banquet at Wembley last year. Well done Vic!

CYCLE SPEEDWAY, A PERSPECTIVE. By FRANK DUFFY

With Germany defeated, World War II came to an end in Europe. However not to minimize the barbarity of it all, the Luftwaffe did unintentionally provide the UK. with some useful social provision i.e. free accessible space----the bomb sites where youngsters could play well away from parental supervision, light bonfires, build dens and hide-outs, and generally socialise.

Eventually, as life normalized, the pre-war sport of speedway re-emerged attracting vast crowds. Inspired by this, many youngsters started to clear away the bricks and rubble to make tracks on which to ride their stripped down bikes. Then as if by osmosis, structure began to emerge. With collective effort tracks were enlarged, teams formed, team colours appeared, followed by loudspeaker systems, programmes, leagues, control boards, plus an organized fan base. As a result many tracks came to resemble miniature stadiums.

The access to free expansive space had liberated the creative talents and energies of thousands of predominately working class young males, supported often by girl friends and interested adults.

Most could not afford to engage in motorcycle speedway, but this frustration was to some extent mitigated by participation in their own newly created sport of cycle speedway, which allowed them to attain localized modest fame (but not fortunes) as they raced their hearts out, in all weathers, to the cheers and encouragement of family, friends, spectators and often local dignitaries and press.

The youngsters were mostly from hard pressed backgrounds, of limited education (like myself) and trapped in jobs with little reward or prospects. Because of where they were located in the social structure, they were rarely validated or held in any real esteem as creative, intelligent human beings, but rather as expendable cogs in a vast industrial process. So to be cheered on, appreciated and given value was an ego reinforcing new experience, and a direct result of their own creation, cycle speedway. Those young riders who often gave performances more exciting than on motorcycle speedway, also unwittingly 'took in' the values of team discipline and co-operation, how to win or lose graciously, time keeping, how to run democratic club meetings, how to cope with involved adults, plus anger management, especially regarding referees' decisions and the emotions aroused by hard fought races.

Internalisation of the external may sound somewhat abstract, but those strands of positive socialisation did take place, did embrace the youngsters, and were the outcrop of an honest structure (amateur) upon which cycle speedway evolved, facilitated by the necessary social condition---free space.

This new sport was without pretensions, was inclusive, with no overt/covert financial agendas, so allowing its participants just to be themselves. Cycle speedway was and is "untainted", and kept so by just the sheer love of the sport, by youngsters who always searched their own pockets for money for bike repairs etc., whilst never giving a thought to commercial ways of financing their sport.

Another aspect of cycle speedway that has never been researched, so we shall never know empirically, is how many youngsters from hard backgrounds, might have gone in for some kind of wealth redistribution via delinquency, if not for their involvement in the sport. An imponderable! but I suspect some were 'saved'. I find it interesting to note that agencies who profess interest in youths' well being, could learn so much from those ordinary kids, who without massive cash or bureaucratic input, created such an exciting energizing sport.

They could learn also from the halcyon days when tracks were plentiful, expansive, disparate, and thousands of spectators entertained (free of charge) and how "enabling" it was for our youth to have space to express their creativity as they struggled through those teenage years. The integrity of cycle speedway demonstrates clearly what is achievable when love of ones sport is the dominant dynamic, rather than cash acquisition which often distorts relationships and brings out the worst in people.

Societies tend to get the youth they deserve, and when we take away their playing fields, swimming pools, youth clubs etc., (never in abundance anyway), we shall hear from them in an alienated, negative, angry way. Youth need to be socially 'nourished', have space to breath, and not to be 'boxed in' because they cannot afford the glossy 'complexes' that have now materialized.

Spy cameras, courts, stereotyping, negative labelling, are of limited value, reactive not proactive, and a sign of a deeper social malaise. Veterans reading this 'perspective' will I'm sure agree that cycle speedway and its' associated free space, provided a healthier channel for youthful exuberance and was less threatening for the social fabric than 'sink' estates and dimly lit club land where youth are targeted for alcohol or even worse. It's been said that, "It takes a village to rear a child". I would argue that despite the protracted on-going destruction of the village (established functioning communities) cycle speedway continued to play its part in keeping alive some of the best socializing influences of those environments, plus the primary structure complimented the mind set of its young riders who gave of their best to win the cup--not the buck. What a lesson for sport in general, and what a pity it has not been learned as yet.

