

# THE TRACK RECORD

A publication of the  
**VETERAN CYCLE  
SPEEDWAY RIDERS  
ASSOCIATION**  
Volume 12  
Issue 2  
April 2008

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Harefield Pirates v Langley Leopards Johnny Unsworth ??? Fred Tillyer & Johnny King.

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# VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION

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## ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1<sup>st</sup>. JANUARY to 31<sup>st</sup>. DECEMBER 2007

| INCOME   |                                                  |                  | EXPENDITURE |                           |                  |
|----------|--------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| ( 2006 ) |                                                  |                  | ( 2006 )    |                           |                  |
| 1540 .00 | Membership                                       | 1482.00          | 155.99      | Stationery                | 143.30           |
| 50.00    | Donations                                        | 48.58            | 230.00      | Donations                 | -                |
|          |                                                  |                  | 528.83      | Postage                   | 470.27           |
|          |                                                  |                  | 50.13       | Website Registration      | 70.36            |
| 44.11    | Bank Interest                                    | 74.68            |             | Museum                    | 223.05           |
|          |                                                  |                  |             | Computer software         | 144.98           |
|          |                                                  |                  |             | Printing -                |                  |
|          |                                                  |                  | 300.00      | Track Record etc          | 448.82           |
|          |                                                  |                  |             | Photo album / Frames      | 47.47            |
| 362.20   | Surplus on Dinner/Dance<br>( see summary below ) |                  |             | Loss on 2007 Dinner/Dance | 175.50           |
|          |                                                  |                  | 80.00       | Flowers/Funerals          | 30.00            |
|          |                                                  |                  |             | Catering / Paradise Park  | 71.00            |
|          |                                                  | <u>£ 1605.26</u> |             |                           | <u>£ 1824.65</u> |

Bank Balances at 1<sup>st</sup>. January 2007.....2990.14  
Income..... 1605.26

Less Expenditure

4595.40  
1824.65

Total funds at 31st December 2007

£ 2770.75

Represented by-

Bank Deposit A/C 2607.69  
Bank Current A/C 163.06  
£ 2770.75

### Summary of 2007 Annual Dinner and Dance

|                                 |         |                           |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------------------------|---------|
| Hotel charges 105 @ £22.50..... | 2362.50 | Sale of Tickets 103@22.00 | 2266.00 |
| Disco                           | 150.00  | Raffle                    | 267.00  |
| Gratuities                      | 100.00  |                           |         |
| Fruit 12@ £8.00                 | 96.00   |                           |         |
| Total Expense                   | 2708.50 | Total Income              | 2533.00 |

Profit on 2006 Dinner/Dance- £362.20 Loss on 2007- £175.50 Carried forward to 2008 - £186.70

Tom Kilbey - Treasurer

## **STAN BROWN**

(1930-2008)

It is with deep regret we announce the death of Stan Brown who, after an 18 month battle against cancer died on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

He was a very special person whose mission in life seemed to be to help all who needed it and at the same time make everyone laugh.



Stan joined the Stratford Hammers in 1948 and soon became a great favourite with club members and supporters alike. His enthusiasm and humour fitted in well with a club whose social activities were at times more important than the racing. I feel privileged to have known him for almost 60 years and, together with my Stratford Hammers team mates share some treasured memories. Our annual 16 strong team holidays to Butlins, Club dances and team coach trips always brought out the best from Stan.

For many years he had been a member Gosfield Golf Club. His involvement within the Club as golfer, organiser and entertainer was recognised by all and it was a fitting tribute to Stan that at his funeral an appreciation was read by Sam Smith, chairman of Gosfield Seniors.

Over the years many enjoyable days have been spent at Gosfield and at the VCSRA golf events. I have always found that a round of golf with Stan was better than my 'Beta Blockers'.

Over 300 people attended Stan's funeral on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. Family and friends were joined by representatives from the Veteran Speedway and Cycle Speedway Associations, Gosfield Golf Club and Haverhill Golf Club.

