Wilmslow Hammers 1959 National Team Champions.

Left to Right. **Derek Garnett, Moss Bevin, Pete Rollason, Vic Hinchcliffe(Cpt), Pete Lomas, John Mottershead, Phillip Moore, Pete Groom.**

Derek Garnett writes: The British Team Championship finals very rarely throw up any surprises, the winners nearly always being the strongest team in the country. 1959, however produced a shock win for Cheshire village team , Wilmslow Hammers, who weren't the North's top team or even the Manchester League's top side.

Formed in 1954 under the management of John Mottershead, they first raced on the local station car park before moving to a new track in 1955. Never a strong team, they usually occupied the lower regions of their local league, often propping up the league table from the bottom. The bulk of the scoring came from Pete Rollason, Fred Latham and Pete Lomas. In 1957, Offerton folded and Vic Hinchcliffe joined them, followed by Larry Davenport from the defunct Sale team in 1958 and they started to win a few matches. Things really took off for them in 1959 when Moss Bevin and Pete Groom, former Sale riders returned to the sport and Derek Garnett came out of the army and from being also rans, they had a useful looking line up. Early season results were only average, going out of the League K.O trophy to Lupset and unable to catch Openshaw in the division 1 title race, finishing in third spot.

It was in the team championships that the team came to life, disposing of three times champions CarrsWood in the county final.

(Continued on page 4)

Don Perkins

A SPEED TALE ABOUT A LIKEABLE LEOPARD

In 1946 Don Perkins along with a few other would be Cycle Speedway riders built a track on a grassed area just inside one of the entrances to Barking Park. They formed a team and called themselves the Longbridge Leopards after the main road that runs from Barking to Dagenham.

My first encounter with Don was in 1950, when in after the Sunday afternoon meetings I would ride around the track on my Mothers bike complete with shopping basket on the front. One such Sunday I was following Don and another Leopards rider when they tangled and both came down, I was so close and in spite of having brakes, ran over the pair of them. The then captain Derek Hammond came across, clipped my ear and said I told you kids to keep off the track, to which Don came to my defence and said that it was JJ's fault not mine. I then got chatting to Don and he advised me to get a track bike.

Don was a good clean fast rider, not only liked and respected by his team mates but by opposing riders of the Dagenham and District League. In 1951 due to a minor exodus of riders to National Service, Don became captain of the Leopards and led the team from the front, helping youngsters along with advice gained from his experience.

At the end of the 1954 season saw Don retire from racing and in 1955 became manager of the newly formed junior team Longbrige Lions, which included a certain Terry Stone. Then at the end of 1957 the Longbridge track was no more but Don could still be seen at local Speedway and Cycle Speedway tracks. He regularly attended the "Vets" meetings over the last few years.

One of his later in life passions was going to local libraries and digging out the local newspapers from the 1950's finding Cycle Speedway reports and Photostatting them, of which he has given me a few.

Next to his family, Cycle Speedway and Speedway was his life, a regular spectator at Arena Essex, he was there only a week or so before his passing away.

A tribute by Stan Stevens to Don Perkins who died last month.

From Amateur Cycle Speedway
November 1952

THE "OLD VIC" RIDES AGAIN

THEY SAID HE WOULD NEVER WALK

Almost a year ago this month, Vic White was lying in hospital with a badly broken and severely crushed leg. They were shaking their heads over Vic's prospects of ever walking again. Amputation, was they thought inevitable.

Last week I saw Vic. No, he wasn't hobbling around on crutches. But I did take special notice of his left leg. He was using it to propel himself around the 90 yard Warwick Lion's track in Andrews Road Hackney, where he won the Battle of Britain Trophy before a crowd of 2,000.

The meeting was sponsored by the Hackney branch of the R.A.F. Association and present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney; Kathleen Harrison, the stage and scren star; Johnie Hoskins, West Ham Speedway Promoter and Lions President; Malcom Craven and Howdy Byford, West Ham Speedway stars. The Duke of Edinburgh sent a telegram wishing the meeting success.

At the half way stage three riders were unbeaten. Tommy Sweetman (Arsenal Aces) 9 points from 3 rides. Jimmy Veal (Lions 6 from 2 rides and Vic White (Aces) the same. Came heat 19 and all three were to race against each other. Vic White drew the inside lane, Veal the second and Sweetman the third. The race finished in that order, with Vic White scoring a maximum of 15 points. Veal was runner-up with 14, Sweetman notched 13. Four Arsenal Aces finished in the top five.