However! History is not finished, the wheel still turns, and perhaps the time will come when we value our youth and leave them more to hold on to than a pint of lager or a corporate Tee shirt. So here's to those creative decent kids who created a new sport out of dust and rubble over fifty years ago, and which is with us still.

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

NEW MEMBERS

LAMACQ, Ernie, 73-75 Reynolds Avenue, Bankstown, NSW.2000.
Australia. Tele:- 00612-9797-2696.

SCOTT, Bert 156, Blackhorse Lane, Walthamstow, E17 6AA. Tele:- 020-8531-7467.
e-mail escott@bushinternet.com

AMENDMENTS

EDE, Ted, 6, Dolcoath Avenue, Camborne, Cornwall, TR14 8RY
Tel:- 01209-613216, Mob:- 07899-670374

CRACKNELL, Ted, 56 Greenfield Crescent, Patcham, Brighton, East Sussex, BN1 8HJ
Tel:- 01273-565568

Bert Scott {see above} rode for the Leyton Aces between 1946-49 when the managers were Ron and Billy Geering and the captain, Golly Parsons. Bert is disabled and cannot travel far but would like to hear from any of his old pals.

Nostalgia Evening on Saturday 7th. July. At 8.00 pm



Just a reminder that the nostalgic evening at the Exmouth Social Club in Stepney takes place on the above date with our host as usual, President Derek Cattle. A free buffet is included in the entrance fee of £1 in accordance with the club's rules. It is expected to be popular and it would help Derek to estimate the buffet if members will indicate whether they will be attending.

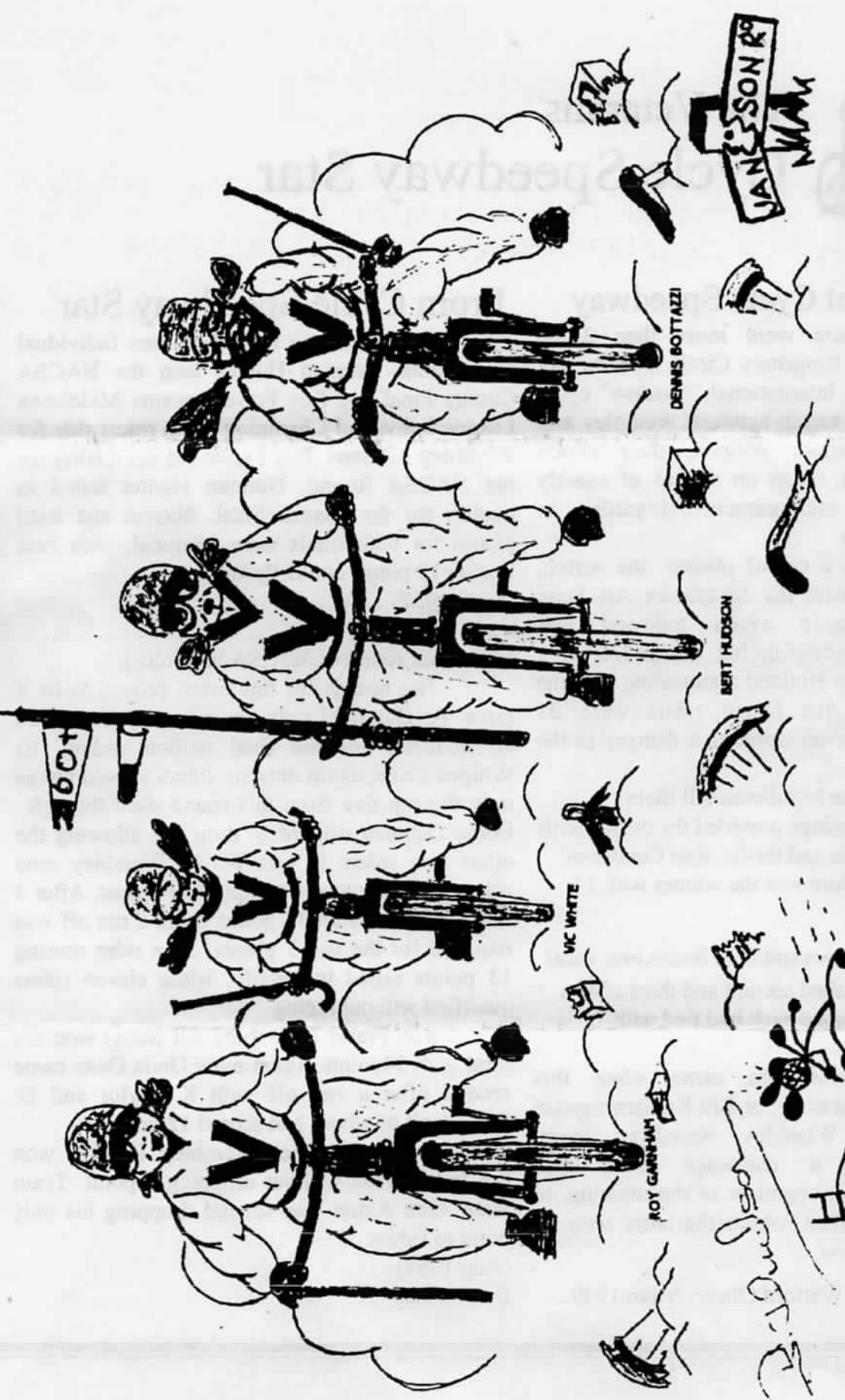
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Editorial.

