

THE TRACK RECORD

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**
Volume 14
Issue 1
May 2011

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Who is this rider?
See editors notes page 12.

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VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD - 1st. April 2010 to 31st. March 2011[illegible]

Bank Balances at 31 st March 2010.....	2232.07
Income.....	1567.70
	3799.77
Less Expenditure	1631.91
Total funds at 31 st .March 2011	£ 2167.86

Represented by-	Bank Deposit A/C	1320.29
	Bank Current A/C	847.57

		£ 2167.86

Summary of 2010 Annual Dinner and Dance EXPENSE

EXPENSE			INCOME	
Paradise Park	Food	2610.00	Sale of Tickets	2915.00
	Tea & coffee	250.00	Raffle	225.00
Gratuities		120.00		
Donation to British Heart Foundation		225.00		
Total Expense		3205.00	Total Income	3140.00

Derek Cattle paid for the disco and Menu printing

Tom Kilby - Treasurer

Secretaries Notes – May 2011

AGM - Saturday 9th April 2011.

I would very much like to thank those of you who turned up for the AGM on Saturday but on the whole it was a very disappointing affair. Including the 8 members of the Committee there was a total of only 19 members. As there had been no nominations for new members for the committee all the existing were reinstated.

Future social events were discussed and an amendment to the Dinner/Dance proposal that the event should be a dinner only to be held in November was passed by a large majority. It was also generally agreed that the proposed Lunch should be held in the spring of 2012 and that the arrangements for both events be referred back to the committee.

The subject of the disposal of funds when some time in the future it may be impossible for the Association to continue was raised. (Reference Para 12 of the VCSRA Constitution). It was agreed that an amendment to the Constitution be prepared by the committee and put before the next AGM (2012) that the names of the Charity or Charities to which the funds would be distributed to by the remaining members of the committee or their executors. The membership is to be balloted during the year on the selection of a appropriate charity or charities.

In the meantime a proposal that up to 75% of the associations current funds should be allocated to the commercial scanning and saving to Disc of the Associations collection of memorabilia was accepted on a show of hands, unanimously with 1 abstention. A rumour of a 'Cycling Archive' held by Warwick University was mentioned as a possible home for the VCSRA archive discs. The committee agreed to pursue the subject via the source of the rumour, Rod Witham.

The meeting was closed with a brief address by the new VCSRA Chairman Ray Gingell.

Wanted - Secretary

As I shall be resigning from the post of secretary at the end of the year the committee have asked me to invite, on their behalf any member who is computer literate and who wishes to see the Association continue and who fancies a challenge to get in touch with myself or any committee member.

Directory Amendments

New or Rejoining Members

Leslie Gustafson

7 Haddon Court, Shakespeare Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5NB

Tel.07802 895685 Email leslie.gustafson@btclick.com

Robin Richardson

34 Bangor Terrace, Nantyllyllon, Maesteg, CF34 0HU

Tel.01656 738702 Email robinrichardson@gmail.com

Steve Ridgway

55 Glenmoor Road, Offerton, Stockport, Cheshire, SK1 4EB

Tel.07896 998962 Email steve_ridgway@hotmail.com

New Email Addresses

Rod Witham

Email. rod.witham@skycom

Track Record

Please note that all material for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to :- Bill Gadsby, 7 Sewell Close, St. Albans, Herts., AL4 0TB or Email bill.gadsby@lineone.net

Membership Renewal

Members are reminded, if they have not already renewed that their 2011 membership subscription was due on the 1st April. 2011

Please send your cheque for £7.00, payable to VCSRA to :-

Malcolm Belchambers, 16a Ethelred Gardens, Wickford, Essex, SS11

FROM THE SECRETARIES IN TRAY

May 2011

16th February. From Len Silver - Memories of High Beech.

