

The Speedway Researcher

Promoting Research into the History of Speedway and Dirt Track Racing

Volume No.7 No.4 March 2005
Edited by Graham Fraser and Jim Henry

End of Volume Seven

Another Volume ends and we have to admit it has been a bit more of a struggle to complete the course as we do want to edit rather than write. However, we are encouraged by the strong core supporters we have and feel that it is worth going on and assure you we will keep the quality to its usual standard. As editors we have built up a network of friends who we know will help when asked and it is great to be able to blether away to fellow historians on the phone on the most detailed of aspects of common interest. The subscription will remain at £4.00 as neither of us need the money (a big lottery win would be nice) other than to make sure the magazine washes its face financially. Thanks for your support and goanny gee us a few articles eh? **Graham and Jim**

A Scottish “Rebel” League

The Speedway Gazette of 1st April 1950 carried an item under Sandy McGregor’s Round Up about a “rebel” league in Scotland. Going by the date it may have been a hoax item but there had been a number of proposals for tracks which never materialised in places such as Perth, Dundee, Falkirk, and Aberdeen, to name but a few. There is a reference to a company – Speedway League Association (Scotland) Ltd., and I wonder how I might be able to see any records for this company to see if I could add to the story was a hoax or not. Any suggestions how I might go about it? **Jim Henry**

Irish Speedway

Barry Stevenson from Workington has kindly given us a list of known meetings in Ireland in the post war era and we continue with

the details from Barry’s records. If you can fill in any gaps or provide heat details of the meetings – pass them on to me. Any information on pre-war activity would also be welcome.

Chapelizod 1950 19.08. Lizods v Liverpool; 26.08. v Leicester.
Santry 1950 2.06. v Shelbourne; 9.06. v Belfast; 16.06. Individual meeting; 30.06. v Glasgow Select; 14.07. v Belle Vue.
Chapelizod 1951 28.03 Easter Cup; 4.04. Williams’ Team v Waterman’s Team; 11.04. v Bristol; 18.04 v Bradford (Odsal); 25.04 v Southampton; 2.05 v Wembley; 9.05 v Kitchen’s Team; 14.05 Whitsun Cup; 23.05. v Walthamstow; 30.05. v Edinburgh; 6.06. v Lanarkshire (Motherwell); 13.06 v Halifax; 20.06 v Abner’s (Bruce Abernethy) Select; 27.06. Alliance Cup; 4.07. v Swindon; 11.07. Young England v Young Ireland; 18.07. v Coventry; 27.07 v Halifax Juniors; 3.08. v Midland Six; 6.08. Best Pairs (Rained Off); 10.8. v Speedway World Team; 17.08 v Halifax Juniors; 24.08. Dublin Riders’ Championship; 31.08 v Shelbourne; 7.09. v Ainsdale (Liverpool Training Track); 14.09. v Kanagroos; plus meetings on 21.09. 28.09 & 5.10 – no details.
Shelbourne 1951 29.04. Parker’s Team v Nicholaides Team; 6.05 v Liverpool; 13.05 v London; 20.05 America v Norway; 27.05 v Leicester; 3.06 v Halifax; 10.06 v Newcastle; 17.06. v Coventry; 24.06. v Walthamstow; 1.07. America v New Zealand; 8.07 v Wimbledon; 15.07 v Belle Vue; 22.07 America v Scotland; 29.07 v West Ham; 5.08. v Bristol; 12.08. v Harringay; 19.08 v New Cross; 26.08 v Chapelizod; 2.09. Irish Open Qualifying Round; 9.09. England C v America; 16.09. v Wimbledon; 23.09. v Irish Open Qualifying Round; 30.09. v Birmingham; 7.10. Irish Open Championship; 14.10. Irish Novices v English Novices; 21.10. v Coventry.
Shelbourne 1952 25.05. v Leicester; 1.06. v Bristol; 8.06. v Edinburgh; 15.06. v Belle Vue; 22.06 v Coventry; 29.06 v West Ham; 6.07. v Glasgow White City; 13.07. v Bristol; 20.07 v Belle Vue; 27.07. Best pairs; 3.08. Britain v Overseas; 10.08. v Norwich; Meetings on 17.08., 24.08., 31.08., 7.09., 14.09., 21.09., 28.09., no details. 5.10. Irish Open Championship.
Chapelizod 1952 23.05. v Liverpool.
Shelbourne 1953 26.07. New Zealand v England.
Chapelizod 1954 25.04 v Belle Vue; 9.05. v Bradford (Odsal); 23.05. v Wigan; 6.06. v Liverpool (Rained Off); 20.06. v Liverpool.

Shelbourne 1954 13.06. v West Ham; 4.07. v Wembley.
Shelbourne 1961 2.07. v Sheffield; 9.07. v Stoke; 16.07 v
Wolverhampton; 23.07 v ? plus any others before 27.08 v Belle Vue.
Dunmore (Belfast) 1968 3.06. Individual; 10.06. v All Stars; 15.06. v
All Stars.
Drogheda 1968 2.06 Individual; 9.06. Individual.
Santry 1968 28.04. Individual.
Shelbourne 1970 5.7. v Swindon Second Team; 19.07. v Rye House;
2.08. v Workington; 16.08. v Sheffield B; 30.08. v Northern Select;
13.09. v Berwick; 27.09. v Northumberland.
Shelbourne 1971 23.05. v North Eastern Select; 30.05. v Yorkshire
Select; 6.06. v Young Colonials; 13.06. Irish Riders' Championship;
20.06. v Monarchs.
Lisburn 1971 28.05. Shelbourne v Yorkshire Select; 11.06. Lambeg
Trophy.

Jim Henry

Roll of Honour

The name Robert Stocker is missing from the Roll. According to the Speedway Gazette of 29 July 1950 Robert from Catford in London was killed during practice run at Rye House. Can anyone provide details of the date of the accident? Another name picked up from the Speedway Gazette (8th August 1953) is Jean Berthelet, a Frenchman, who is reported to have been killed on a cinder track in Geneva, Switzerland probably sometime before the war. Can anyone add to this one too?

Speedway Mystery Solved!

Roger Beaman, sent in the following amusing item from the Birmingham Gazette of 8 June 1946. "The Mystery of the two missing speedway riders, Bob Lovell and Roy Dell (Stan Dell or Roy Dook ?), both stars of the Birmingham team, who failed to arrive to ride in an important Northern Trophy match at Sheffield on Thursday has been solved.

They set out by car from Glasgow,(where they had been riding the previous evening) with their racing motorcycles on a trailer. On a deserted stretch of road, miles from a garage or a telephone, a wheel of the trailer fell off.

Despite all their efforts the speedway men were unable to carry out repairs, and could not reach the track. They arrived in Birmingham yesterday afternoon and will be riding today.