In the March issue of The Track Record, Bill Gadsby asked if we remembered the "Cycle Speedway Star" and quoted from Ken Cooper's "Herts Cycle Speedway Spotlight." The answer is "Yes". I am lucky enough to have a copy of the Star, issue No. 3 dated 21st June 1957 and mention of Ken Cooper brings to mind not only a formidable opponent but one of our sport's real gentlemen. The "Star" packed in many match reports and league tables and found room for an advert by Wally Green (England & West Ham). Dozens of our member's names are mentioned and it is a real trip down memory lane. Bill has a wealth of experience in this field and I think this is something our members might like to read. Please write to us, send any letters, programmes, photos, etc. which will be returned if required. However we are also interested to hear about member's other interests, travels abroad, unusual hobbies but particularly news of old friends so far not located. All material will be gratefully received and printed as space allows.

Alan Catley.

VETERAN RIDERS



**ONWARD THEY RODE THE GALLANT 60 PLUS.
DEBRIS TO THE LEFT, DEBRIS TO THE RIGHT,
STILL THEY RODE, THE BRAVE 60 PLUS.**



The Veterans Cycle Speedway Star

3,000 at Cycle Speedway

There were more than 3,000 people at Kingsbury Circle on Saturday to see the International "Shadow" cycle speedway match between Wembley and the Hollandse Welpen, their Dutch opponents, riding on a track of exactly the same measurement -71 yards - in Hilversum.

As a crowd pleaser, the match, together with the Middlesex All Stars Championship which followed was highly successful, but the arrival of a cable from Holland announcing that the times of the Dutch riders were 31 seconds faster came as a damper to the meeting.

The Middlesex All Stars Championships provided the crowd with many spills and thrills. Ken Cooper of Hertfordshire was the winner with 14 points.

Buster Brown and Dud Smith, two local riders finished second and third after a run-off, when each had tied with 11 points.

Amusement came when this match was over, for Bill Kitchen captain of the Wembley Speedway team, accepted a challenge from Mr. T.A. White, organiser of the meeting, to a match race, which the latter won by half a wheel.

From the Watford Observer Jan 1949

From Cycle Speedway Star

There are now two Middlesex Individual Champions. Norman Hunter won the NACSA County Final and Roy Fraser became Middlesex League Individual Champion. Both riders ride for Wembley All Stars. Roy Fraser did not qualify for the NACSA Round, Norman Hunter failed to qualify for the League Final. Second and third places for both finals were identical, with Pete Leckie 12 points and Billy White 11. (Sept. 1957)

Middlesex round of NACSA Individual.

The rounds for this event proved to be a farce. At Harefield only six riders turned up, so all qualified for the final without riding. At Whipps Cross, again only six riders arrived but as only the top five from this round went through Eddie Osborne offered to drop out allowing the other five riders to qualify. At Wembley nine riders raced for the remaining five places. After 4 riders had tied with 12 points each, a run off was required for the last 3 places. So a rider scoring 12 points failed to qualify, while eleven riders qualified without racing.

Roy Fraser (Wembley All Stars) won the final with 14 points. Team mate Dixie Dean came second after a run off with K Taylor and D. Stonex, all of whom had scored 12 points.

