

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**

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Annual General Meeting

On Saturday, 23rd February, our AGM was held, followed by an evening meal, for the first time at the New Inn, Waltham Abbey. As usual, it was well supported, headed by our president, **Jackie Wilson**, chairman, **Derek Cattle** and secretary, **Vic White**. The secretary's report showed the association in a healthy financial position and a maintained membership of around 240. Copies of the Association's balance sheet were handed round to those present and are available on request.

Election of Officers. In the absence of any new proposals, the present Committee and Secretary/treasurer were unanimously re-elected.

President. Our new president from November 2002 will be **Alan Catley** who was elected on a majority vote.

Items discussed included coming events (details on page 2), last year's dinner/dance and a look at saving time on the raffle. Three amendments to the constitution were carried, one of which, after some noisy discussion, gave committee members the right to vote at committee meetings by proxy. Next year's "75 years of speedway" celebration at High Beech in Essex will include a cycle speedway demo and Easter Monday this year sees the opening of a new Cycle Speedway track run by **Vic Duffy** in Colchester.

Stratford Hammers Re-Union

Reflections by Roy Garnham

Every year at our annual dinner and dance, I reflect on the success of our Association and the union that has developed between long ago racing foes. No longer do we have that "win at all costs" attitude and it is as though we are now one large happy team. Mind you, I have noticed some raised elbows on the dance floor and a noticeable quickening of pace in an endeavour to reach the bar first, so maybe competition is not dead. For the Stratford Hammers, the dinner/dance is a chance to recapture the spirit of our golden years. I refer, not just to the racing but also our social life together over fifty years ago and this has prompted us to arrange our own re-union.

On Sunday, 5th. May we will be holding a re-union lunch at the Plough at Bulphan. It is expected that around thirty five old team members will be present and we hope that they will fetch along individual or club awards, photographs and newspaper articles to help the spirit of the occasion. I don't suppose **Ray Wilmore** will bring...

(continued on p.4.)

COMING EVENTSDINNER & DANCE

Our Annual Dinner & Dance will take place, at Ye Old Plough House Motel at Bulphan on Saturday, November 16th 2002.. As in the past, we will meet from 6.00.p.m onwards and sit down to eat at 7.00.p.m. For the past couple of years we have managed to keep the prices the same but, unfortunately, as with so many things costs inevitably rise and we will have to pay more this time around. The price of the meal has risen by £1.00 and the cost of your ticket will be £18.50. p.p. As far as accommodation is concerned, due to the fact that we received a number of complaints regarding the breakfast that was included with the room, the cost of the room will be a separate charge and breakfast will be optional but must be paid for. Continental breakfast will be available at around £4.00 and cooked English breakfast from £5.25 to £7.50 according to your requirements. The cost for the room will be reduced from last year's price of £50.00 and will be £45.00. The charge will be the same for either double or single.

NOSTALGIA EVENING

This very popular event will take place on Saturday evening, 27th.. July 2002 at The Exmouth Social Club in Stepney. As previously music will be provided by some of our more talented members and there will also be the usual buffet. This do seems to attract more members as each year goes by and is proving to be our most successful get together. So if you haven't been before why not give it a try. We feel sure that you will enjoy it very much.

RYE HOUSE EVENING

Our first get together at Rye House last autumn also proved to be very successful and we have been asked to arrange one for this year. We have been in touch with Len Silver who said he will be more than happy to do the same again. As soon as fixture lists are out, we will sort out a suitable date and try to arrange it for what might be a good speedway fixture as well. We will have a firm date for the next edition of Track record.

Vic.

GREAT WAKERING VETERAN'S DAY SUNDAY 21st. July at 2.00 pm. By Eric Hemsley.

The Great Waking Club are hoping to once again run a veteran's day this year. It is hoped that members will support the event and, let us know if they are riding. Although a small track, it will be two laps per race. Who knows, perhaps Eric will feel well enough to ride and will Peter Chubb take part? How about "Sprocket" and Roy Delaney? If we cannot get four man teams to race for the St. John's cup, we will use two man teams. It is hoped that the younger riders will stand down for the above to make it more interesting for the "Oldies." We will also have a match race competition in age groups and challenge races for those eliminated. This race day will meet a number of needs. The vets will have another get together, Great Waking will get some publicity and hopefully, swell their funds. Donated prizes for the raffle will be appreciated. Please let us know by 21st May if you are coming. Johnny Brown (0208-529-0463), Den Winch (01702-218577) or me (01375-679868.) Eric.