An official of the Birmingham speedway told the Birmingham Gazette last night: "it was a great disappointment to us, even with two reserves in we were still a man short, through injuries, and the defeat cost us 25 vital points, which in turn may cost us the Northern Championship.""
Roger adds it would not happen today what with all the mobiles phones – or could it?

(This really brings it home the problems riders had in the pre motorway and Transit van era when trips of any distance took ages.)

For the record it was Stan Dell and Roy Dook who were racing at Glasgow. How Bob Lovell is mentioned is not known unless he was just along for the run.

Coronation Cup 1953

Blame the operator not the PC!!! The Table should have included Bristol in second bottom place as follows Raced 16 Won 7 Drew 0
Lost 9 Points For 636 Points Against 699 League Points 14.

Incidentally **Keith Farman** shows Belle Vue v New Cross as 46 – 38 for Belle Vue and the New Cross record as Raced 16 Won 9 Drew 2 Lost 2 Points For 718.5 Points Against 622.5 League Points 20.

Jim Henry

Short Lived Tracks

Barry Stevenson has kindly given us access to his records of meetings 1928 to date. We will dip into it to abstract information on short lived tracks. The first one we look at is Audenshaw, a venue in the Manchester area, in 1928. Meetings were staged on 3.3 – Audenshaw Cup; 28.4 – Scratch Races; 5.5 – Scratch Races; 12.5 (afternoon) Grade A event; 12.5. (evening) – Audenshaw Cup; 19.5. – Scratch Races; 25.5. – Scratch Races. We will cover a few more it Volume 8. If you want to check fixtures for any track give Jim a call as he should be able to help you thanks to Barry advising that he is happy for his information being used to help researchers interested in particular venues.

Editors

A Bit More About Nelson

Vic Butcher has added to his information about Nelson 1967 as follows. As always, immediately after you write something, a bit more information comes to light. I recently acquired a copy of the programme for the Cavalcade meeting on 29th July, As previously suggested the solo events were for scramblers with six riders to a race. Despite being quoted as looking for speedway equipment, the only rider I recognise is Jack Winstanley who also appeared in the speedcars. The speedcars do in fact have more speedway connections as, among the six cars programmed, in addition to Winstanley, the names of Art Crane, Ken Vale and Brian Oliver appear. The programme also included the Cyclomaniacs Stunt team. Interestingly, although the first speedway meeting took place the following week, a licence to run speedway had not been granted when the programme notes were being compiled.

Unofficial Overall British Match Race Champion

Bill Lamb from Balerno, a suburb of Edinburgh which is next to the delightfully named place called Currie, sends us his thoughts on the above. Regarding the article on the British Match Race Championship which demonstrates Jack Parker's dominance, it is worth noting that in 1951 Jack Parker met Jack Young when they were Match race Champions of their respective Divisions (Mr Parker – Division One and Mr Young Division Two) at Birmingham's Perry Barr track which was deemed to be a neutral venue. [It could be argued that Jack Parker had a slight home advantage as he probably had ridden regularly at Birmingham since the Brummies were elevated to the top Division which was probably much more often than Jack Young had raced there.] The outcome of the contest between the two Jacks was a 2 – 0 win for the Edinburgh Aussie and it could be argued that Jack Young therefore became the unofficial overall British Match Race Champion thus eclipsing Jack Parker's apparent invincibility. [To his credit, Bill, an Edinburgh fan through and through, points out that very soon after Jack lost his Second Division Match Race crown to Glasgow Tigers' Tommy Miller and

that might give Tommy, the last ever holder of the Silver Helmet, the supreme title.]

Yarmouth Speedway

We continue with **Keith Farman's** history of The Bloater Pond.
1952

Once again the season got off to a bad start for the Bloaters. After wrangling loud and long Billy Bales, expected to be the start of their side, finally rode for Norwich. Billy did ride in the team's first meeting of the season, a challenge match at Ipswich, but this was to be his last appearance for the Bloaters. By the way he acquitted himself in Division One circles it was obvious he would have been a godsend to Yarmouth and rocketed them many places up the League table. But they ended fourth from bottom out of twelve teams. The season's first League matches were in Scotland and without Bales they then received the news that Bob Baker had been taken ill. He was replaced at Glasgow White City by a junior, Jimmy Steward (a Geordie on Glasgow Tiger's books.) Vic Ridgeon, who had shown a lot of promise in the previous season, crashed and broke a collar bone in this match and Tip Mills was also taken to hospital. Tip attempted to ride in the next match at Motherwell, but he only took two rides. The team for this match included two Scottish Juniors, Niven McCreadie and Jack "Red" Monteith, who replaced Baker and Ridgeon.

Baker was back for the away matches at Cradley and Stoke, both defeats, and then came the first home match against Edinburgh and a 35 – 49 defeat. The team finally won its first match, which was against Oxford at home, by 52 – 32 and they suffered just one other home defeat, against Leicester. It was the same story as last season, Yarmouth were an acceptable team at Caister Road, but were the reverse away. It was Brand and Baker scoring well and the rest of the team struggling for a few points. Terry Courtneil started to back them up and became the third heat leader.

The highlight from the fans' point of view, was the tiny (4foot 9inches) Johnny Chamberlain. Manager Wedon had suggested that "he would be the new Billy Bales." Johnny was even smaller than Billy and he certainly seemed very frail. It was obvious that he had the nerve to be a racer, but the points, at first did not come. He took

crash after crash and then a smaller bike was made for him and it was then the big scores started to come.

Not only did Johnny click with the fans but he forged a friendship with Terry Courtnell off the track. Wedon paired the two kids together and how the crowd took to them. As they learnt the art of racing, they were the most exciting pairing the Bloaters ever had. Johnny hugging the line and Terry bouncing off the fence, no race was over until the chequered flag. They would often be well ahead for a 5 – 1 and one would fall or have machine trouble. It was said that the racing was poor at Yarmouth in 1952 but that was certainly not the case when these two were racing.

It is interesting that of the eight riders who rode in the first match at Ipswich, only Fred Brand, Baker, Courtnell and Ridgeon rode in the last match against Poole. Bales of course rode for Norwich for the rest of 1952 and the very popular Tip Mills retired due to injuries sustained at Oxford. Reg Morgan, who lost form during the season, was dropped from the team and he asked to be put on the transfer list. It was hinted that Reg would ride for Ipswich in 1953. Stan Page was also on the transfer list priced at £200.

Wedon had, it seemed from his programme notes, become fed up with certain riders not scoring on away tracks and both Morgan and Page were averaging over seven at home but away it was a very different matter. Morgan was averaging just over two points while Page was under two points.