Eddie Osborne (Wembley Hawks) won the Junior Title without dropping a point. Team mate Alan Axton was second dropping his only point to Eddie.

(Aug 1958)

Bill Gadsby

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A social evening at RYE HOUSE SPEEDWAY Saturday 1st. September. 7 pm

On Saturday 1st. September this year starting at 7pm, there is a race meeting in the Conference League between Rye House and Mildenhall at Rye House Stadium, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Herts. It is situated very close to Rye House railway station and there is ample car-parking space available at the stadium.

Arrangements have been made with Len Silver to hold a get-together and social evening for our members in one of the bars inside the stadium, following the racing. Refreshments are available at the track throughout the evening but in addition, a buffet, free to our members, will also be provided after the match.

Since recent improvements to the track and to the bars within the stadium have been made, Rye House is now an attractive venue for such a function and it is hoped that many VCSRA members will attend. If successful, this get-together could provide real family entertainment and become a regular event in our social calendar.

In order to estimate the requirements of the buffet, it is important that we have some idea of the number of our members likely to attend. Could we therefore please ask anyone thinking of joining us at Rye House on 1st. Sept. to inform Vic or any other member of the committee. It will also help to gauge interest for similar events in the future.

FATE MAY 1951.

It is fairly well known that, at this time, our Secretary Vic White was involved in a serious road accident on his motor bike, whilst on leave during his National Service. What is not as well known is the following story connected with Vic's hospitalisation.

The scenario is as follows:- The Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Road, Dalston around 1.30.p.m. on a Sunday afternoon and visiting Vic is Ron Johnson, also on leave from the R.A.F. Ron looks at an empty bed next to Vic and says, "I wouldn't mind a rest away from National Service, that bed would do me just fine". Visit over as Ron tells Vic that he is on his way to the Warwick Lions track to see the afternoon match and Vic asks Ron to wish the lads Good Luck as he disappears out of the door.

Approximately 1 hour later a new admission comes into the ward and he is put in the bed next to Vic. No prizes for guessing who it is - "Johnno", not looking where he was going, on his way to Andrews Road, crashes his motor bike and breaks his ankle. Ron doesn't get much sympathy from Vic who tells him that he wished his way into the bed anyway. Some pal !! Was it just bad luck, or fate ?.

The following amusing article was recently received with our thanks from Bob Andrews in New Zealand.

Cycle Speedway Battersea Park (Festival of Britain) 1951.

Remember the matches at Battersea Park, afternoons and early evenings? Well our team, Lea Valley Knights, were racing a team (which I forget). I was 16 years old and captain of the team, Bob Andrews (Capt.) Ernie Skinner, "Chubby" Denton, Peter Kempster, Clive Cooke, Derek Avery, Charlie Creighton, and Alan Scrace.

About that time I dressed in blue, - blue jumper, blue trousers, blue socks, painted blue shoes, blue laces and the trousers were "dyed light blue". There is an afternoon match going on, we are next on. There is a crowd of hundreds, (don't forget this is the spill over of the crowd at the Festival.) and we are all nervous. Our Manager, Tom Harris, says "come on boys, let's get ready for the presentation, any one want to go to the toilet.?" Yes we all wanted to go!

We all lined up in the toilet having a nervous "pee" up against the toilet wall, Some horse play is going on and someone is pushed into my back. I fall forward, my "thingy" slips out of my hand, (I could hold it in one hand in those days) I can't guide it, it's going every where. Oh my God, it's gone down my light blue trousers, soaking wet and down my left leg. "Come on boys" shouts our Manager Tom. "We are to be presented to some well known personality." How can I go out in front of all those people, showing that I had "peed" myself? I'm sure they won't let me explain, I could say I spilled some drink over myself? That without doubt, would have been the most embarrassing time of my life. Manager Tom said, "the faster you ride, the quicker it will dry." I can't remember, the team, if we won or lost or what I scored, but I do remember that I didn't ride in blue trousers afterwards. Happy days!!!

Our good wishes go to Bob for that story from 1951 that will cause a laugh among his many old friends. Does anyone else have a similar embarrassing, printable story to tell?

Dinner & Dance at Bulphan 17th. November 2001.