.....I very rarely have occasion to write to the editor of The Track Record, but I do study every issue and often get taken back a good many years to those days of the Stratford Hammers and the fantastic times we had times we had in those early post war years. I was quite fascinated by the pictures on Page 14 of the last issue which showed shots of the famous High Beech track taken in 1949. The reason for my fascination was that the picture showed the place exactly as I remembered on the day that I attended a Speedway training school there run by the editor and owner of a magazine called the "Speedway World". His name was Jimmy Edwards and he rented out a beautiful all chrome JAP for £5 for, I think, 20 laps. The price included a pie and chip lunch in the Kings Oak pub. After lunch I had two rides left for my £5 and decided to show everyone just what I could do. So when my turn came I rode the bike as fast as I could and managed to get it flat out right in front of the small wooden grandstand that can be seen in the picture on page 14. Alas I didn't have the skill to hold on and I had a spectacular crash with the super chrome bike flying up in the air and landing on top of me as I was thrown onto the cinder track. I was almost unharmed, but the bike was severely bent with the front wheel and forks severely mangled. Jimmy Edwards was far from happy and when he realised that I was all in one piece told me to "f.... Off and never come back to High Beech again" I never did ! Sadly, Jimmy Edwards was killed by a stock car some time later.

So thanks to Bill Punter* who sent in the pictures that brought back such vivid memories.

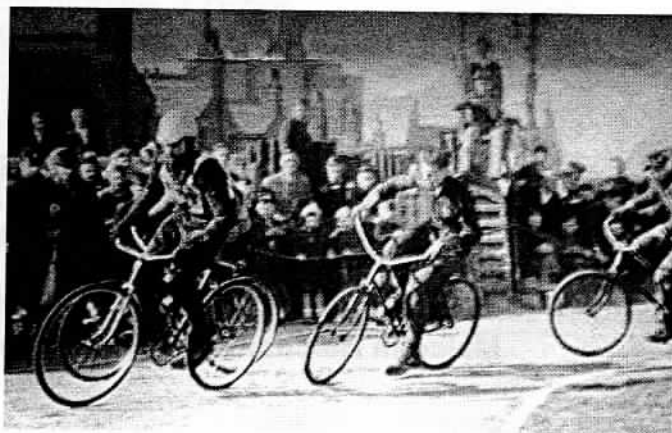
*(Dennis Daniel)

2nd March. From Jimmy Smith - Memories of Newcastle

my name is Jimmy Smith who rode cycle speedway for Newcastle in the 1960s. Talking to a ex rider from the late 40s he showed me some photos of Newcastle CS the 1st photo was of the 1st Newcastle track built by riders and club members and rode against Edinburgh



in Sept '49 and won 73-51 the other 2 photos are Newcastle riding against Peckham in April 1950. If anybody has any info on these meetings could you please contact me
Jimmy Smith -
<jinky.smith@sky.com>



29th March, From Rod Witham - Memory of Empress Hall



We think this is possibly a picture taken during the England v Holland match on Thursday 26th October 1950 but Henk de Bruin who rode for the Dutch team tells us their not Dutch riders. So can anyone help?

31st January, From Dennis Daniel - Track Record Feb 2011 Q & A's

(1) Should read Den Rogers not Roberts.

(4) It would seem I am incorrect on the Tulse Hill four a side event, there must have been more than one match in close proximity to each other. The 'Thrills of Cycle Speedway' photograph below lists the teams I forwarded to you, unfortunately it is not dated but to the best of my recollections both Troytown and Pegasus folded before the 1954 season. (I joined Beckenham in 1954).

The other two photographs (*next page*) taken at Tulse Hill during a four team event shows Brian Jarrett (TH), an Edmonton Aces (*Saints*) rider (*Tom Kilbey*, VCSRA Treasurer) and a rider from Southall Hammers? The remaining photograph taken at the same meeting shows Brian Jarrett racing? The celebrity guest Gordon Jackson (both are riding P & F Star Ride bikes), so it would seem that there must have been 3 meetings at Tulse Hill in the 1953 season if my recollections are correct. Sorry for the confusion. Regards Danny.

Thrills of Cycle Speedway (Pictures by Carl Sutton)



at
the
Tulse
Hill
Rockets'
Track



A four-cornered challenge match between Rockets, Dragons, Pegasus and Aces is in progress at the Tulse Hill Rockets' Cycle Speedway track. *Left*, the steward announces the result of the

last heat, and another race is about to begin. *Right*, a Pegasus rider adjusts his handlebars—he's due to ride in the next heat. Handlebars must not exceed 30 inches in width.

Right. Tulse Hill 1953, Lt to Rt a fallen rider takes a bow, Brian Jarrett (Tulse Hill), A Southall Hammer and Tom Kilbey (Edmonton Saints).



Left. Tulse Hill 1953, Lt to Rt Brian Jarrett, Celebrity Guest a very young Gordon Jackson, ?? and by the gate post another Celebrity Guest.