New blood had to be found and several names were mentioned including Len Read and Wilf Jay. However Wedon did not manage to sign them, then his luck changed when Coventry came to Yarmouth with the out of form Reg Reeves failing to score in his two reserve rides. Reg had always done well at Yarmouth in his days with Walthamstow . Wedon recognised this fact and agreed a deal with his parent club, West Ham. The gamble paid off magnificently as by the end of the season Reg was back to his old form, so much so that he even scored a maximum in the win over Ashfield.

Apart from Reeves, Roy Bowers came on loan from Harringay and took the place of George Flower who had had a row with Wedon and retired. Bowers, who had a neat riding style, was scoring well by the end of the season. Peter Harris, who rode at Wolverhampton as “Gundy” Harris, was another new rider and he too improved during the season.

There can be no two ways about it, if Entertainment Tax hadn't been greatly eased for the 1952 season, Yarmouth would have been finished as a speedway team. Ernie Wedon had made it clear that crowds of 7,000 were needed to keep the sport alive in the town. Later he dropped that figure to 6,000 as the supporters had rallied round to help with most of the jobs. However the crowds were down, so badly that they seldom reached figures far removed from the danger limit. Yarmouth's cause wasn't helped by opposing teams who arrived for a battle with the Bloaters, convinced that they hadn't a chance of winning. This influenced their approach to the meeting and, as a result, Yarmouth scored a number of runaway home wins. Apparently it was the shape of the track, the egg-shaped circuit was identified as the scapegoat. Alive to the probability of a further decline in crowds and a possible closedown if things continued that way, Wedon took action at the end of the season. Wedon supervised a complete alteration of the track shape to make it easier for the visitors and thus enable them to race in more convincing way. The alterations brought the track length to 325 yards for the remaining seasons but Wedon retained the cinder surface.

1953

It was a fine season for Yarmouth in 1953. After two seasons in the Second Division they at last beat their away bogey by winning away. All in all they staged some fine meetings on away tracks. They became serious challengers to Coventry and Poole for the League title. They did all this yet they only won three matches away from home. Proof enough that League titles can almost be won at home! In the home matches Yarmouth lost just once in the League, in the second match to their bogey team, Edinburgh. Whereas Coventry lost two at home and Poole were undefeated at home. Yarmouth lost a second home match to Stoke but this was a National Trophy fixture and it was after they had won at Stoke in the League.

The Yarmouth season started with two challenge matches, both away and against Southern League opponents, Southampton and Ipswich and both were lost. Bob Baker was missing from the line up with a poisoned finger and George McPherson, a new Australian was given a chance. He failed to score at Southampton, but on the larger Ipswich track he scored two points.

The first League match was at Leicester and the team, with Baker back, lost 53 – 31. The next night the team performed the difficult

feat of winning at Stoke and they also won their next away match, this time at Wolverhampton. From not winning an away meeting in two seasons in the Second Division, they had opened the season with two and the first had brought the riders a champagne supper from the management.

Undoubtedly the Bloaters packed plenty of power in their combine but after the early season away wins they could only add another away win at Wolverhampton. Apart from that they gave Coventry a scare, eventually losing 38 – 46 in April, they came within two points of victory at Leicester (41 – 43) and six points at White City in Glasgow (39 – 45) in June and held Edinburgh to six points (39 – 45) in Scotland in September.

This was absolutely the best side that Yarmouth had in the Second Division and, as they were higher in the League, it was conceivably even better than the super Division Three side of 1949. Brand, Chamberlain, Reeves and Baker were heat leaders in their own rights. Brand and Chamberlain were both included in Stenner's top ten ranking for the Second Division. Brand, Chamberlain and Reeves all featured in the Speedway Star's top six riders. The young riders in the side, Courtnell, Ronnie Genz, Roy Bowers and George White all played their part in what was an excellent side.

Despite Yarmouth greatly improved form, attendances did not keep pace with the better results. The best gate was when Coventry were at Caister Road in August Week, when there was an attendance of 8,460. There were two gates of over 6,000, but apart from the Coventry match only twice did the attendance top 7,000. These were for the World Championship Qualifier and the Norfolk Shield match against near neighbours Norwich.

Yarmouth were handicapped for half the season by the absence of Chamberlain who broke a leg in the Queen's Cup fixture at Poole (Anyone with details of this competition? Editors) in June. I am sure that if Chamberlain had not been injured the crowds would have increased. Johnny, like Billy Bales before him, was extremely spectacular to watch and, at the time of his injury, was starting to out-score Fred Brand. If Johnny had kept this scoring up, and there was no reason to suspect that he would not, I believe that the Bloaters would have won the League.

With Chamberlain injured, Reeves, who was riding well with Baker, was made heat leader and Genz was then moved from reserve to

partner Baker. This change worked very well. With Chamberlain and the improved form of Genz, it would be fair to say that the team would have been able to win a few more away matches. Chamberlain had scored nine at Coventry in the first match, and, if he had scored the same or more in the second, it would have swung the match to 44 – 40 in favour of the Bloaters. In addition the presence of Chamberlain could have won the match at Edinburgh which was lost 39 – 45.

The World Championship round had, what was conceivably the best line-up of riders for an official meeting at the track. This was the third such event staged at Yarmouth and Fred Brand proved once again that he was the master of the Caister Road track as he won the meeting with a brilliant maximum. Fred had won the round in 1951 and had lost a run-off to Cyril Roger and Bob Baker, a race staged in a rainstorm, for the top spot in 1952.

Brand was made captain and he well and truly beat the "Captain's Hoodoo." He again topped the scores and he had double points in every home meeting. Brand was ever present in the team from 1949. He was one of the very few riders who never missed a meeting due to injury in his entire career. He was such a master of the bike that he never crashed.

In the Test match, Wimbledon's Kiwi Geoff Mardon put up one of the best ever performances on the Caister Road track to score an eighteen point maximum, in his only appearance at Yarmouth. With the track struggling to attract decent crowds, the Test Match had the ridiculous situation of not including both Brand and Baker as they had to ride at West Ham the same night in a World Championship round.

1954

Yarmouth wanted to open in 1954 but after some wrangling with the Speedway Control Board the powers that be did not issue a track licence. The track closed down until 1957 and that year will be covered in the concluding section in Volume 8 No. 1.

British Match Race Championship

Keith Farman has been working to compile a record of this competition and would be grateful if you could fill any gaps i.e. Date

(D), Result (R), Venue (V). The name of the holder is the first name except where two new challengers.

