

1932

OPENING MEETING OF THE NEW TRACK

Special engagement of "Star" dirt track riders

NORWICH V LONDON

Easter Sunday 27th March 1932

NORWICH

Arthur Reynolds Herb Peters Phil Thompson
Hugh Bentley George Francies Jack Smythe

LONDON

Percy Leach Harry Jones Fred Johnson
Alex Fyffe Ralph Jay Ray Watson

Between 7 and 8,000 fans were at the opening Dirt track meeting of the 1932 season at the Firs on Sunday.

Since last year the track has been rebuilt and a new safety fence has been erected. The promoters were unable to complete the new grandstand in time for the opening meeting. Although 600 people were provided with seats, when the stand is finished 1,200 will be accommodated. The stand will be completed by the next meeting on April 14th and the banking for standing spectators will be enlarged.

Some good racing, with the Norwich team recording a handsome win, in their first appearance of the season, beating a London side 26-13. Smythe and Bentley were the prominent riders in the Norwich team. Ralph Jay was outstanding for the visitors.

The track is very fast and when the riders get to know it better some fast speeds will be achieved.

The captain Arthur Reynolds set the fastest time for four laps, his time was 1 minute 33 4/5 seconds. Herb Peters looked likely to beat this time but he fell.

There were one or two spills. In one case, however Alex Fyffe fell, his machine landed on top of him, he was taken to hospital for had to have stitches put in his hand

RESULTS; -

Scratch Race for local riders; -C. Payne.

Aylsham Handicap; - 1st Bentley, 2nd Smythe, 3rd Payne, 4th Stansell.

Time 1 minute 48 seconds.

Big Six; -1st Smythe, 2nd Bentley, 3rd Johnson.

Time 1 minute 36 2/5seconds

GRANDSTAND COMPLETED

Riders from all parts of England

plus re-appearance of many old favourites

Sunday 10th April 1932

The second meeting was a distinct improvement on the opening meeting. The general arrangements were much better, and there was a minimum of delay between the races. The standard of riding also showed an improvement. The grandstand has been completed, and the banking for the spectators considerably enlarged. Several of the star riders were troubled with mechanical faults, but crashes were absent.

Jack Smythe was perhaps the most outstanding rider, and although he did not win a race, Jack Kilby succeeded in establishing a one lap and four lap track record.

RESULTS; - All races were one mile (4 laps).

Scratch Race for local riders; -

1st Geoff Pymar, 2nd Jack Jolly, 3rd George Loveday.

Time 1 minute 49 seconds.

Match Races; -

Arthur Reynolds beat Bert Linn.

Time 1 minute 46 1/5 seconds.

Jack Smythe beat Phil Thompson.

Time 1 minute 32 seconds.

Jim Milward beat Bill Butler.

Time 1 minute 37 2/5 seconds.

Harry Fisher beat Herbert Peters.

Time 1 minute 38 seconds.

Jack Smythe beat Hugh Bentley.

Time 1 minute 36 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap; -

1st Harry Fletcher, 2nd Herbert Peters, 3rd Jack Jolly.

Time 1 minute 36 seconds.

Track Record; -Jack Kirby, One Lap 21 4/5 seconds

EASTERN DAILY PRESS Dated 8th April 1932

The Football Association considered a ban on playing matches on grounds that were used for Greyhounds or Speedway was withdrawn.

NORWICH V STAINES

Sunday 17 April 1932

Recent rain left the track on the heavy side, and the cold weather had an adverse effect on the attendance. Racing was, however, very interesting with some close finishes, the most exciting being the final of the Norfolk Handicap, when Jack Smythe, after a bad start rode brilliantly, to be beaten by half a wheel by Harry Fletcher. Reynolds and Thompson made an attempt on the lap record, but failed to beat the existing time.

RESULTS; - Match Races; -

Phil Thompson beat Hugh Bentley. Time 1 minute 42 1/5 seconds.

Jack Kirby beat Jack Smythe. Time 1 minute 39 1/5 seconds.

Harry Fletcher beat Rickards. Time 1 minute 39 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap; -

Harry Fletcher, 2nd Jack Smythe, 3rd Bert Linn. Time 1 minute 39 seconds.

Norwich 21 Staines 30

JACK SMYTHE'S FINE RIDING AT THE FIRS

Sunday 24th April 1932

The feature of Sunday's speedway racing at the Firs, Aylsham Road, was the brilliant riding of Jack Smythe. Smythe swept the board, finishing first six times in seven events, and was also successful in lowering the one lap record in 21 2/5 seconds.

Only three riders took part in the local riders race. Geoff Pymar was doing well when he had to retire as a result of his tyre coming off, thus leaving G. Loveday to beat J. Jolly.

Milward and P. Thompson made unsuccessful attempts to lower the one and four lap records. Milward was riding in excellent fashion when his front tyre burst. He was thrown heavily, but fortunately received no injuries. Several new "star riders" will appear next Sunday, when the meeting will start at 3 o'clock.

RESULTS; -

Handicap Race; - (local riders) G. Loveday, 2nd J. Jolly.

Norfolk Handicap; -

1st J. Smythe (scratch), 2nd H. Fletcher (scratch), 3rd J. Ralph (2 sec.), Time 94 seconds.

Big Twelve; -

Heat 1 Jack Smythe 91 4/5 Heat 2 Bill Butler 96 Heat 3 Herb Peters 95 4/5 Wal Smith 92 1/5

Final 1st Jack Smythe, 2nd Bill Butler, 3rd Herb Peters, 4th Wal Smith, Time 94 3/5.