Stan will be sadly missed and we send our condolences to his wife Eileen

Roy Garnham (Capt. Stratford Hammers)

### **A Thank You**

I would like to thank everyone who attended Stan's funeral also for the many cards and generous donations to St. Clares Hospice.

Eileen Brown

## **Directory Amendments**

### **New Members**

Stephen Harvie - 56 Watson Ave., Chatham, Kent, ME5 9SN Tel. 01634 668180

Rob Dyer - 51 Kelburn Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hampshire, SO53 2PW  
Tel. 023 8026 3072

John Murphy - 8/4 Coillesdene House, Edinburgh, EH15 2LX Tel. 0131 669 0552

Brian George - 'Halcyon', Vogue, St. Day, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 5NP Tel. 01209 822605

David Hunting - 18 Bixley Drive, Rushmere St. Andrew, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 5TY  
Tel. 07850 028224

### **Address and Telephone Number Changes**

Ted Ede Tel. 07867761633

## Secretaries Notes – April 2008

**Marking the passage of time yet another AGM has come and gone.** Attendance was slightly up on 2007, 27 members in all, including the committee who were returned to office unopposed. The committee would like to thank all those who attended and showed their support, we would also like to thank the rest of the membership whose continued support via their subscriptions, which ensures they receive their Track Record each quarter is much appreciated. As a result of an addition to VCSRA Constitution approved and passed at the AGM the production the Track Record is now a mandatory function of the committee and their appointed editor, who as you all know is Bill Gadsby, who received much praise from those gathered at the meeting for his achievements with the magazine. **The next AGM**, which was the subject of another motion passed at the meeting, will be held in the afternoon before the 2009 Dinner Dance at The Plough, Bulphan on Saturday October 10<sup>th</sup> 2009.

**Its renewal time once again** and a return slip is included with this issue. Please note that we have appointed a **Membership Secretary, Malcolm Belchambers** (His address is on the slip) to whom all subscriptions should be sent, Malcolm will be ensuring that our members details database is kept up to date.

**2008 Dinner Dance**, there is also included with this issue a return slip for the next D/D which is being held at the usual venue on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008. A notable change of the arrangements at the Plough, from January of this year the Tariff for the rooms for VCSRA members was **£70.00 per room including breakfast**. For the 2008 dinner the committee is **looking at alternative music/entertainment for the evening**, if there is any member who has got any economical ideas or connections, which could be a help to us, please get in touch. You may think it is a little early to be thinking about the Dinner in November but early knowledge of the numbers we can expect for the event relieves us of the stress involved if we have to wait to the last minute to make the final arrangements. We will of course give full refunds if you have to change your mind before the end of September. Your help would be appreciated.

**Spring Golf Day**, on Thursday May 1<sup>st</sup> at a cost of £33.00 per player we will be returning to the very scenic Darenth Valley Golf Course at Shoreham in Kent and anyone interested in joining us should get in touch with myself before the 18<sup>th</sup> April. For those of you that may want to join us the evening for the meal the cost is £13.50.

**Eurovets**, I announced at the AGM that the organiser of the Eurovet Competitions Stephen Harvie had joined the VCSRA and it is our intention to publish the Eurovets calendar in the Track Record and encourage our members to gather, socially at their local/nearest Eurovet event. Publishing dates of events in the Track Record has in the past not always been satisfactory. We have not always been able to synchronise when the information is available with the quarterly printing dates of the magazine, Hopefully we will be able to avoid this in the future.

**VCSRA Web Site**, I would like to thank everyone who has given or sent me pictures for the site and must apologise for the long delay in seeing your pics on the site due mainly to the fact that I seem to be making a meal of being Secretary, I will persevere, I will do better. My special thanks must go to Ted Gee, one time Walthamstow Wolf, last year I received a parcel from him of several hundred 2"x2" black & white negatives. Once I get them scanned I will be putting the best of them on the site, I have included two on the opposite page and perhaps one of our readers can fill in the gaps.