1953 12.05. West Ham Jack Young 2 Fred Williams 0; 14.05. Wembley Jack Young 2 Fred Williams 0. 16.06. West Ham Jack Young 2 Split Waterman 0; 19.06. Jack Young 2 Split Waterman 0. Jack Young gave up his title and Ronnie Moore and Alan Hunt were nominated for the vacant title. 11.07. Bradford Alan Hunt 2 Ronnie Moore 0; 13.07. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Alan Hunt 0; (D,V) Ronnie Moore 2 Alan Hunt 0. 31.08. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Arthur Forrest 0; 5.09. Bradford Ronnie Moore 2 Alan Hunt 0. 26.09. Harringay Ronnie Moore 2 Jack Biggs 0. Return scheduled for Wimbledon 28.09. but Jack Biggs injured and unfit to ride.
1954 3.05. Wimbledon Ronnie 2 Jack Young 0; 4.05. West Ham Ronnie Moore 2 Jack Young 0. 14.06. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Alan Hunt 0; 26.06. Birmingham Ronnie Moore 2 Alan Hunt 0. Ronnie Moore broke his leg and had to vacate the title. Fred Williams and Arthur Forrest were nominated for the vacant title. 15.06. Wembley Fred Williams 2 Arthur Forrest 1; 24.06. Bradford Arthur Forrest 2 Fred Williams 1; 26.06. Birmingham Arthur Forrest 2 Fred Williams 0. 23.08. Wimbledon Arthur Forrest 2 Geoff Mardon 1; 1.09. Bradford Arthur Forrest 2 Geoff Mardon. 27.09. Birmingham Arthur Forrest 0 Ronnie Moore 2; 27.09. Wimbledon Arthur Forrest 0 Ronnie Moore 2.
1955 2.5. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Jack Young 0. 3.5. West Ham Ronnie Moore 2 Jack Young 0; 30.5. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 0 Barry Briggs 2. 6.6 Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Barry Briggs 1. 16.6. Ronnie Moore 2 Barry Briggs 1; 1.8. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 0 Jack Young 2 Ronnie Moore injured and Jack Young becomes new champion; ? September ? Jack Young ? Ronnie Moore ? Jack Young injured and Ronnie Moore becomes new champion.
1956 16.4. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 2 Peter Craven 1. 28.4. Ronnie Moore 2 Peter Craven 1. (D,V) Ronnie Moore 2 Peter Craven 1. *Eliminator* 3.5. Oxford Brian Crutcher 2 Ken McKinlay 1. 24.5. Wembley Ronnie Moore 2 Brian Crutcher 1. 28.5. Wimbledon Ronnie Moore 0 Brian Crutcher 2. 2.6. Bradford Ronnie Moore 0 Brian Crutcher 2. *Eliminator* (D,V) Alan Hunt ? Dick Bardley ?. 21.7. Birmingham Brian Crutcher 2 Alan Hunt 1. 26.7. Wembley Brian Crutcher 2 Alan Hunt 1. *Eliminator* 7.8. Southampton Barry Briggs 2 Ken McKinlay 1. 16.8. Wembley Brian Crutcher 2 Barry

Briggs 1. 27.8. Wimbledon Brian Crutcher 0 Barry Briggs 2. (D,V) Brian Crutcher 2 Barry Briggs 0; *Eliminator* 30.8. Oxford Peter Craven 2 Ronnie Moore 0. 13.9. Wembley Brian Crutcher 2 Peter Craven 0. (D) Belle Vue Brian Crutcher 0 Peter Craven 2. 13.10. Norwich Brian Crutcher 2 Peter Craven 0.
1957 *Eliminator* (D,V,Contestants.); 8.6. Belle Vue Peter Craven 2 Barry Briggs 0. 16.6. Wimbledon Peter Craven 0 Barry Briggs 2. 21.6. Leicester Peter Craven 2 Barry Briggs 0. *Eliminator* 4.7. Ipswich Ove Fundin 2 Brian Crutcher 1. 20.7. Belle Vue Peter Craven 2 Ove Fundin 0. 7.8. Norwich Peter Craven 1 Ove Fundin 2. 20.8. Southampton Peter Craven 2 Ove Fundin 0. *Eliminator* (D,V,Contestants.); 13.9. Swindon Peter Craven 0 Bob Roger 2. 14.9. Belle Vue Peter Craven 2 Bob Roger 0. 28.9. Norwich Peter Craven 2 Bob Roger 1.
1958 4.4 Wimbledon Peter Craven 2 Barry Briggs 0. 5.4 Belle Vue Peter Craven 2 Barry Briggs 0. *Eliminator* 24.4. Ipswich Ove Fundin 2 George White 0. 7.5 Norwich Peter Craven 0 Ove Fundin 2. 31.5. Belle Vue Peter Craven 2 Ove Fundin 0. Poole 9.6 Peter Craven 0 Ove Fundin 2. *Eliminator* (Any Information?) 3.7. Ipswich Ove Fundin 2 Peter Moore 0. 12.7. Norwich Ove Fundin 2 Peter Moore 1. *Eliminator* (Any Information?) 29.7 Southampton Ove Fundin 1 Brian Crutcher 2. Norwich Ove Fundin 2 Brian Crutcher 0. 11.8. Wimbledon Ove Fundin 0 Brian Crutcher 2.

Speedway Machines

It is always dangerous to think you have seen it all. So, when I was flicking through the pages of the Speedway Gazette, I was surprised to see an Austrian rider called Karl Killmeyer mounted on the oddest looking machine. The machine, pictured on page 7 of the edition for January 17 1953 is described as an Apfelback Speedway Special. Can anyone shed a bit more light on this machine which appears to be Austrian in origin and dates from the early 1950s? **Jim Henry**

Norman Evans an Aussie?

Colin Greenwell, the Bears fan, asks if Jim has got it wrong (so what is new?) by indicating in the A – Z of his book on Pre-War Glasgow that Norman Evans who rode for Wembley was an Aussie. Colin

suggests Norman was English and I suspect he is right. Jim assumes he is the same Norman Evans who rode for Newcastle and Glasgow Ashfield before a horror accident resulted in him packing in. **Editors**

Digger Davies

Nigel Bird has written to suggest that Ivor “Digger” Davies was given this nickname because he was a farmer at one time. (No way was Ivor an Aussie – unlike his namesake Ivor Powell who was known as Aussie Powell or Ossie Powell.) Nigel suggest that Ivor Davies was only called Digger in his time at Cradley Heath. Nigel suggests that Harry Bastable may have been the reason for Ivor acquiring his nickname.

Confusing or What?

Often when two riders have the same name there is confusion over who is who. The Speedway Gazette of 9 May 1953 has a helpful item penned by John Hyam which I feel is worth sharing with you and thank John for this useful item.

Firstly the article discusses the two men called Cliff Watson. Cliff Watson of England rode for Sheffield in the early 1930s and retired at the end of 1933. He did attempt a come back with the Tigers in 1946 scoring four points in four matches. The Australian Cliff Watson was the West Ham asset. (However the article does not tell us which Cliff Watson rode at Middlesbrough and Salford in the 1928 to 1930 era. Can anyone help clarify this point?)

There were two who sounded like Ron Clark or Clarke. The man without the “e” raced at Eastbourne in 1947 moved to Hastings and then went to Swindon from 1950 onwards. The man with the “e” was connected with Bradford for the duration of his career.

