

# The Speedway Researcher

Promoting Research into the History of Speedway and Dirt Track Racing

Volume No. 4 . No. 1 June 2001

Subscribers:

## Welcome To Volume Four

It would be fair to say we are pleased that most of our subscribers have signed up for another volume and that from the responses we seem to be heading in the right direction. We are pleased that the subscription sheets have brought in a pile of questions, a fair number of comments and a few interesting articles which will fill the spaces in this and the next three editions. As they say elsewhere - watch this space. Thank you all.

**Graham and Jim.**

## BIKE BITS

**The Speedway Researcher** has a small but growing International readership and now adds Italy to the list. **Franco Oliani** (yoghi59@hotmail.com) sends us an interesting item and asks if we can help fill the gaps. Franco is trying to list the types of bikes used by winners of the World Championship 1929 to 1966. We would like the gaps filled and any comments on Franco's list. 1929 Frank Arthur (Harley Davidson) Roger Frogley (Harley Davidson); 1930 Vic Huxley (DT Douglas or DT Rudge ?); 1931 Ray Tauser (DT Rudge); 1932 Eric Langton (Langton JAP); Tom Frandon (Comerford JAP); 1934 Jack Parker (Rudge JAP); 1935 Frank Charles (Martin JAP); 1936 Lionel Van Praag (Excelsior JAP); 1937 Jack Milne (Excelsior JAP); 1938 Bluey Wilkinson (Grosskreutz JAP); 1940 - 41 Eric Chitty (Rudge JAP); 1943 Ron Clarke (Martin JAP); 1944 Frank Varey (Langton JAP); 1945 Bill Kitchen (Martin JAP); 1946 Tommy Price (?); 1947 Jack Parker (?); 1948 Vic Duggan (Duggan JAP); 1949 Tommy Price (Erskine Staride JAP); 1950 (Erskine Staride JAP); 1951 Jack Young (Martin JAP or Mitchell JAP ?); 1952 Jack Young (Martin JAP or Mitchell JAP ?); 1953 Freddie Williams (Erskine Staride JAP); 1954 Ronnie Moore (?); 1955 Peter Craven (?); 1956 Ove Fundin (Jackson Rotrax JAP); 1957 & 1958 Barry Briggs (Jackson Rotrax JAP); 1959 Ronnie Moore (?); 1960 7 1961 Ove Fundin (Jackson Rotrax JAP); 1962 Peter Craven (?); 1963 Ove Fundin (Mattingly TN JAP); 1964 Barry Briggs (Mattingly TN JAP); 1965 Bjorn Knutsson (Mattingly TN JAP); and 1966 Barry Briggs (Eso).

1

## TRACK INFORMATION

**OXFORD** : Cowley Stadium, Sandy Lane; Cowley, Oxford OX4 5LJ. Track Length : 370 yards 1939, 354 yards 1969. 1st Meeting : 8th April 1939. Years of Operation : 1939 - 41 - Open; 1949 - 50 - National League Division Three; 1951 - 52 - National League Division Two; 1953 - Southern League; 1954 - 56 - National League Division Two; 1957 - 64 - National League; 1965 - 67 - British League; 1968 - 74 - British League Division One; 1975 - British League; 1976 - New National League; 1977 - 83 - National League; 1984 - 90 - British League; 1991 - 92 - British League Division One; 1993 - 94 - British League Division Two; 1995 - 1997 - Premier League; 1998 - 01 - Elite League. (U.)

**PAISLEY** : St. Mirren Stadium, Love Street, Paisley, Renfrewshire, Scotland. Track Length : 428 yards. 1st Meeting : 5th April 1975. Years of Operation : 1975 - 76 - New National League. The stadium has been squared off and a return of speedway is unlikely. (U.)

**PETERBOROUGH** : East of England Showground Arena. Alwalton, Peterborough. Track Length : 380 yards, 1st Meeting : 12th June 1970. Years of Operation : 1970 - 74 - British League Division Two; 1975 - 76 - New National League; 1977 - 90 - National League; 1991 - 94 - British League Division Two; 1995 - 96 - Premier League; 1997 - Elite League; 1998 - Premier League; 1999 - 01 Elite League. (U.)

**PETERBOROUGH** : Vicarage Farm Road, Peterborough. Track Length : Not Known. 1st Meeting : 12th December 1976. Years of Operation : 1976 - 77 - Training. (U.)

**PINEWOOD** : Pinewood Studio, Iver, Buckinghamshire. Track Length : 200 yards. A track with bends of different radii was laid for the filming of "Once a Jolly Swagman." Was used by riders to provide action shots for the film.

**PLYMOUTH** : Pennycross Stadium, Piverall, Plymouth. Track Length : 410 yards 1931, 400 yards 1947. 1st Meeting : 13th June 1931. Years of Operation : 1931 - Open; 1932 - 33 - National League; 1934 - National League Division One; 1935 - Open; 1936 - Provincial League; 1937 - Open; 1947 - 49 - National League Division Three; 1950 - National League Division Two; 1951 - National League Division Two; 1952 - 53 Southern League; 1954 - National League Division Two - withdrew; 1959 - 60 - Open; 1961 - 62 - Provincial League; 1968 - 69 British League Division Two; 1970 - Open. Site redeveloped mid 1970s. (U.)