Inter league Test Match, North London Independent League v Who?  
When?

Lt to Rt Mick Jeffrey, A.N.Other, Wally Bracey, A.N.Other.



Inter league Test Match, North London Independent League v Who?  
When?

Lt to Rt A.N.Other, Len Adams, A.N.Other, Charlie Read

An introduction to the new MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY.  
MALCOLM BELCHAMBERS

Malcolm was known as MALCOLM BELL during his riding days. He first started riding in 1948 for a school team at Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex. In 1949 he moved to East Ham, London, and rode for the ALBION ROMANS / ALBION HAWKES in East London. In 1950 he joined the newly-formed BLACK LION MONARCHS at Plaistow, East London. (The BLACK LION public-house was owned by Mr.A.W.Clarke, father of Cycle-Speedway and Speedway Riders Pat and Colin Clarke). In 1952-54 he did his Army National Service in North Wales, coming home on leave to ride for the 'Monarchs' when possible. When 'demobbed' in Feb 1954 he joined the WALTHAMSTOW WOLVES (the Black Lion Monarchs had disbanded). He stayed with the Wolves until 1959 when they lost their track at Walthamstow and moved across London to become the EAST HAM WOLVES. He remained with the E.H.Wolves until they disbanded in 1962 when he then joined the HAWBUSH HAMMERS. He stayed with the Hammers until he finally retired in 1969.

When the VCSRA was formed he took part in the 'Racing Fun-Days' and travelled 'up-north' with the 'Pride-of-the-South' teams to compete against our old friends in the Manchester area. His hobbies are restoring and showing Classic Rover Cars, Caravanning and Photography. He is a keen 'Big-Band' and 'Traditional-Jazz' fan, and has been a fan of the Belle-Vue Aces Since 1949 ! (well no one is perfect, are they !)

Malcolm can be contacted at - 16a, ETHELRED GARDENS, WICKFORD, ESSEX. SSI 1 7EX.  
Telephone - 01268 - 734896 .E-mail - [belrover@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:belrover@tiscali.co.uk)



Terry Greenaway, Malcom Bell and Pete Fraser  
Walthamstow Wolves Middlesex K.O. Cup 1957

## THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN DEREK.

Well another A.G.M. has been and gone. Quite a successful one I thought. All the arguments were put over in a quiet and logical manner. The points raised by Derek Grey and Roy Delany will be discussed at the next committee meeting and hopefully resolved. Many thanks to all the members that attended this meeting and congratulations to our next President, Stan Stevens.

Now what have we lined up for the coming year:-

Saturday 7th June. Godalming Surrey. Start time 1pm.

A group of "Vets" from this area are endeavouring to revive the sport in this town. The Godalming Fete is on this date. The Council, along with the Rotary Club and the Police, are laying out a temporary track on grass for some demo racing. If they find there is sufficient interest, then there is a strong possibility of a new track being built. Further information from myself, Ron Johnson or Len Kitchen.

Sunday 15th June. Rye House Speedway, The World under 21 Semi-final. Start time 2pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. Sissinghurst Castle Kent. Meeting time 12 Noon. A21 going South, turn left on to A262, then follow the signs.

Wednesday July 30th. Wilkins Jam Factory and Museum/Produce Shop.

Cream tea or Lunch, whichever you prefer.

Tiptree is in Essex at the junction of the B1023 and the B1022, approx two miles south of Witham. Those coming by public transport, get the 11.08 train from Liverpool Street to Witham, then the 91 Bus to Tiptree, this takes approx 25 minutes.

Finally, in August, date to be set, at Ashford Kent.

Raynes Park Tigers Reunion. Members of other teams welcome. Food highly recommended, but has to be ordered in advance. Further information, contact Peter Page by letter. (address in members directory) Please enclose stamped addressed envelope for menu.

