RORY BLACKWELL

RORY BLACKWELL was Britain's first Rock and Roll idol and was often mentioned in the National Tabloids (Not always for his musical prowess!) He toured with Bill Hayley, Gene Vincent, Little Richard, Buddy Holly, Gerry Lee Lewis, Brenda Lee and many others. He now lives in Starcross, South Devon.
He says "I never made a fortune but I lived well and played in over 50 countries". He has recently been approached to tour in a series of concerts as there is a resurgence of interest in Rock and Roll, but he says he's had enough!
In his younger days Rory was a talented boxer and reached the finals in the old Empire/Commonwealth Games as a welterweight. However he developed a medical condition in one of his eyes and his promising boxing career came to an end. Then he started out on his musical career. Rory's first band was called Rory Blackwell and the Rock 'N' Rollers in which he fronted with the drums and vocals. Later he changed the name to "The Blackjacks". They entered the charts with "Bye, Bye, Love" only to be knocked out by the Everly Brothers, who had a version of the same song. However he had a number of hits later with "Boney Maronir", "Red Roses", "Daddy Don't you walk so fast", "Great Balls of Fire" and "Rory's Rock" to name but a few. The band toured Europe and the UK with all the big stars from the USA. Rory had a lucky escape when Buddy Holly, Big Boppa and Richie Valens were killed in an air crash. He should have been with them but his tour was cancelled at the last minute.
He appeared on many top shows such as 6.5 Special, Cool for Cats and the Oh Boy Show where he fronted the successful "Lord Rockingham's XI who had hits with "Hoots Mon" etc. Then he went off to the USA where he played drummer for the Beach Boys. After that he joined the ex Beatle John Lennon's Plastic Ono Band as Drummer. He was a great influence in helping Terry Dene, Johnie Kid, Georgie Fame, Dickie Pride, Chas and Dave, Lord Such, Dusty Springfield and many more to get started. He still keeps in touch with many of the early rockers and is still kept busy composing and arranging for some of today's stars. Nowadays he is out and about with his Karaoke Show and there's more to that than meets the eye!

RORY'S WORLD RECORDS

1. NON STOP DRUMMING WITHOUT A BREAK 126 HOURS, JULY 1978 JOHANNESBURG CITY HALL, SOUTH AFRICA FOR N.B.C. T.V U.S.A.
2. 1,000 HAND BELLS ONE AT A TIME, IN 47 SECONDS, DECEMBER 1979 AT INTER MILAN FOOTBALL STADIUM, ITALY. FOR ITALIAN CHANNEL 5 TELEVISION.
3. 314 DIFFERENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN TUNE ONE AT A TIME IN 83 SECONDS, MAY 1985 DAWLISH, DEVON. FOR ITV TELEVISION.
4. ONE MAN MARCHING BAND (24 DIFFERENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS), 150 MILES COVERED AROUND DEVON, FOR BBC TELEVISION SOUTH WEST.
5. 108 DIFFERENT MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PLAYED ALL AT THE SAME TIME IN TUNE IN ONE SONG, MAY 1989, DEVON, FOR FUJI TELEVISION, JAPAN.
6. LONGEST SINGLE NOTE ON A TRUMPET WITHOUT TAKING A BREATH, 182 SECONDS. DEVON 1989 FOR FUJI T.V JAPAN.
7. 1,000 MORRIS BELLS PLAYED IN TUNE AND ALL AT THE SAME TIME TO THE TUNE OF 'JINGLE BELLS' FOR BBC T.V, PEBBLE MILL, BIRMINGHAM, CHRISTMAS 1990.
8. PLAYING 9,120 SINGLE NOTES ON A GUITAR IN ONE MINUTE. DEVON, OCTOBER 1991 BBC & ITN T.V
9. 3,720 SINGLE BEATS ON A SINGLE DRUM WITH STICKS IN ONE MINUTE. DEVON OCTOBER 1991 FOR BBC & ITN T.V
10. 'FASTEST DRUMMING' 400 SEPARATE DRUMS ONE AT A TIME IN 16.02 SECONDS. MAY 29TH 1995. DEVON FOR BBC & ITV T.V
11. 'FASTEST DRUMMING UP-SIDE DOWN' FOR CHILDREN IN NEED. BBC T.V ENGLAND 1999.
12. RORY & KELLIE-JO BLACKWELL PLAYED ONE AT A TIME 100,000 TAMBOURINES ONE AFTER THE OTHER IN A TIME OF 33 MINUTES & 50 SECONDS IN DEVON AUGUST 2001.

'RORY' HAS RAISED MORE THAN £600,000 FOR CHILDRENS CHARITY'S DURING HIS MANY WORLD RECORD ATEMPTS. RECORDS PRINTED BY KIND PERMISSION OF :- THE GUINNESS BOOK OF RECORDS

Rory rode Cycle Speedway for the Bater Aces and the London Aces and is a member of V.C.S.R.A..