Please note: Annual Membership Renewal is due on 1st. April.

Slips inside.

A look at the Hertfordshire League

The Hitchin Aces.

by Ken Woolard

The Hitchin Aces were formed in the early 1950's where the team raced at a track in Bury Mead Road, Hitchin, which is now an industrial centre.

The team was managed by the late **Horace Hutson**. His three sons, **Keith, Trevor and Norman** were riders. Other members of the team were **Pete Ebers, Jim Monk, Ray Smith, Dave Tyler, Sid Springett, Steve Crawford and Ken Woolard**. Their well attended home meetings were successful and included matches against London and Bedfordshire teams. Some of their riders were selected for the County team. **Note:** In the middle 1960's, Ken left to help form the **Langley Lions**, based in Stevenage.

From The Hoddesdon Kangaroos onwards.

by Clive Hitch

What memories we have from fifty years ago and great to recall. One match sticks in my mind, riding for Hoddesdon Kangaroos in 1950. We rolled up at Redbourne to race the Hill-top Vampires. Our transport was Shadbolt's removal lorry and cost us £2.00. We were met by this cocky young chap, **Rodney Pinnock**. "So you're **Clive Hitch** are you, the one they call maxi-man? Well you won't get one here!" Well, what an incentive that was to me! Anyway, all went well until the nominated riders race. It was six rides and a nominated ride in the Herts league. Up to the tapes—Pinnock was on 3 and I was on 4. He jumps and I go. It was one touch and out! I will never forget that smirk on Pinnock's face as he returned to the pits. Who won the match? - I cannot remember. Maybe someone will.

In 1951 I moved to EAC Hawks and what a team! The plan was to beat Russell Eagles for the league. **Ken Cooper, Mike Waldron, Ian Gilroy, Tom Drake, Rod Pinnock** of Redbourne, **Jackie Mayes** from Harpenden and myself and one I can't place. We won the league with points to spare from the Eagles. Their team was **Ernie Legate, Johnny Pinnock, Dave Payne, Fred Stimpson, Tony Hetherington and Roy Small**. (What a rider he was!) I cannot recall the others.

Then it was National Service and the Suez Canal. When I returned, gone were all the country teams, EAC and the Eagles and although I won the county championship, made the England team and rode in many test matches, it was never quite the same as those first two years when I lived for cycle speedway and my girlfriend, Mary, who is still with me as my wife, I'm glad to say. Then it was fifteen years of speedway but that's another story. Best wishes to all my old rivals,
Clive Hitch.

Back row: **Mick Jeffery, Alan Skeggs, Alan Hitch, Clive, Ken Cooper,**

Front: **Derek Hannington, Tony Salmon, Des Hutchins** at Hoddesdon Kangaroos in the middle 1950's.



Stratford Hammers Re-Union Sunday 5th. May.

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-still has his cow horn handlebars or **Terry Greenaway** his steel capped left boot? I have been told that **Len Silver** still has his ukulele. That would really bring back memories of his performances on our coach trips, so here's hoping. Sadly, **George Stevens, George Welch and Norman Lewis** are no longer with us but they will be remembered with affection for their contribution in making our club so successful.

Roy Garnham.



The
Stratford Hammers
(Late 40's
& early 50's)

From Left to right: Back row: John Livings, Ted Jones, George Stevens, Terry Greenaway, George Welch, Ray Wilmore, Roy Archie. Second row: Ron Shippey, Roy Latter, Don Whitlock, Roy Garnham, Jack Wilson, Harry Milsom, Colin Wilson. Third row: Jimmy Heard, Dennis Day, Len Silver, Tom Garnham, Ken Baxter. Front row: Dennis Hubble, Eddie Parham, Ken Lewis, Stan Brown, Don Wagstaff, Norman Lewis.