28th March, From Austen Horrex - Memories of Southend on Sea.

To be a little self indulgent I attach an image of myself retaining the Southend Title, extracted from the Southend Standard on the 6th. December 1966.

AUSTEN SCORES A MAXIMUM AND RETAINS CYCLE SPEEDWAY TITLE

AUSTEN HORREX rode to a fifteen point maximum to win the Southend and District Riders' Championship for the second season in succession at Southchurch Park (East) on Sunday.

Conditions were bad, but the riders decided to go through with the meeting.

Shock runner-up to Austen was Roy Russell, who had the misfortune to drop a point to Barrie Chalk after a melee on the final bend in heat fifteen.

After a bad first ride, Austen Horrex 15, Roy Rus-

National Champion Chris Gooch filled third place.

Chris recently won the Suffolk Championship for the second year running.

After a track inspection it was decided to postpone the Maurice Jardine Trophy until next season as the wet track had cut up badly. Scorers:

sell 13, Chris Gooch 12, Johnnie Brooks 11, Neville Thompson 11, Bernie Hill 9, Norman Smith 9, Barrie Chalk 9, Tony Callis 8, Val Hockley 7, Ray Palmer 5.

Basildon Orkans made Whipps Cross Comets fight all the way in a challenge match at Temple Mills on Sunday before going down by 50 points to 46.

Dave Tulloch was top for the New Towners with 11 points.

The Orkans should make their presence felt in the Home Counties League (Div. II) next season with the signing of three top heat leaders in Tulloch (Newham Hammers), John Spooner (Estuary Rockets), and Colin Wheeler (White City Racers).

Also, an image of Estuary Eagles Team in 1966. From left to right, back row, Val Hockley, Austen Horrex, Ricky Alderton Roy Russell. Front row, Bernie Hill, Johnny Brooks, Norman Smith and Chris Gooch, National Champion.



THEO DUSBABA



2nd February, From Henk de Bruin - Sad News

.....Just after new year the sad news reached me that my friend of a lifetime and team mate in the Dutch team of the Empress Hall clash against England Theo Dusbaba, died on Oct.28 2010. He was 77.

Theo was a happy guy, and a cornerstone in the Dutch team, perhaps some of our older members, remember him, or even clashed with in the 50's.

A very sad – Henk de Bruin

(Captain Dutch National Team 1950)

FRED TILLYER

Fred Tillyer, passed away on January 6th 2011 in Mesa Arizona at the age of 71. His funeral was at Mariposa Gardens Memorial Park, Arizona.

A Memorial Service was held on 17th February at St. Mathews Church Yiewsly and a wake was held at the Hut, West Drayton.

Fred was a saxophone player, with the "Rebel Rousers"

He rode Cycle Speedway for the Hillingdon Stars, winning the North West Middlesex Individual Championship in 1956.

When Hillingdon withdrew from the league, he joined the Harefield Pirates.



Harefield Pirates L. to R.:-

Eddie Collett, Dave Thompson, Fred Tillyer, Pete Leckie,
Dave Stonex, Lennie Richards John King & Roger Seymour.

From Cycle Speedway Gazette March 27th 1957

MY PAL PETE

by Ed.
Collett.

The first time I saw Pete Leckie he was sitting on the ground with his old football boots by his side (he used these for riding) working out the programme for the Sunday morning match Northwood "A" versus "B".

This was way back in 1947, and I didn't know then how much Pete would come into my life. Pete got talking to me and persuaded me and the boys with me to build a track at Harefield. Soon we had a track 6ft. wide and about 80 yards round cut out in an old disused chalkpit at Harefield.

Soon the Northwood boys came to visit us, and compared with us they were an experienced bunch of riders. The track was only wide enough for two riders in each race, and they beat us.

In 1948, Pete came to see me about the proposed N.W. Middlesex League. He persuaded the Harefield team to join, along with Hillingdon Racers, Northwood Broadriders, Northwood Hills Hornets, and if we would share our track, a fifth team of Pete's founding, Northwood Pirates. I agreed, and Pete and I put in some hard work widening the track, and believe me, it WAS hard! After the turf was removed, the chalk foundation had to be levelled. Coal dust was found about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away and was carried in sacks on our track bikes to the track.

We had the honour of holding the Championship on our track that year and Pete was third.

One Test was held on the track against Wembley and I'm glad to say we won. Pete was of course in the team but yours truly was a non-riding reserve.