TOMMY SPAULDING

It is with great sadness that I have to report the death on the 11th November of my old friend and team mate Tommy Spaulding after several years battling against illness.

I first met Tommy in 1952 when my previous club Ruskin Flyers disbanded and I joined Beckenham Pirates, later to be renamed Beckenham Monarchs, Tommy was a founder member of the Beckenham team which was managed by his father, and later his mother.

Tommy was the true epitome of everything the sport should be about, a true gentleman in every sense of the word, respected by his team mates and opponents alike.

Although not a great individualist, Tommy could and did beat all the big names in the sport on a fairly frequent basis but primarily he was a team rider who could be relied on to score heavily in every match and also accumulate a large number of bonus points each season.

Tommy was a one team man, riding for Beckenham from about 1951 until his retirement in the late 70s, he was followed into the Beckenham team by his younger brother Laurence and his two sons Mark and Chris.

The last time I rode with Tommy was at a VCSRA meeting at Garratt Park in 1998, although he had not been on a bike for 20 years he still showed some of the pace and trackcraft that we remember from him in the past.

I am sure I can speak for everyone who knew Tommy in sending our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to Heather his ever supportive wife who has nursed him through these difficult times, his sons Mark and Chris, brother Laurence and sister Ann

Rest in peace Tommy, you will not be forgotten.

Danny Daniel

A.G.M.

The annual general Meeting will be held on February 28th at the Exmouth Social Club, Stepney at 2.0.p.m.

BECKENHAM MONARCHS
(Late 50s)

L to R –DICKIE HUDDERS – TOMMY SPAULDING– RICHARD BAKER—PETE JARMAN

DANNY DANIEL -CHRIS ADAMS - PAT CAREY - LAURENCE SPAULDING

Brownies Extravaganza Celebrating 30 years of Cycle Speedway.

Photos on opposite page are from this event held on Saturday 25th October 2003.
A temporary track was made on a disused bowling green behind The Railway Tavern, Tivetshall St. Margaret, Norwich.

Results:-
English League 93 Southern Counties 85
The Open Pairs was won by Darren Slater and Elliot Jones from Eaton C.S.C. Norfolk, runners up were Lee Cossey (Heatherset) and Paul Dyson (Bury Manchester.)
The Veterans Pairs was won by Paul Dyson (Bury) and Chris Bartlet (South London) With Alan Brown and Ray Hunt both from Eaton as runners up.

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I have already mentioned "Café Net", where I assist with computer training. One week the instructor had the class all log on to "Friends reunited". While all the class were busy looking for long lost school friends, I thought why not have a go. I found about twenty two names from my year, but no one that I recognised. I thought no more about it until a few days later I received a real "Bolt from the Blue" an e-mail from Chris Tregidgo (Trigger) who I had not seen or heard of since about 1950. (Although I did write about him in the last "Track Record".) Since then e-mails have been exchanged reminiscing about Cycle Speedway in the Wembley area from 1947-50. Most of our memories were similar, but two things I did not know. While I was riding for the Roxeth Rockets on the old Kingsbury Lions track, the Wembley All Stars were riding at the Paddocks, a mile or so up the road. It also explains how the team got it's name, it was virtually the Wembley Test team, with Chris, Ken Bell, Roy Howard, Eric Marshall, Peter Rhodes, Peter Smith, Peter Harris, Roy Rogers and Stan Baldock. Chris, who now lives in Australia, sent quite a bit of information about the early days of the sport, some of which I shall include in a future issue.

No more Jokes?

Well here's a couple from a selection that Vic sent in to fill in any spaces:-

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that this was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah" The teacher asked "What if Jonah went to hell?" The little girl replied, "Then you can ask him".

The children had all been photographed and the teacher was trying to persuade them to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at when you are all grown up and say There's Jennifer, she's a lawyer or that's Michael, he's a doctor" A small voice at the back of the room rang out " And theres teacher, He's dead"

BROWNIES EXTRAVAGANZA

Photos by Brian Barnet

Top Picture (left to right) R. Ellis Mark Windwood Phil Widdas Alan Brown.

Bottom Picture Alan Brown Lee Aris Roger Carter Phil Widdas

VETERAN RIDERS

ANYONE FOR GOLF

Drawing by Bert Hudson

From Stan Brown

Another great day was had by our VCSRA Golf Society. We returned to play at Uxbridge Golf Club. We had twelve playing on the day, 3 ladies and 9 gents.