Belle Vue’s uncle Bob – Bob Harrison, who also raced for West Ham and a few others over the years, had a namesake who raced at Aldershot 1950 – 1951 before an injury ended his career.

The two called Jack White are a source of confusion for we “immediate post war” buffs. Jack D.White rode for Belle Vue, Sheffield, Coventry and Liverpool in that order before retiring at the end of 1950. The second Jack White rode for Crystal Palace, Rye

House, West Ham, New Cross, Bradford, Hull and Yarmouth and he retired at the end of 1951, apparently to go and run a pub.

For the record there were two men called Tommy Miller. The more famous of the two was the Glasgow, Motherwell, Coventry and Oxford rider while the second Tommy Miller, also a Scot came from Perth, was an good grass track rider, and rode in one second half event at Glasgow White City in 1956. **Jim Henry**

Plymouth 2004 Badges

Fred Paul from Cornwall advises us that a small number of badges were produced for the ill fated Plymouth venture for this year. So if you see a Devils badge with the year 2004, it is quite a rarity. **Editors**

Blades and Canaries

Bob Ballard from South Petherton, Somerset has written in to advise the Norwich team was known as The Stars from the start in 1937 until the sad finish in 1964. The Canaries are the football, Norwich City, team due to the yellow strip the team from Mustard City play in. Bob is also convinced that Sheffield has been The Tigers, 1950 apart when for much of the season the team was known as The Tars, from 1946 to date. Sheffield reverted to their favourite Tigers name late on in 1950.

The Blades is the nickname of Sheffield United and Sheffield Wednesday are known as The Owls. Thanks Bob, it is helpful to clarify this one as there has been a few occasions that the speedway magazines of the day referred to Norwich as the Canaries and Sheffield as the Blades. Pre-war, I have seen Sheffield called The Cutlers.

Thanks also to **Mike Kemp** for the confirmation that Norwich were The Stars since the days before the war. **Jim Henry**

Testimonial / Benefit Meetings

Thanks for the interest in this topic. Joint Editor **Graham Fraser** came up with a list of Benefit and Testimonial meetings from Nick Barber’s sale lists. I = Injury ends career. FI – fatal injury. **David**

Hartley supplied an immaculately hand written list (JH wish I could demonstrate such superb penmanship) which is incorporated into the list below while **Barry Stevenson** and **Robert Bamford** have both supplied lengthy lists which also contribute to the list below.

Benefit: Teo Teodorowicz (FI) – Swindon 13.9.1967; Ken Eyre (I) – Wolverhampton 6.9.1974 (joint with Ray Wilson); Mike Keen – Swindon 19.6.1976; Ken McKinlay – Scunthorpe 8.8.1976; Pete Jarman – Eastbourne 9.10.1977; Graeme Dawson (I) – Glasgow (Blantyre) 23.10.1977; Mike Watkin – Newcastle 27.8.1978; Alan Wilkinson (I) – Belle Vue 23.4.1979; 29.5.1992; 20.3.1998; 14.10.2001; 4.5.2003 (Rained Off) 3.8.2003; Pip Lamb – Oxford 21.10.1979 (I); Steve Clarke – Boston 4.11.1979; Steve Weatherley – Eastbourne 11.7.1980 (I) & 27.10.1985; Billy Saunders - Ipswich 7.6.1981; John Hack – Oxford 30.8.1981; Rolf Gramstad – Leicester 20.10.1981; Malcolm Simmons – Poole 28.10.1981; Michael Holding – Boston 1.11.1981; John Hack – Cradley Heath (joint with Dave Perks); Martin Hewlett (FI) – Exeter 18.10.1982 & Swindon 30.10.1982; Marcus Williams – Reading 4.10.1983; Craig Featherby (FI) – Milton Keynes 18.10.1983; Denny Pyeatt (FI) – Reading 19.3.1984; Mike Lanham – Peterborough 28.6.1985; Chris Pidcock & John Frankland – Long Eaton 25.9.1985; Joe Owen (I) – Ellesmere Port 26.12.1985 & Newcastle 13.10.1986; Malcolm Simmons – Hackney 9.8.1987 & King’s Lynn 7.11.1987; Sam Ermolenko – Wolverhampton 23.10.1989; Doug Wyer – Edinburgh 22.10.1989 (Rained Off) 8.4.1990; Brett Alderton (FI) – Milton Keynes 4.6.1991; Rolland Danno – Belle Vue 13.10.1991; Colin Cook – Exeter 28.9.1002; Per Johnson (I) – Reading 26.9.1994; Andy Hackett / Andy Meredith (I) – Oxford 7.10.1994; Andy Galvin – Arena Essex 7.4.1995; Richard Hellsen – Long Eaton 13.9.1995; Richard Green – Exeter 24.3.1997; Neil Hewitt – Lathallan (Linlithgow) 14.6.1997, 25.7.1999; Alan Garhame – Hull 24.9.1997; Neil Hewitt – Armadale 10.10.1997; Peter Carr – Armadale 20.9.1999; Lawrence Hare (I) – Newport 19.5.2002 & Exeter 20.5.2002 (Rained Off) 30.9.2002 & Ipswich 30.5.2002; David Nix (FI) – Oxford 15.10.2003; Carlos Villar (I) – Berwick 6.3.2004.

Testimonial: Eric Boocock – Halifax 14.7.1974; Ray Wilson – Wolverhampton 6.9.1974 (joint with Ken Eyre); Norman Storer – Leicester 22.10.1974; Soren Sjosten – Belle Vue 13.4.1975; Terry Betts – Kings Lynn 14.5.1975; Nigel Boocock – Coventry 22.6.1975;