That's about it for now. In the next issue, my thoughts on approaching old age and fragments of my memories of the sport.

My thanks to the committee for their support this past year.

DEREK CATTLE.

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The World Speedway Riders Association (formally Veteran Speedway Riders Association) Are holding two events that might appeal to our members in the South East.

PARADISE WILDLIFE PARK — Saturday 26th April. Three Course Barbecue.  
£15 including entrance to Park.

YE OLDE PLOUGH HOUSE BULPHAN Sunday 13th July.  
Rayleigh and Southern Riders Lunch (12 o/c for 10/c) £16.

Tickets available from Vic White 90 Ruskin Ave. Long Eaton, Notts NG10 3HX.

## A Tale of two riders by Bill Gadsby

## Middlesex League Leading Averages from Cycle Speedway Star August 1958.

|                       |                      |      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------|
| Dave Stonex           | Harefield Pirates    | 11.8 |
| Peter Page            | Tolworth Tudors 'B'  | 11.4 |
| Norman Hunter         | Wembley All Stars    | 10.6 |
| Eric Hemsley          | Whipps Cross Comets  | 10.6 |
| <b>Roger Dewhurst</b> | <b>Wembley Hawks</b> | 10.5 |
| Dave Jenkins          | Weston Stars         | 10.5 |
| Paul Murden           | Tolworth Tudors 'A'  | 10.3 |
| Reg Squires           | Tolworth Tudors 'A'  | 10.3 |
| John Unsworth         | Langley Leopards     | 10.0 |
| <b>John Pinnock</b>   | <b>Wembley Hawks</b> | 9.5  |
| Dixie Dean            | Wembley All Stars    | 9.5  |

In the winter of 1956/7 Roy Fullford wrote to Speedway Star, to say that he and some friends wanted to form a cycle speedway team, and asked if anyone could assist them in this. They all came from the Belmont (Harrow) area, so I told them that there was a disused track, only a couple of miles away from Bushey that they may be able to use. We called on Frank Males, to see if he had any objection to them using "his" track. He seem quite happy with the idea. I am not sure for how long the track had not been used, but when we went to look at the track it was in a sorry state, bottom bend flooded and full of rubbish. This seemed to put them off and when they started practicing on the Hendon (Welsh Harp) track, they were quickly signed up. Roy Fullford lost interest after a few weeks and gave up, but the remaining three:- Roger Dewhurst, Alec Fraser and Eddie Hill were all in the Wembley All Stars first team by the start of the 1957 season.

Our visit to Bushey had awakened Frank's interest in cycle speedway and he decided to reform the Bushey Aces. He contacted me and asked if I would be interested in riding for and managing the team. when I was not riding for Wembley. As Bushey had always been one of my favourite tracks I agreed. As the league season was in full swing, nobody was interested in riding challenge matches against us. So when at a Control Board meeting the Langley Lions officially withdrew from the league, without thinking I asked if Bushey could take their place. This was probably a mistake as our team was not really up to the League standards and needed strengthening. Roger Dewhurst was not very happy at Wembley, so I had no difficulty in persuading him to join me at Bushey. Although having only been riding for a few months, he immediately became our top rider. Later in the season when Johnny Pinnock finally gave up on trying to keep the Finchley Sabres going, he and Terry Porter joined the team. Despite this we still ended up joint bottom of the league with Langley Leopards and Hendon Stars, each team winning their home match against the other two. At the end of the season, Frank Males, who had disapproved of me bringing "foreigners" into the team, said that he was going to form his own team, (without us) and that they would be using "his" track.

