Season 1937

Blackbird Road Greyhound Stadium

(File Updated 15th March 2024)

An ambitious scheme for the promoting of speedway league racing in Leicester next year at the stadium track off Blackbird Road was set on foot yesterday when the promoters of the project in company with E B Ware a prominent member of the ACU visited the track.

The object of their visit was to survey the present dirt track circuit with a view to discussing the alterations necessary to conform with the ACU regulations. The cost was estimated at £800 which rather exceeded the expenditure by the promoters Trimnell and Rumbold but heartened by the success of the venture of speedway staged on Sundays at the Melton Road track they were confident this would be equally profitable. A new set of lighting would installed and a repositioning of the safety fence a few feet back from the original one was planned to make the circuit wider.

Reported in the Leicester Evening Mail October 21, 1936

Plans for the reconstruction of the track were drawn up today and work will begin soon. Mr C H Trimnell a Coventry contractor visited the track and was taking measurements for the new course which will be constructed upon the existing circuit. H Trimnell and H A Rumbold were fronting the enterprise had made application to run league racing at the stadium in 1937. The track when completed will be larger than the previous one.

Reported in the Leicester Evening Mail October 26, 1936

A new company, Midland Speedways Limited had been formed to promote speedway at the stadium in 1937. Its Head Office was listed as 68 Spon Street, Coventry and its principal director was Mr H A Rumbold, a Coventry business man. Rumbold had been one of the prime movers in the venure of bringing the sport back to Leicester.

Work on the reconstruction of the track, which was viewed some time ago by an ACU Official will begin in the new year and be completed by early February. It was the company's plan to apply to the ACU for entrance into the Provincial League. It was thought that Wednesdays would be the race night and Joe Dallison a former rider would be in charge of the Pits.

Reported in the Leicester Evening Mail December 15, 1936

Leicester Stadium v Nottingham Challenge Match 26th March 1937

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Time
1	Hodgson	Wiseman	No third		84.0
2	Tuck	Bowler	Dykes		85.0
3	Marsland	Wiseman	No third	Hargreaves (fell)	90.0
4	Bowler	Hargreaves	Hodgson		85.0
5	Tuck	Sawdy	Dykes		86.0
6	Allott	Marsland	No third		86.0
7	Hodgson	Sawdy	Butler		86.3
8	Tuck	O'Brien	Wiseman		85.2
9	Hargreaves	Allott	No third	Marsland (exc boring)	85.0
10	Bowler	Tuck	Wiseman		82.4
11	Bowler	Dykes	Marsland		85.0
12	Hargreaves	O'Brien	Allott		83.0

Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total	Nottingham	1	2	3	4	Total
Fred Wiseman	2	2	1	1	6	Fred Strecker					
Eric Blain						Frank Hodgson	3	1	3		7
Harry Bowler	2	3	3	3	11	George Dykes	1	1		2	4
Alf Markham						Fred Tuck	3	3	3	2	11
Jack Hargreaves	F	2*	3	3	8+1	Tommy Allott		3	2	1	6
Alf Sawdy		2	2		4	Sam Marsland	3	2	Χ	1	6
Eric Butler			1		1+1	George O'Brien			2	2	4
					30						38

STADIUM SCRATCH RACE EVENT

Qualifying Heats

Heat 1: George O'Brien, Paddy Mills 82.8

Heat 2: Jack Hargreaves, Frank Hodgson, Fred Tuck 82.0

Heat 3: Sam Marsland 92.4 Heat 4: Harry Bowler 83.8

Final: Jack Hargreaves (only finisher) 82.4

AYLESTONE SCRATCH RACE EVENT

Heat Winners: George O'Brien 82.8 Jack Hargreaves 80.2, Sam Marsland 83.0 Harry Bowler 83.0

