

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1931

1931 was the inaugural season for this championship.

The competition was originally known as "The World's Championship".

Vic Huxley was nominated the first World's Champion by the Speedway Associations both North and South on the strength of his magnificent 1930 season.

Colin Watson was nominated as the first challenger.

Vic Huxley v. Colin Watson

West Ham

Monday	25/05/1931		<u>Mph</u>
	1	Huxley	41.57
	2	Huxley	41.57

Both riders were JAP mounted. Attendance 40,000.

Stamford Bridge

Saturday	06/06/1931		<u>Mph</u>
	1	Watson	45.68
	2	Watson	Huxley (ET) 44.77

Wembley

Thursday	25/06/1931		<u>Time</u>
	1	Huxley (Watson F)	79.8
	2	Watson	79.6
	3	Huxley (Watson F)	80.0

Vic Huxley became the first holder of "The World's Championship".

National Challenge Competition - The Winner to meet Vic Huxley (Holder).

The Northern and Southern Speedway Associations each ran their own competitions. There were Regional differences in the rules and structure.

NORTHERN SECTION

This began with track competitions at Belle Vue, Glasgow, Leeds and Sheffield. Leicester Super nominated Arthur Jervis. Preston chose Ginger Lees.

Belle Vue - Track Competition

Eric Langton v. Max Grosskreutz

Wednesday 27/05/1931

Langton 2-0

Grosskreutz had engine failure in both races.

Arthur Franklyn v. Bob Harrison

Saturday 30/05/1931

1 Franklyn 85.6

2 Franklyn 85.0

Walter Hull v. Chun Moore

Saturday 06/06/1931

1 Moore 87.6

2 Moore 86.6

Hull's chain broke when he was leading race 2.

Reg West v. Len Woods

Wednesday 10/06/1931

Woods 2-0

Arthur Franklyn v. Len Woods

Wednesday 17/06/1931

Franklyn 2-0

Eric Langton v. Chun Moore

Wednesday 17/06/1931

Langton 2-0

Belle Vue Challenge Final

Eric Langton v. Arthur Franklyn

Wednesday 01/07/1931

Langton 2-0

Belle Vue Final (Varey seeded)

Eric Langton v. Frank Varey

Wednesday 15/07/1931

1 Langton (Varey E) 87.8

2 Langton 87.0

Glasgow - Track Competition

Many thanks to Jim Henry for the details from his book "Glasgow's Speedways The Pre-War Years".

Round 1 Andy Nicholl drew a bye

Drew McQueen v. Norrie Isbister

Tuesday 23/06/1931

1 McQueen (Isbister F)	87.3
2 McQueen	90.7

Isbister took a heavy fall and was shaken in the first race.

Alfie Williams v. George McKenzie

1 Williams	97.9
2 Williams	88.4

Round 2 Drew McQueen drew a bye to the Final.

Andy Nicholl v. Alfie Williams

1 Nicholl	86.4
2 Nicholl	89.5

Glasgow Final

Drew McQueen v. Andy Nicholl

1 McQueen	87.5
2 McQueen (Nicholl F)	119.3

Leeds - Track Competition

Roy Barrowclough v. Frank Charles

Saturday 27/06/1931

1 Barrowclough	
2 Charles	

The decider was held over to the following week.

Saturday 04/07/1931

3 Barrowclough	
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Sheffield - Track Competition

Eric Gregory v. Dusty Haigh

Thursday 16/07/1931

1 Gregory (Haigh FIL)	
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Heats 2 and 3 were not run as Haigh had slight concussion. Gregory (Wombwell) stood in for Arthur Moore who was attached to Sheffield. The match race was advertised as a World's Championship Event but the riders were not named in the Ad.