Aylsham One Mile Scratch Race; - J. Smythe, 2nd B. Butler, 3rd W. Smith, Time 92 3/5.

Jack Smythe clipped 2/5 seconds off the one lap record when he returned 21 2/5 in his attempt

THE RIDERS

Number	Name	Make of bike	Number	Name	Make of bike
1	Arthur Reynolds	Rudge	15	Geoff Pymar	Wallis J.A.P.
2	Herb Peters	Wallis	16	C. Payne	Wallis Rudge
3	Bill Butler	Douglas	17	Joe Ralph	Rudge
4	Hugh Bentley	Rudge	18	E. W. Hall	J.A.P.
5	Phil Thompson	Rudge	19	W. A. Smith	Ridge
6	Jack Smythe	Wallis	20	Wal Smith	Rudge
7	Bill Albert	Rudge	21	Archie Kemp	Rudge
8	Harry Fletcher		22	Harry Fletcher	Rudge
9	C. Rickards	Rudge	23	J. Belcher	Wallis
10	Bert Linn	Ridge	24	Joe Lyons	Rudge
11	Jim Milward	Special	25	Geo. Rowney	Rudge
12	Jack Lloyd	Rudge	26	Don Dimes	Rudge
13	Jack Jolly	Rudge	27	Harry Walker	Norton
14	Geo. Loveday	A.J.S.			

NORWICH V LEA BRIDGE

Sunday 1st May 1932

The teams were advertised as

NORWICH

Herb Peters Jack Smythe Harry Fletcher
Phil Thompson Arthur Reynolds Bill Butler
Reserves Hugh Bentley and Don Dimes

LEA BRIDGE

Les Brakebough Eric Spencer Joe Wilson
Lou Burger Don Boswell Alf Foulds
Reserves Harry Hutching and Dicky Bird

Over 5,000 spectators saw some splendid riding when Norwich defeated Lea Bridge by 33-14. Jack Smythe again rode well to get a maximum and was ably supported by Reynolds, Peters and Pymar.

Lea Bridge were handicapped by the loss of their two stars, Eric Spencer and Les Brakebough who unable to race after their first heats. Reynolds made an attempt to lower the one lap record, which now stands to Smythe in 21 3/5 seconds but failed, Smythe, in an attempt only succeeded in equalling his own figures.

The Aylsham handicap provided fast racing and close finishes. Geoff Pymar, the 17 year old Norwich rider, delighted the crowd by his fine performance against more experienced men, his finish to beat Lou Burger by half a wheel in the team race was one of the most exciting of the afternoon.

RESULTS; -

Reserve Race 4-lap dash; -Dicky Bird beat Geoff Pymar. Time 1 minute 34 1/5 seconds.

Aylsham Handicap; -

Heat 1	1st Thompson.	2nd Butler.	Time 1 minute 40 seconds.
Heat 2	1st Pymar,	2nd Bird.	Time 1 minute 40 seconds.
Heat 3	1st Smythe,	2nd Reynolds.	Time 1 minute 39 3/5 seconds.
Heat 4	1st Peters,	2nd Boswell.	Time 1 minute 44 3/5 seconds.
First Semi-Final	1st Butler,	2nd Reynolds.	Time 1 minute 39 seconds.
Second Semi-Final	1st Boswell,	2nd Smythe.	Time 1 minute 35 3/5 seconds.
Final	1st Smythe, 2nd Butler, 3rd Bird.		Time 1 minute 38 2/5 seconds.

NOTE - Pymar was not advertised to ride in the team match but probable took the place of Fletcher

GEOFF PYMAR LOWERS LAP RECORD

Sunday 8th May 1932

5,000 fans were thrilled by some exciting racing and several escapes from serious crashes Smythe Peters and Thompson all hit the safety fence, but riding with great skill they managed to keep on their machines. Smythe was dogged by bad luck three times his chain broke when he appeared to have the race won.

The final of the Big Twelve four lap rolling start, provided a ding-dong struggle between Herb Peters and Phil Thompson, who rode a neck and neck race for two laps, with Peters winning on the last corner.

Geoff Pymar the local lad, rode magnificently to lower the lap record by 2/5 seconds, his time being 21 1/5. Pymar, who has rapidly come to the fore, received a great ovation when his time was announced.

Bill Butler won the Norfolk Handicap, in an exciting finish from, Phil Thompson and Walter Banner.

The final of the Aylsham one mile scratch race provided the most thrilling finish, the riders were Norwich favourites, Reynolds, Smythe, Thompson and Pymar, who set a terrify pace from the start. Pymar crashed at the first corner, but fortunately, was not injured. The remaining three riders where together for the first two laps, when Smythe gained a lead of 15 yards from Reynolds with Thompson close. This order was maintained until the last corner, when Reynolds, with a great effort, rode "flat out" to pass the winning post half a wheel in front of Smythe.

The two-lap dash between Smythe and Peters provided a humorous incident. In the second lap Peters machine misfired badly and Smythe went on to get a big lead until his chain broke and although he "paddled" his machine with his feet in the hope of crossing the line first. Peters came along to beat him.