Final: Jack Hargreaves, Harry Bowler, George O'Brien, Sam Marsland 83.6

Source: Leicester Mercury and Nottingham Guardian

Nottingham v Leicester Stadium Challenge Match 30th March

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth
1	Strecker	Hodgson	Sawdy	Hart
2	Dykes	Hargreaves	Bowler	Tuck
3	Price	Allott	Marsland	
4	Tuck	Dykes	Sawdy	Hart
5	Hargreaves	Bowler	Marsland	Allott
6	Price	Strecker	Hodgson	
7	Allott	Sawdy	Butler (rep Hart x 2min)	Marsland (f)
8	Hargreaves	Hyland	Bowler	Hodgson
9	Dykes	Price	Tuck	
10	Marsland	Hodgson	Bowler	Sawdy
11	Hargreaves	Tuck	Allott	Butler (fell)
12	Dykes	Price	Hyland	Hart

Nottingham	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
Fred Strecker	3	2			5	Oliver Hart (G)	0	0	Χ	0	0
Frank Hodgson	2*	1*	0	2*	5+3	Alf Sawdy	1	1	2	0	4
George Dykes	3	2*	3	3	11+1	Jack Hargreaves	2	3	3	3	11
Fred Tuck	0	3	1	2	6	Harry Bowler	1*	2*	1	1	5+2
Tommy Allott	2	3	0	1*	6+1	Tommy Price (G)	3	3	2	2	10
Sam Marsland	1*	1	F	3	5+1	Alf Markham					
Jack Hyland			2	1	3	Eric Butler			1*	F	1+1
					41						31

Source: Leicester Mercury and Nottingham Guardian

Leicester Stadium v The Rest Challenge Match 15th April 1937

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Time
1	Dell	Bowler	Bowden	Plant	82.3
2	Hart	O'Brien	Statham		81.0
3	Challis	Harvey	Lowther		90.6
4	Hart	Bowler	Wiseman		82.4
5	O'Brien	Bowden	Trimnall		80.3
6	Statham	Lowther	Blain		87.0
7	Plant	Bowler	Harvey		82.8
8	Statham	O'Brien	Desmond		83.0
9	Bowden	Dell	Butler		82.2
10	Plant	Statham	No third	Bowler	84.0
11	O'Brien	Challis	Trimnall		83.0
12	Dell	Farndon	Butler		90.0
13	Desmond	Harvey	Butler	Wiseman	88.0
14	Bowden	Plant	Challis		82.4

Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total	The Rest	1	2	3	4	Total
Harry Bowler ©	2	2	2*	0	6+1	Stan Dell	3		2*	3	8+1
Wilf Plant	0	3	3	2	8	Les Bowden	1	2	3	3	9
George O'Brien	2	3	2	3	10	Phil Hart	3	3			6
Norman Trimnall		1	1		2	Alec Statham	1	3	3	2	9
Will Lowther	1	2			3	Charlie Challis	3		2	1	6
Eric Blain		1*			1+1	Keith Harvey	2*		1	2*	5+2
Fred Wiseman	1*			0	1+1	Bill Desmond			1	3	4
Eric Butler		1	1	1	3						
Syd Farndon	2				2						
					36						47

RESERVE RACE EVENT

Heat 1: Lal Fulham, Ray Robinson, Don Campbell

Heat 2: Mick Bowen, Ralph Westwood, Fred Wiseman (ns)

Final: Mick Bowden, Lal Fulham, Ralph Westwood, Don Campbell (ret) 91.6

CAPTAIN'S MATCH RACE EVENT

Stan Dell beat Harry Bowler (fell)

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail

Leicester Stadium Stadium Trophy 22nd April 1937

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Time
1	O'Brien	Bowler	Plant		81.0
2	Hargreaves	Tidbury	Bowden		80.0
3	De la Porte	Challis	Henderson		86.3
4	Statham	Butler	Fulham		86.2
5	Bowler	Syd Farndon	No third	O'Brien (fx) Tidbury (ns)	86.2
6	Hargreaves	De la Porte	Fulham		80.0
7	Bowden	Trimnall	Butler		83.2
8	Statham	Sawdy	Lowther		87.6
9	Hargreaves	Statham	Bowler		80.0
10	Plant	Sawdy	Syd Farndon		84.0
11	Bowden	Bowler	No third		83.0
12	De la Porte	Bowden	Lowther		86.0
13	Henderson	Wiseman	No third		86.0
14	Plant	Challis	Bowden		85.4
15	Statham	Syd Farndon	Trimnall		83.0
16	Hargreaves	Lowther	Butler		87.6
17	Bowler	Butler	No thrid		83.6
18	Statham	Bowden	Plant		80.8
19	Hargreaves	Sawdy	Trimnall		84.4
20	Mills (rep Lowther)	Challis	Syd Farndon		84.4