**PONTYPRIDD** : Taff Vale Park, Pontypridd, Wales. Track Length : 440 yards. 1st Meeting : 20th May 1929. Years of Operation : 1929 - 30 - Open. Used for grass track events 1934- 35 and 1945 - 46, 1948. (Claims that it introduced pedal cycling to speedway tracks can be rebutted - 2

Marine Gardens did it in 1928.) Another hazy venue with good newspaper coverage which needs research. Now a rugby stadium. (U.)

POOLE : Poole Stadium, Wimbourne Road, Poole. Track Length : 420 yards 1948 - 57 has changed over the years. 1st Meeting : 26th April 1948. Years of Operation : 1948 - 51 - National League Division Three; 1952 - 55 - National League Division Two; 1956 - National League Division One; 1957 - 59 - National League; 1960 - 64 - Provincial League; 1965 - 67 - British League; 1968 - 74 - British League Division One; 1975 - 84 - British League; 1985 - 90 - National League; 1919 - 94 - British League Division One; 1995 - 96 - Premier League; 1997 - 01 - Elite League. Track has undergone a number of changes over the years as the stadium has been redeveloped to include and vary a dog track. (U.)

PORTMARNOCK : Portmarnock Raceway, Dublin. Track length : Not Known. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1970 - Training; 1986 - Long Track. Half mile long track staged 10.9.1986. (N.)

PORTSMOUTH : Wessex Stadium, Copner Gardens, Portsmouth. Track Length : 382 yards. 1st Meeting : 10th August 1929. Years of Operation : 1929 - 30 - Open. (U.)

PORTSMOUTH : Target Road, Tipner, Portsmouth. Track Length : 300 yards. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1935 - League - Hackney v Harringay as neutral venue; 1937 - Charity Meeting. (U.)

Portsmouth - Wymering was a scrambles track and grass speedway. 1928 - 31. Needs some research.

PRESTATYN : Prestatyn Raceway, Prestatyn, North Wales. Track Length : 800 yards. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1967 - 72 Long Track Meetings. (U.)

PRESTON : Farringdon Park, New Hall Lane, Preston. Track Length : 440 yards 1929, 413 1930. 1st Meeting : 29th March 1929. Years of Operation : 1929 - English Dirt Track League; 1930 - 31 - Northern League; 1932 - Open. Subject of recent publication and work by editor Graham Fraser. Now a housing site. (U.)

RAINHAM : Chadwell St. Mary, near Grays. Track Length : 280 yards. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1950 - 53 - Training. (N.)

RAYLEIGH : Weir Stadium, Arterial Road, Rayleigh. Track Length : 385 yards 1948 365 yards. 1st Meeting : 24th July 1948. Years of Operation : 1948 - Open; 1949 - 51 - National League Division Three; 1952 - 53 - Southern League; 1954 - 56 - National League Division Two; 1957 National League & Southern League (Home of Southern Rovers); 1958 - Training; 1959 - Open; 1960 - 61 - Provincial League; 1962 - Training; 1963 - Provincial League; 1964 - Metropolitan League; 1965 - Open; 1966 - Training; 1968 - 73 - British League Division Two. Reports of events at "Rayleigh Stadium" in 1933 have

3 not been verified. A track called Central Speedway (Grass?) existed at Laindon pre - war. This needs some newspaper research.

READING : Smallmead Stadium, Bennett Road, Reading. RG2 0JL. Track Length : 336 yards. 1st Meeting : 28th April 1975. Years of Operation : 1975 - 90 - British League; 1991 - 94 - British League Division One; 1995 - 01 - Premier League. Purpose built stadium. (U.)

READING : Smallmead Stadium Training Track, Bennett Road, Reading. Track Length : Not Known. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1991 - 01 - Training and Open events. Superb looking little purpose built circuit located adjacent to 1st/2nd bend of stadium. (N.)

READING : Tilehurst Stadium, Oxford Road, Reading. Track Length : 360 Yards. 1st Meeting : 17th June 1968. Years of Operation : 1932 - Grass Track; 1968 - 70 - British League Division Two; 1971 - 1973 - British League Division One. Stadium site redeveloped for industrial units.

RINGWOOD : NEW : Matchams Park, Hurn Road, Ringwood, Nr Bournemouth. Track Length : 385 yards 1950, 375 yards. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1950 - Training; 1951 - 53 - Open; 1954 - Southern Area League; 1955 Southern Area League - withdrew June; 1972 - Training; 1973 - Training & Open; (1988 - 89 - Mini Long Track) 1989 - 90 Training; (1990 - 93 - Mini Long Track); 1993 - Training. (U.)

RINGWOOD : OLD Matchams Park, Hurn Road, Ringwood, Nr Bournemouth. Track Length : Not Known. 1st Meeting : Not Known. Years of Operation : 1937 - 1939 - Amateur Open.