RESULTS; - Local Riders Handicap; - G. Pymar, 2nd J. Jolly, 3rd C. Payne. Time 1 minute 2/5 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap Final; B. Butler, 2nd P. Thompson, 3rd W. Banner. Time 1 minute 36 seconds

Two Lap Dash; - C. Payne beat J. Jolly. Time 1 minute 48 4/5 seconds.

Big Twelve Heat winners; - Thompson Time 1 minute 30 2/5 seconds. Pymar Time 1 minute 33 2/5 seconds.

Peters - Time 1 minute 32 4/5 seconds. Spencer Time 1 minute 35 1/5 seconds.

Final 1st Peters, 2nd Thompson, 3rd Spencer, Time 1 minute 29 2/5 seconds

Aylsham Mile Scratch Heat winners; -

Reynolds, Time 1 minute 36 2/5 seconds. Thompson, Time 1 minute 30 seconds.

Smythe, Time 1 minute 33 1/5 seconds Pymar, Time 1 minute 32 4/5 seconds.

Final; -1st Arthur Reynolds, 2nd Jack Smythe, 3rd Geoff Pymar. Time 1 minute 30 seconds.

GRAND HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

Sunday 15th May 1932

A record crowd saw Norwich beat Nottingham 29-24. The home team were without Phil Thompson and the visitors suffered a serious loss when Fred Starbuck crashed heavily after hitting the safety fence, and he had to be removed to Hospital, where he was detained.

The rival captains showed their powers in the first heat. Reynolds, the home captain, won narrowly in a fast time and obtained a maximum number of points. Geoff Pymar had chain trouble on three occasions when in winning positions.

When it looked as though Norwich would secure a runaway victory, Nottingham hit back, Spigott and Burnham rode brilliantly to out point their opponents in the latter half. Reynolds, who put up some fast times, made an unsuccessful attempt on the one lap record, held by Geoff Pymar at 21 1/5 seconds. He returned 21 3/5.

RESULTS; -

Local Riders Handicap; -

1st C. Payne, 2nd J. Jolly, 3rd G. Loveday. Time 1 minute 43 2/5 seconds.

Reserve Race; - Wal Davies (Norwich), finished alone.

Norfolk Handicap; -

Heat 1 Burnham, 2nd R. Spigott.

Heat 2 B. Butler, 2nd J. Jolly.

Heat 3 H. Peters, 2nd C. Payne.

Heat 3 H. Bentley, 2nd W. Davies.

First Semi-Final; - 1st B. Butler, 2nd J. Jolly.

Second Semi-Final; -C. Payne, 2nd Bentley.

Final; -

1st C. Payne, 2nd J. Jolly, 3rd B. Butler. Time 1 minute 41 1/5 seconds.

ARTHUR REYNOLDS IN GREAT FORM

Sunday 22nd May 1932

There was another programme of exciting speedway during which Arthur Reynolds the Norwich captain, displayed splendid riding, taking part in no fewer than eight events, winning five, and being placed second after being half a lap behind through his machine failing to start. In the remaining two he finished third. His three races against Smythe provided ding-dong struggles. Reynolds being a little faster than his club mate. C. Payne, a local rider, also added to his winning list by again taking the Norwich Handicap award. Geoff Pymar had the misfortune to crash in the first race, and was unable to take any further part in the racing.

RESULTS; -

Local Riders Match Race; -

C. Payne beat J. Jolly. Time 1 minute 38 2/5 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap; -

Heat 1 1st Davies, 2nd B. Brougham.

Heat 2 1st Palmer, 2nd Payne.

Heat 3 - 1st Reynolds, 2nd Butler. Heat 3 1st Smythe, 2nd Jolly.

First Semi-Final; -

1st Payne 2nd Palmer, Second Semi-Final; 1st Smythe, 2nd Reynolds.

Final; -

C. Payne. Time 1 minute 48 3/5 seconds.

Big Twelve; - Heat winners; -

J. Milward, 1 minute 32 2/5 seconds.

W. Banner, 1 minute 29 2/5 seconds.

A. Foulds, 1 minute 32 2/5 seconds.

A. Reynolds, 1 minute 30 1/5 seconds.

Final; -

1st A. Reynolds, 2nd R. Stanley, 3rd A. Foulds. Time 1 minute 27 seconds.

FAST TIMES

Sunday 5th June 1932

Fast times were registered and in the Big Twelve event Jack Kirby, the four lap holder, in addition to being the winner, broke the one lap record on his first circuit. Bill Butler, in a heat of the Norfolk Handicap, covered the distance in 1 minute 31 4/5 seconds a faster time than the final, in which he was beaten. Jack Jolly won the local riders race from Pymar and Payne after the latter had fallen. Pymar rode brilliantly in the Aylsham Scratch Race, beating Reynolds in his heat and finishing second to R. Stanley in the Final, Smythe occupying third place. Pymar made a great attempt to lower his own one lap record, failing by 1/5 seconds. Wally Banner, who made two unsuccessful attempts on the lap record returning the same time as Pymar in his first attempt and "overslid" on his second run when he had covered three-quarters of a lap in a fast time.

RESULTS; -

Local Riders Race; - Jack Jolly, Time 1 minute 50 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap; -

Heat 1 1st B. Butler, 2nd R. Stanley.

Heat 2 1st A. Foulds, 2nd Banner.

Heat 3 1st D. Dimes, 2nd Chill.

Heat 4 1st J. Smythe, 2nd C. Payne.

First Semi-Final

1st Butler, 2nd Stanley, 3rd Dimes. Time. 1 minute 29 1/5 seconds.