Riders	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Riders	1	2	3	4	5	Total
George O'Brien	3	Χ	-	-	-	3							
Harry Bowler	2	3	1	2	3	11	Cecil De la Porte	3	2	3			8
Wilf Plant	1		3	3	1	8	Charlie Challis	2			2	2	6
Norman Trimnall		2		1	1	4	Alf Sawdy		2	2		2	6
Will Lowther		1	1	2	N	4							
Jack Hargreaves	3	3	3	3	3	15	Lal Fulham	1	1				2
Les Bowden	1	3	3	2	2	11	Eric Butler	2	1		1	2	6
Jack Tidbury	2	ns	-	-	-	2	Alec Statham	3	3	2	3	3	14
Syd Farndon (res)		2	1	2	1	6	Paddy Mills (res)	3					3

Notes: (i) George O'Brien collided with Jack Tidbury in Heat 5. O'Brien broke a thigh and was replaced by Syd Farndon for remainder of his heats. Tidbury suffered facial injuries. (ii) Queries regarding Fred Wiseman and Bob Henderson

Nottingham v Leicester Stadium Provincial League 27th April 1937

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth
1	Tuck	Dykes	Trimnall	Bowler (fell)
2	Allott	Marsland	Mills	Plant (fell)
3	Langton	Sawdy	Farndon	Hodgson
4	Dykes	Hemingway	Plant	Wiseman
5	Marsland	Allott	Bowler	Trimnall
6	Langton	Hodgson	Mills	Plant
7	Dykes	Tuck	Farndon	Sawdy
8	Allott	Stanley	Mills	Houghton
9	Bowler	Hodgson	Langton	Trimnall
10	Dykes	Tuck	Plant	Mills
11	Allott	Marsland	Wiseman (rep Sawdy)	Farndon
12	Stanley	Bowler	Hodgson	Wiseman
13	Marsland	Hemingway	Farndon	Houghton
14	Tuck	Langton	Wiseman (rep Trimnall)	Sawdy

Nottingham	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
George Dykes	2*	3	3	3	11+1	Harry Bowler ©	F	1	3	2	6
Fred Tuck	3	2*	2*	3	10+2	Norman Trimnall	1	0	0	N	1
Tommy Allott	3	2*	3	3	11+1	Paddy Mills	1	1	1	0	3
Sam Marsland	2*	3	2*	3	10+2	Wilf Plant	F	1	0	1	2
Frank Hodgson	0	2*	2	1	5+1	Syd Farndon	1*	1	0	1	3+1
Steve Langton	3	3	1*	2*	9+2	Alf Sawdy	2	0	N	0	2
Don Hemingway	2*	2*			4+2	Fred Wiseman	0	1	0	1	2
Bill Stanley	2*	3			5+1	Don Houghton	0	0	0		0
					65						19

Source: Leicester Mercury and Nottingham Guardian

Leicester Stadium v Birmingham Provincial League 29th April

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Time
1	Bowden	Bowler	Farndon	Harvey	81.0
2	De la Porte	Lee	Trimnall	Challis	85.4
3	Plant	English	No third	Mills (ret)	86,8
4	Bowler	Challis	Henderson		84.0
5	Lee	Bowden	Trimnall	Harvey	83.6
6	Plant	De la Porte	Mills	Challis	85.5
7	Bowler	Frandon	English		85.8
8	De la Porte	Trimnall	Appleby	Bowen	86.6
9	Harvey	Plant	Mills	Bowden (fell)	80.2
10	Bowler	De la Porte	Farndon	Challis	84.6
11	Trimnall	Appleby	No third	Lee/English (fell)	88.2
12	Bowden	Plant	Bowen		84.2
13	Lee	Appleby	No third	Henderson/English (ret)	85.2
14	Farndon	Harvey	No third	Mills (ret)	84.0

Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total	Birmingham	1	2	3	4	Total
Harry Bowler ©	2	3	3	3	11	Les Bowden	3	2	F	3	8
Syd Farndon	1*	2*	1	3	7+2	Keith Harvey	0	0	3	2	5
Danny Lee	2	3	F	3	8	Cecil De la Porte	3	2	3	2	10
Norman Trimnall	1*	1	2	3	7+1	Charlie Challis	0	2	0	0	2
Wilf Plant	3	3	2	2	10	Ted English	2	1	F	R	3
Paddy Mills	R	1	1*	R	2+1	??	0	0	0	0	0
Bob Henderson	1	R			1	??	0	0	0	0	0
Mick Bowen	0	1*			1+1	Charlie Appleby	0	1	2	2	5
					47						33

STADIUM SCRATCH RACE EVENT

Heat 1: Harry Bowler 84.2 Heat 2: Syd Farndon 87.2

Final: Harry Bowler, Syd Farndon, Archie Shelton 84.0

AYLESTONE SCRATCH RACE EVENT

Qualifying Heats

Heat 1: George O'Brien, Paddy Mills 82.4

Heat 2: Jack Hargreaves, Frank Hodgson, Fred Tuck 82.0

Heat 3: Sam Marsland 92.0 Heat 4: Harry Bowler 83.4

Final: Hargreaves, Bowler, O'Brien 82.2

COMING STARS EVENT

Final: Archie Shelton, Don Houghton, Don Campbell 85.0

CAPTAIN'S MATCH RACE

Harry Bowler bt Les Bowden 1-0 83.0

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail

Bristol v Leicester Stadium Provincial League 30th April

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth
1	Maddern	Shepherd	Bowler	Sawdy
2	Rogers	Leavis	Trimnall	Farndon (ef)
3	Dook	Stobart	Plant	Mills
4	Bain	Shepherd	Farndon	Fulham (fell)
5	Leavis	Rogers	Bowler	Sawdy
6	Dook	Stobart	Farndon	Trimnall
7	Maddern	Shepherd	Plant	Mills
8	Lewis	Leavis	Lee	Trimnall
9	Stobart	Dook	No third	Bowler/Sawdy (ret)
10	Maddern	Shepherd	Trimnall	Farndon (ef)
11	Rogers	Leavis	Plant	Mills
12	Dook	Bowler	Lewis	Fulham (fell)
13	Rogers	Lee	Bain	Plant
14	Maddern	Stobart	Sawdy	Mills (ret)

Bristol	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
Harry Shepherd	2*	2*	2*	2*	8+4	Harry Bowler ©	1	1	R	2	4
Bill Maddern	3	3	3	3	12	Alf Sawdy	0	0	R	1	1
Fred Leavis	2*	3	2*	2*	9+3	Norman Trimnall	1	0	0	1	2
Bill Rogers	3	2*	3	3	11+1	Syd Farndon	R	1	1	R	2
Roy Dook	3	3	2*	3	11+1	Wilf Plant	1	1	1	0	3
Rol Stobart	2*	2*	3	2*	9+3	Paddy Mills	0	0	0	R	0
Harold Bain	3	1			4	Lal Fulham	F	F			0
Fred Lewis	3	1			4	Danny Lee	1	2			3
					68						15

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail, Programme

Birmingham v Leicester Stadium Provincial League 5th May

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Time
1	Bowden	Bowler	English	Farndon	82.2
2	Stanley	Lee	Plant	Millett	82.6
3	Tidbury	Trimnall	Harvey	Hart	83.2
4	Bowler	Stanley	Challis	Fulham	82.6
5	Bowden	Plant	Lee	English	82.0
6	Tidbury	Trimnall	Stanley	De la Porte	82.6
7	Bowler	Challis	Farndon	Harvey	84.8
8	Plant	Millett	Challis	Bowen	84.6
9	Bowden	Tidbury	Trimnall	English	81.6
10	Stanley	Bowler	Millett	Farndon	82.4
11	Hart	Plant	Lee	Harvey	84.2
12	Bowden	Millett	Fulham	Trimnall	84.6
13	Lee	Harvey	Bowen	Challis	84.0
14	Tidbury	Hart	Farndon	English	82.4