ROCHDALE : The Athletic Grounds, Milnrow Road, Rochdale. Track Length : 441 yards 1928, 418 yards. 1st meeting : 18th August 1928. Years of Operation : 1928 - Open; 1929 - English Dirt Track League; 1930 - Northern League; 1970 - 71 - British League Division Two. Stadium site cleared and redeveloped as a supermarket. (U.)

ROCHESTER : City Way, Rochester, Kent. Track Length : 355 yards. 1st Meeting : Poss 1st August 1932. Years of Operation : 1932 - 34 - Open; 1969 - Demonstration Event; 1971 - Grass track. Stadium demolished in 1980. Team of 1969 raced four away fixtures in British League Division Two then transferred to Romford. (U.)

ROMFORD : Brooklands Stadium, Brooklands Road, Romford. Track Length : 375 yards. 1st Meeting : 29th May 1969. Years of Operation : 1969 - British League Division Two - replaced Rochester; 1970 - 71 - British League Division Two. Track was closed down after a court action over the noise.

RYDE : Ryde Stadium or Smallbrook Stadium, Ryde, Isle of Wight. Track Length : 396 metres. 1st Meeting : 13th May 1996. Years of Operation : 1995 - Noise Tests; 1996 - Conference League; 1997 - Premier League and Conference League; 1998 - 01 - Premier League. Nicknames : CL - Wight Wizards and PL - Isle of Wight Islanders. (N.)

## SOUTHAMPTON 1928 - 1929

**Eric Watson** replies to **Vic Butcher**'s article (Vol 3, No 3). Vic's article was very interesting, and I concur with most of it, but this is to expand on a few points and respond to some of his queries. Firstly he's right Alec Bennett only did a trial spin at Banister Court on 29 September 28, and never took up Dirt Track racing, he stayed with Road Racing having won the Isle of Man Senior T.T in 1922 and the Junior T.T in the summer of 1928. For Southampton's 1st season he was Clerk of the Course and Technical Advisor to all racing events at the Stadium. Other Southampton T.T riders who did take up Dirt Track racing were - Eric Fernihough and Cecil Barrow. Many thanks Vic for the Heat points format of "2 for 1st and 1 for 2nd". For the Final meeting on 17 Nov 1928 using Vic's format the result of '19-8' consolidates exactly. In 1929 Southampton did race twice a week - Saturdays, were Open or Tournament meetings and Wednesdays were usually for League matches. Reference their League match against Stamford Bridge, with Southampton nominating 2 reserves, who both rode in the match. This was the first season of League racing, which Stamford Bridge would eventually win with Southampton the runners-up. The match on 17 July was of great significance, as it was to be Stamford Bridge's first defeat of the season. The "Saints" being the first team to beat them - winning the match by 33 to 30 points. For the 1st five Heats racing was very close with a score of 18 to 17 in Stamford Bridge's favour at the end Heat 5. In Heat 6, Jimmy Hayes & Ernie Rickman for 'Saints' were well in front of the visitors till near the end of the last lap, then Jimmy Hayes's machine suddenly twisted throwing him upwards and then down on top of his bike. Ernie Rickman close behind couldn't avoid him and ran over him. The Stamford Bridge (SB) pair romped past to an easy 1st & 2nd place. Rickman managed to push his wrecked bike home for the 3rd place point. But Jimmy Hayes was rushed off to Hospital. This now put the visitors ahead by 24 to 18. Thankfully in Heat 7 Eric Lister & Vic Collins got 1st & 2nd places to recover the situation for the 'Saints', back to a 1 point difference 24 - 25 to (SB). Now at Heat 8, there was no Jimmy Hayes who was in Hospital and Ernie Rickman's bike is wrecked - so 'Saints' had to rely upon both of their Reserves [Clarrie Eldridge & Cecil Bounds] instead. They both make a good start with Eldridge leading the field until the 3rd lap, when the (SB) rider Bert Bolt manages to speed past him to win, the two hold grimly onto 2nd & 3rd places so gaining vital precious points. So (SB) now lead 29 to 27 with one heat to go. In the last Heat 'Saints' only need 1st & 3rd places to win the match, and Tommy Cullis & Col Stewart go all out in the final race gaining 1st & 2nd and clinching victory for the 'Saints' and thus ending **5**

Stamford Bridge's "unbeaten" run.

Note : Points scoring format in 1929 was 4 - 1st, 2 - 2nd & 1 - 3rd.  
(Details from Southern Echo dated 18 July 1929).

## Cumbrian Dirt Track Activity (Part 2)

In Vol 3 No.4 we started **Adrian Pavey**'s article on pre war activity in Cumbria. We have held over Part 2 to Vol 4 No 2 due to lack of space to complete the article in this edition.

## AN A - Z LIST OF SPEEDWAY PUBLICATIONS

There are a vast number of publications on speedway and dirt track racing. In this article we start to serialise a list compiled by **Graham Fraser** which should be a useful set of references. Please let Graham know if he has missed out any items.