A wonderful achievement for Vic White who, but for last year's injury might have made this his hat-trick. He won the trophy in 1950.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Wilmslow Hammers 1959 National Team Champions cont.

They went on to beat Yorkshire Champions, Lupset Aces for the first time ever, 57-39 in the inter-county final at Coventry. A tough inter area final in Yorkshire saw Midlands Champions, Hagley Comets go the same way 57-39. They then faced pre-match favourites and former champions, Tolworth Tudors in the semi-final at Birmingham and gave probably their best performance winning 52-43 to reach the final.

The final at Hungerford was seen as a foregone conclusion, with Wilmslow never having seen the track before, facing the holders and virtually unbeatable East Ham Wolves. But in one of the closest and most controversial finals ever, Wilmslow came from behind to close the gap to a single point, going into the last race 44-45. Vic Hinchcliffe and Larry Davenport faced the formidable Roy Milano and Roy Archie and after an incident packed race, went over the line in first and second places to win the title by 49-46.

Wilmslow 49: Vic Hinchcliffe 12, Larry Davenport 10, Derek Garnet 7, Pete Rollason 6, Moss Bevin 6, Pete Lomas 6, Pete Groom 6, Mike McDonald 2.

East Ham: Roy Milano 9, Ron Gibbons 8, Roy Archie 7, Pete Bromley 7, Sid Tomlyn 5, Pete Fraser 5, Malcom Bell 3, Ray Grey 2.

With the reformation of Offerton in 1961 and the loss of four riders, Wilmslow never recovered , and after a few more mediocre seasons they dropped down to Division 2. And sadly were forced to disband half-way through the 1967 season.

But no one can take away that memorable day in 1959 when one of the "little clubs" reached the dizzy heights of "National Champions".

Don Perkins

Longbridge Leopards

Last of the Summer Wine?

I think it was Len Adams whose idea it was. The plan was to take a Cycle Speedway bike and visit as many former North West Middlesex tracks as we could find.

So on Thursday 29th May, we all gathered at Roy Fraser's house. Seven of us, Roy, Len Adams, Nobby Dunn, Derek Wills, Pete Leckie, Peter Lipscombe and myself, Bill Gadsby. After coffee, tea and biscuits kindly supplied by Roy's wife Doreen, we set off. First stop Uxbridge, former home of the Pirates, although overgrown, you could still see the outline of the track. We were met there by Maurice Maitland, former manager of the Pirates who still lives next to the track. After a couple of laps each around the track, Maurice asked if we would like any tea or coffee, so after more refreshments in his garden, we set off for Hayes. As I remember, it was the very early 1950s that the Hayes Broadsiders disbanded and the track was only used after that for occasional Test Matchs or Individual Events.

Despite this, the track, which is in a recreation ground has obviously been maintained by the council and is in excellent condition. After a few more laps, someone suggested that we have lunch in the famous "Ace Café" on the North Circular Road, which has recently reopened.

After lunch we set of for Birchen Grove, home of the Wembley Lions, to look for the track there. The area had changed, it had been nicely landscaped, with views of the Welsh Harp but there was no sign of where the track had been.

Next to the other end of the Welsh Harp to the home of the Wembley All Stars. Here the track was completely overgrown, you could just see some of the concrete starting area and with difficulty some of the outside line. The whole area had changed beyond recognition and in contrast to Birchen Grove seemed badly neglected.

Then on to Northwick Park, once home to the Sudbury Court Flyers, Kenton Hawks and Rising Sun Rangers. Pre-war it had been a golf course and the track had been made in a disused bunker, giving it banked straights. The site now houses a large Hospital with the rest landscaped leaving no trace of the track. We had parked outside a pub by the South Kenton Station, as we went back to our cars someone suggested that we pop in for a quick half. There were several people sitting at the bar and one of them said to me "What are you lot doing here?" I replied that we had been looking for a former Cycle Speedway track. "Really, I used to ride at Hendon" he said. It turned out that he was Eddie Baker a school friend of Roy Fraser. Small World.

On then to Bushey, former home of the Bricket Wood Kangeroos and Bushey Aces. Again the site had been landscaped and much improved, there had always been a few swings but now there was a children's play ground , but of course no sign of the track as it had now been grassed over.

So that was it, it had been a good day out, with the weather fine and sunny. We had met a few people and explained what we were doing, asked a couple of them to take photographs for us, they probably thought we were all mad. Maybe we were, still never mind.

Where are we of to next lads?

