

THE TRACK RECORD

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**
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Clive Hitch, Les Westwood, Des Hutchins & Roy Allwright.

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12th Annual VCSRA Dinner Dance - 24th November 2006 **Association Honours Co-Founder – Vic White Invested as President**

By Colin Booth

103 diners, which consisted of 49 members and their guests took their seats for the 12th annual dinner dance at The Plough Buphan, Essex. Sadly once again numbers were affected by ill health with several couples canceling in the week before the dinner. Our best wishes to all those who were unable to join us and we look forward to seeing you all soon.

A meal of Melon, Beef Medallions and Sherry Trifle was enjoyed by most; in fact the committee received many comments suggesting that it had been the best VCSRA dinner/dance meal they had consumed. (A couple of points were raised regarding the meal, which I shall refer to the committee with a view to raising the subject with the Plough).

The meal completed Derek Cattle, our Chairman and took up the mike and started the evenings proceedings by calling outgoing President to the floor to propose the customary toast to the Queen.

There followed the toast for the Association, which this year was proposed by Brian Makepeace. Brian commented before proposing the toast that although he was a relatively new member of the Association he could see that in order to keep going it would soon need an influx of new, slightly younger blood to take over vacant positions on the committee as they occurred. He very much hoped this would happen.



Outgoing President, Nobby Dunn welcomes
new President Vic White

Outgoing President, Nobby Dunn then took the floor and introduced his successor, Vic White. He thanked Vic who had been the main instigator of the founding of the Association for all his work in the past whilst adding that he had heard that Vic had not spent his whole cycle speedway career at Warwick Lions but had had a spell with the Stratford Hammers, 3 weeks in fact. Nobby then placed the chain of office on the new President.

In response Vic promised he would not make a long speech, he thanked the Chairman, the secretary and all the committee for all their work and Roy Fraser for airbrushing his picture that adorned the front of the evening's menu. He concluded by

saying he hoped our endeavors to recruit more members would be successful.

To conclude the speeches an obviously emotional Chairman Derek Cattle once again took up the mike. He opened by telling everyone he was very pleased that tonight he had been joined by his two lovely daughters and their partners. He continued by remarking that at the moment it was his intention to resign from the committee at the AGM in March and reflecting on his long association with cycle speedway, referring back to his racing days he remarked that he felt that the likes of Roy Garnham, Jackie Wilson, Dave Chivers, Vic White had had an 'attitude problem', they wanted to win every race and he said, possibly with tongue in cheek he could not understand this. But despite this lack of understanding he saluted them all and their achievements. At this point the Derek informed us that he was going to sing a song, the tune, one made famous by the late Bob Hope, 'Thanks for the Memory', with words specially penned by our chairman himself it featured the trials and tribulations of his cycle speedway career. Needless to say we do not recommend Derek gives up his day job! Before he could leave the floor to let the dancing commence daughter Juliet leap from her chair grabbed the mike and declared to one and all that Derek was the best Dad in the world! What more can we say.

A provisional booking has been made for next years Dance at The Plough for Saturday 22nd November 2008 and in the event of the association taking the booking we will be holding the 2008/9 AGM in the afternoon prior to the Dinner/Dance



The two candidates for the 2008/9 Presidency pictured at the 2007 dinner/dance, Pete Leckie on the left and Stan Stevens on the far right sharing a table with Tony Marsh and his partner.



No excuses for publishing this picture, it's not often a VCSRA golfer wins such a magnificent Trophy. Dennis Bottazzi is seen here receiving the Veteran Speedway Riders Golf Trophy from World Champion **Ove Fundin** at John Harry's Windmill Golf and Leisure Club at Coventry sometime in the nineties.