Title	Author	Year
1927 - 1990 Western Australia Solo		
Champions of Claremont Speedway	Geoff Miller	1990
1931 Fixture List	National Speedway Association (Northern)	1931
1974 Speedway World Final Souvenir	Martin Rogers	1974
1977 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1977
1978 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1978
1979 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1979
1980 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1980
1981 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1981
1982 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1982
1986 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1986
1988 Speedway Star Annual	Speedway Star	1988
1990 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1990
1990 World Speedway Yearbook	Martin Kellaway	1990
1991 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1991
1993 Speedway Yearbook	Peter Oakes	1993
1997 World Championship Yearbook	Harry Susemilil	1998
2n & 3rd Division Speedway Handbook	Track News	1949
50 Golden Years of Speedway	Dave Lanning	1978
50 Years of Oxford Speedway	Gaisford & Cross	1989
50 Years of Swindon Speedway	Glynn Shailes & Robert Bamford	1999
A Dangerous Life	Chum Taylor / Geoff Miller	1986
A Fistful of Twistgrip	John Chaplin	1995

A History of Reading Speedway	Robert Bamford & Dave Stallworthy	2000
A Remarkable Year: A Review of Swindon's Outstanding 2000 Campaign	Robert Banford	2000
All Speedway No 1	Eric Linden	1952
All Speedway No 2	Eric Linden	1952
Among the Cinders: Speedway in Christchurch	Allan Batt (NZ)	1993
Arnie; Testimonial Brochure	Ed. Tony Robinson	1976
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1952	Len Went?/Astorias	1952
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1953	Len Went?/Astorias	1953
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1954	Len Went?/Astorias	1954
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1955	Astorias	1955
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1956	Astorias	1956
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1957	John Wicks/Astorias	1956
Astorias Speedway Booklet 1958	John Wicks/Astorias	1957
At the Frying Pan Vol 1 (New Cross)		1960
Australian Speedway Season Review	The Broadsider	1948
Barry Briggs Speedway World	Barry Briggs/ Philip Rising/MCN	1975
Belle Vue Speedway 1948 Supporters' Pictorial Souvenir		1948
Belle Vue Speedway Souvenir		1932
Belle Vue Speedway Souvenir Brochure		1946
Belle Vue Speedway Souvenir		1955
Big Al: International Speedway Star	Alan Graham	1987
Birmingham Speedway Team 1946	Birmingham Speedway Team	1946
The Birth of Speedway in Swindon: Autodrome, Gorse Hill	Robert Bamford	2000
Bluey Wilkinson: World Champion	Johnnie Hoskins	1946
Booey: Eric Boocock Testimonial Brochure	Ed: Dick Bott	1975
Boston Barracudas: A History from 1970-1984	Jeff Lukomiak	?1985
Boston Speedway Celebration Yearbook 1973	Gordon Parkins	1973
Boston Speedway Golden Jubilee Brochure	Graham Brown	1978
Bradford Speedway Handbook 1993	Keith Mcghie	1993
Brandon Bees Souvenir Photo Album		1948
Briggo: His Own Story	Barry Briggs	1972
Briggo's World of Speedway	Barry Briggs	1973
Bristol Bulldogs Special (Track Magazine)		1946
Bristol Evening World Speedway Annual 1947		1947
Bristol Evening World Speedway Annual 1948	Ed: Bob Hatsell	1948
Bristol Evening World Speedway Annual 1949		1949
Bristol Evening World Speedway Annual 1950	Ed: Bob Hatsell	1950
Bristol Evening World Speedway Annual 1951		1951
Bristol Speedway Handbook	Bulldog Breed Publication	1977

British Speedway 40th Anniversary 1928-1968	VDTRA	1968
British Speedway 1928 - 1988	VSRA	1988
British Speedway 1988 (Statistical Report)	Tony Loader	1989
British Speedway Conference	Graham Fraser & Martin Somerville	1996
League Handbook 1996		
British Speedway Fours - Four Team Champs.	Maurice Jones	1998
British Speedway Handbook	Dave Stevens	1966
To be continued.		

### Coventry's First Speedway : Lythall's Lane (Part Two)

We continue **Colin Parker's** history of the pioneer Coventry venue. Keith MacKay, one of the top Australian tourists, was booked to challenge Arthur Jervis in the third meeting (of 1928) on 4th August. Unfortunately, Jervis, one of the sensations of the first two meetings, had been injured in a mid week fixture elsewhere. The rather small crowd was disappointed to hear this but found some consolation when it was announced that another local hero, Syd Jackson, would be making his first public appearance on a dirt track. And what a debut it was to be! Nineteen years old Sydney was already well known in Coventry as an excellent all round motorcyclist and he was destined to become one of England's finest and most spectacular riders. He was a colourful, entertaining and somewhat volatile character who gained fame at the age of seventeen when finishing in eighth place in the 1926 Senior TT Race, and went on to compete very successfully in the following three years. In 1929 he finished sixth in the lightweight class, thirteenth in the junior and tenth in the senior class using JAP powered Montgomery machines. He was also an accomplished grass track rider, hill climber, trials and stunt rider. He was described in 1928 as the best centre forward in England in his other love, motor cycle football. Coventry Motor Cycle Football Club were by far the best English team and played their home matches at the Highfield Road football stadium in front of huge crowds. Syd's family came from Leicestershire but his parents were now licencees of the City Mill Hotel, Cox Street in Coventry. Syd rode a well prepared 348cc AJS on the grass as well as for hill climbing and motor cycle football. It was this machine that he took to Foleshill for his first meeting on the cinders. He won his heat of the Junior Open Challenge Race (novice) by one and a half laps. He did not broadside but "rushed round at full speed correcting the tendency to skid" in 2 mins. 13.2 seconds. In his semi final "Jackson pushed off with amazing sang froid, cheerfull lost yards in so doing, then went after N.J. Lea (BSA) like a projectile, broadsiding past him on the second bend and won easily." Syd was learning the art of dracing quickly and his next events were the "experts" challenge races. In heat 3 **8**