Plans for our dinner and dance at the "Plough" motel at Bulphan are going well and this year we could have a record attendance. Would members please note that this will be a final reminder that all outstanding monies for tickets should be paid to Vic not later than 30th. September when the number attending must be confirmed..

AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Denny ENGLAND. New telephone number:- 0208-640-1452
 Malcolm READING. " " 01202-855350.
 Ron SHIPPEY. New address 18, Odingsell Drive, Long Itchington,
 Southam, Warwicks. CV47 9PD.
 Roger NICHOLSON. " " 20, Jacqueline Road, Parkstone,
 Poole, Dorset BH12 3JQ. Tele/Fax No. 01202- 385-678.
 Mick COCKCROFT of Far Royd Farm, Shay Lane, Ovendon, Halifax W. Yorks
 spends much of his time abroad and can be contacted at:- Apt. 710 Yensabai Condotel,
 Soi Yensabi, South Pattaya Chonburi 20261, Thailand. email:- cockcroft@loxinfo.co.th
 Brian JARRETT WEST Sussex, not EAST.
 Ron SUTTON "Chez Nous," 1, Heron Gardens, Stalham, Norfolk, NR12. 9PL.

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VCSRA GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The VCSRA golf championships will be held this year at Stevenage golf course on **Thursday 13th. September**. As last time, a round of golf plus the evening meal will cost members £20.00. The cost of the evening meal for those attending after the golf remains at £9.00.



MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Some members have still not renewed their annual subscription of £6 which includes a new member's directory and was due in April. It is hoped that this reminder will prompt them to reach for their cheque books and get in touch with Vic as soon as possible.

HAWBUSH CANCELLED !

Regrettably we have had to cancel the proposed Fun and Race day at Hawbush on Sunday July 22nd due to a lack of interest in the event.

Details were first given in the March edition of The Track Record and at the time of a committee meeting in April only one member had responded to our request for members to contact us who wished to participate. In the following Track Record, with front page coverage we asked again for a response by return to let us know if you wished to ride. At the time of writing this a total of only 8 had got in touch with us.

It therefore appears that there is not sufficient interest in this event any more and in the circumstances the only option is to cancel the proposed Race day. Our race committee of John Brown, Alan Catley and Derek Cattle have spent a lot of their time in trying to arrange this and it is a shame that their efforts have been in vain.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY -A PERSPECTIVE.

In the June issue of The Track Record was a fine article by Frank Duffy which received a great response, very well summed up in the following letter.

"I would very much like to congratulate Frank Duffy on his brilliant article, "Cycle Speedway, a perspective." Both Marie and I thought it was absolutely marvellous. He really did capture the whole spirit that cycle speedway meant to us. Speaking for our own club, the Stratford Hammers, it wasn't only the fun, excitement and sportsmanship of racing with other teams. It was with belonging to a group of young people enjoying many social activities together. Cinema on Sunday evening (mostly Leytonstone Rex), hiking over High Beech, fantastic holidays at Butlins, Skegness, dances, parties, supporters, club nights and girl-friends.

Parents too were also a part of our club, doing hard work behind the scenes, especially Rose and Tom Garnham. They had as much fun as the young ones. It really was as though we all belonged to a big happy family. We felt that Frank's article with the well chosen words should be printed in every local paper in the UK. To show how a group of young people through their own efforts, without lots of money, drugs etc., can really enjoy themselves.

Thanks Frank,

Yours sincerely, Marie & Don Wagstaff."

Many thanks Marie & Don for that appreciation. Mention of Mr. Tom Garnham brings to mind a very respected and popular figure who was also a prominent member of the East London C.S Control Board.

WHO'D BE ON THE COMMITTEE? (or where's Eric?)

The AGM was ending, we'd all escaped unhurt.
Vic was breathing easier now and so were Roy and Bert
Pete and Johnnie looked relieved, car keys at the ready,
Roy and Derek followed on, hands now firm and steady.
Suddenly there came a voice from far across the floor.
Johnnie shook and Vic collapsed, they'd heard that voice before.
"A point of order chairman" came a roar to stop the flight -
'Twas Eric, with a puzzled frown, "Just had to say goodnight"
Peace returned and Vic revived and now the coast was clear,
And Eric, satisfied for now, cried, "See you all next year!"