Directory Amendments

New Members

Ken Dare – 57 Selbourne Ave., New Haw, Surrey, KT15 3RD Tel. 01932 344364
 Derek Hilton – 84 Carr Lane, Willerby, Hull, HU10 6JN Tel. 01482 657460
 Richard Pawson – 48 Kingsway, Cottingham, Hull, HU16 5BB Tel. 01482 876221
 Andy Schofield – 7 Canalside East, Newport, Brough, E.Yorks. HU15 2RL Tel. 01430 440737
 Gary M^cCormick – 6 Warren Ave., Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants. SO53 2JL Tel. 02380 267524
 William Smith – 54 Winchester Gdns., Whitleigh, Plymouth, Devon, PL5 4JH Tel. 01752 785934
 David Jones – 55 Rayleigh Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 4JF Tel. 07986948556

Address and Telephone Number Changes

Roy Garnham – 1 Clement Cottage, 2 Village Way, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1RP Tel. 0208 550 7367
 John Brown – 3 Frost's Mill, Mill Chase, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2DQ Tel. 01787 272524
 Ted Gee – 1A Cranleigh Gdns., Southbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH6 5LE Tel. 01202 417118
 Bill Whyte – 'Waterfalls', 9 Arundel Road, High Salvington, Worthing, W Sussex, BN13 3EH Tel. 01903 603132
 John Mann – 19 Greyhorses, 112 Barnhorn Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, E Sussex, TN39 4QQ Tel. 01424 842779

Secretaries Notes – January 2008

The association is into its 13th year and there is good news and not so good news.

The good news, total membership is now up to 216. Thanks to contacts made with visitors to our web site or our display at the Speedway Museum, mentions in Rod Witham's CSC Newsletter the 'Spokesman' and his online magazine, 'spokesman-online.co.uk' and an article by Brian Makepeace in the 'Best of British' publication we have had 7 new members join since August. I have also had enquiries for details from ex-riders from Kent, Cornwall and Northern Ireland from which I am awaiting a reply. I have received several phone calls and emails asking for info and have been able to put people in touch with each other after many years. One call was from the granddaughter of Fred Brand, the Yarmouth and Norwich speedway rider who was organising a surprise birthday party for Fred and wanted to know what music was played for the entry of the riders at Norwich Speedway. This one I passed on to Vic White! In addition I have been sent several emails with photos attached which once I get time I will be adding to our web site.

The not so good news, the committee received only 7 nomination forms for the postal election of the 2008/9 president and for the election of the committee for 2008. 3 of those forms were for the position of President only, 3 nominated the members of the existing committee and one form was invalid as it nominated members who had not been consulted and were not prepared to stand. Not one new name put forward for a committee position.

The future, whilst myself and all the committee members remain enthusiastic many have noted that the association needs members from the later decades to take over the reins, none have come forward however. So, like the old soldiers I fear the VCSRA will just fade away.

2008 AGM

Note New Date – Saturday 8th March 2008 1.30pm

The Sun' Inn, 21 Sun Street, Waltham Abbey, Essex, EN9 1ER

There will be a meal available at 4.00pm at a price of £10 per head payable on the day.

Menu

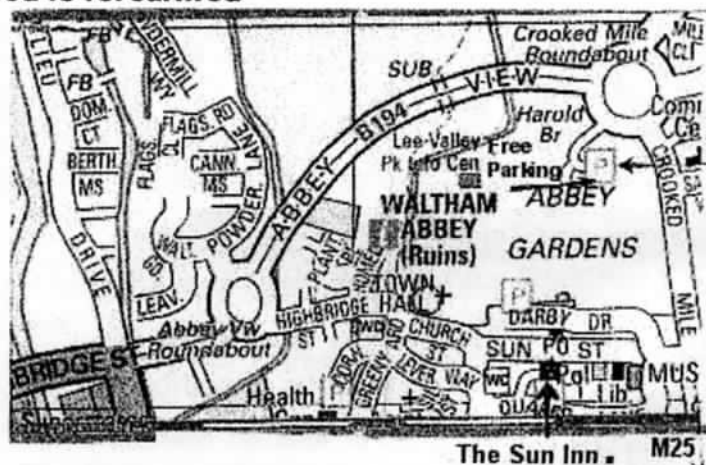
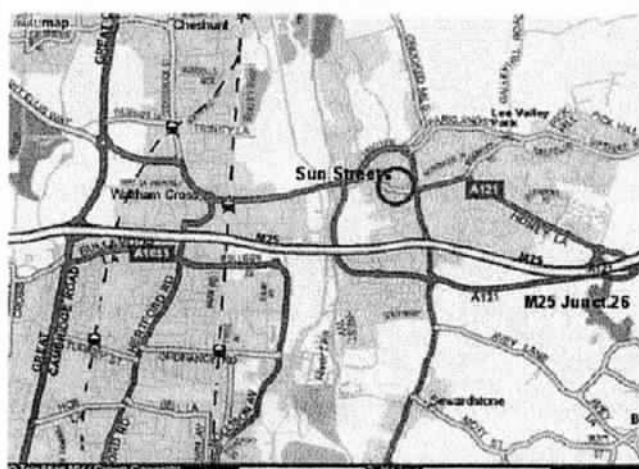
Starters – Soup or Melon