“he was off first again on his thunderous AJS getting a big lead on the first bend by a vicious broadside. He was broadsiding like an expert now, and having lapped W.N. Meacham (Rudge Special) who fell twice, eased up and won hands down” in 2 mins 13.8 seconds. Semi finals and finals were not reported.

There was much better racing at the fourth meeting, in which Jackson lowered the five lap record to 2 mins 5.6 secs. C.F. (Squibb) Burton and Geoff Taylor of Manchester rode well; Dennis Brandish appeared on his 348 AJS but Keith MacKay was a big disappointment.

The fifth meeting, on 18th August, was notable for the first mention of “S. Farndon (New Imperial)” “S” is most likely a misprint of “F”. It is true that Tom had a brother, Sid, but as far as I am aware, he was not dirt tracking at this time. (Sid did appear briefly in unlicensed meetings he promoted at Brandon in 1936.) Names were quite often mis-spelt by the local newspaper and other early reports around this time record “Fred” Farndon who was, in fact Tom, the young Foleshill lad who would become one of the greatest English speedway riders of the pre-war period before his tragic death at New Cross in 1935.

Syd Jackson was beaten by Clem Beckett of Manchester, who arrived at Coventry in an aeroplane. After the meeting Clem took off from Whitley airfield to fly back to Manchester in time to race in the evening events at White City.

(Beckett was quite a character and was variously billed as “Dare-Devil Clem Beckett” as well as “The Wild Blacksmith!” Clem had indeed been a shoeing blacksmith in his native Oldham and was a tough and fearless rider. He rode in a reckless, flat out manner taking risks that either won him races or left him in an untidy heap on the track! Crowds loved it and flocked to see him, especially at the northern tracks where he could command quite a substantial appearance fee. His appearance was described as “rather scruffy” but he was also described as “The Speed Ace of the North” who later toured the country with another new motor cycle craze, the Wall of Death.

Clem was also responsible for the first trade union for dirt track riders setting up the early version of the Speedway Riders’ Association and was suspended by the ACU for doing so. This wonderful, unconventional, idealistic man lost his life fighting for democracy in someone else’s country after he joined the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War.

Another large crowd assembled for the sixth meeting in spite of the counter attraction of football at Highfield Road. The meeting was the familiar mixture of junior, senior and challenge races which included, once again, A. W.

(Arthur) Jervis who won the Golden Gauntlet Final riding his Rudge Whitworth. Also riding was “F. Farndon” on a New Imperial and two Barnsley riders Joe Mitchell and G. Atkinson who met in a thrilling

challenge race for the honour of opposing Jack Adams of London. N. Lea (BSA) crashed into the fence and broke a wrist and Johnny Leete, who had started well in heat 5 of the Golden Gauntlet, failed to negotiate the first bend on his Coventry Victor and scattered a group of officials on the infield.

Eight thousand people saw Syd Jackson lower the track record yet again on 1st September when he won the Golden Helmet Final in 1 min 55 secs. New Zealander, Stewie St. George had been booked to appear but injured his knee on the way to the meeting. Cyril Lord (BSA), Squib Burton (Humber), Dennis Brandish (AJS) and Lew Lancaster (Velocette) all took part. Lew would give solid and loyal service to the Brandon Promotion over the next few years. The following week saw the successful dirt track debut of Coventry’s popular TT rider, Wilmot Evans, who actually won the Golden Gauntlet in the absence of Arthur Jervis who had been slightly injured at Manchester White City the previous evening. Wilmot was a Triumph works-sponsored TT rider so, not surprisingly, it was a Triumph that he first used on the speedway track. Syd Jackson now mounted on his newly acquired dirt-track Rudge, again broke the track record and Buzz Hibberd gave the Coventry public their first sight of a Harley “Peashooter.” Johnny Leete rode a Rudge model, recently won by Arthur Jarvis at a Manchester meeting.

The programme for 15th September reveals a total of twenty nine races and forty eight competitors. As well as the usual star local riders, Jackson, Jervis, Evans, and Burton the field included Norrie Isbister and George Cummings of Glasgow and a K.W. Oughton.