Members Directory

New Members:

Roy AUSTIN, 34, New Road, Hextable, Swanley, Kent, BR8 7LS,
Tel: 01322-613696

Pat CAREY 19, Midholm Road, Shirley, Croydon, Surrey. CRO 8AN.
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Brian BAYLISS, 10, Grundy Crescent, Kennington, Oxford, OX1 5PS
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Roy ALLWRIGHT, 68, Stanwick Road, Rawnds, Northants NN9-6DG,
Tel: 01933-622517.

Change of address:

T.R. BROWN, (Male) 418A Cypress Drive North. Tequesta,
Florida 33469 USA. Tel:- 001-561-748 5537

Roy MILANO, Urb/Alberca. Orba. Alicante 03791. Spain.

So often at this time of the year we hear of the passing of old friends and, with our sincere condolences to families & close friends, it is our sad duty to bring to the notice of our members the deaths of the following ex riders.

Vic Aylward

One of the pioneers of our sport, Vic Aylward passed away on Saturday, 12th. January 2002, after a short illness. He was 72. Vic started racing in 1946 with the Blackbourne Racers, before moving on to the Dagenham Diamonds for an eight year spell. When the Diamonds folded in 1954, Vic joined the Barkingside Cobras for just a few months, before joining me at Hawbush. After a bad motorcycle accident, Vic decided that two wheels was not the best thing to sit astride and retired from the sport.

Although never a star, he rarely rose above the reserve berth, Vic never complained when dropped or "used" to fill a spot when riders just did not turn up. A quiet club man, always ready to help with track work and assist others when needed, Vic was also a keen speedway fan. We travelled many thousands of miles together, following our sport. Vic leaves a wife, Joan and married son, Colin. We send our condolences to all relations and friends.

Peter Chubb.

Bert Scott

Bert joined our association only a few months ago. Owing to long time ill health, he was unable to travel or attend any of our functions. He did make contact with old friends by post and email.. Bert, who was about 70, started racing in 1948 and was a prominent member of the Leyton Aces. Johnny Brown of the Whipps Cross Comets team recalls racing against Bert when the two teams met on a track marked out on the ice on Hollow ponds opposite Whipps Cross hospital. Amazingly, Johnny remembers, none of the riders went through the ice.

Eileen, Bert's wife, wrote to Vic, our secretary, in response to his letter enquiring about Bert.

"Thank you for your kind words, Christmas will not be a happy time for any of us. Spiker had been on dialysis for four years, but died from a series of strokes. He would never have got better and honestly felt he could take no more. He is at peace now, that is the most important thing. Best wishes to all of you, Regards Eileen."

High Beech

On Sunday 10th. February, the annual celebration of the birth of speedway in this country, organised by the Veteran Speedway magazine, was held at High Beech in Epping Forest, Essex.

It was a sunny day and many of our members attended. Lots of old speedway photographs, programmes, vintage motorbikes and other memorabilia were on display and for sale. Stalls supporting Wimbledon and Hackney speedway and the Friends of Speedway were busy in a worthwhile cause. Many well known ex-speedway riders were present and included Freddie Williams, Wally Green, Archie Windmill, Danny Dunton and Reg Fearman. It is an excellent occasion, full of interest to our members and seems to grow in stature every year.

Les Westwood

It is with regret that we record, at the age of 66 years, the sudden death of Les Westwood. Those of us who were fortunate enough to know him, ride against him or see him in action recognise him as one of the finest riders our sport has ever known.

Les was a single man, very close to his sister, Doris, (who was known to all as Sis.) and his three nephews, Brian, Steve and Gary, also cycle speedway riders. Our sympathies go to Sis and the family at this sad time.

Les Westwood, World Champion 1960.

By Bob Andrews

Les was found dead at home on 14th. January 2002. It is not known at this time when he died. A relative went round to see him and had to break in when he felt that something was not quite right. Les was a bit of a rough diamond, a very hard rider, fantastic out of the gate and had great speed out of the bends. His cry from the pits to the rest of us of "pedal, pedal pedal!" was shouted with such urgency. He had an interest in music, and formed a "skiffle group" always including his favourite song "the ballad of Jessie James" in his group, "Les Westwood and the Scorpions" (he was born in October) He had a few engagements around North London.

