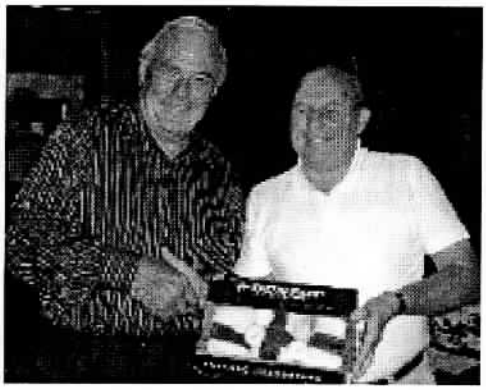
A publication of the

Secretary

Publishing Editor

Spring Golf Day – Darenth Valley Golf Course Kent
Thursday 17th June 2010

With the new organiser in charge, Len Adams brought us the best golf day weather we have had for years. 15 members and guests gathered on the 1st tee at noon and were led off by a trio of guests. Spectators John and Sheila Brown who took advantage of a buggy and Martin and Eve Willgress who took the more energetic alternative joined us on the course and enjoyed the beautiful North Downs countryside. Back in the club house the scores were totted-up by Jackie Adams with the winner proving to be our ever present guest Brian Robson on 37 points closely followed on 35 points by Denny Daniel and Len Adams with Denny taking the 2nd prize on count-back. The ladies winner was Ann Thompson with 23pts.



Winner on 37pts Brian Robson receives his prize from 2006/7 President Nobby Dunn

Runner-up on 35pts Denny Daniels receives his prize from Nobby

The prize for the longest drive went to Denny Daniels. The nearest the pin prize on the 11th hole was reallocated as no player managed to hit the green!

In the evening the players and spectators were joined in the clubhouse by the 2006/7 President and Ex Tottenham Kangaroo Nobby Dunn where they enjoyed an excellent meal of roast chicken in bacon followed by apple pie & custard.

For our Autumn Day, which will be held on Thursday 30th September Len is arranging for it to held at Langdon Hills (Essex) course near the Dartford river crossing. Contact Len on Tel. 01440 785474 or email lenatadams@hotmail.com for details

August Events at the National Speedway Museum

An Evening at the Museum - BBQ
Thursday 5th August 5pm - 9pm
£15 includes BBQ
Arrive early and have a tour of the Animal Park
BAR, HOT & COLD DRINKS
BUY YOUR TICKETS FROM
THE NATIONAL SPEEDWAY MUSEUM
THIS EVENT WILL GO ON WHATEVER THE WEATHER
Tel. 01992 470490 Ext. 218

IVAN MAUGER BOOK SIGNING & BBQ LUNCH
SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST
12AM - 2PM
Come along, get a book have it signed,
Have a photograph with Ivan,
And then have a BBQ lunch with the man himself.
Tel. 01992 470490 Ext. 218

Dave Withers

It is with great sadness that we learnt that Dave, the newest member of the VCSRA committee lost his battle with cancer and passed away on Monday 24th May. Dave, who was a stalwart of Cycle Speedway in the Southend Area in the late 1950's joined our association in August of 2008. He immediately offered his help to the committee as well as arranging, with the help of the local press a reunion of riders from the Southend area, which resulted in at least 6 new members of the association. Dave contributed a two page article on cycle speedway in the Southend/Rayleigh area in our October 2009 issue.

MONARCHS/COBRAS JOIN FORCES

One of the Southern Premier League's most successful teams last year were Raynes Park Tigers. In addition to finishing runners-up in the National Team Championship they won the S.P. League and the Jack Hulbert Shield; outstanding as individual riders were Dave Chivers and Fred Lawrence. Recently they met North London League winners Tottenham Kangaroos, and after a hard battle run out winners by 68 points to 28.

Other S.P. teams in the news are Beckenham Monarchs and Thornton Heath Cobras who have recently amalgamated. Ron Johnson, who becomes general manager, hopes to keep both tracks, and teams, running. The Monarchs will again be led by veteran star Pete Jarman and are hoping to have Dave Davison back in the saddle following his National Service.

One of the sports most popular riders is DIXIE DEAN (left), captain of Wembley All Stars. "Dix" first started riding with South Harrow Greyhounds in 1948 and has been with Wembley for the past four years. In 1956 he finished runner up in the National Individual Championships; last year he took part in the trials for the England team and rode several times for the Middlesex Test Team.

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New faces in the Middlesex League this season will be Tolworth Tudors "A" and "B" teams and a team from the Whipps Cross Comets club; the league will probably number eight teams with the other entries coming from Harefield Pirates, Langley Leopards, Wembley All Stars, Wembley Hawks and last year's champions, Weston Stars. League racing commences on the 13th April.