Aylsham Mile Scratch Race; - Heat winners.

E. Spencer, 1 minute 32 1/5 seconds.

G. Pymar, 1 minute 30 2/5 seconds.

J. Smythe, 1 minute 32 3/5 seconds.

R. Stanley, 1 minute 31 2/5 seconds.

Final; - 1st Reg Stanley, 2nd Geoff Pymar, 3rd Jack Smythe. Time 1 minute 30 seconds.

First Appearance in Norwich of the Famous
of the Famous Celtic Team of Dirt Track Racers

**First Appearance in Norwich
of the Famous "Celtic" team of Dirt Track Races
Sunday 12th June 1932**

CELTIC V NORWICH

NORWICH

**Arthur Reynolds Reg Stanley Geoff Pymar
Jack Kirby Jack Smythe Wally Banner**

CELTIC

**Jack Rome Les Emdle Buzz Douglas
Bill Cantley Pete Conroy Andy Reece**

Another large gathering of spectators witnesses exhilarating speedway racing, when the Norwich team gained a fine win over Celtic by 36-17. Arthur Reynolds the home captain, who is riding in splendid form, again secured maximum points and he was able supported by Reg Stanley 8 points and Geoff Pymar 6 points. It was left to J. Allby the Celtic reserve to provide the two first places gained by the team from Scotland, the times returned by him proved to be the fastest for the team racing. After the match the Norwich team issued a challenge to any team of six riders in the country to race on the Aylsham track.

The captains match race provided an easy win for Reynolds, who defeated Jack Rome (Celtic), who deputised for the Celtic captain B. Douglas injured in an earlier race. J. Allby beat C. Payne (Norwich) in the reserve race. The Norfolk Handicap provided the usual thrills and fast times. Reynolds proved the winner, but he must be accounted lucky as Pymar, who had ridden magnificently, was leading by half a lap on the last circuit when his machine failed and he "paddled" it over the line to finish third.

RESULTS; - Team race Norwich 36 Celtic 17

Captains Match Race; - Arthur Reynolds beat Jack Rome. Time 1 minute 30 1/5 seconds.

Three cornered Handicap;- 1st D. Dimes, 2nd J. Jolly. Time 1 minute 46 2/5 seconds.

Norfolk Handicap;- Heat 1 1st G. Pymar, 2nd J. Milward. Heat 2 1st R. Stanley, 2nd J. Jolly.
Heat 3 1st A. Reynolds, 2nd J. Rome. Heat 4 1st W. Banner, 2nd J. Allby.

First Semi-Final;- 1st R. Stanley, 2nd G. Pymar. Time 1 minute 37 1/5 seconds.

Second Semi-Final;- 1st A. Reynolds, 2nd J. Rome. Time 1 minute 37 3/5 seconds.

Final;- 1st Arthur Reynolds, 2nd Jack Rome, 3rd Geoff Pymar. Time 1 minute 39 1/5 seconds.

Reserves Match Race;- J. Allby beat C. Payne. Time 1 minute 33 seconds.

Match Race;- Reg Stanley beat Geoff Pymar by half a length in a time of 1 minute 29 seconds.

On enquiring to the Scottish historians they have no knowledge of any of the Celtic riders

It is possible that they were Scots lads who had formed team.

Jack Allby rode in meetings after this at the Firs. Buzz Douglas rode at Fakenham.

On the finest track in the Provinces

THE FIRST EVENING PROGRAMME

16th June 1932 at 7 o'clock

Star riders and record breakers

Arthur Reynolds Geoff Pymar Wally Banner Jack Smythe Tommy Lane

This meeting was advertised each day in the Eastern Daily Press.

No report of the meeting was given in the local press, possible because the meeting would have finished late.

FIRS TRACK RECORD LOWERED

JACK KIRBY ARTHUR REYNOLDS REG STANLEY

JACK SMYTHE WALLY BANNER GEOFF PYMAR JACK ALLBY

Sunday 19th June 1932

An attractive programme was watch by a record crowd, the standard of racing and times returned were exceptional high. Geoff Pymar, the 17 year old Norwich boy thrilled the crowd by beating Smythe in the final of the Big 12. Smythe who had won his heat in 1 minute 29 seconds, was leading all the way, and looking a certain winner, when Pymar, throwing all caution to the winds, came all out on the outside to win by half a wheel in the most thrilling finish at the Firs.

Arthur Reynolds, who had been quite in the early races, came into his own, in the Aylsham mile scratch race. He went æ²flat out,æ³ all the way to win his heat in 1 minute 26 4/5 secondsæ¶ 2/5 seconds lower than the four lap record. The crowd cheered Reynolds for his daring and skilful riding. In the final he adopted the same tactics and finished a easy winner in 1 minute 27 1/5 seconds, equalling the old record. Really two splendid rides.

The Norfolk Handicap was won by Stanley who rode consistently well. Gill, the second in this event, gave some spectacular displays but had little luck with his machine.