Bill Gadsby

The Hayes
Broadsiders
Track

Hendon

"I think the track was
here somewhere"

Northwick Park

John Cooper

On Tuesday May 20th at 8 am my great pal John Cooper aged 70 passed away in Eastbourne General Hospital.

John started racing in the winter of 1946-47 with Clapham Panthers, he was their captain in 1948-49. He was runner up in the first League Individual in April 1949 and represented the league in all four tests that season.

He joined Tooting Tigers in May 1950 and was soon to be my partner until his call up in June 1952. In Jan 1951 John represented the S.E.London League in their matches with E. London. We rode as a pair for the unbeaten Sth London team at the Empress Hall in March and April 1951, and he finished 2nd in the All London Individual. We won the Sth East London Best Pairs in July 1951. John was a member of the Tigers treble winning team of 1950 and again in 1951.

John was always the ultimate Gentleman and Sportsman and was well respected by team mates and opponents alike. John and Barbara moved to Seaford, close to Kath and I last October. The four of us made so many plans for the summer.

I am sure I speak for everyone in sending Barbara our Heartfelt sympathy and condolences. John will be sadly missed by all who knew him. I have lost my old team partner and a very special friend.

Ron Holvey

Autumn Golf Tournament

After a successful and enjoyable day in May it was agreed that we should go back to the same venue for our Autumn Event.

It will be held at

THE UXBRIDGE GOLF CLUB,

The Drive, Harefield Place. Uxbridge, Middlesex on Thursday September 4th at 1.00. Pm. The cost of a round of golf followed by an evening meal will be £23.50 and the cost of a meal only £11.00. Anyone wishing to come along but not play will be welcome.

Please let us know if you would like to either play or just come along for a day out and the meal.

Many thanks Vic.

23.50
18.50
42.00

Readers Letters

Here are a selection of letters forwarded on to me by Alan.

In all my years racing I have never read such a misguided and uninformed piece on youth policy as that written by Roy Delany.

As someone who has spent the past 41 years racing and being 55 years old I refuse point blank to move over and make way for any Youngster! When that said youngster can beat me fair and square and earn his team place, then and only then will I and others move over.

I take the sport seriously, train up to seven days a week in winter, have immaculate machinery and therefore feel I have the necessary mental and physical attributes that make a rider. I take great pride in my achievements and probably more so as the years go by. Age to me has never been an issue. Three years ago at the World Championships in Poland I topped my qualifying round and the next day rode for Scotland in the World Team Cup, aged 51. You earn your results and team places on ability NOT age.

Some points I would like to make are:

Riding numbers are so low that if you took us "grandads" out of teams, they would collapse

There are so many sports around now that youngsters are spoilt for choice.

Clubs do promote "come and try" sessions which bring in young riders but holding on to them is another matter. The youngsters just don't want to put the work in.

Yes! Lets all help young riders get into the sport. Lets run junior squads, leagues, Championships, etc etc some area's do some don't.....lets encourage.

Speedway and Cycle Speedway are hand in glove, so let's use Speedway to promote and encourage youngsters.

NO! Mr Delany I will not move over purely because of my age. I'm having too much fun beating those sixteen year olds!!!!!

Yours Dave Tulloch aged 55 ½

Dear Alan

Can I take up your offer to include a request in your next issue of The Track Record? I am completing a local history of Cycle Speedway in the Berks and Bucks area. This was from 1949 to 1953, when it all went belly up.

Best regards David Nelms

Information required for a local history.

Who were the **Buckinghamshire County Champions** for the **News Chronicle National Team Championship** in year 1951?

Has anyone knowledge of the whereabouts of **Derick Clemmit - Slough Flyers** and **England** rider against **Holland** at Empress Hall, Earl's Court in 1950?

Any information please contact **David Nelms** on 0118 9783366 or **The Track Record.**

Thank you.

Hello from Judy

It seems a life time ago since I was most likely the worst rider in the country and a member of the greatest ever team the Tolworth Tudors. Almost thirty years later, after the removal of a male reproductive system, followed by a radical hysterectomy. Two marriages to Richard and then Dennis, widowed twice. Trained in Dental, General, Learning Disabilities and Mental Health Nursing, then retired on health grounds. I am now at the end of my second year of a Single Honours Law Degree, having defeated the government at the European Court of Human Rights. Of course not forgetting my four years in the army and three years in a convent as a nun, you might say that I have had a full life.

It is always sad when you hear of men like Barry Shapley dying, as he was a real gentleman and a brilliant ambassador for the sport. He lent me his new bike up at Hungerford one year for the Cross Country part of the weekend, which I went and bent the frame but the only thing that Barry was worried about was if I was alright.