I got married in June 1960. (my first marriage) and booked Les and his group to play at Chingford where we had the reception. Amongst the guests were my Wimbledon team mates, Ronnie Moore, Barry Briggs, Peter Moore, Ron How, Cyril Brine, Cyril Maidment, Jim Tebby, Gerry Jackson, Trevor Redmond, (Wembley) Tommy Sweetman (New Cross) R.W.Greene, (Wimbledon Promoter) and Alf Weedon. Ronnie Greene led off the dancing (he was the 1938 world champion "charleston" dancer) So Les was in his element playing to some of his heroes.

I remember going around his "Dad's house" and it was a very small house in Edmonton. As you went in, his dad would shout "mind your head on the gas mantles!" Yes they were not on electric, and as his dad would say " Bloody mantles are one and three-pence each now."

You were a treat to watch Les, thanks for the memories. R.I.P. "pedal, pedal, pedal."

Bob Andrews (now in N.Z.)

Derek Garnett (Wilmslow) who rode in the 1960 World Championship final with Les and finished in fifth place after Brian Moston, Fred Boutell and Charlie Read. Derek raced against Les during the fifties and was full of praise for his old rival. Derek said, "Les was a tough rider, very straight, very bubbly, a great lad with a heart of gold"

Les Westwood

A Champion of Champions by Roy Delaney.

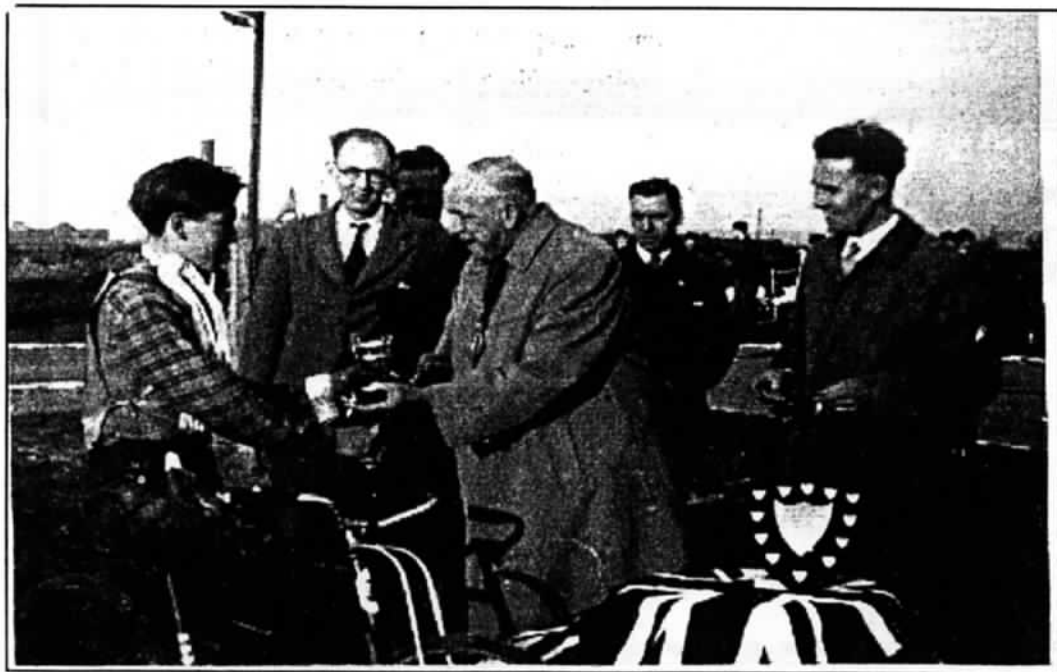
I was sorry to learn of the recent death of my old team mate and former World Champion, Les Westwood.