Birmingham	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
Les Bowden	3	3	3	3	12	Harry Bowler ©	2	3	3	2	10
Ted English	1	0	0	0	1	Syd Farndon	0	1	0	1	2
Cecil De la Porte	0				0	Wilf Plant	1*	2	3	2	8+1
Bill Stanley	3	2	1	3	9	Danny Lee	2	1*	1*	3	7+2
Keith Harvey	1	0	0	2	3	Norman Trimnall	2*	2*	1*	0	5+3
Phil Hart	0	3	2		5	Jack Tidbury	3	3	2	3	11
Charlie Challis	1*	2	1*		4+2	Lal Fulham	0	1			1
Johnny Millett	0	2	1	2*	5+1	Mick Bowen	0	1			1
					39						45

Match Races

Heat 1: Les Bowden beat Colin Watson 84.6 Heat 2: Les Bowden beat Colin Watson 83.8

Hall Green Scratch Races

Heat 1: Les Bowden, Wilf Plant, Norman Trimnall, Bill Stanley 83.3 Heat 2: Harry Bowler, Keith Harvey, (Jack Tidbury/Cyril Page) 83.2 Heat 3: Danny Lee, Syd Farndon, Cecil de la Porte, Ted English 86.0

Final: Bowler, Lee, Plant, Bowden 83.0

Match Race

Bill Desmond 81.2

Future Stars Race

Cyril Page (Ginger Wilkins) 90.0

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail, The Birmingham Gazette

Leicester Stadium v Bristol Provincial League 6th May

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Tim
					е
1	Shepperd	Maddern	Trimnall	Bowler (fell)	81.0
2	Rogers	Leavis	Plant	Lee	84.6
3	Dook	Stobart	Goffe	Tidbury	8.08
4	Rogers	Frandon (rep Bowler)	Hay	Mills	85.4
5	Shepperd	Plant	Lee	Maddern	83.0
6	Leavis	Rogers	Goffe	Tidbury	84.6
7	Stobart	Dook	Bowler	Trimnall	83.0
8	Plant	Leavis	Saunders	Farndon	82.8
9	Shepperd	Tidbury	No third	Goffe/Maddern (ret)	84.0
10	Leavis	Rogers	Trimnall	Bowler (fell)	84.2
11	Dook	Plant	Stobart	Lee	83.0
12	Shepperd	Goffe	Mills	Hay	83.2
13	Dook	Lee	Saunders	Farndon	82.0
14	Stobart	No second	No third	Trimnall/Tidbury/Maddern (ret)	93.4

Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total	Bristol	1	2	3	4	Total
Harry Bowler ©	F	N	1	F	1	Harry Shepperd	3	3	3	3	12
Norman Trimnall	1	0	1	R	2	Bill Maddern	2*	0	R	R	2+1
Wilf Plant	1	2	3	2	8	Bill Rogers	3	3	2*	2*	10+2
Danny Lee	0	1*	0	2	3+1	Fred Leavis	2*	3	2	3	10+1
Lloyd Goffe	1	1	R	2	4	Roy Dook	3	2*	3	3	11+1
Jack Tidbury	0	0	2	R	2	Rol Stobart	2*	3	1	3	9+1
Paddy Mills	0	1*			1+1	Reg Hay	1	0			1
Syd Farndon	2	0	0		2	George Saunders	1*	1			2+1
					23						57