RESULTS:-

Norfolk Handicap:-

	Heat 1	R. Stanley, 2nd A. Basford.	Heat 2	J. Kirby, 2nd W. Banner.
	Heat 3	D. Dimes, 2nd J. Allby.	Heat 4	J. Jolly, 2nd Gill
Semi Final	1st Stanley, 2nd Basford.		Time 1 minute 35 4/5 seconds.	
	1st Gill, 2nd D. Dimes.		Time 1 minute 45 3/5 seconds.	
Final	1st Stanley, 2nd Gill, 3rd D. Dimes.			
Match Race	Wally Banner beat Bill Butler	Time 1 minute 34 3/5 seconds		
Two lap Dash	Don Dimes beat Jim Milward	Time 49 seconds.		
Big 12	Heat winners			
Heat 1	C. Gill 1 minute 32 seconds.	Heat 2	J. Smythe 1 minute 29 seconds.	
Heat 3	J. Allby 1 minute 22 3/5 seconds.	Heat 4	G. Pymar 1 minute 30 3/5 seconds.	
Final	1st Geoff Pymar, 2nd Jack Smythe. Only two finished.	1 minute 29 3/5 seconds.		
Aylsham Mile Scratch				
Heat 1	G. Pymar 1 minute 30 4/5 seconds.	Heat 2	A. Reynolds 1 minute 26 4/5 seconds.	
Heat 3	J. Jolly 1 minute 30 4/5 seconds.	W. Banner fastest second.		
Final	Arthur Reynolds, 2nd Geoff Pymar, 3rd Wally Banner.	Time 1 minute 27 1/5 seconds		

THE FIRS FACE COMPETITION FROM OTHER LOCAL TRACKS

Locally the Speedway band wagon was at its peak in 1932. Apart from the dirt track racing at the Firs, grass track speedway meetings were held at, Lowestoft Road, Oulton Broad, on the 9th April and run by the Lowestoft and District Speedway. 11 meetings were held at Doles Meadow, Bradwell on Saturday afternoons. The same club, Waveny Speed Track, also ran one meeting at Crown Meadow, Lowestoft on the 13th August. Two meeting were held at the dog track at Caister Road Yarmouth on Thursday 14th July and Sunday 17th. Two meetings, run on Wednesday nights, were held at Fakenham on August 3rd and 17th.

Off the Lynn Road at Downham Market, a meeting was advertised, as Grand Prix Motor Cycle Racing. This meeting took place on the 14th July on a field owned by Mr. C. J. Bunkell that had natural hazard's and attracted a 700 crowd.

The riders who were regulars at the Firs also rode in the meetings at these other tracks local tracks, all of which were unlicensed. Reynolds and Smythe were also racing on the licensed tracks and must have been doing very well from the sport at this time.

THRILL AT EASTERN SPEEDWAYS MEETINGS INDEPENDENT & JOURNAL Dated 25th June 1932

To those of our readers who desire the thrilling experience of witnessing real dirt track racing the opportunity should not be missed by attending the Eastern Speedway's Motor Club meetings at their Stadium the Firs Aylsham Rd. Norwich, under the able supervision of Mr. Stanley Ketchell late of Stamford Bridge, Lea Bridge and West Ham Speedway's. These meetings are held every Sunday afternoon and are without doubt the premiere dirt track meeting this side of London and many thousands of people are journeying long distances to Eastern Speedway's and are provided with a programme which is not excelled by any London track.

On Sunday the Four lap record was reduced to the remarkable time of 1 minute 26 seconds, being at the rate of 42 M.P.H.. Nothing has been spared by the Management of Eastern Speedway's to provide for the comfort of the spectators. The whole of the surrounds to the track is terraced to provide an uninterrupted view and a grandstand to accommodate 2,000 has been erected which is justly claimed to be the finest grandstand in the district.

The special safety fence, a replica of that at Crystal Palace, together with the banked track, ensures the greatest safety for the daring riders engaged in this dare-devil sport. No expense is spared by Eastern Speedway's to produce "star"

riders from all the leading tracks, and on Sunday next several new riders will complete with Arthur Reynolds, Jack Smythe, Geoff Pymar, Reg Stanley, Wally Banner, Jack Allby, Les Blakebrough, Don Boswell and Tommy Laitz.

To such an extent has Eastern Speedway's thrilling programme been appreciated that regular visitors journey from London and other big centres to attend these popular Sunday meetings. The Stadium is situated amidst charming surroundings, and in their endeavour to encourage local talent Eastern Speedway's invites any rider to practice on their splendid track by applying to the secretary 2 Red Lion Street Norwich.

With all the local competition the article looked very much like a press release.

THE REAL THING

New Riders

Hal Herbert A Johnson F. Wilkinson

Also the following popular riders

Arthur Reynolds Jack Smythe Geoff Pymar

Reg Stanley Jack Allby Wally Banner Ect.

Sunday 26th June 1932

The feature of the weekend speedway racing at the Firs was the splendid racing of Fred Wilkinson, a newcomer to the Norwich track. Wilkinson, who has taken part in a speedway "test" match delighted a big crowd by winning his first three race, his most brilliant effort was in a match race against Jack Smythe, whom he defeated by a narrow margin in 1 minute 28 2/5 seconds. He was rather unlucky in not winning the Stadium handicap, which fell to Geoff Pymar. Wilkinson was leading Bill Butler on the second lap, when Butler caught Wilkinson's back wheel. This slowed down Wilkinson, and Pymar taking advantage passed him, though the newcomer made a great rally he was defeated by half a length. Butler sustained injuries to his wrist and was unable to ride again during the afternoon.

It was an unlucky meeting for Reynolds. In the semi-final of the Stadium handicap the Norwich captain was about to take the lead when he overslid, while in the final of the Norwich scratch race he collided with C. Gill, but fortunately the riders were uninjured.