So we had half a team and no track. There was a track of sorts in Wembley at the end of London Road, that some youngsters had made, calling themselves the Wembley Tigers. So the obvious thing was to join up with them. The track was too small to use for league racing, so we had to remove a large bank of earth, some four foot high, so as to lengthen the track. So now what to call our new team? I had made the Bushey Aces colours, using a large Ace of Hearts (Herts) instead of the traditional Ace of Clubs, so I put a "Bird" over this and we became the Wembley Hawks. So who better to entertain for our first match than our near neighbours and friends (???) the Wembley All Stars.

From Cycle Speedway Star February 1958. WEMBLEY V WEMBLEY

On Feb 2nd Wembley Hawks held their opening meeting against the Wembley All Stars. Unfortunately for the Hawks, their track had only been completed the previous week-end, so hardly any of the team had had a chance to practice on it. In fact the more experienced visitors settled in so well, that you would have thought that they were the home team. Both teams were without there captains Dixie Dean ( All Stars ) & Roger Dewhurst (Hawks)

After five heats only two points separated the two teams, but the All Stars gradually pulled away for a well deserved 42-54 victory. Best for the visitors were their two Middlesex Champions, Roy Fraser and Norman Hunter who were both unbeaten by an opponent. Top for the home team was ex Finchley Sabres captain Johnny Pinnock, who dropped his only points to Fraser and Hunter, well supported by Paddy O'Grady with nine points. Reserve Alan Axted rode well to score 7 points in his first match.

HAWKS. J. Pinnock 10, P. O'Grady 9, A. Axton & B. Gadsby 7, R. Mallet & T. Porter 4 & T. Cruse 2.

ALL STARS N. Hunter 12, R. Fraser 11, K. Bristow 9, B. Carter 8, A. Fraser 7. E. Hill & G. Wallis 3 & T. Winning 1.

Soon after the start of the season Roger Dewhurst bought a Motorbike. To be fair, I do not think that he missed any official matches, but his heart was no longer in it, turning up five minutes before the start of the match and leaving as soon as he had had his last ride. It seems incredible that a rider who had clearly lost his enthusiasm for the sport could average ten and a half points a match.

Whereas Roger turned up on his motorbike, Johnny Pinnock just turned up, striding across the field, some fifteen minutes before the match started, carrying his riding gear in a holdall. I am not sure how he got to our home matches, never mind the away ones. He did not have a car and I do not think he had even ever learnt to drive. Some thought that John was past his best, but relieved of the effort of keeping the Finchley Sabres going seemed to put new life into him. An average of nine and a half points (the same as Dixie Dean) was no mean feat.

Despite our two "Stars" averaging twenty points a match between them, the Hawks spent most of the season in the lower half of the league table. It was inevitable that at the end of the season that they would both decide to call it a day, leaving the side severely weakened. How to fill the gap? Easy sign Dixie Dean and what was left of the Wembley All Stars. But that is another (disastrous ) story.



Starting Practice  
Roger Dewhurst (outside) and Norman Hunter  
at the Wembley All Stars Hendon Track.

Roger again.  
Chasing former Middlesex Champion  
Bill Rankmore.



From Cycle Speedway Spotlight. March 1956.

### FOCUS ON CLAY HILL ACES.

Clay Hill Aces were formed in 1949 by their present manager, Bernard Hart, and during their first season raced only challenge matches. In their second year, they entered the Enfield League and finished in third place. 1951 saw them in the Hertfordshire League and once again took third place in the final table. By this time, a number of their riders were on National Service, but with the disbandment of other Enfield teams, they were able to find replacements and for the next two seasons they held the runners-up berth.

Their best season to date was in 1954, when they became Herts League Champions for the first time, and they reached the final of the County Team Championship. Bernard Hart won the "Festival Trophy", the "Edmonton Saints" trophy and best of all, the Herts Individual Championship.

At the start of last season, things did not look too bright for the Aces, and for their first few matches, they rode with only six or seven riders, Eric Brewer and Bryn Brunton both being indisposed, but once they were back in the line up, together with Don Washbourne who had just completed his National Service, the Aces really began to go places and went on to win the League for the second year in succession.