At the end of 1948 both Pete and I lost riders and we decided to amalgamate. Pete was elected manager, "Donno" Peters captain, my sister Betty treasurer, and myself secretary.

In 1949, Pete and I rode together in the Best Pairs competition at Bushoy, which we won. Apart from taking part in every Test that year, Pete was runner-up in the Individual Riders Championship held at Harefield again.

Pete was chosen to take part in the London Grand Prix and came fourth. He also captained the Home Counties against London at Earls Court. I remember seeing Pete on the newsreel of this event the day he became engaged to my sister in 1950. Shortly after that he was called up and of course his cycle speedway was restricted.

I had the honour to be best man at the wedding and all the team attended the ceremony, but were unable to get permission to form a guard of honour with bicycles!

The day after the wedding Pete turned up as reserve for the Individual Riders Championship at Hillingdon. One rider didn't turn up and so Pete took part, and much to everyone's surprise, won the trophy !

In 1952, Pete was now an old married man, but that did not stop him winning the Individual event again, this time at Groenford. He had to be content with runner-up position in 1953, as his handlebars snapped in the run-off for first place, at Hayes.

In 1954, he was Middlesex Champ. and represented the county in the National Final, and in several Tests.

Pete has not won the individual since then, but with Dave Stonex won the Best Pairs Trophy in 1955/56.

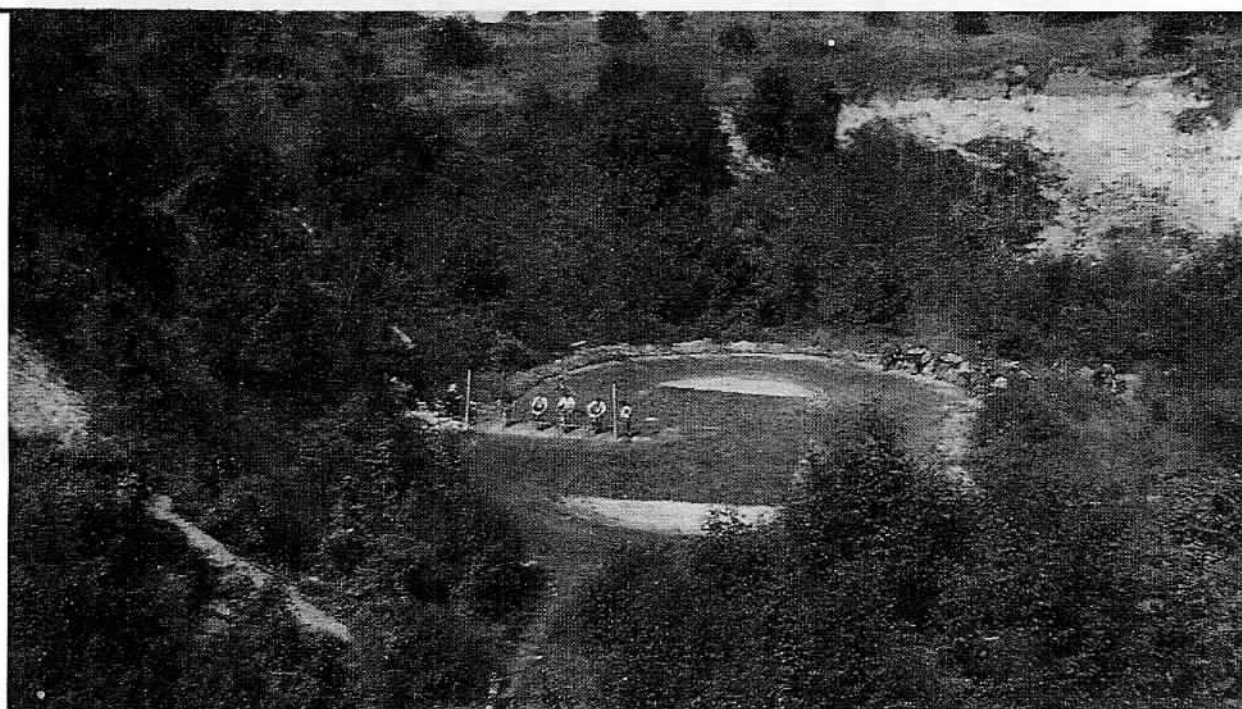
He did me the honour of being best man at my wedding last year. In April he expects to be a daddy ! The question now is, will the old man still carry on ? Knowing Pete, I think he will.