I do not support what Roy Delany says about older riders giving way to youngsters just for the sake of it is good for the sport. There might be a case for introducing a veteran's cycle speedway league: However not all riders make good managers etc. How could Roy Delaney's riders get bored with the opposition when there were ten teams , as this means racing the same teams no more than four times per year. To say that in the old days top riders progressed to speedway was never true in my days, some of the best riders in those days were Roger Kirk, Tony Johnson, Abe Herbert, Steve Watson, Colin Wheeler, Del Garnet and Tam Low, none of whom went on to be speedway riders. Mick Little was a great referee but not the greatest rider, much much better than me but then who was not.

I have to admit that until I passed Hellingly Lion's track a couple of years ago I had not thought about cycle speedway for a long time. I have therefore to say that I understand very little about how cycle speedway is run these days.

I would be interested in riding in a veterans league, if there was one to exist next year. If the old system of having an eight rider senior match followed by a six rider intermediate match still exists, then why not have a veterans match at the same time? That would give riding opportunities for all and time for younger riders to learn the art of refereeing matches etc. It is alright saying riders should evolve into managers and the like, this will never work until the profile of such positions is raised, which they never were when I was a young rider.

Mrs Judith Bernadette Aldridge

Among other letters received:
One from Bryan Geater ex Hungerford Panthers, enclosing the programme for the 1960 National Senior Team and Individual Championships. Also a letter from Mrs Geater with a photo of their Grandson wearing a Hungerford Panthers Breastplate. There is also a programme for the 1958 Britannia Shield at Garratt Park, but I am not sure who sent that in, it shows Roy Baker and Mick Jeffrey tied on 14 points, but not who won the run off.
All of these will be included in future issues of The Track record.

AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

NEW MEMBERS.

BERWICK, John, 32 Tenby Road, Welling, Kent, DA16 1EN, tel:- 0208-298 1791
BROMLEY, Peter, 139 Masterman Road, East Ham, London, E6 3NW, Tel: 0208-471 0370
CHUBB, Tom, 87 Fitzstephen Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 2YJ, tel: 0208-592 2715
DONAGHY, John, 12 Windsor Wharf, Wick Village, Hackney, London, E9 5NY, tel: 0208-533 0695
DONAGHY, Paul, 67 Brockenhurst Way, Bickenacre, Essex, CM3 4XN, 0850-713073
HILL, John, 31 St.Johns Road, Grove, Wantage, Oxon, OX12 7NP, tel: 01235-763559
e-mail:- john.hill27@ntlworld.com
PATTERSON, Alan, 16 Eshott Close, Regent Farm, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne, NE3 3PD
TULLOCH, Dave, 22 Tattersalls Chase, Southminster, Essex, CM0 7EG
WHITE, V.J., 35 Watercress Road, Cheshunt, Herts, EN7 6XJ
WILCOCKS, (Wills), Derek, "High View", 3 Skylark Close, Southridge Green, Billericay, Essex, tel: 01277-632296

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AMENDMENTS.

ALDRIDGE, Judith, add Telephone :-07817-962552 and e-mail :- jdbh2@ukc.ac.uk
BIRD, "Malcolm" s/be Michael
DUNNETT, Sid, new address:- 6 Linden Gate, 9 Church Walk, Raynes Park, London, SW20 9DL
ELDRIDGE, Terry, new telephone number, 0207-639 2741
GODWIN, Ray, s/be No 1 Tenth Avenue NOT 10 Avenue
NICHOLSON, Roger, wrong address in Directory, s/be:- 20 Jaqueline Road, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset, BH12 3JQ. Telephone number is correct.
PORTER, Terry, Telephone number s/be 0208-953 0721 (Not 0271)
SAVILL, John, s/be Clementine Avenue, NOT Road
SUTCLIFFE, John, new telephone number:- 0113-229 3099
WATLING, John, amend telephone number to :-0161-969 2002 (Not 2022).

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ADDITIONS.

GADSBY, Bill, e-mail :- bill.gadsby@lineone.net

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A man goes to a fancy dress party dressed only in his Y fronts. A woman goes up to him and says "What are you supposed to be"?, The man says "A premature ejaculation". "What says the woman"?, The man explains, "I've just come in my pants".

A man walks into the doctor's office. What seems to be the problem?, asks the doctor. It's.. um..well.. I have five penises replies the man, Blimey says the doctor how do your trousers fit?, The man says, Like a glove.