Bob Paulsen – Sheffield 10.8.1975; Arnold Haley – Sheffield 4.7.1976; Pete Reading – Middlesbrough 8.9.1977; Willie Templeton – Berwick 9.7.1978; Bobby Beaton – Hull 9.8.1978; Colin Gooddy – Eastbourne 8.10.1978; Ian Turner – Kings Lynn 19.5.1979; Bernie Leigh – Reading 12.8.1979; John Louis – Ipswich 19.8.1979; Martin Ashby – Swindon 23.9.1979; Brian Clark – Peterborough 5.10.1979; Barry Thomas – Hackney 4.11.1979; Tony Davey – Ipswich 10.8.1980; Peter Collins – Belle Vue 17.8.1980; Bob Kilby – Swindon 31.8.1980; Doug Wyer – Sheffield 22.9.1980; Barney Kennett – Canterbury 4.10.1980; Gordon Kennett – Eastbourne 19.10.1980; Hughie Saunders – Rye House 26.10.1980; Reg Wilson – Sheffield 28.9.1981; Trevor Geer – Eastbourne 18.10.1981; Dave Perks – Cradley Heath 26.6.1982 (joint with John Hack); Tom Owen – Newcastle 12.7.1982; Ian Cartwright – Halifax 18.7.1982; Chris Morton 8.8.1982; Laurie Etheridge – Crayford 14.9.1982; Mike Lanham – Ipswich 19.9.1982; David Gagen – Boston 10.10.1982; Graham Jones (not Johnah) – Berwick 30.10.1982 (Rained Off) 31.10.1982; George Hunter – Edinburgh 10.6.1983; Joe Owen – Newcastle 18.7.1983; Bob Coles – Exeter 26.9.1983; Phil Crump – Swindon 2.10.1983; Ole Olsen – Coventry 30.10.1983; Roger Johns – Wimbledon 14.6.1984; Robert Hollingworth – Boston 9.9.1984 Neil Middleditch – Poole 19.9.1984; Kelvin Mullarkey – Rye House 4.8.1985; Robert Henry 18.8.1985; Jim Beaton – Glasgow 11.10.1985; Steve Wilcock – Middlesbrough 27.10.1985; Richard Hellsen – Kings Lynn 2.11.1985; Alan Sage – Arena Essex 3.11.1985; Bob Garrad – Rye House 5.10.1986; Dave Trownson – Edinburgh 26.10.1986; Alan Grahame – Cradley Heath 26.7.1987; Rob Grant (Snr) – Berwick 4.10.1987; Tommy Knudsen – Coventry 10.4.1988; Steve Lawson – Glasgow – 20.5.1988; Erik Gundersen - Cradley Heath 8.6.1988; Jan Andersson – Reading 4.7.1988; Keith Pritchard – Eastbourne 16.10.1988; Ian Barney – Peterborough 23.9.1988 (Rain Off) 21.10.1988; Geoff Pusey – Middlesbrough 23.10.1988; Steve McDermott – Berwick 23.9.1988 (Rained Off) 16.4.1989; Shawn Moran – Belle Vue 28.5.1989; Andy Hines – Milton Keynes 19.9.1989; Barry Thomas – Hackney 29.10.1989; Peter Ravn – Belle Vue 27.5.1990; Geoff (Big Leggy) Powell – Glasgow 18.7.1990; Martin McKinna – Glasgow 14.7.1991; Jeremy Doncaster – Reading 5.8.1991; Simon Cross – Cradley Heath 18.8.1991; Brett Saunders – Edinburgh 27.9.1991; Rick Miller –

Coventry 12.4.1992; Jan O Pedersen – Cradley Heath 26.4.1992; David Mullett – Reading 21.9.1992; Michael Coles – Edinburgh 2.10.1992 (Rained Off) 11.10.1992; John Jorgensen – Coventry 8.4.1993; Alan Mogeridge – Arena Essex 11.5.1993; Martin Goodwin – Rye House 4.7.1993; David Smart – Swindon 5.9.1993; Nigel Crabtree – Glasgow 12.9.1993; Sam Ermolenko – Wolverhampton 31.7.1994 (Rained Off) 4.8.1994; Tony Olsson – Reading 23.7.1995; Steve Schofield – Poole 30.7.1995; Les Collins – Edinburgh 27.9.1995; Eric Monaghan – Peterborough 3.9.1995; Ronnie Correy – Wolverhampton 30.6.1996; Gary Havelock – Bradford 8.6.1997; Chris Louis – Ipswich 29.6.1997; Greg Hancock – Coventry 19.4.1998; Alan Rossiter – Swindon 12.7.1998 (Rained Off) 25.10.1998; David Steen – Testimonial – Reading 3.8.1998; Peter Jeffries – Exeter 28.9.1998; Wayne Carter – Isle of Wight 24.8.1999; Mark Simmonds – Exeter 20.9.1999; Ray Morton – Hull 22.9.1999; Bohumil Brhel – Kings Lynn 26.9.1999; Billy Hammil – Coventry 26.3.2000; Alan Rossiter – Poole 29.3.2000; Phil Morris – Reading 31.7.2000; Mick Powell – Workington 16.9.2000 & 7.10.2000 (Rained Off) 20.10.2000; Ben Howe – Newport 22.10.2000; James Grieves – Glasgow 29.10.2000; Troy Pratt – Arena Essex 30.3.2001; Armando Castagna – Reading 15.7.2001; Jason Lyons – Belle Vue 12.8.2001; Lars Gunnestad – Poole 29.8.2001; David Mullett (20 Years) – Reading 16.9.2001; Martin Dixon – Swindon 27.9.2001; Lars Gunnestad – Poole 29.8.2001; Colin White – Arena Essex 5.10.2001; Les Collins (Silver Jubilee) – Glasgow 7.10.2001; Steve Masters – Swindon 14.10.2001; Jesper Olsen – Newcastle 7.7.2002; Brian Andersen – Oxford 2.9.2002; David Norris – Eastbourne 1.9.2002; Neil Collins (25 Year) – Somerset 6.9.2002; Paul Bentley – Berwick 28.9.2002; Peter Karlsson – Wolverhampton 16.3.2003; Dean Barker – Eastbourne 16.3.2003; Leigh Adams – Swindon 31.7.2003; Craig Boyce – Poole 27.8.2003; Frank Smart – Newport 5.10.2003; Graeme Gordon – Somerset 10.10.2003; Michael Coles (20 Year) – Exeter 13.10.2003; Jan Staechmann (20 Year) – Stoke 21.3.2004; Tomas Topinka – Kings Lynn 21.3.2004; Richard Juul – Newcastle 28.3.2004; Joe Screen – Belle Vue 2.5.2004; Mark Burrows – Wimbledon 5.5.2004 & 23.6.2004 & 20.10.2004 (All Rained Off); Michael Max or Karlsson – Wolverhampton 23.5.2004; Stuart Robson – Coventry 11.7.2004; Scott Nicholls – Ipswich 24.7.2004;