There is no doubt that if Junior is a boy, he will follow his father's footsteps in Cycle Speedway.

FOOTNOTE by Roger Seymour.

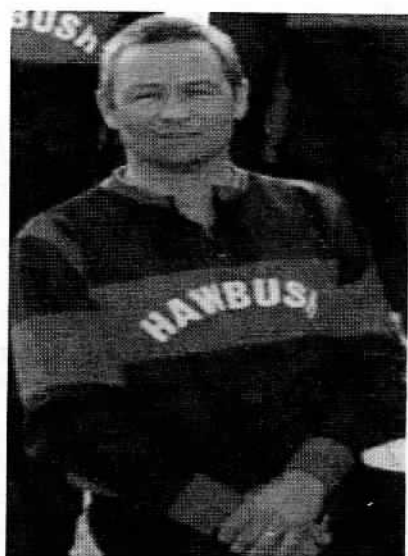
In 1956, Pete qualified for all of the big events and in the Middlesex Best Pairs (Newfield Trophy) partnered by Dave Stonex, repeated their 1955 performance.

He was third in the Middlesex Individual. Pete has been a consistent scorer in his 10 years racing career, and even now, in his late twenties, still manages to keep an average of 9 or more.



Harefield track
Article from Pete Saunders. Photo from Pete Leckie.

DAVE HEALS



Long time Hawbush Hammers rider Dave Heals lost his long battle against ill health on February 2nd. Dave would have been fifty nine on Valentines day. His funeral took place at the Forest Rd cemetery, just half a mile up the road from the Hawbush track. Over 100 people attended the service, including 20 riders past and present. Eight ex Hammers formed a guard of honour wearing Hawbush breast plates.

Dave came to Hawbush way back in the early 1960s as a 13 year old and soon progressed from the 3rd team to the 2nd team and a regular place in the 1st team. Apart from a two year stint at the Newham Hammers, Dave featured in most of the Hawbush league and cup successes and was the only Hammer to win both the senior and junior club championship at Hawbush, when both events were held on the same day.



Ex Hawbush Hammers "Guard of Honour"

L. to R. Bill Hopkins - Steve Bloxham - Chris Riches - Pete Chubb - Geff Goodfellow - Roger Beecham Ray James - Bernie Vickers & Dennis Hubble.

DAVE (WALLY) LLOYD

Dave Lloyd who rode for the Becton Aces (Rockets) in the early 1950s, passed away in early April aged 76 after several years of ill health. During carer in cycle speedway, Dave soon became known as Wally Lloyd, after the speedway star of the same name who rode for the Harringay Racers.



VIC MERNER 1930—2011

Vic with the Wembley All Stars

L to R:- Vic Merner (manager)
Bill Gadsby, Keith Bristow,
Dixie Dean (Capt.) Ted Win-
ning,
Roger Dewhurst, Eddie Hill,
Alex Fraser and kneeling Norman
Hunter.



Vic Merner died on 17th January 2011 of a massive heart attack. His funeral was at the Eastbourne Crematorium on February 2nd, and his ashes were scattered at the Ruislip Crematorium

Vic was a great servant of Cycle Speedway manager of the Roxeth Rockets and Wembley All Stars, he was also secretary of the Middlesex League for many years

And with the Middlesex Test Team



Back Row:- Johnny Dryden (Langley Leopards) John Unsworth (Langley Leopards) Vic Merner (Manager) Roy Ruffel (Weston Stars) Maury Shaw (Weston Stars) Mr. Wildman (assistant Manager)

Front Row:- Dixie Dean (Wembley All Stars) Pete Leckie (Uxbridge Pirates)
Roy Fraser (Wembley All Stars) & Norman Hunter (Wembley All Stars)

Email from Mike Vernam

I was very pleased to note, when reading my copy of the Feb 2011 "Track Record" that you have one of Cycle Speedways all time greats, Dave Butcher, as a new member.

I was also pleased to see a selection of Southampton pictures from my era. However, as no doubt others may have pointed out, the front cover picture is of course from 1965 and not 1956 and the Southampton rider in gate two is not me but long time Southampton stalwart Ernie Randle.

Also I must just correct the error in the spelling of my name (which happened countless times over the years) in that it should VERNAM and not VERNON.