Main Course – Roast Pork, Chicken Supreme or Steak and Onion Pie

All served with vegetables

Desert – Fruit Salad or Chocolate Gateaux

We are NOT collecting deposits for the meal, however as we will forfeit our deposit at the 'Sun' if we do not buy sufficient meals I would appreciate a phone call or email if you do intend to attend and have a meal, 'Forewarned is forearmed'



Please Note – Free Parking is Available in the Abbey Gardens Car Park off of the Crooked Mile Roundabout, see map above

TRIBUTES to MURIEL HART

MEMORIES OF MURIEL

By Alan "Sprocket" Doggett Clay Hill Aces

Muriel Hart, wife of Bernard and manageress/secretary of the CLAY HILL ACES. funeral took place at Enfield Crematorium on November 20th.

Ex Aces Alec Jones and myself got down from Suffolk and it was good to see Roy Delany and Tom Kilby from the Edmonton Saints and Spud Young from Enfield Monarchs at the service. A couple of Clay Hill tannoy tunes were played:- Aker Bilks "Stranger on the Shore" and the one that she always ended the match with:- Guy Mitchell's "Truly Truly Fair".

We went on to Goffs Oak with Bernard and family afterwards and a lot of reminiscing took place:- Muriel's anger when the new vicar closed the Aces down, endless battles with the council, the move to Frezzywater Pirates old track, away journeys in Taylors old moving van, Southend outings, even a posh coach to visit Earlam Eagles in Norwich, club social nights at Goffs Oak, all of this and more was organised by Muriel. She was tireless in her support of her beloved CLAY HILL ACES and cycle speedway in general..

She was liberal with her praise and criticism. I can't remember where or when, but I was riding in a cup or championship meeting and having a particularly bad day and as I rode into the pits, she came up to me, programme in hand and with a huge smile said, not managing her pronunciation of "Rs" as she did "That was wubbish spwocket" and we both fell about laughing.

We who relied on her then for all this will miss her the more at her place at, to quote Muriel "Wye House Wockets" beside Bernard and family.

By Roy Delany

It is with deep penitence that I report the sad passing of Muriel Hart. I first came into contact with Mrs Hart at a newly formed Hertfordshire League meeting adjacent to the Barnet Church in 1951, she was the secretary of Clay Hill Aces. As the meeting got under way I got the perception that the lady in question was very strong in character and came across as being most sincere following her speech contribution.

With Jeff Lloyd at the helm as President, Muriel proved to be the driving force of the Enfield club, which incidentally was one of the fortunate clubs at the time to have floodlighting a P.A. system, plus printed programmes.

Both Muriel and husband Bernard were involved in a flower nursery business throughout their working life.

Among the mourners at her funeral were four of the original Aces team :- Alec Jones, Alan Doggett, Bernard Hart and Spud Young. Tommy Kilby and Roy Delany represented the Edmonton Saints.



It was a lovely service for a lovely truly fair lady and as a final fitting tribute to Muriel, the speakers echoed out the tape of Guy Mitchell singing Truly Truly Fair as the congregation filed out of the chapel.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN DEREK.

Well here I am again, I know that in the last issue I said I would be resigning, but after much thought and considerable persuasion from the committee I have decided to stay on for another year. That is of course if I am re-elected at the A.G.M.

Some members asked me why I considered resigning, was it due to the article I wrote some time ago? Well the answer was yes. Anyway enough of that, let's look forward to the New Year.

What a great Dinner/Dance we had. The Presidency is where it should have been for many years previous. Our debt to Vic is beyond calculation, so thank you Mr. President

What have we lined up. To start with, the Len Kitchen ramble will be a bit early this year, so take a note, Wednesday 30th April. Meeting at Banstead Woods, Surrey at 11am. For further information contact Len by phone or letter.