Ken Oughton was only sixteen years old and never destined to become a top rider. However Oughton was a determined young man and he pushed his under powered 172cc Francis Barnett Super Sports model to the stadium, raced his heats, then pushed it back home again. He also used to push the bike to the once a week evening practice sessions.

His racing helmet, bought at Lythall’s Lane for 27/6 (£1.37.5) still exists. Helmets were rarely worn by ordinary road going bikers in these days and were not generally available in shops. Many bike riders of the day considered it to be “sissy” to wear a helmet but the Police suspected riders wearing helmets to be the “boy racers” of the day. Ken’s leathers were of the finest quality, having been hand crafted by his tailor father. Oughton had been educated at Edgwick School where he was a classmate of the girl who would become Tom Fardon’s wife, Audrey Gledhill.

Although the top stars were guaranteed generous appearance fees, ordinary mortals were paid only if they won a race. Many competitors would return home with nothing. They were, however, quite well insured. When Ken Oughton broke a finger in one of his crashes, and was unable to work, he received £5 per week from the track, a comfortable income in 1928. **10**

Twenty eight races were programmed for 22nd September with forty competitors. The Midland Telegraph correspondent, however, counted sixty riders. No doubt the pits were rather congested. There were a host of crashes and machine failures, neatly summed up in the following day's newspaper as "good sport at Lythall's Lane." All the usual riders took part - Jervis, Jackson, Burton, Farndon, etc. and most of the five lap races were contested by five or six riders. There was a wide cross section of machines used at this meeting. The MDT had heard, "on good authority," that the management of Foleshill Dirt Track Races were negotiating with the Rover Company for the taking over of the Rover cycle and running track for the purpose of building a dirt track. It was generally accepted that the Foleshill track had its shortcomings which included its inaccessibility, and that the Butts site, being centrally situated, would probably be better supported. In reality it was more than likely that the difficulty of true broadsiding, the very essence of dirt track racing, was the main reason for the number of spectators attending being only moderate. On 29th September an attractive programme at Foleshill was watched by a modest crowd. Most of the regular riders were there together with Wolverhampton based Harry Taft and Billie Dallison. There was a ladies challenge race won by Miss Ethel Bolton, Jarvis's sister in law, on an AJS. Syd Jackson was in Vienna with the victorious motor cycle football team. 6th October saw the twelfth meeting of the season at which Billie Dallison beat Syd Jackson, who had just come back from Vienna, in a challenge race. After the meeting at Foleshill Dallison and several other riders made the short trip to Barndon to ride in Coventry's first illuminated speedway meeting. A week later on 13th October Foleshill staged its last meeting of 1928. Syd Jackson regained the Golden Helmet, lost to Dallison in his absence, won the News of the World Championship Belt and, together with the Golden Gauntlet, now held all the Lythall's Lane trophies. What future had the sport as the end of the first season drew to a close? A fine perceptive piece by "Ixion" of the Motor Cycle warned of the fickleness of the sporting public and suggested that a league system would be required to hold their sustained interest. "Ixion" also noted the far more thrilling spectacle of night time racing under lights and applauded the determination of both promoters and riders to never allow betting, thus ensuring good clean sport. Greyhound meetings continued through 1929 but there was no dirt track action. In March 1930 the stadium owners considered re-opening it for speedway racing and even applying in the following year for membership of the Speedway League. They were immensely proud that established stars such as Jackson, Farndon, Jervis and Burton had first raced at Lythall's Lane

Lane. The track was to be refurbished in red ash, the bends widened and ACU approval was to be sought straight away. "Coventry's pioneer track," "Stadium Super Speedway" was set to re-open in May as a sporting club.

Racing eventually got under way on Tuesday 10th June at 7.30pm. Six thousand spectators saw 25 events on the 352 yard circuit. Principal riders were Bert Spencer, Freddie Hore, Harold Stevens and Ben Unwin, with Fred Wilkinson and Arthur Sherlock from Leicester Super. Match races between Stevens and Sherlock were eventually abandoned "owing to their having exhausted their equipment" and the prize money was divided between the two. Meetings now switched to Mondays and on 16th June Ginger Lees of Liverpool made his Foleshill debut. He was joined by Stevens as well as Jack Barber (Sheffield), Larry Boulton (Liverpool) and George Marsh (Leicester). The highlights in an evening of much improved racing were the performances of Lees who won most of his races and established a new track record for four laps of 79.8 secs.

Joe Abbott of Preston swept the boards on 23rd June beating Harold Stevens in two straight match races and winning both handicap and scratch finals. Frank Chiswell, Joe Dallison and Fred and Al Wilkinson also rode. Abbott and the spectacular Ginger Lees were booked for the fourth meeting. When in the second of their match races, Abbott, leading, crashed heavily and was struck by Lees. Joe was quickly to his feet, remounted and won the race to the disgust of the crowd who shouted "rerun it." It was explained later that Ginger had urged Joe to go on and finish as his own machine was badly damaged.