The event went to Don Boswell, who rode a well judge race, Wally Banner was second.

In response to an appeal for as collection was made during the interval on behalf of the Norfolk and Norwich Queen's Purse Fund.

RESULTS:-

Stadium Handicap:-

Heat 1 1st J. Smythe, 2nd B. Butler.

Heat 2 F. Wilkinson, 2nd A. Johnson.

Heat 3 1st A. Reynolds, 2nd R. Stanley.

Heat 4 D. Boswell, 2nd G. Pymar.

First Semi-final F. Wilkinson, 2nd B. Butler.

Time 1 minute 36 seconds.

Second Semi-final G. Pymar, 2nd R. Stanley.

Time 1 minute 36 seconds.

Final G. Pymar, 2nd F. Wilkinson. Only two finished.

Time 1 minute 36 seconds.

Special Match Race Fred Wilkinson beat J. Smythe.

Time 1 minute 28 2/5 seconds.

A. Reynolds beat Geoff Pymar.

Time 1 minute 27 2/5 seconds.

Norwich Mile

Heat 1 A. Reynolds, 2nd C. Gill. Heat 2 F. Wilkinson, 2nd G. Pymar.

Heat 3 D. Boswell, 2nd H. Herbert. Heat 4 W. Banner, 2nd C. Payne.

Semi-finals A. Reynolds, 2nd C. Gill. Time 1 minute 28 4/5 seconds.

D. Boswell, 2nd W. Banner. Time 1 minute 30 3/5 seconds.

Final Don Boswell, 2nd Wally Banner, 3rd Arthur Reynolds. Time 1 minute 34 4/5 seconds.

Three Corner Two Lap Dash Hal Herbert, Wally Banner. Time 44 3/5 seconds.

Junior Two Lap Dash B. Albert, Don Dimes. Time 46 4/5 seconds.

A NEW SPORT AT THE FIRS

ALL-IN WRESTLING

Between British & Foreign Heavy Champion's

Saturday July 2nd 1932

All-in wrestling was described as America's latest craze, and the promoters put on a good show. The top of the bill turn was worthy of its position as their was a titanic struggle for mastery between Carl Reginsky, the German Champion and Tom Plant Of England. It was not until the third round, after 21 minutes battle, that Reginsky obtained a fall that gave him victory.

Jack Foster of Norwich, the welter weight champion of the Eastern Counties, and Leo Wax ex-welter weight title holder of Australia, provided the only boxing event. It was a 12 round contest and it ended in a draw.

NEW STAR RIDERS

Sunday 3rd July 1932

In his second appearance on the track, Fred Wilkinson of Leicester, distinguished himself by winning the Nine Stars scratch race, the Norwich one mile, and equalling the track record. It was an outstanding performance of clever riding. Hal Herbert, who also comes from Leicester, showed improved form and succeeded in winning the Stadium Handicap. A feature of the meeting was the uncompleted match race between Wilkinson and Smythe, which was started five times. A lap was completed neck and neck, but the pace was such that Smythe overslid each time. In the final attempt for two laps the riders were separated by inches only, for Smythe to fall. The race will be run off next Sunday. Arthur Reynolds got second in the final of the Stadium Handicap. The racing was fast throughout 87 2/5 being returned several times. The meeting was watched by 5,000.

RESULTS:-

Stadium Handicap;- Heat 1 1st Herbert, 2nd Lane. Heat 2 1st Boswell, 2nd Jolly.
Heat 3 1st Reynolds, 2nd Pymar. Heat 4 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Smythe.

First Semi-Final;- 1st Boswell, 2nd Herbert. Time 1 minute 40 seconds.

Second Semi-Final;- 1st Reynolds, 2nd Wilkinson. Time 1 minute 33 3/5 seconds.

Final;- 1st Hal Herbert, 2nd Arthur Reynolds, 3rd Fred Wilkinson. Time 1 minute 34 1/5 seconds.

Two Lap Dash;- Lane beat Burger. Time 44 3/5 seconds.

Match Race;- Wally Banner beat Hal Herbert. Time 1 minute 30 3/5 seconds.

Nine Stars;- Heat 1 Boswell. 1 minute 31 seconds. Heat 2 Wilkinson 1 minute 27 2/5 seconds.
Heat 3 Stanley. Time 1 minute 29 seconds.

Final;- 1st Fred Wilkinson, 2nd Reg Stanley, 3rd Don Boswell. Time 1 minute 27 2/5 seconds.

Match Race;- Boswell beat Butler. Time 1 minute 31 2/5 seconds.

Norwich Mile Scratch winners;- Pymar, 1 minute 36 seconds. Herbert, 1 minute 27 seconds.
Stanley, 1 minute 29 seconds. Fastest second Fred Wilkinson.

Final;- 1st Fred Wilkinson, 2nd Reg Stanley, 3rd Geoff Pymar. Time 1 minute 27 2/5 seconds.

PAST STAR FAVOURITES V PRESENT STAR RIDERS

Present Stars

Reynolds Smythe Pymar Banner Boswell Stanley

Old Stars

Herb Peters Phil Thompson Hugh Bentley Wal Smith Bill Butler Wal Davies

Sunday 10th July 1932

also Freddie Wilkinson and Hal Herbert in special match race

No report given in the local press

WILKINSON ON FORM

Thursday 14th July 1932

The feature of Thursdays meeting was the riding of Fred Wilkinson, who has established himself as a popular favour with the crowd. Out of his six races Wilkinson was first on five occasions.