Many thanks for the effort you put in to produce the magazine which brings a great deal of pleasure and happy memories.

EDITORS NOTES

I only had one other comment on the Feb. front cover picture, Mike Green phoned to say that the year was wrong, he also named the two Horspath riders, I jotted them down in the margin of a newspaper, but unfortunately this seems to have been recycled!

The misspelling of Mikes name, reminds me of another example. Roger DEWHURST, who rode for me at Bushey and Wembley. That was how I always spelt his name in match programmes and in the Cycle Speedway Star, a duplicated magazine that I produced back in those days (It is much easier on a computer!)

Rogers sister was a typist and offered to do some typing for the magazine. In a Bushey match report she spelt the name DEWHIRST. When I pointed out her mistake(?), she replied "I think I should know how to spell my own name!" That issue of the magazine was the only time that his name was spelled correctly!

Recently received an email from Christopher Tregido (Trigger) in Australia, thanking me for my Christmas Card that had just arrived! As he was a friend of Dud Smith, I sent him this picture, which I used on page 10 of the Feb issue and asked if he could identify the riders. (I had hoped to have a reply in time for the Feb issue.)



L. to R.
Fred Smallwood, unknown, Peter Smith,
Dud Smith, Don Morris, unknown,
Dick Kidd & Ken Wilson.

Who is the rider on the front cover? I have no idea. Browsing through some books on a second-hand book stall I came across a book called "SPORT". It was a compendium of most sports, but it was the speedway picture on the front cover that made me look through it. There was no mention of Cycle Speedway, other than that photo with the caption:- Cycle Speedway — a sport born on the bomb sites of Britain.

I had a phone call from Derek Mills to tell me that Ken Warlock had died. I am trying to find a picture or some information about him. I know that he rode for Hungerford, Bristol and the Bourne-mouth Vikings.

Bill Gadsby

THEN & NOW NORTHWICK PARK.

Pre-war Northwick Park had been a golf course, but it had been abandoned, with just a few cows grazing. There would have been many places suitable for a cycle speedway track, but the Sudbury Court Flyers chose to make theirs it what had once been a bunker. This was an almost circular track, with banked straights and a great home advantage. The starting "gate" was of course a piece of elastic tied to a bike in the centre green.

The flyers were founder members of the Wembley and District League and as I remember, were the only team to ride without any body colours. They only lasted the one season, their best riders, including Peter Rhodes and Ron Shuttleworth joining the newly formed Wembley Monarchs, who rode at the Paddocks track.

As the Paddocks had been the temporary home of the Kenton Hawks, I moved the Hawks to the now vacant Northwick Park track, where we competed in the 2nd division.

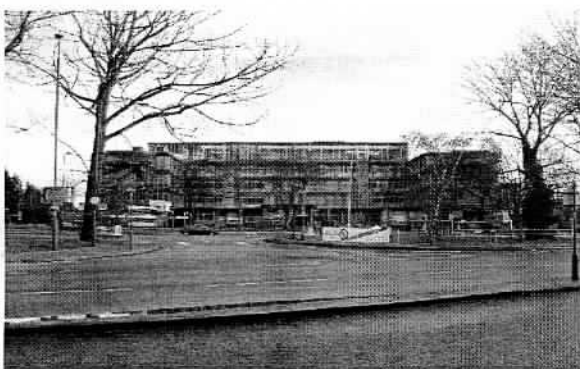
When the Kenton Hawks combined with the Kingsbury Lions, at the Kingsbury Circle track, the vacant track was then taken over by the Rising Sun Rangers, who had lost their track by the Rising Sun pub.



Bill Gadsby leading Alan Low and an unknown rider



Peter Rhodes trying an outside pass on Bill Gadsby, with Alan Low obscured and unknown rider at rear



Northwick Park & St. Marks Hospital.

The track was not used after 1951 and a large Hospital was later built on the site. This was at the front of the park, well away from where the track had been. In fact you could still see the outline of the track, many years after the hospital was built. Although in 2003 (was it really that long ago?) when Roy Fraser, Len Adams, Nobby Dunn, Derek Wills, Pete Leckie, Peter Lipscombe and Myself went on a "Pilgrimage" looking for former tracks, there was no sign of the track, the whole area having been levelled to make football pitches.

FOOTNOTE.