Frede Schott – Armadale 24.9.2004; Glenn Cunningham – Somerset 24.9.2004; Scott Robson – Rye House 9.10.2004; Leigh Lanham – Arena Essex 15.10.2004 & 22.10.2004 (Both Rained Off). Non Rider – St Andrews Ambulance Association – Celtic Park 1928; Alan Middleton – Workington 11.3.1977 Carlo Biagi (Track doctor and specialist surgeon (and great guy)) – Edinburgh 5.6.1981. Farewell Meetings: Barry Briggs – Hull 27.10.1976; Ole Olsen – Coventry 30.10.1983; Ivan Mauger – Edinburgh 20.9.1985; Ivan Mauger – Belle Vue 3.11.1985; Peter Collins – Belle Vue 29.3.1987; Martin Yeates – Poole 20.10.1987; Bruce Cribb – Exeter 16.10.1989; Malcolm Holloway – Reading 11.6.1990 [Yes he did ride in 2004]; Keith White – Long Eaton 22.8.1990; Chris Morton – Belle Vue 24.3.1991; Erik Gundersen – Cradley Heath – 8.5.1991; Dave Perks – Long Eaton 2.10.1991; Hans Neilsen – Coventry 26.3.1995; Richard Knight – Kings Lynn 20.5.1995; Mick Poole – Peterborough 7.6.1996; Kenny McKinna – Armadale 24.7.1998; Simon Wigg – Oxford 28.3.1999; Geoff Powell – Workington 29.9.2001; Ronnie Correy – Wolverhampton 21.10.2001 (Rained Off) 17.3.2002; Martin Dugard – Eastbourne 31.3.2002; Jan Andersen – Armadale 19.4.2002; Todd Wiltshire (20 Year) – Oxford 15.10.2004. Edinburgh's track since 1997 is at Armadale so entries could be marked as Edinburgh if you wish. Both Marine Gardens and Old Meadowbank featured speedway in composite charity events staged separately from the main speedway meetings. Programmes were produced. Does anyone have information on any other similar events at any other track ? There will be a few more Testimonials in 2005 and we would be happy to update this list on an annual basis – any volunteers?

Feedback

Alan Bates, from Folkestone has passed on these suggested amendments / additions to the British Match Race Championship information compiled by **Keith Farman** published in the last edition. 1952 Split Waterman beat Jack Young 2 -1 at West Ham on 22nd April. (Alan adds that Jack set a new track record in the race he won and when on 26th May Ronnie Moore beat Jack Young 2 – 0 Ronnie knocked 2 seconds off the Plough Lane track record.) 1952 Jack Young won from Split waterman by default on 24th June.

1952 Jack Young beat Freddie Williams 2 – 0 on 26th August at West Ham not the other way round.

1952 at Wembley on 4th September Freddie Williams won 2 – 0 not the other way round. (Alan adds that Jack fell in his first outing and was beaten by quarter of a lap in the next.)

1952 On 10th September Jack Young beat Freddie Williams 2 – 0 at New Cross, not Harringay.

Research on The Web

A plot hatched between Boro Bears webmaster **Ron McNeil**, the man responsible for Too Small's Middlesbrough web site www.borobears.co.uk, and **Jim Henry** has seen heat details for Middlesbrough meetings 1946 to 1948 being posted on the Ron's web site. The data on the web site is not complete – a fair bit of 1946 and 1947 has yet to be pulled into electronic form from **Hugh Vass'** superb records system. However, the idea is that anyone who wants the information can access and download it. As you might expect there is a small catch. Ron and Jim invite you to look over this site and pass on any details you may have that will fill any gaps in the currently displayed information to Ron. Middlesbrough raced against Glasgow White City, Norwich, Sheffield, Newcastle, Birmingham, Bristol, Wigan, Fleetwood, and Edinburgh in 1948 League action. So if you are interested in any of these tracks in particular it is worth a look. In addition to Ron's web site another good Middlesbrough history site has been set up by **Steve Harland** which is also worth a look for fans of pre-war and early post war details.

This is a pilot exercise which has been extended to include Fleetwood 1948 – 1952, which has an A-Z of riders who rode at Highbury Avenue Sports Stadium, could be extended to other tracks and other eras so if you are interested – get in touch. Yet again there are gaps and probably a few inaccuracies but please feel free to add. Work is ongoing in doing the same for Sheffield 1945 to 1952 and will be posted on the web when completed. It should be made clear that the results do not include second half details but it would be interesting if anyone can add these details to provide a comprehensive record of the meetings staged and in the above data base.

For Newcastle fans the Diamond Geezers led by John Skinner have set up www.newcastlespeedwayhistory.co.uk which is also very good with piles of information and questions about various items on display. There are piles of good photographs of bikes and a few photographs of the lesser known riders who pulled on the black race jacket with the diamond logo or the big N of 1949. **Jim Henry**

Can You Help?

The bits missing for Middlesbrough 1948 are as follows:

Home: 28.3. v Sheffield (Type of event?) 4th Placed Men. Times; 8.4. v Birmingham 4th Placed M. Times; 29.4. v Fleetwood 4th Placed Men; 6.5. Best Pairs 4th Placed M. Times; 1.7. v Norwich Times; 8.7. v Sheffield Times; 29.7. v Norwich 4th Placed Men; 5.8. v Birmingham 4th Placed Men. Times; 16.9. v Birmingham Times; 7.10 v Sheffield Times. **Away:** 30.9. at Sheffield Times; 17.5. at Fleetwood Meeting Details; at Wombwell 18.6. Sheffield v Middlesbrough Meeting Details; 10.8. at Fleetwood 1948 4th Placed Men. Please send any details to **Jim Henry** and they will be passed on to **Ron**.

Hugh Vass, 111 Arthur View Crescent, Danderhall, Midlothian, EH22 1QS 0131 663 6974 is looking for full heat details for the following matches: **1950.** Fleetwood v Glasgow Tigers 22.7; v Sheffield 13.9. Stoke (Hanley) v Halifax 5.8; v Plymouth 19.8; v Norwich 7.10. Exeter v St Austell 2.; v Tamworth 9.6; v Rayleigh 18.8. St Austell v Aldershot 9.5. **1951.** Belle Vue v Wembley 5.9. Bristol v Norwich 10.8; v Birmingham 4.7. Fleetwood v Newcastle 9.5; v Norwich 25.7. Halifax v Norwich 20.6. Aldershot v Cardiff 18.8; v St Austell 5.9; v Exeter 26.10. Cardiff v St Austell 24.5; v Plymouth 9.6; v Long Eaton 14.7; v Exeter 2.8. Exeter v Plymouth 2.4; v Cardiff 21.5; v Long Eaton 28.5; v Aldershot 18.6; v Plymouth 2.7; v Long Eaton 16.7; v Plymouth 13.8; v St Austell 1.10. Plymouth v Exeter 5.4; v Exeter 16.8. **1952** Exeter v Cardiff 2.6. Plymouth v Exeter 11.4; v St Austell 31.7. Aldershot v Plymouth 10.5; v Ipswich 24.5; v Long Eaton 2.7; v Ipswich 12.8; v Cardiff 27.8; v Exeter 3.9. Ipswich v Cardiff 17.5; v Aldershot 5.6; v Cardiff 12.7; v Exeter 9.8. Rayleigh v Ipswich 28.6. **1953** Liverpool v Coventry 11.5.