Only 1500 people attended the fifth meeting on 7th July. Improvements to the deep rutted bends improved racing but no major stars were booked. Lythall's Lane's final meeting was held in unfavourable weather on the evening of Monday 14th July. A meagre 1500 crowd saw an innovative eight a side team contest. Among those competing were Broncho Bianchi, Ben Unwin, Alec Bowman and Dilly Gittens.

Two days later the management announced the suspension of racing. It had been difficult running meetings without the availability of Saturdays and top riders were often unavailable. However, many recalled the thrills that Syd Jackson and Arthur Jervis used to give them on the narrow Lythalls Lane track.

The stadium site was redeveloped for housing.

### **Worth A Look?**

**Keith Farman**, suggests that some promoters might like to have a look at Caister Road, home of his beloved Yarmouth Bloaters. The surface is tarmac but, if a reasonable shale surface could be laid at Rye House, why not elsewhere.

## CAN YOU HELP?

We had a pile of requests with the subscription forms and have struck while the iron is hot to avoid you waiting. Can we remind you to try to make your requests as specific as possible - dates / years / as we find very general enquires tend to fail to find much assistance. We do serialise requests 20 at a time like the first request below.

**Eric Watson**, 43 Hammonds Green, Totton, Southampton, SO40 3SU is seeking information on team colours (TC), and logos on race jackets (L) and team nicknames (N) for: Rochdale Northern League 1929 - 30 (TC,L,N); Cardiff Non League 1928 - 30 & 34, 35, 37; Provincial League 1936 (TC,L,N); Crewe Non League 1929 - 30 (TC,L,N); Dagenham 1932 - 39 (TC,L, Daggers); Eastbourne Non League 1932 - 39 (TC,L,N); Exeter Non League 1929 - 31, 34 (Red & White, Red Roundel with White 'E',N); Halifax Non League 1928 & 30, Northern League 29 (TC,N,L); Salford Northern League 1929 (TC,L,N); Burnley Northern League 1929 (TC,L,N); Bolton Northern League 1929 (TC,N,L); Long Eaton Non League 1929 - 32 (TC,L,N); Portsmouth Non League 1929 - 30 (TC,L,N); Grenford Non League 1928 -29, 31 (TC,L,N); Audenshaw Non League 1929 - 31 (TC,L,N); Wolverhampton Non League 1928 - 31 (TC,L,N).

**Keith Farman**, 230 Beccles Road, (not 250) Gorleston on Sea, Great Yarmouth (01493 668139) is looking for a photograph Jimmy Golding plus portrait photographs of Phil Day, Joe Rodwell and Bob Womack.

**Adrian Pavey**, Plot 3 , Commongate, Low Moresby, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 6RX is looking for information about Aussie Vic Ctercteko who appeared at Workington in 1932. (At Leeds in 1931 and made one appearance at Marine Gardens that year. -Jim Henry). Also: Did Harold Jackson of Belle Vue fame come from Barrow ? and Can anyone provide information about Frank Burgess ( Belle Vue '31- JH) Jim Fewster and Jim Quarmby ?

**Bob Ozanne**, 51 Heath Road, Hillingdon, Middlesex (02085616993) is looking for heat details for 1932 Wimbledon v Clapton 27.06; Clapton v Crystal Palace 5.10; Wembley v Crystal Palace 6.10; and Wimbledon v Crystal Place 10.10.

**Mick King**, 24 Rothwell Road, Malvern Wells, Worcestershire, WR14 4HX is wondering about Lichfield Speedway Supporters Club as he has been asked by a relative who has seen an advert on the Internet for a replica bus in a yellow and black livery bearing that name. Apparently the bus was manufactured by Corgi.**Mark Sawbridge**, Flat 5, Malcolm Court, Lower Vauxhall, Wolverhampton, WV1 4SS, 01902 713950 is looking 4th placed riders in 1951 meetings Wolverhampton v Exeter 18.05; v Poole 25.05,

13

v Rayleigh 1.06; v St Austell 8.06; v Cardiff 15.06; v Plymouth 22.06; and versus Wolverhampton at Aldershot 23.06; at Plymouth 28.06; at Cardiff 19.07; at Rayleigh 25.08; at Cardiff 30.08; and at St Austell 18.09.

**Les Hawkins**, The Conifers, Mount Pleasant Drive, Tadley, Hants 0118 9815273 is looking for photographs of action at Longmoor / California.

**Glynn Shailes**, 64 Station Road, Purton, Nr Swindon, Wilts SN5 4AJ 01793 77009 is seeking information about the Ipswich v Southampton fixture of 24th March 1951. Most reports indicate the event was rained off but a programme has emerged that indicates the match was rained off after 4 heats.

**R.L.Blackstone**, 4 Springfield Road, Southwell, Notts, NG25 0BT 01636 812606 is seeking information on the career of Don Lawson who was supposed to be a nephew of Aub Lawson in the 1950s. (Don Lawson rode for Newcastle 1950 and 1951 Jim H.)

**Dave James**, 222 Channel View Flats, Grangetown, Cardiff, CF11 7HU is wondering if Neath Abbey, used in 1962 for the Provincial League team, ever staged meetings prior to 1962. He is also seeking information on a possible track at a known grass track venue at (the painfully named) Pyle near Bridgend, Glamorgan. Dave is also seeking heat details or photocopies of programmes of any 1935/1936 meetings at Sloper Road, Cardiff.