The afternoons rain left the track in perfect condition and exceptionally fast times were returned. Three attempts were made to lower the Geoff Pymar's one lap record of 21 1/5. T. Glass a newcomer to the track returned 21 2/5. Hal Herbert in a fast ride equalled the record and then Wilkinson went round to clip 4/5 off, returning the time of 20 2/5 = 44.11 M.P.H..

The Thursday Handicap, which was won by Wilkinson from Reynolds, after a race in which neither man left the other in any part of the race. The Big 12 resulted in another win for Wilkinson. Reynolds again second in 1 minute 27 seconds = 42.5 M.P.H..

On Sunday the Staines team meet the Norwich team at the Stadium. This is the outcome of a challenge issued by the Norwich men to any team of Speedway riders.

RESULTS:-

Thursday Handicap;-
Heat 1. 1st Stanley, 2nd Reynolds. Heat 2. 1st Gardner, 2nd Wilkinson. Heat 3 1st Glass, 2nd Smith.

First Semi-Final;- 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Reynolds. Time 1 minute 31 seconds.

Second Semi-Final;- 1st Smith, 2nd Herbert. Time 1 minute 35 seconds.

Final;- 1st Fred Wilkinson, 2nd Arthur Reynolds, 3rd Hal Herbert. Time 1 minute 31 1/5.

Special Match Race;- Wilkinson beat Reynolds.

Big 12;-

Heat 1 Herbert, Time 1 minute 27 1/5 seconds.

Heat 2 Wilkinson, Time 1 minute 28 3/5 seconds.

Heat 3 Reynolds, Time 1 minute 29 4/5 seconds.

Heat 4 Pymar, Time 1 minute 34 3/5 seconds.

Final;- 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Reynolds, 3rd Herbert. Time 1 minute 27 seconds.

Match Race;- Boswell beat Smith. Time 1 minute 30 2/5 seconds.

Pymar beat Herbert. Time 1 minute 29 1/5 seconds.

STAINES DEFEATED BY LOCAL TEAM

Sunday 17th July 1932

The Staines team were well beaten before a record crowd who saw some excellent racing. The home team were victorious by 28-11 Geoff Pymar and Reg Stanley with 7 each were the highest scorers. Arthur Reynolds, the home captain, rode a fine race in the first heat to beat Kirby, the Staines captain, by half a length. Wiltshire was the only visitor to secure a win. He finished alone after a spectacular crash in which Reynolds and Banner, the Norwich pair, collided and fell heavily in trying to avoid a Staines rider who had fell.

Fred Wilkinson had no difficulty in winning his match race against Vafrous and Kirby. He followed this up by taking the Stadium handicap from Reynolds with Herbert third. Two attempts were made to lower Wilkinson's one lap record of 20 4/5 seconds, by Herbert, 21 4/5 and Reynolds 22 seconds.

RESULTS;-

Norwich 28 Staines 11

Champions Match Race;-Wilkinson beat Kirby. Time 1 minute 28 2/5 seconds.

Stadium Handicap;-

STAINES BEAT YARMOUTH

After the afternoon meeting at Norwich the Staines team then moved on to Yarmouth for a match that started at 8 p.m., this was the second meeting at the Yarmouth track and the first team match. The meeting was held at the Greyhound Stadium, but this was not the site that the Yarmouth Bloaters would use as their home from 1948 - 1953 and again in 1957 - 1961, but a field to the south.

The match was won by Staines 28-22 and the scores were

YARMOUTH

Jack Smythe 12, Jack Jolly 2, Wal Smith 3, Jack Eldon 3, Wal Davies 2.

STAINES

Harry Davidson 5, Bert Kola 5, George Wilkie 8, Ken Wiltshire 2, Jack Kirby 6, Bill Kent 2.

Jack Smythe was given an extra ride in the last race and I believe the reason was that Yarmouth had only five riders.

BUSY TIME

The nine days starting on the Saturday the 9th July 1932 to Sunday the 17th July was the busiest time ever for the sport locally with seven meetings held at three tracks. Bradwell staged a meeting on the Saturday afternoon and the Firs had their regular Sunday afternoon meeting the next day. On the Thursday Yarmouth opened, with a start time of 3p.m.. It may now seem a strange time to run a meeting, but pre-war all the shops in the town would close at 1 o'clock as Thursday was a half day closing in Yarmouth. Donald Hannent was the organiser at Yarmouth and he was also involved with Norwich. Most of the riders then moved on to Norwich for the evening meeting.

The weekend was practically busy starting with Bradwell on Saturday afternoon then on the Sunday a meeting at the Firs at 3.30 for the team match against Staines and the same team then went on to Yarmouth for a 8 p.m. start.

Several of the riders, as can be seen from the advert rode in most of these meetings and must have done very well. At the first Yarmouth meeting Arthur Reynolds would have been paid £7 and a good rider could expect twice that from the Norwich meetings. Arthur Reynolds and Jack Smythe who were the two top riders could well have earned over £50 from these meetings and they probably rode at licensed tracks in this period too.

A RED HOT PROGRAMME WITH STAR RIDERS

Sunday 24th July 1932

Fred Wilkinson, in front of a large crowd, lowered the four lap record, held by Jack Kirby to 1 minute 25 = 45.2 M.P.H.. Wilkinson was also the winner of the Stadium Handicap and the Twelve Star race. Very fast times were returned in these races, but the superiority of Wilkinson was pronounced. Arthur Reynolds, who finished second in the Handicap race rode neatly, but his machine lacked speed. Reg Stanley, rode in his consistent way and was second in the Twelve Stars race and an easy winner in the Match Race with S. Gardiner.