For many years I attended St. Marks Hospital in City Road Islington. It was a very old building having been there since 1835 (no I had not been there since then) It was feared that if a new site could not be found the hospital would have to close. Eventually a new site was found, the whole hospital relocating, taking over a wing at.....Northwick Park!

BILL GADSBY



Peter Lipscombe rides round where the track used to be

CYCLE SPEEDWAY TEAMS DOWN THE AGES.

Dave Hunting is compiling a list of teams and their riders from the 1940s onwards. He is at present having a web site set up, and all the information together with many photos will be attainable through this. Dave has sent me lists for Greater London 419 teams, Surrey 100 teams and Essex 176 teams. Here are two sample pages taken at random. If you wish to check your team, or teams in your area, Dave will send you a list, that you can check and if necessary update. Dave's email is:- david.hunting@btinternet.com or his address is in the Directory of Members

SURREY

SHERE SWIFTS

Paul Saunders; M. Weller; J. Newman; G. Fordon; P. Spooner; R. Strudwick; P. Sherlock; D. Dale; D. Sanders; N. Spooner; T. Weller.

RAYNES PARK TIGERS

(Morden Park)

(New Middlesex League)

(Southern Premier League)

Dave Chivers; Ray Chivers; Geoff Pennikett; Derek Cattle; Ted Cracknell; Lenny Baker; Roy Baker; Pete Page; Wally Dighton; Fred Bedford; Pete Rides; Fred Lawrence; Charlie Aldridge; Johnny Bradon; Brian Biggs; Bill Biggs; Tony Johnson; Glen Brimson; Trevor Smith; John Tutin; Pete Andrews; Reggie Squires; Len Kitching; Reg Renwick; Tony Jones; Mike Huggins; Dave Freeborn; Nobby Hasler; Frank Toefield; John Lipscombe; Micky Smith; Brian Larrard; Ray Gingell; T. Frost; D. Hasler; G. Grey; B. Patching; B. Allnutt; Bartlett.

Late 60s Team: Barry Taylor; Tony Johnson; Mick Hosier; Rob Mills; David Pike; Jeff Martin; Roy Marrable; Dave Mercer; Robin Huggins.

STOUGHTON STARS(Guildford)

(South West Surrey League)

Ricky Crake; Alan Plant; Arthur Bird; Brian Grist; Mick Butler; Lenny Searchfield; Michael Butler; Tony Boxall; Peter Steel; Derek Hodges; Alan Haskell; D. Butler; D. Robinson; R. Boxall.

TEDDINGTON TIGERS

Ken Little.

THORNTON HEATH COBRAS

Squires; Gibbs; Winters; Baker; Newman; Aylott; Lawrence.

THORNTON HEATH TIGERS

E. Cresswell.

TOLWORTH CSC

Ken Little; Mick Little.

TOLWORTH ACES

(New Middlesex League)

Glyn Brimson; Page; Steemson; Edwards.

TOLWORTH METEORS

TOLWORTH RACERS

Mick Little; Lewis; Ghini; White; Cherry; Causden; Saunders; Whitaker.
Potential Entrants to Thames Valley League at Outset.

TOLWORTH TIGERS

TOLWORTH TUDORS

(London & Home Counties 1956)

(Southern Premier League)

Paul Murden; Pete Page; Reg Squires; Gerry Wallis; Ray Wallis; Dave Waters; Hank Giles; Mick Little; Kenny White; Eddie Hurley; Pete Rides; Richard Witcher; Bill Biggs; Derek Bailey; Keir Prince; Pete Giles; Len Dutton; Tony Clayton; Derek Pearce; Len Kitching; Trevor Winham; Steve Watson; John Aldridge.
(1970s): John Mather;

TOLWORTH TUDOR MONARCHS

WALTON BROADSIDERS

2nd Team to Walton Swans.

WALTON HAWKS

WALTON SWANS

((Walton on Thames)

Rob Hunt; Barry Turner; Art Warboys; Roy Massey; Cyril Bull; Ted Gee; George Titmarsh; Chas Kaufman; Jim Clatworthy; Harry Muir; Derek Bush; Stan Read; Rob Woods; John Wright; Les Weighell; Rod Caulder; Mike Connell; Tosko; Tyley; Morris; Clark; Mason; Holborn; Wilkinson.

EAST HAM STARS
(Southern Premier League)

Vic Duffy; Bill Kiley; Norman Lillywhite; Joe Barratt; Dave Hacket; John Wright; Ken Barrett; Ted Walker; Reg Goode; Ernie Lamacq; Johnny Halloran; John Butler; Del Harvey.