The league's A.G.M. was held recently at the Hammersmith Town Hall; notable visitor was the deputy Mayor of Hammersmith. New secretary of the league is Vic Merner, manager of Wembley All Stars. Vic takes over from Pete Leckie, who has held the post for the past ten years and was a founder member of the Association.

Roger Seymour.

From CYCLE SPEEDWAY ARGUS March 1958

EDITORS NOTES.

I was very sorry to receive the obituary for Geoff Pearce. I rode against the Langley Leopards many times, they were always a pleasure to ride against, always sporting, and friendly. Geoff and his team were a credit to the sport of Cycle Speedway.

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Came across the following articles in the HOME COUNTIES MIRROR Cycle Speedway Magazine.

May 1972

Now that Headley are in the Home Counties League, the team brings into the League, perhaps one of Britains oldest riders. I mean Barry Shapley...how is this for a run down of teams ridden for...27 seasons...24 teams.

1946-47	Bishepton Buffaloes (Paisley)
1948	Penilee Lions & Craigton Eagles (Glasgow)
1949	Grossmyleef Giants (Glasgow)
1950	Craigton Eagles
1951	Ipswich Vampires,
1952-1954	Woodbridge Wildcats and Felixstowe Flyers
1955	Wallingford Panthers (Berks)
1956	Craigton Eagles. (Glasgow)
1957	Knightswood Toffs (Glasgow) and Drayton Vampires (Oxon)
1958	Back to Wallingford Panthers.
1959	Cowley Eagles (Oxford)
1960	Littlemore Falcons then Hungerford Panthers again.
1961	Bushey Kangeroos (Herts) and Wood Farm Wasps
1962	Great Milton Rockets (Oxford)
1963	back to Drayton Vampires
1964	to the Coventry area, to Earlsdon Hammers
1965	Wheberley Witches– Brandon Bees, then to Scotland to Eastern Warriers (Edinburgh)
1966	Brandon Bees again
1967	Bodworth Champs (Coventry)
1968/69/70	Brandon Bees, but later that year to Horspath Hammers
1971	Horspath Hammers
1972	Headley Hawks

There were probably a few more teams after 1972!

August 1972.

Tolworth have now settled at their temporary home at Wormwood Scrubs. They have received every co-operation from the Greater London Council, who weeded the track and provided a roller, water and a length of hose pipe. After three years of neglect, a drop of penetrating oil was all that was required to have the starting gate working perfectly. The only drawback was the council trying to help by spreading a liberal supply of loose cinder on the track. This was soon removed however and apart from a slippery patch coming out of the first bend, the track did not ride too badly.
Len Kitchen.

An Email from Dave Livings

I came across this very small photo of my Dad with the rest of the Stratford Hammers and thought it might be of interest. Going from left to right, my Dad has named most of the team, but was wondering if any of your members could come up with the missing names.

L to R Peter Antell, Jimmy Heard, Len Silver, Dennis Day, (Roy Garnham?), John Livings, Not Known, Not Known & Ray Willmore.

As my Dad is not in the best of health memory wise and my Mum has to look after him, you can contact me
davelivings@ntlworld.com

LEN KITCHEN'S RAMBLE

Len Kitchen is organising a ramble in the Surrey countryside.
The date is **Tuesday 3rd August at 10.30 am.** The meeting place is the main car park on Headley Heath in Surrey. The walk is about 5 miles through woods and over heathland. There is one steep climb. There will be a pub stop at The Cock in Headley village.
For a map of the walk and full directions to the starting point please contact:-

Len Kitchen, 17 The Mount, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8UD. Telephone 0208 394 2125.

DEREK CATTLE'S RIVERSIDE WALK

Derek is organising a ramble along the River Thames at Wapping, East London on **Monday 23rd August at 11.30 am.** Meeting outside West Ferry station on the Docklands Light Railway. The walk will be about 21/2 miles finishing at Tower Hill underground station calling on the way at one of the several pubs along the route. For more information please contact:-

Derek Cattle, 39 Clearbrook Way, Stepney, London E1 0SB. Telephone 0207 791 1811

Information Request- An email from a Local Historian in Bristol

This is a long shot but I hope you may be able to help me. Do you have any information or records relating to this club that existed in Bristol in the late 50's early 60's period. Apparently their home track was on what is now amenity land at Begbrook Drive, Stapleton, Bristol. I would like to find out the exact years that this land was used as a cycle speedway track and if possible locate any pictures that might exist.

Regards, Dave Cheesley (Local Historian), Dave can be contacted via email at,
dave.cheesley@bristol.gov.uk

THE SUNDAY TIMES
timesonline.co.uk/ingear
23.05.10

CYCLE DOC

Your cycling problems solved by our expert rider

Q My seven-year old son is desperate to try cycle racing — is it possible at his age?
MJ, Desford, Leicestershire

A Your local cycling club is often the best starting point and there is an easy-to-use club finder facility at british-cycling.org.uk. "Go Ride" events are currently being promoted all over Britain to offer under-16s an introduction to competitive riding.