Now a word of praise to member Ron Johnson, through his efforts a group of us went down to Godalming, Surrey. Ron through his computer had found out that a group of ex-riders from that area had been holding biannual meetings. Sadly they were not aware of our association. We met a couple of them and we will be going down there in, I believe, February for their AGM, hopefully to persuade them to join the VCSRA. I must add, we are looking at about twenty-five to thirty new members. Wish us luck. Thanks Ron for your work, especially for the Southern Riders Lunches at Wimbledon. Another big thank you to Ron and Kath Holvey for organising the Tooting Tigers Christmas Lunch at the Bletchingly Golf Club, Mainly former Tooting riders, although we do allow a few foreigners, after all it is Christmas.

We are considering some outings for the coming year, more details at the AGM.

Towards the end of last year, I and some other vets went to the East London Track, to watch their Vets Grand Prix and I must say, although it was a bit cold, it was very watchable. Excellent racing and very sporting. I was most surprised and honoured to be asked on behalf of our association to present the trophies.

That's about it Gentlemen for now. Just to wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

DEREK CATTLE.



Taken at the Southern Riders dinner. Photo courtesy Len Adams.

Back row L to R. Ray Gingell, Dennis Daniel, Mick Little, Ron Johnson, Bryan Wood & Dave Chivers.
Seated L to R. Derek Cattle, Bernie Cable, Wally Dighton & Ron Woolley.

School trip to Maker



FORMER Crownhill girl Binnie Reynolds (now exiled in Coventry) says of her photo (right): "It was July 1948. I know that because I wrote it on the back."

"It was an outing to Maker, I think we may have stayed there a week, but I don't remember too much about it. We were all at Crownhill School; that's Miss Oliver at the back on the left drinking tea."

There's a couple of other teachers at the back of the photograph.

"I remember one of them was a real so-and-so with the stick!"

"As for the others, I can remember the faces but the names have gone now... apart from Barbara Rowe at the back on the right. She's still living in Crownhill."

From the same year, Binnie also dug out another cycle speedway snap... "I had a bit of a crush on Alan Dabinett at the time," she recalls with a smile.



ABOVE: Crownhill boys and girls and staff at Maker Camp, July 1948 – "That's me in the front stuffing my face."

ABOVE LEFT: Crownhill cycle speedway boys 1948: Back row, from left: R Northey, P Kenny, A Dabinett (captain), A Brickell, T Eddy. Front row: J Friend, T Curtice, J Clemo

This cutting from the local Plymouth paper "THE HERALD" was sent in by FRED PAUL.

"ALAN DABINETT" was the top rider in the Plymouth Cycle Speedway League back in the early nineteen fifties. He went on to ride for "Plymouth Devils" motor speedway team, before they sadly closed down in early 1954.

EDITORS NOTES

Two more newspaper cuttings in this issue.

The one on page eight is of particular interest to me. Firstly because I remember riding for the Wembley All Stars, against the Coalville Stars but mainly because Chris Lynn was the "Leicester Correspondent" for "Cycle Speedway Star" the monthly duplicated magazine that I produced in the 1950s. He wrote regular very interesting articles. If there is enough room, I will include some of them in future issues. In 1958, we arranged for my team, the Wembley Hawks to have home and away challenge matches against his "Leicester All Stars". For our home match we included Norman Hunter of the Wembley All Stars, to replace our captain Roger Dewhurst. Despite the fact that it poured with rain throughout the match, there was some excellent racing. Leicester took the lead with a 5-1 in the first heat, and held the lead until the final race, when a 5-1 by Johnny Pinnock and Norman Hunter gave the Hawks a 49-46 victory.

For the return match the Hawks were not so lucky, again "borrowing" Norman Hunter, we went to pick up our hire van, only to find that it was not ready, making us late leaving. Then we lost our way in Leicester and finally arrived at the track nearly two hours late, to find the track shut up and all the Leicester riders had gone home. Half our riders decided to ride round the track, while the rest of us went in search of Chris Lynn, we came off best, as Chris kindly supplied us with a first class tea. (From Cycle Speedway Star July 1958)

Had a note from Alan "Sprocket" Doggett, he has completed two more bikes and delivered them to the museum. This makes four in the set of age related styles, with name plates for teams and riders.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 1940s Ted Young Enfield Monarchs | 2. 1950s Alan Doggett Clay Hill Aces |
| 3. 1960s Vince Brooks Freezywater Pirates | 4. 1970s Bob Parish High Beech Kangaroos. |

He has made them all as near to the periods as he could manage.