I first saw Les in 1950 racing around a made up track in Langhedge Lane, Edmonton, with a half a dozen scruffy kids. In each of his races he emerged an easy winner. I can remember being very impressed with his outside overtaking and soon realised that I was watching a future champion. When racing had finished, I introduced myself to him as rider-manager of Edmonton Saints and offered him a place in my junior team which he eagerly accepted. The following year he made his debut with the first team and recorded ten points in his first meeting on his new Phillips bike. This was the beginning of the Westwood era.

In 1956 the club visited Holland for a series of matches. Les was outstanding on the Hilversum tarmac track and the Dutch crowd loved his fast, daring tactics. In 1958 the Saints disbanded and Les linked up with the Edmonton Monarchs and was a key member of their team throughout his racing career. Les's riding was fast, furious and dynamic. He was exceptionally skilful at overtaking as he proved when he became World Champion in 1960 in the final at Garratt Park, Wimbledon. Left at the gate in the opening heat he was ahead by the third lap and went on to win that race and of course, the meeting.

During the early training days, I said to him, "When you are in front, don't lose the enemy" Four decades later, Les repeated this statement to me at the 1996 Thurrock veterans' meeting when Frank Duffy came through from behind on the final bend to take Yours truly. A keen angler and the former leader of a skiffle group, Les played a leading part in helping young riders like Malcolm Reading, Brian and Gary Robbins and many more who each reaped the benefit of Westy's advice. Former Monarchs manager, Vic Cowell, said, "Les always gave 100% in his riding. A Westwood 70% would have been better than some riders' maximum efforts"

Les may be gone but his memory will live on because he was a legend in his own right. As I pass by the disused Montague Road track, I shall always remember Les voicing his encouragement to the home riders with, "Go on, pedal-pedal-pedal."



This photograph from 1953 shows Les being presented with the Edmonton Saints Club Championship trophy by the Mayor of Edmonton, Tom Joyce.

Bert (Bluey) Waterson

Bill Gill writes :- Sadly I report the death of Bert (Bluey) Waterson on February 23rd this year. Bluey started his racing with Tilbury Hammers and my earliest recollection of him was racing around the Brennan Road track next to his house when he was an apprentice with Green and Silley Weir in Tilbury Docks. With Tilbury Hammers, he rode in front of capacity crowds at the old Manor Road track and later at Silley Weir's sports ground during the late 40's.

With the demise of Tilbury around 1952, he went to Dagenham Diamonds, Longbridge Leopards and Hawbush where he had a great friendship and respect for some of the greats of the time including Jack South, Pete and Tom Chubb, Sid Tomlyn and Stan Stevens to name but a few. 1957 and he returned home to Tilbury to start the Thurrock Club alongside Alan Wood, Stan Leeds and Derek Gray and membership to the Essex League. The quiet and unassuming Bluey wanted better things for Thurrock and soon approached the Federation for membership to the British League. To lead a club in this league, you needed to be aggressive and arrogant and this was not Bluey's way in life so he set out to groom me into being Mr Nasty and it worked. From the 60's through to the 90's, people assumed I was the brains behind Thurrock but the real brains was Bluey Waterson. He taught me everything I ever learned about the sport.

Bluey never had good health throughout his life and with the loss of Rose, his wife, he seemed to lose a bit of the sparkle for living. Although Thurrock died as a club in 1998, it is only with the passing of Bluey Waterson that the Thurrock club will go to rest. In his later years, his children have been an inspiration to him and I am sure they will dearly miss him.

Stan Stevens also paid tribute to the popular Bluey, describing him as one of our sport's true gentlemen. Stan told us that the funeral was held at Chadwell St. Mary Church on 5th. March. Ex. cycle speedway riders attending included Don Perkins, Peter Chubb, Syd Tomlyn, Ken Taylor and Stan.

Members Directory

New members. **Graeme COOMBS** "Tambridge," 15, Quarry Gardens, Leatherhead, Surrey, KT22.BUE Tel: 01372-361195. Email: Gdtcoombs@aol.com

Change of address. **David ROBINSON** has returned to 137, Greystones Road, Greystones, Sheffield, Yorks. S11.7BS. Tel: 0114-266-3418

Ken & Pam WOOLARD now live at 18, Rookery Road, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 4EQ. Tel: 01553-769982