Aces have five riders on their books who have ridden for the County in test matches, Hart and Brewer having held their places in the team for the last four seasons. Alan Doggett, Alec Jones and Doug Gibson have been picked on many occasions and these five, together with Brian Scott, Colin Hull, Joe Mumford, Alan Young and Don Washbourne will form the Aces team for this season.

Riders who are likely to hit the headlines this time are Doggett and Washbourne, both of whom have that extra burst of speed just at the right time.

Yes, Clay Hill Aces chances look very bright indeed for 1956.

Facts supplied by Aces Sec. Mrs. M. Hart.



Roy Marriot Battle Bulldogs at the Battle Track in the early 1950s

Photo from John Mann

## Editors Notes

Received this letter from Brian Green. As we only scored 35 points between us, maybe it is as well that he has not got the Wembley Scores!

Dear Bill

Nice to hear that you remember riding against the "Coalville Stars" at the track on the site of the Fox & Goose public house. The match took place on April 28th 1956. Coalville won 60-35.

Score for Coalville Stars: Pete Rawson 12 + 2, Dennis Farmer 7 + 1, Dick Scholes 8, Bill Henderson 10 + 1, Jeff Newberry 5, Cliff Rawlings 8 + 1, Joe Hinds 5 & Jeff Sault 5.

I have no scores for the Wembley All Stars.

P.S. Have you any idea where I could purchase 1950s cycle speedway bike, preferably a Philips.

I would have liked to have included "Focus on Clay Hill Aces" in the last issue to go with the tributes to Muriel Hart, but there was not enough space. This issue I had plenty of Space as the Committee wanted it out early, and as Colin Booth had not completed his "Pedals to Power" I had to find something to fill a couple of pages. I have a few things that I have written just in case, so I have included "Tale of two riders" I do not suppose many people remember Roger Dewhurst, but he was one of the best riders that I had ever seen. He had an untidy style of riding, he did not put his foot down on the bends, just put it out to keep his balance, so he was able to wear crepe sole shoes. I remember one race, in Bushey's home match against Tolworth Tudors, with the Tolworth pair team riding to a seemingly easy 5-1, Roger suddenly saw a gap and went through it, when he got to the last bend, he looked back and saw that he was so far ahead, he decided to free wheel down the hill to the finish line. Unfortunately as he rested his foot on the frame, his crepe sole caught in his back wheel throwing him off his bike!

Bill Gadsby



Wood Green Common N.22 Arsenal Aces 1st and second teams 1950

Back .L to R: Bill Davidson, Vic Cowell, Butch Selway, Archie Soanes, Charlie Wiley, George Cort (Manager) Tommy Sweetman ( Captain ) Danny Cheveralls, Ron Hoskins, Fred Gee, Sid Whickham ( Assistant Manager) Front L to R: Stuart Martin, John Bates, Roy Stevenson, Toni Millgate, Bill Bradley, Del Shin & Mick Jeffery. Photo from Mick Jeffery.

## CYCLE SPEEDWAY BIKES – SIXTY YEARS ON



The 'Sprocket Special' Hand built in 1947 by Alan Doggett of Clay Hill Aces from second hand and salvaged parts. Featuring – Cut down frame, personalized  $\frac{1}{2}$  " gas pipe cow - horn handlebars, 'Skidway Gripster' Tyres, copper front fork stays, gearing 44 tooth crank x 22 tooth sprocket. Finished in Red/Black 'Robbialac' paint. No brakes, mudguards or projections

Cost ( in 1947 ) - £2 10s 6d



Ultra light weight special, hand built in Halifax for Mark Rushby of Pedal Sport. Featuring - frame made from Columbus Zonal Alloy with aero profile tubing, mountain - bike wheels, tyres, and chainset , 33 tooth chainwheel and 18 toothed sprocket fixed on a cassette splined hub.

Cost ( in 2007 ) - £1000.00