EAST HAM WOLVES
(New Middlesex League)

Malcolm Bell; Stan Stevens; Pete Frazer; Roy Archie; Peter Bromley; Pete Gibbons; Alan Risley; Jimmy Morris; Roy Milano; Ron Gibbons; Roy Archie; Sid Tomlyn; Ray Gray.

EAST LONDON CSC

Phil Coyle.

EDINBOROUGH TIGERS
(Walthamstow)
(Walthamstow League 1949)

EDMONTON ALLSTARS

EDMONTON DEVILS
(Edmonton League 1950)

Bill Poole
Club Chairman: Mrs H Hughes. Club Treasurer: Mr F Scales.
Club Manager/Secretary: Mr H Hughes, 24, St Marys Road, Edmonton.

EDMONTON EAGLES
(North London League 1949)

Ken Godwin

EDMONTON MONARCHS
(Montagu Rd, Lower Edmonton)
(North London Independent 1957/58)
(Southern Premier League)

Vic Cowell; Les Westwood; Derek Wills; Mick Jeffrey; Terry Porter; Brian Robbins; Roy Delaney; Tom Kilby; Charlie Read; Peter Wolfe; Paul Bowden; Micky Hall; Tony Mobbs; Malcolm Reading; D. Kay; A. Jackson.
(1970s): Les Mitchell; Vic Haines; John Tyler; Paul Jackson; A. Davis; L. Burnett; G. Morgan; G. Cornwall;

EDMONTON PANTHERS

EDMONTON SAINTS
(North London League 1949)
(Walthamstow League 1949)
(Edmonton League 1950)
(North London Independent 1957/58)

Vic Cowell; Les Westwood; Mick Jeffrey; Roy Delaney; Tom Kilby; Tony Mobbs; Don Ross; Ronald Osborne; Ted Gee; Roy Allwright; Bob Isaacs; Malcolm Reading; Johnny Sayer; Brian Lewis. Ivan Mauger; A. Jackson; T. Jackson; B. Taylor; D. Kay;

EDMONTON WOLVES

ENFIELD EAGLES
(Edmonton League)

ENFIELD MONARCHS

Ted 'Spud' Young

ENFIELD PANTHERS
(North London League 1949)

FAIRVIEW FLYERS
(Walthamstow League 1949)

FELTHAM ACES

FELTHAM FLYERS

FERNDAL STARS
(Essex League 1954 +)

Brian Anthony

FINCHLEY EAGLES

FINCHLEY SABRES
(North London League 1949)
(North London Independent 1957/58)

Bill Gadsby; Mick Jeffrey; Brian Makepeace; Johnny Pinnock; Terry Porter; Tony Mobbs; Eddie Collett; Malcolm Reading; G. Robinson; Anders; Rogers; Hill; Smith; Brett.

From The Sunday Mercury 5th December 2010

The bombsite bike racers...

THE bombsite track in Balsall Heath Road was the original home of British Cycle Speedway's oldest club.

It was known as Balsall Heath Panthers when it was first founded in 1948, but it changed its title to Birmingham Lions the following year.

The Lions continued to race at Balsall Heath Road until the land was required for re-development in 1962. The site of the old track is now occupied by Oldbury Fire Station.

The club moved outside the city to an

Sunday Mercury reader Brian Buck has been the honorary secretary of Sandwell Cycle Speedway Club for the past 59 years. He brings us these memories of cycle speedway racing at Balsall Heath Road in 1948.

alternative site in Old Park Lane, Langley, and changed its name to Oldbury Lions. But in 1969 this land was also required for the construction of the M5 motorway. Oldbury Council then provided a small

plot of land at Tividale Sportsground for the club to build another new track.

The club then changed its name once more to the present one of Sandwell Lions in 1979 after the amalgamation of

the Black Country Towns of Oldbury, Smethwick, Wednesbury, West Bromwich and Tipton to create the new Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell.

The modern club races in the Midland League but has submitted an application to race in the British Premier League for the 2011 season, which starts next March.

The Tividale track and all its facilities have been wholly constructed and maintained by club members and at the club's own expense – just as the original 1948 track on that bombsite in Balsall Heath Road was all those years ago!



Maurice Newby on action at the Balsall Heath Road Track.