Bill Gadsby

Recent stories relating to the Syston Foxes cycle speedway team, caught the eye of Mr John M Simpson, of Blaby.

In 1955, John was a junior rider with the Belgrave Red Devils (previously the Belgrave Battle Axes) cycle speedway team.

He says: "Our team rode against other local and national teams, both in local league and national cycle speedway competitions."

Leicestershire people might remember some of the local teams, which included the following:

MAGPIES

In the city, Aylestone Aces, Mowmacre Magpies, Garden City Greyhounds (Humberstone), West End Cyclones (Middleton Street), Craven Aces (Salutation public house), Blackbird Monarchs and Leicester All Stars.

Some of the County teams were: Kirby Muxloe Kings, Kibworth Rockets, Mountsorrel Monarchs, Blaby Lions, Cliffe Hill (Markfield) Giants, Markfield Monarchs, Anstey Savoy Stars, Coalville Stars, Rothley Cobras, Syston "Foxes" and Woodhouse Ghosts.

Some of the national teams that local teams rode against were: Langstone Eagles (Newport, Wales), Whipps Cross Comets (London), Wembley All



TEAM: Members of the Belgrave Red Devils, left to right, Chris Lynn, Col Beeby, Pete Rawson, Johnny Faye, James 'Cron' Dent, Dave Brant, Rob Cooper and Jeff Pickering

Stars, Wembley Hawks, Peckham Stars (London), Hungerford Panthers (Wiltshire) and Knights Wood Toffs (Edinburgh).

John says: "We rode mainly in accordance of the National Cycle Speedway Association's rules and conditions and we all had to be licensed to ride with this organisation."

"So, there were quite a number of local teams (and there were others, that I can not remember) and we were organised into various local leagues, which

rode in fixtures throughout the week, both home and away.

"In the main we rode on, 'ASP' bikes—'All Spare Parts'—that we made up ourselves. A must for these bikes were special tyres called 'Avon Skidway Gripsters' which were the forerunners of tyres that are used on today's mountain bikes."

"Some of the lads who could afford them, rode specially made cycle speedway bikes that were made by the Phillips Cycle Company."

"I can remember seeing them

for sale in Stanford's Cycle Shop, Belgrave Road, Leicester."

"We had our own group of supporters, like other teams and when we rode away from home we would often take a small coach for riders and supporters. I can remember there was always great rivalry between the Coalville Stars and us. Also the Kibworth Rockets would always arrive by coach with their own supporters."

John adds: "Those days were great fun and I have great memories of them."

From Brian Green—Ex Coalville Stars.

This photo and write up, appeared in our local rag recently.

Pete Rawson and Rob Cooper moved on to the all conquering side of the "Coalville Stars" in 1956, who in the year progressed to the National Trophy semi-finals against the "Carswood Hunters", losing 49-46.

The previous year again saw the "Coalville Stars" again in the National Trophy action against the "Offerton Devils" in the North of England Final at Birmingham, which Coalville won on default.

DON'T FORGET

HIGH BEECH SUNDAY 17th FEBRUARY

80th ANIVERSARY

extract from 'News & Views' the bi-monthly magazine of the
Veteran - Cycle Club Dec. 2007

MuseumMatters

National Speedway Museum

The first National Speedway Museum opened to the public on Monday 23rd April 2007 at the Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. This museum has the largest display of motorcycle speedway and memorabilia on public display.

In one corner of the display is a section connected to cycle speedway ranging from its formation in 1946 to the present day. This will hopefully expand as items are obtained.

There are two cycle speedway bicycles on display dating from 1947-48 period as well as period photographs showing the sports rise from the war-torn years at its inception and the golden years period to the now smaller, but competitive, present day National Cycle Speedway Club scene.

Colin Slater

Colin also sent a brochure: *A Beginners Guide to Cycle Speedway* published by East London Cycle Speedway Club whose track is located at Prince Regent Lane, Canning Town, London E16. This is near the A13 junction and must be near the site of the 19th Century cycle track. Included in the leaflet are the websites: www.britishcycling.org.uk and www.eastlondoncyclespeedwayclub.com for further information.