CAPTAIN'S RACE

Harry Bowler bt Harry Shepperd (fell) 80.2

CHALLENGE RACE EVENT

Archie Shelton bt Paddy Mills 82.4

COMING STARS RACE

Bill Desmond, Fred Wiseman, Don Houghton 84.2

SCRATCH RACE EVENT

Heat 1: George Saunders 83.8 Heat 2: Lloyd Goffe 84.2

Final: Lloyd Goffe, George Saunders, Danny Lee 81.4

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail

Norwich v Leicester Stadium Provincial League 17th May

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth
1	Dugard	Trimnall	Bowler	Wise
2	Jay	Birtwell	Lee	Plant
3	Sweet	Millward	Goffe	Jack Tidbury
4	Wise	Plant	Goodchild	Ken Tidbury
5	Birtwell	Jay	Bowler	Trimnall
6	Sweet	Millward	Lee	Plant
7	Jack Tidbury	Wise	Goffe	Dugard
8	Smith	Ken Tidbury	Lee	Goodchild (rep Birtwell)
9	Sweet	Millward	Bowler	Trimnall
10	Wise	Lee	Dugard	Plant
11	Jay	Jack Tidbury	Smith (rep Birtwell)	Goffe
12	Millward	Bowler	Ken Tidbury	Smith
13	Jay	Goodchild	Ken Tidbury	Goffe
14	Sweet	Jack Tidbury	Dugard	Trimnall

Norwich	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
Charlie Dugard	3	0	1	1	5	Harry Bowler ©	1*	1	1	2	5+1
Dickie Wise	0	3	2	3	8	Norman Trimnall	2	0	0	0	2
Wilf Jay	3	2*	3	3	11+1	Wilf Plant	0	2	0	0	2
Bill Birtwell	2*	3	N	N	5+1	Danny Lee	1	1	1*	2	5+1
Jock Sweet	3	3	3	3	12	Lloyd Goffe	1	1	0	0	2
Jim Millward	2*	2*	2*	3	9+3	Jack Tidbury	0	3	2	2	7
Paul Goodchild	1	0	2*		3+1	Ken Tidbury	0	2	1*	1	4+1
Alan Smith	3	1	0		4	Paddy Mills					-
					57						27

Note: Paddy Mills did not arrive so Leicester used Ken Tidbury who took Mills heats and his own.

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail, Norwich daily Press and Brian Tungate

Southampton v Leicester Stadium Provincial League 18th May

Heat	First	Second	Third	Fourth		
1	Goulden	Anderson	Bowler	Wells		
2	Griffiths	Riddle	No third	Delaney/ J Tidbury (ret)		
3	Dallison	Jones	Goffe	No 4 th rider		
4	Goulden	Creek	Ken Tidbury	Delaney (ns)		
5	Griffiths	Riddle	No third	Bowler/Wells (ret)		
6	Jones	Dallison	Lee	J Tidbury		
7	Goulden	Goffe	Lee	Anderson (ef)		

Southampton	1	2	3	4	Total	Leicester Stadium	1	2	3	4	Total
Frank Goulden	3	3	3		9	Harry Bowler ©	1	R			1
Cyril Anderson	2*	R			2+1	Doug Wells (G)	0	R			0
Syd Griffiths	3	3			6	Joe Delaney (G)	R	ns			0
Jack Riddle	2*	2*			4+2	Jack Tidbury	R	0			0
Billy Dallison	3	2*			5+1	Lloyd Goffe	1	2			3
Bert Jones	2*	3			5+1	No Rider					
Ivor Creek	2*				2+1	Ken Tidbury	1				1
No number 8						Danny Lee	1	1*			2+1
					33						7

Note: (i) Paddy Mills, Norman Trimnall, Wilf Plant and Syd Farndon did not arrive so Leicester were loaned Doug Wells, Joe Delaney and Ken Tidbury deputised for Paddy Mills. (ii) Match abandoned by the Southampton promoter who considered that the standard of racing was not acceptable. (iii) It was reported in the local press on 28th May that the Speedway Control Board had accepted the closure of the Leicester track, which had made financial losses on every meeting staged, but rejected a proposal for the remaining fixtures to be transferred to a team to run at West Ham.

Source: Leicester Mercury and Leicester Evening Mail, Southern Daily Echo and Speedway News