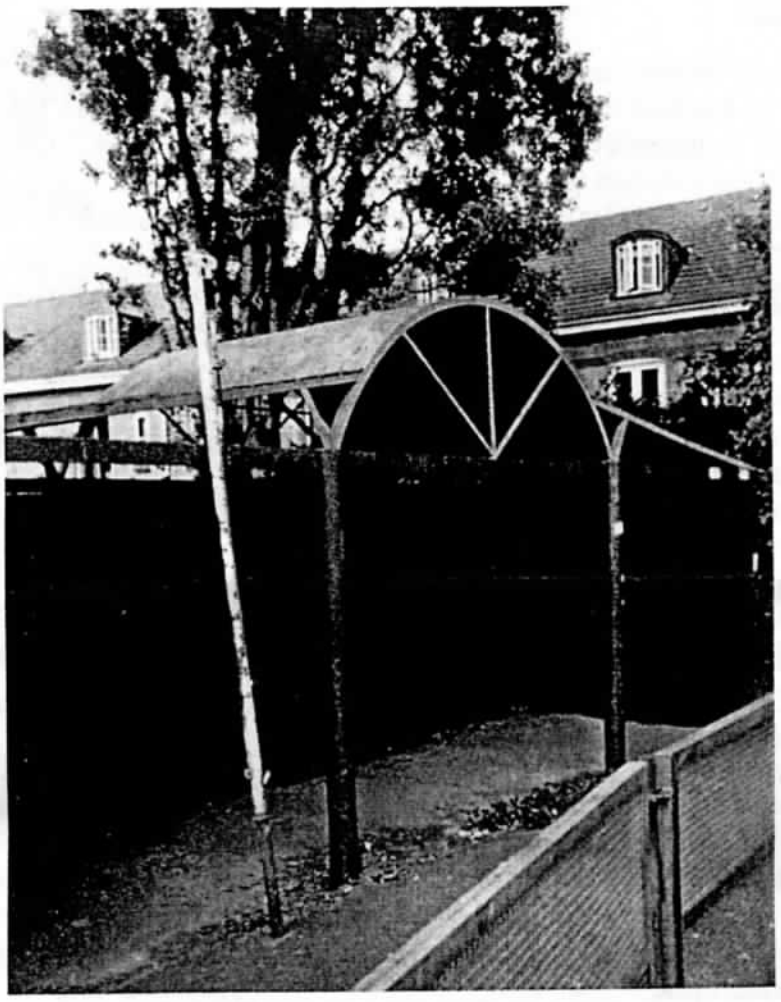
The course was very dry and hard and being an up course, it was very hard to keep a ball up on the hills. I now know what it must be like to go mountain climbing.

It was nice to see a new member to play golf with us and on the day he was our winner of the trophy. Well done Dennis England. It was also nice to see one of our regular players, Jackie Adams win the ladies trophy.

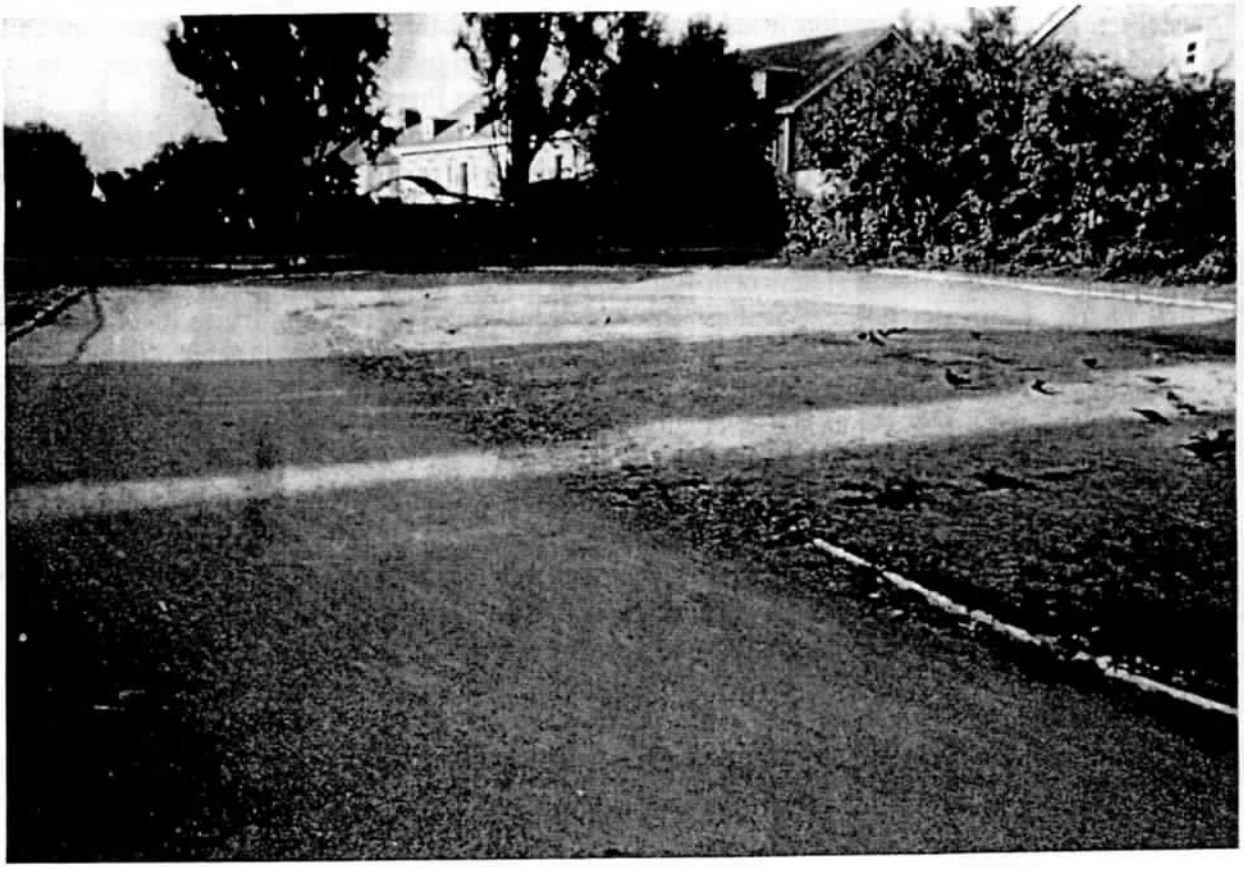
I think we should thank Doreen and Roy Fraser for picking this course. The meal had was again from the carvery was first class. We had a few laughs before we left for home.