Haigh went through to meet Eric Langton

**Further information needed -
Can anyone help ?**

NORTHERN ELIMINATORS Round 1
Byes to Dusty Haigh and Ginger Lees

Leeds

Roy Barrowclough v. Drew McQueen

Saturday 11/07/1931
Barrowclough 2-0

Leeds

Tuesday 04/08/1931
1 Barrowclough 84.7
2 Barrowclough

Belle Vue

Eric Langton v. Arthur Jervis

Wednesday 22/07/1931
1 Langton
2 Langton (Jervis F)

Best time 82 secs

Was the second leg of this contest held? Please contact the Website if you can add anything.

NORTHERN ELIMINATORS Round 2

Belle Vue

Eric Langton v. Dusty Haigh

Wednesday 16/09/1931
1 Langton 81.6
2 Langton 83.2
3 Langton 83.2

Sheffield

Thursday 17/09/1931
4 Langton 86.8

Best of 6 races over the 2 legs to count

Langton had not lost a single race in the competition so far.

Ginger Lees v. Roy Barrowclough

Was this contest held? We would like to hear from anyone with any information.

NORTHERN FINAL

Belle Vue

Eric Langton v. Ginger Lees

Saturday 19/09/1931
1 Langton 81.4
2 Langton 81.2
3 Langton 81.8

Preston

Thursday 24/09/1931
1 Lees (Langton EIL). 79.8
2 Langton 79.8

Langton's engine blew when he was leading on the last bend in heat 1.

Langton required only one win because the contest was best of six and he had already won three at Belle Vue.

SOUTHERN SECTION

SOUTHERN ELIMINATORS Round 1

West Ham

Squib Burton v. Tommy Croombs

Tuesday 14/07/1931
1 Croombs 85.2
2 Croombs 85.4

Wet Track

Lea Bridge

Saturday 18/07/1931
RR 1 Croombs (Burton F) 87.2
2 Croombs (Burton F) 85.6

Burton fell first time out in heat 1 and again in the rerun.
Croombs had a new Blackburne engine.

Southampton

Jack Parker v. Frank Arthur

Wednesday 26/08/1931

1 Parker	71.6
2 Parker (Arthur F)	73.2

Frank Arthur replaced Dick Case who was injured.
Record previously joint J Parker & Colin Watson 72.0

Stamford Bridge

Saturday 29/08/1931

1 Arthur	77.2=
2 Arthur	78.0

Arthur equalled the track record held by Wal Phillips.
Jack Parker won the toss to choose the venue of the decider.

Southampton

Wednesday 09/09/1931

1 Parker	72.8
2 Parker	72.6

Parker was suffering from tonsillitis following 'flu.

SOUTHERN FINAL

West Ham

Jack Parker v. Tommy Croombs

Tuesday 15/09/1931

1 Croombs	83.8
2 Parker	83.8
3 Parker (Croombs F)	83.2=

Southampton

Wednesday 16/09/1931

1 Parker	73.4
2 Parker	73.4

NATIONAL CHALLENGE FINAL

Belle Vue

Jack Parker v. Eric Langton

Saturday	26/09/1931		
	1 Parker	(Langton EIL)	82.8
	2 Parker		80.6

Langton was riding his reserve machine.

Southampton

Wednesday	30/09/1931		
	1 Parker	(Langton E)	75.2
	2 Parker		73.8

The event by this time was known as The British Open Championship.

BRITISH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP 1931

Southampton

Vic Huxley (Holder) v. Jack Parker

Wednesday	07/10/1931		
	1 Parker		73.2
	2 Huxley	(Parker F)	n/k
	3 Parker	(Huxley E)	73.0

Wimbledon

Monday	12/10/1931		
	1 Huxley	(Parker F)	70.4
	2 Dead Heat		71.2
	3 Huxley		71.0

All 3 races were under the previous record 72.0 held by Huxley, Colin Watson, Eric Langton and Jim Kempster. Fog could have spoiled this contest but the riders put on an amazing show with the closest possible racing at record speed. One of the classics. Conditions became so bad after the match races that the rest of the meeting was called off.

Wimbledon

Monday	19/10/1931		
	1 Parker		71.0
	2 Parker	(Huxley F)	71.6

Attendance 30,000.

Holder at the end of the 1931 season - Jack Parker