Alan Catley

Great Waking Rebels CSC. Sunday 29th July 01 at 2.00 pm

Denny Winch, manager of the Great Waking Rebels CSC who is just recovering from celebrating his 70th. birthday in style is enthusiastically planning to hold a veteran riders championship and, in addition, a four team competition on Sunday 29th July at the Great Waking Rebels track in Essex.

This meeting is not under the control of the VC&RA but many of our members are likely to be there, whether competing or not. Trophies for the winners will be provided in what should be a comprehensive and entertaining programme. The grass area around the track is ideal for picnicking and the vital conveniences are situated nearby.

Denny was telling me that a grant of nearly £4,000 had been made by the local council to improve facilities at the track. Veteran's teams who have won the four team championships in recent years include the Hawbush hammers and the Warwick Lions. Denny is hoping that teams interested will contact him shortly as well as the riders wishing to compete in the Individual championship.

If making the journey to the Great Waking track, which is just east of Southend, you are advised to telephone Denny on 01702-218577 for further information, nearer the of 29th. July.

Editorial.

Alan Catley

Reading through the many old programmes & newspaper cuttings that we are receiving. Show that some cycle speedway tracks attracted enormous crowds in the late 1940s. How about this newspaper report in 1948 sent in from Don Smith in Plymouth?

"The Lord Mayor and deputy Lady Mayoress of Plymouth were among the 6,000 who watched the best pairs championship of the Plymouth and district C.S. League on the Flying Devils track at St. Budeaux. A.Dabinett and A.Gorman (Manadon Lightnings) were winners with 21 points. Runners up were Wood and Lawrence of the Flying Devils. etc"

Can any of our readers remember similar sized crowds or does anyone recall the above meeting? Please let us know if you can.

Our good wishes go to Peter Chubb for a speedy recovery following an operation on a badly injured shoulder after a recent accident. Get well soon Peter.



The Veterans Cycle Speedway Star

S. E. Essex by Ron Bull

The teams in the South East Essex League are:-

Whipps Cross Comets 'A' & 'B', East Ham Stars, Walthamstow Wolves, Longbridge Leopards, Thundersly Cobras, Fyfield Falcons, Hawbush Hammers and The Gladiators.

Comets 'A' are really going at present and top the league. With riders like Hemsley, Gray, Bunce and Brown to lead off with they can rely on the others, Pipe, Mee, Taylor, Kingsnorth and Mills to back up well in all their battles.

Comets 'B' are much weaker, only Ted Sear and Paddy Hunt can claim real experience.

Longbridge Leopards are real tough-nuts. Apart from international Stan Stevens, Sid Tomlyn and Essex Test pair Walker and Lamacq, they include Ron Gibbons, Roy Milano and Alan Risley. Johnny Hibben ex Barkingside Cobras star, still as good as ever, finds himself in the Number 8 position due to the strength of his team mates. Longbridge are my tip for this year's National Champions.

Walthamstow Wolves, another strong team, include evergreen Terry Greenaway and the immaculate Peter Fraser in their side.

East Ham Stars consist of young riders but have the wise Vic Duffy as their leader and will undoubtedly improve as the season goes on.

Thundersly Cobras, the "out of town" team also comprise juniors. They left the Southend league for stronger competition, they will certainly get that. Unfortunately the first thing that they did was to lose captain Robin Rose with a fractured ankle. However manager Dave Stevens got ex-Barkingside rider Lionel "Huggy" Knight out of retirement and that should pep them up.

The Gladiators 2nd division champions in 1955 and runners up in 1956 are having a lean time. Best of the bunch is Sandy McGillivray, closely followed by newcomer Brian Antony who started as a junior with the Penguins and moved when they disbanded.

Hawbush Hammers, smartly turned out this season, are going well chasing Comets 'A' at the top of the league. They include the South brothers, Fred and Jack, Arthur 'Archie' Warren and the Chub brothers.

Fyfield Falcons are the problem team. They could make or break most of the other teams. They include Essex test men Alan Wood, the two Suttons Ron and Norman and a stream of lesser names that have the knack of turning in good scores when least expected. Altogether a very interesting league.

Cycle Speedway Star 21st June 1957

Ron Bull was a regular contributor to Cycle Speedway Star. We also had regular reports from Leicester, Devon and Middlesex.

We also had reports by J. Richardson on the Southern Premier League. These were usually of at least two pages, far too long to include in here unless I am given more than one page!

Bill Gadsby