Jim Henry is looking for details for Newcastle meetings (Barry Wallace is unable to supply) **Home 1946** 8.4. Newcastle Cup Times Heats 3 & 4; 29.4 second half; 20.5. v Birmingham Search for Talent Time Ht2; 2.9. Kangaroos v Bulldogs Reserves Race Time; 23.9. v Sheffield Novocastrians Scratch Race Hts 1- 3 Times for second placed men; 7.10. v Birmingham Byker Scratch Race Hts 1 -3 Times for second placed men; 21.10. v Bradford Au Revoir Scartch Race Hts 1-3 Times for second placed men; **1947** 6.8. Newcastle Best Pairs Northumbrian Scratch Race Ht1 – 3 Times for second placed men; 18.8. v Bristol Summer Scratch Race Ht1 – 3 Times for second placed men; 1.9. v Middlesbrough Second Half Trophy Ht1 – 3 Times for second placed men; 8.9. v Norwich Stairway to Stardom Time; 15.9 v Birmingham Autumn Scratch Race Ht1 – 3 Times for second placed men; 6.10. v Sheffield Autumn Scratch Race Ht1 – 3 Times for second placed men. **Away** at Bradford 4.5.1946 Bradford v Newcastle & Middlesbrough – Need Meeting Details; at Bristol 13.9. Modrall or Pennell ?; at Glasgow White City 1.5.1946 Need times Heats 1 – 14.

Publications

Howard Jones continues to issue his series of small scale history booklets with **The Pocket Size History of Defunct Tracks** – covering the goings on that Lancashire seaside town of **Fleetwood**. Having made an attempt to compile a complete record of the action at Highbury Avenue Sports Stadium between 1948 and 1952 plus the away activities of the Flyers 1948 and 1951, I know that pulling anything together about this track is not easy. Howard's history is not complete but it does give a tasty coverage of the team and sheds some light on some of the riders, like Norman Hargreaves, who were unsung heroes of this lightly documented speedway team. It may be slim for £5.00 but it is worth it for the Fleetwood information alone. However, there is a bonus in the shape of a reproduction of the very first programme which earned lavish praise in the contemporary speedway press. Flyers opened against Edinburgh and, because Edinburgh riders took the opportunity to practice on the afternoon of the meeting and the Fleetwood men didn't, Edinburgh won. Copies of this Pocket Size History and others still in print are available from Speed Away Promotions Ltd., 16 Poachers Trail, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 4FF Phone 01253 733288. Review by **Jim Henry**

Programme Oddities

Collectors – have a look amongst your collection and see if you have the programme for Newcastle v Edinburgh of 26th March 1951. The meeting scheduled to take place was the victim of very heavy snow and not a wheel was turned. This should have been meeting number two and the programmes for the week before and the week after are numbered No1 and No3 respectively.

I also noted a question in a recent Speedway Star asking if the Glasgow Programme was the first one to use a standard cover with a cut away section. The earliest one I know about is the Leicester Super programme for 1930 which had a small “window” cut out and the date was printed on page three. Does anyone have any information that could establish an earlier version and or let us know if the technique was used by any other tracks over the years ?

An interesting 1946 Sheffield programme has come my way suggesting that Tigers raced twice on the one day. The programme shows they raced Bradford at 3pm on 6th July and other results suggest they then rushed down to Birmingham for another fixture that night. Most fixture lists show the match v Bradford should have taken place on Thursday 4th July and the text inside the programme (and fixture list) refers to the fixture taking place on that day. The fixture list also indicates the match scheduled for 4th July. **Jim Henry**

Questionnaire

Yet again we include our renewal slip questionnaire. Yet again we would really appreciate it if you could complete it before sending it back. It is helpful to know what is of interest to you as it sometimes gives us inspiration to tackle a subject.

Deadline for the next edition is 30th April 2005

The Speedway Researcher is edited and published by :

Graham Fraser
7 B Bruce Street
Stirling, FK8 1PD
Tel: 01786 471992

Jim Henry
90 Greenend Gardens,
Edinburgh, EH17 7QH
Tel: 0131 664 7185

National Trophy 1932

First Round

Clapton 57 Plymouth 35
 Plymouth 44 Clapton 50
Clapton 107 79

Second Round

Wembley 54 Stamford Bridge 42
 Stamford Bridge 46 Wembley 45
Wembley 99 88
 Coventry 55 Clapton 41
 Clapton 50 Coventry 44
Coventry 99 91
 Belle Vue 64 West Ham 32
 West Ham 51 Belle Vue 42
Belle Vue 106 83
 Wimbledon 54 Crystal Palace 42
 Crystal Palace 51 Wimbledon 43
Wimbledon 97 90

Semi Finals

Wembley 63 Coventry 33
 Coventry 38 Wembley 56
Wembley 119 71
 Belle Vue 56 Wimbledon 37
 Wimbledon 50 Belle Vue 46
Belle Vue 102 87

Final

Wembley 66 Belle Vue 29
Belle Vue

National League Division One 1937

Away Team	Belle Vue	Hackney	Harringay	New Cross	Wembley	West Ham	Wimbledon
Home Team							
Belle Vue	xxxxxx	47 – 37	52 – 31	54 – 29	48 – 36	39 – 45	62 – 22
	xxxxxx	60 – 24	62 – 22	53 – 31	52 – 31	38 – 45	61 – 23
Hackney Wick	45 – 39	xxxxxx	46 – 37	40 – 42	38 – 46	42 – 41	53 – 31
	44 – 39	xxxxxx	43.5 - 38.5	43 – 40	34 – 49	49 – 32	54 – 29
Harringay	41 – 43	54 – 30	xxxxxx	49 – 35	46 – 36	35 – 48	47 – 32
	49 – 35	46 – 37	xxxxxx	30 – 54	43 – 41	40 – 43	42 – 41
New Cross	51 – 33	47 – 37	49.5 – 34.5	xxxxxx	49 – 35	56 – 28	48 – 35
	46 – 37	58 – 26	47 – 37	xxxxxx	42 – 41	47 – 37	55 – 28
Wembley	43 – 40	44 – 40	48 – 36	58 – 26	xxxxxx	52 – 30	56 – 28
	50 – 34	45 – 39	53 – 28	47 – 36	xxxxxx	44 – 40	55 – 28
West Ham	53 – 31	57 – 25	54 – 28	53 – 30	68 – 16	xxxxxx	47 – 37
	43 – 38	52 – 31	59 – 24	55 – 28	49 – 34	xxxxxx	65 – 19
Wimbledon	30 – 53	40 – 44	45 – 38	40 – 42	31 – 49	48 – 43	xxxxxx
	38 – 44	52 – 32	30 – 53	31 – 52	33 – 51	38 – 42	xxxxxx

Team	Raced	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points For	Points Against	League Points
West Ham	24	18	0	6	1129	859	36
Wembley	24	16	0	8	1054	943	32
New Cross	24	16	0	8	1044.5	957.5	32
Belle Vue	24	13	0	11	1094	909	26
Hackney Wick	24	10	0	14	935.5	1063.5	20
Harringay	24	9	0	15	929	1064	18
Wimbledon	24	2	0	22	799	1189	4