A third attempt was made to finish the special match race between Jack Smythe and Fred Wilkinson. At the previous meetings Smythe had fallen on eight occasions before completing the necessary two laps. He overslid on the second lap in the first run and the race was restated, Wilkinson once more gained a commanding lead but on the second lap for the

first time he overslid and fell, Jack Smythe went on to win. This did not meet with the approval of the crowd. Who were unaware an agreement between the riders to finish the event what ever happened. Eventually Wilkinson explained over the mike and congratulated the victor.

RESULTS:-

Junior two Lap Handicap;- Milward 50 2/5 seconds.

Stadium Handicap;- Heat 1. 1st Herbert, 2nd Gardiner. Heat 2. 1st Reynolds, 2nd Milward.

Heat 3. 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Glass. Heat 4. 1st Banner, 2nd Payne.

First Semi-Final;- 1st Gardiner,, 2nd Reynolds. Time 1 minute 36 2/5 seconds.

Second Semi-Final. 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Banner. Time 1 minute 34 2/5 seconds.

Final ;- 1st Wilkinson, 2nd Reynolds, 3rd Gardiner. Time 1 minute 34 1/5 seconds.

4 Laps Match Race;- Hal Herbert beat Geoff Pymar. Time 1 minute 28 2/5 seconds.

Special Re-Run Match Race;- Jack Smythe beat Fred Wilkinson who fell on the second lap.

4 Lap Match Race;- Glass beat Banner. Time 1 minute 29 1/5 seconds.

Stanley beat Gardiner. Time 1 minute 31 1/5 seconds.

Twelve Star Heat winners;-

• Heat 1. R. Stanley, Time 1 minute 30 2/5 seconds. Heat 2, T. Lane, Time 1 minute 31 seconds.

Heat 3. F. Wilkinson, Time 1 minute 29 seconds. Heat 4, J. Smythe, Time 1 minute 31 seconds.

Final 1st, Fred Wilkinson. 2nd, Reg Stanley. 3rd, Jack Smythe. Time 1 minute 27 3/5 seconds.

GREYHOUNDS START AT THE FIRS

SATURDAY July 30th 1932

Greyhounds are coming, read the advert for the Staines meeting. A 2,000 crowd watched the first meeting at the Firs. This was the start of a busy period at the Stadium as it was Greyhound's on Monday, Thursday and Saturday's. Sunday afternoon's was still kept for dirt track racing.

BIG HOLIDAY CROWD

Sunday 31st July 1932

In the Eastern Counties Championship, Wally Banner beat Jim Milward who took the place of Don Boswell 2-0. Milward overslid in both races. Johnny Glass and Bird had a wheel to wheel race, the riders kept together for the three laps till Bird had a puncher to his rear wheel.

Wilkinson, attempted to lower his 4 lap record of 85 seconds but failed by 2/5 while Gardiner was well outside in his attempt. Geoff Pymar's attempts on the latter record were spoilt by chain trouble.

Wilkinson, Stanley and Pymar contested the final of the "Stars" race three corner contest. Pymar again had chain trouble, and Wilkinson beat Stanley after a splendid race in a time of 87 2/5. The Bank Holiday Handicap provided some excellent racing in the heats, and brought together Banner, Reynolds, Stanley and Wilkinson in the final. Banner seemed favourable handicapped at 2 seconds and he proved an easy winner from Wilkinson and Stanley.

RESULTS;- Stars Three Corner Contest. Heat's. Wilkinson, 88 1/5. Stanley, 90 4/5. Pymar, 95 4/5.

Final;- 1st Fred Wilkinson. 2nd Reg Stanley. Time 87 2/5.

First Qualifying Round Eastern Counties Championship;-Banner beat Milward 2-0. Glass beat Bird 2-1

Match Race 4 laps Rolling Start;- Reynolds beat Smythe 91 1/5. Wilkinson beat Stanley 89 4/5 .

Bank Holiday Handicap, Heat winners;-

Heat 1 Stanley 96 2/5. Heat 2 Banner 93 1/5. Heat 3 Wilkinson 94 4/5. Heat 4 Reynolds 98.

Final;- 1st Wally Banner. 2nd Fred Wilkinson. 3rd Reg Stanley. Time 92 1/5.

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

For the comfort of the spectators a large quantity of sacking has been attached to the safety fence so as to eliminate as far as possible the nuisance caused by dust and flying cinders.

Sunday 7th August 1932

Their were one or two crashes during the exciting races watched by a large crowd. C. Payne who crashed in the first event was taken to hospital, but luckily his injuries were not so serious as was first feared, and after attention he was allowed to go home.

In the second stage of the Eastern Counties Championship qualifying rounds Geoff Pymar made a welcome return to form to eliminate Arthur Reynolds in two straight runs. Pymar was easily the fastest man. Stanley passed on at the expense of Herbert. Each rider had registered three points when the third heat was reached, Stanley, who was limping, the result of a crash earlier in the afternoon, rode brilliantly in this race and was an easy winner.

Wilkinson and Smythe met in a return match-race over four laps. For three laps the riders were together until Smythe, riding the outside, went wide, and Wilkinson established a 12 yard lead, which