Given your son's age , it might be worth him trying cycle speedway. It is a sport that can be found only in certain parts of the country — although there are quite a few clubs in the Midlands. Competitors race in fours around a cinder track. It is not unusual to see races for five-year-olds — so there should be plenty of scope for your son. The races are short, the clubs usually provide the bikes, and participants will often have the opportunity to race four of five times in an evening.

Need some bike advice? Email cycledoc@sunday-times.co.uk

Thanks to Tony Emmott for sending in this article from the Sunday Times.

LANGLEY LEOPARDS

R.Lester, B.Harper, G Pearce, J Buckle, D Thompson (manager) G Frewin, P.Clarke & (kneeling) J.Unsworth

CYCLE SPEEDWAY LOSES ANOTHER VETERAN
GEOFF PEARCE: 1933 - 2010

The sad news filtered through to his cycle speedway friends that Geoff Pearce passed away on the 6th April this year. Geoff road for Langley Leopards for a number of years in the 1950's before joining Uxbridge Pirates in 1957. Geoff was co-founder and General Secretary of the Home Counties League from 1963, a position that he held for a number of years, and he was fiercely loyal to the sport.

His many friends will also remember Geoff for his droll wicked sense of humour and we will all miss him.

Geoff Pearce (Langley Leopards) chasing Lennie Richards (Harefield Pirates)

A Reserves and future stars race at Sedlescombes track

Robertsbridge Rockets Team

Back row. Mick Nickless, Mick Luck, ?, Dave Martin, Jack Harris, and Guy Robinson.
Front row. Keith Wood, Roy Thompsett, Alan Stone and Bobby Crouch. (Mascot Unknown)

Robertsbridge Rockets Captain, with Mick Luck in second place. (Track Unknown)

Alan Stone (Gate 2) Robertsbridge Rocket getting plenty of thrust from the starting gate.
(Track Unkown)

Photos from John Mann

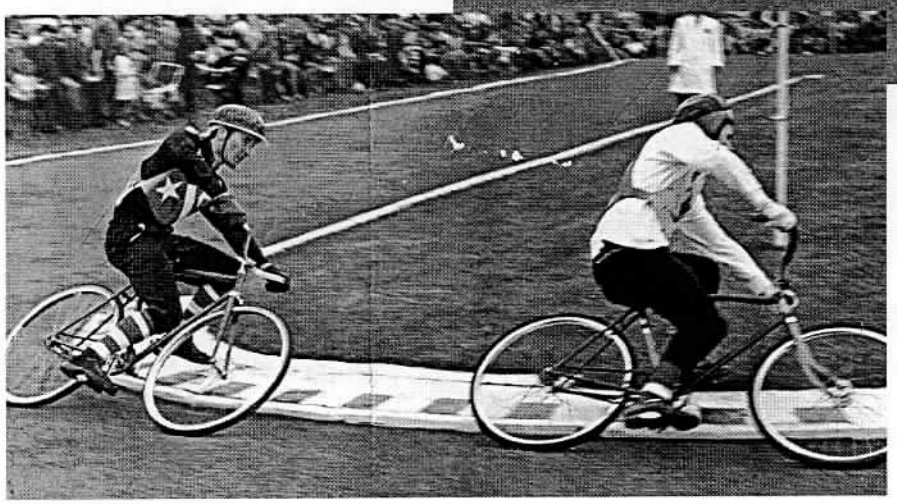
Some Pictures from Mick Jeffery's Collection

From Mick. I hope these pictures will be of some interest to the readers and that I have remembered the info correctly. I know that the BCSF was only around for a limited time but all who were involved with it believed it was the way forward and it would be nice to see a few shots of the tracks etc. in the

Left. Hellingly Supporters Trophy 1959 at Hellingly, Sussex L to R Bryan Geater (Hungerford) 3rd, Les Westwood (Edmonton) 1st and Mick Jeffery 2nd

BCSF British Riders Championship Final 13th September 1959 at Garratt Park ***Above***. L to R Les Westwood (Edmonton), Ted Cracknell (Raynes Park), Mick Jeffery (Edmonton), Roy Baker (South London) and Referee Percy Taylor.
Left. 1st Bend Last Heat, L to R Mick Jeffery (Edmonton), Derek Wills (Tottenham), Geoff Smith (Thornton Heath) with Richard Baker (Thornton Heath), obscured on the outside.

BCSF British Riders Championship Final September 1969 at Edmonton (on Tarmac) ***Right.*** Bristol, South London, South London (Roy Foy) and Southampton



BCSF British Riders Championship Final September 1969 at Edmonton (on Tarmac) ***Left.*** Run-off for the Championship, 1st Bend, John Cobbin (Tottenham) leads Clive Hurrell (Norwich)