This report on our exhibit at the Speedway Museum was passed on to me by an old work colleague of mine who is a member of the Veteran Cycle Club. Does anyone know the writer of the report 'Colin Slater', the addendum to the piece suggests he might be connected to the East London CSC ?
Colin Booth.



Pedals to Power

Potted profiles of those VCSRA members that made a successful transition from Cycle to Motor Speedway.

Pete Saunders

Pete first became interested in speedway, after watching the 1955 BBC screening of the World Championship Final from Wembley. This was won by Peter Craven, with Ronnie Moore winning the run off for second place by beating Barry Briggs and Eric Williams.

Pete was twelve at the time, Cycle Speedway had been big around the St. Albans area in the early fifties but the bubble had burst and only Langley Lions from Stevenage, Finchly Sabres and Bushey Aces were around. Pete's brother Bob, decided to form a team in Bricket Wood, the village where they lived. Their first match was against the Langley Lions, which featured the legendary Dennis Bottazzi, who Pete managed to beat, scoring a total of twelve points.

A year or so later, the Bricket Wood team amalgamated with Bushey and Pete rode there until about 1963. During this time Pete qualified for the Junior individual final at Hungerford in 1957, 1958 and 1959. In 1960 he qualified for the Senior Individual Championship, also at Hungerford. He won the Home Counties Championship, with 12 points, beating Bill Punter (Harefield) 11 points and Ken Archer (Southern Nomads) 10 points. During this season he averaged over 10 points a match. He also rode for Wembley and Edmonton, before calling it a day. He made a return to Bushey, when they reformed. In 1966 Pete was second in the League averages, behind Vic Haines of Hackney.



At the end of 1966 Pete bought a 500cc JAP speedway bike and during 1967 started to go to Rye House, with a bit of help from Arch Windmill. In 1968 he expanded his training by going to Brafield, Weymouth, and Eastbourne. After a second half ride at West Ham, coming third behind Barry Crowson and Tyburn Gallows, Dave Lanning offered Pete a ride for Canterbury at Belle Vue, in the first ever Division 2 match, but later changed his mind and said that he was not needed.

He then had some second half rides at Reading and made the reserve slot towards the end of the season, but then the legendary Vic White dropped down a division and Pete's place in the team was in jeopardy. Danny Dunton then offered Pete a contract with Oxford, giving him second half rides and saying that he would loan him out to a division 2 club for 1969. He won his first ride at Oxford, beating Tony Lewis and Tim Bungay of Poole. He rode for Crewe Kings in 1969, who reached the knock out cup final, losing to Belle Vue in the second leg.

In 1970 Pete was allocated to the new Peterborough Panthers. He was captain of the side in 1971 when the team finished third in Division 2. Pete rode for the Panthers again in 1972, but by this time his business was taking off and realizing that he was never going to be a "Ronnie Moore" he decided to retire.

He forgot about speedway, until Pete Seaton contacted him to say that the Panthers were having a twenty five year reunion. After this Pete joined the Veteran Speedway Riders Association and has been a committee member for several years.



Peterborough Panthers in 1970 pictured at Eastbourne Left to right:
Pete Seaton, John Poyser, Richard Greer, Andy Ross, Colin Smalley, Pete Saunders and Mervyn Hill

From the Oxford Speedway Programme Sept 1968.

The last two meetings here you must have seen a lad having a go in the second half by the name of Pete Saunders. Just remember this name, for you will be hearing it a lot more. He has only had a few rides at speedway and had only three races here at Oxford, but in those races he has beaten our boys, also Swindon's Peter Jackson, quite a feat. I quickly had his signature on a contract. Now I am pleased to say that he is an Oxford rider.



1	V. Haines	2.89
2	P. Saunders	2.81
3	K. Jago	2.78
4	R. Spalding	2.53
5	T. Marsh	2.47
6	T. Gardner	2.37
7	D. Scutts	2.33
7	J. South	2.33
9	B. Merrett	2.30
10	D. Mercer	2.28
11	B. Edwards	2.22
11	B. Harper	2.22
13	G. Wallis	2.20
14	G. Swan	2.14
15	J. Burgess	2.08
15	J. Unsworth	2.08
17	J. Martin	2.05
18	T. White	1.94
19	M. Hosier	1.87
20	P. Pritchard	1.81
20	B. Saunders	1.81
20	D. Worthington	1.81

Peterborough Panthers Captain
Pete Saunders in action