Now it would be very good if we could get some more players to attend our matches, so come on all you swingers, let's see you next time. You do not have to be a good golfer, Just come and make it a great day. Look forward to seeing you all.

Photos of Garrat Park, taken in August 2003, by Alan Paterson



The Pits, complete with one half of starting gate



NEW MEMBERS

BURROUGH, John 2 Wrythe Lane, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 2RN. Tel: 0208 395 1385
EVANS, Alan, 46 St. Michael's Road, Long Stratton, Norfolk, NR15 2PH Tel:-01508-536366
NEVARD, Keith 60 Thundersley Grove, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 3EB. Tel: 01268 764040
TULLBERG, Neil 7 Castlewood Close, Clevedon, Bristol, BS21 7HR
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AMENDMENTS

Change of address for:-
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LAWRENCE, Fred, 3 Glyn Court, 619 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey, SM3 9DF
Tel 0208 395 6153
WAGSTAFF, Don 6 Bell Hammer, Ship Street, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 4EF
Tel: 01342327818
WAGSTAFF, Marie, 44 Sackville Court, Fairfield Road, East Grinstead, West Sussex RH19 4 HJQ
Tel : 01342-410134
New e-mail address for FRASER, Peter: pfras2@aol.com

The claim that Edmonton had the first tarmac track in this country is not strictly true. In about 1955 the Hendon Council laid tarmac over the Wembley All Stars track. We did not ask for it, nor were we informed that they were going to do it. We just turned up for practice one evening and "Hey Presto" a tarmac track! We tried it for about an hour, but decided that we definitely did not like it. So (very) late the next night we returned armed with shovels and spades, removed the tarmac and dumped it in the Welsh Harp! We never heard any more about it, but at least for one day, Wembley All Stars had a tarmac track.

In about 1949 the Kenton Hawks also had a tarmac track. We were given permission to use a disused tennis court, near Preston Road Station. We felt that this called for a change of name. We had to be a "bird" as I had just made (or rather my mother had just made) a smart new set of breast plates with a Hawk on them. So we decided to call ourselves the Preston Eagles.
When we started to clear the weeds, we found that the tennis court had a tarmac surface. In some places, large lumps of tarmac came up with the weeds but in others it refused to budge and had to be chipped away inch by inch. This was going to be a much harder and longer job than we had expected. In the News Chronicle National Team Championship, we were drawn against a team that raced on Hounslow Heath (Hanworth Racers?) We won the away leg and the return was to be the first match at our new home. So plan "B" was to leave the tarmac and try to level out the holes as best we could. Despite franticly working every evening, it was obvious that the track would not be ready in time and we were still working on it when our opponents arrived. I explained the problems we had been having and said that we would understand if they did not want to ride on a track in that condition.
They had a look at the track, got their bikes and had a few laps round and declared that they were quite happy to ride. They rode the track better than we did and won the match, taking the tie by just one point on aggregate. As far as I can remember that was the only match that we had on that track as local residents complained and permission to use the track was withdrawn. So that was the end of the Preston Eagles, we retuned to our Northwick Park track and became the Kenton Hawks again.

Bill Gadsby