

BOX HILL

Our contributor, Les Drury, found evidence of dirt-track meetings being held at Box Hill in Surrey in 1933. This is a venue previously unknown to us and the information came to light when a rider called Bert Gerrish, previously of Wimbledon, Crystal Palace and Harringay, brought an unsuccessful court case against the promoter having been injured in a race at the track. The promoter was Charles Coleman, himself a former rider.

Gerrish alleged that he hit a rut whilst racing and that the circuit was not prepared properly in that there were not enough cinders and it had not been rolled sufficiently.

It is not known how many meetings were held at the venue, but it sounds like a bona fide dirt-track rather than a grass circuit, but maybe run outside the jurisdiction of the Control Board of the time, as the court described it as an 'unauthorised' and a 'non-union' track. There is mention in the article of the track being constructed at Whitsuntide, so any meetings held before 1933 is unlikely.

It does refer to a previous meeting held on August Bank Holiday 1933, which appears to be Monday 7 August.

From the newspaper report we can gain the following information.

Monday August 7, 1933

No results available.

Competitors included Bert Gerrish (riding under the assumed name of Bryan), Joe Lyons and possibly Allen Kilfoyle (Gilfoyle in the newspaper report).

August 27, 1933

Box Hill v Staines

No results available.

Competitors included: Bert Gerrish.

Also mentioned in the report was a rider who rode at the track under the assumed name of Bill Archer. A rider of the same name turns up in reports at Eastbourne in 1934.

Please contact us if you have any further information about this track.