**Kevin Maguire**, 24 Wheatcroft, Hanover Street, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 5BW 01924 470769 is looking for information about: Jess Halliday who promoted at Bardford Greenfields early 1960s; Jim Streets a former Odsal Promoter and details who was of the "Merlin Man."

**Graham Haynes** is seeking photocopies of match reports for the pre-war England v Australia Tests staged both in England and Australia. Graham also asks if the Southampton v London match staged on 3.11.1928 was the first ever team match and was the meeting at the same venue on 17.11.1928 the first ever England v Australia event ? (Note: Many, so called, test matches in 1928 were merely a series of match races. Jim H.)

**Bryan Tungate**, 66 Cuckoofield Lane, Mulbarton, Norfolk, NR14 8AZ 01508 578460 is looking for full heat details for Norwich meetings at Sheffield, Newcastle and Middlesbrough 1946, 1947, 1948, 1950 and 1951.

**Vic Butcher**, 7 Derwent Close, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 6FQ 01243 532819 is looking for newspaper match reports / heat details for Southampton pre war homes and aways. Vic is also looking for heat details including second halves for Southampton at Eastbourne, Stoke, Wombwell, Cradley, Hastings, Tamworth and Fleetwood in the era 1947 to 1950.

**Richard Hine**, 19 St Thomas' Street, Brampton, Chesterfield, S40 3AH 01246 554206. E-mail Rich@comparapa.demon.co.uk is seeking a full list of the Poole fixtures for 1948 season.

**Paul Houghton**, 55 The Moorfield, Stoke Aldermoor, Coventry, CV3 14

1DL 02476268744 is seeking full heat results for Coventry's 1929 meetings plus any press cuttings for meetings after 30.9.1929. Also looking for details and photographs of Tom Farndon.

**James E. Gooderham**, 3 Riverview Road, Harkstead, Ipswich, IP9 1BL 01473 327174 wants to know if the following programmes were printed and issued at the meeting. 1951: Norwich v Southampton at Ipswich 24.3 and 14.4; 1952: Long Eaton v Ipswich 14.4; 1953: Rayleigh 4 Team Tournament 1.8; St Austell v Ipswich 11.8; Ipswich v Oxford 29.8; 1954: Ipswich v Exeter 7.8; Motherwell v Ipswich 10.9; 1.10; and 8.10; 1955: Southampton v Ipswich 3.5; Poole v Ipswich 13.6; Exeter v Ipswich 18.7; 1956: Ipswich v Stockholm 12.4; 1958: Ipswich v Leicester 8.5; Belle Vue v Ipswich 26.7; 1959 S.A.L. at Ipswich 13.5; 1960: Norwich v Ipswich 11.6; Rye House v Ipswich 18.9; 1964 Ipswich v Newport 4.8; 1965: Trophy Meeting at Ipswich 19.6; 1975 Peterborough v Ipswich 11.4; 1976: Belle Vue v Ipswich 22.9.

**John Sampford**, 2 Fairfield Avenue, Grays, Essex, RM16 2LT 01375 377552 wants to know if they following Rayleigh programmes were destroyed or used at a later date v West Ham 11.5.1950; v Swindon 12.9.1951; v Plymouth 29.8.1953; v Coventry B 6.6.1960. Cardiff v Rayleigh 11.10.1951 and 8.5.1952. John wonders if Rayleigh were involved in meetings at Rye House on 12.4.1959 and 2.8.1959.

**Tony Steele**, 22 Church Street, Billesdon, Leicester, LE7 9AE 0116 259730 is seeking details of speedway on film - any format e.g. 8mm etc.

**Mick Bird**, 18 Tyndale Street, Leicester, LE3 0QP, who, along with others, is working on a catalogue of programmes, is seeks details of training meetings for which programmes were produced and details of what happened to rained off meeting programmes. i.e. were they re-issued or re-issued with an insert. Also seeking details of meetings where one meeting had two programmes of differing covers e.g. a World Final in the 1950s.

(Editors - Could we add assistance on programmes printed in different colours as was the case at St Austell in the early 1960s and at least one junior event (white and green versions) at Linlithgow.)

### Who Is Doing What

We carry on with details of subscribers who have provided details of their interests or research work. If you think you can help anyone listed here, please contact them.

**Les Hawkins**                      **California / Longmoor; Aldershot**  
"The Conifers" Mount Pleasant Drive, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 4XA  
01189 815273

**Graham Haynes**                      **Wembley, Southampton, New Cross, White**  
**City London. England v Australia**                      **15**

16 Kempton Close. Alton, Hampshire, GU34 2TY  
01420 89144

**Richard Hine**                      **Poole Home and Away**  
18 St Thomas' Street, Brampton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 3AH  
01246 554206

**Jeff Holmes**                      **Glasgow Speedway**  
24 Castle Road, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6DQ  
0141 616 0229

**Phil Hood**                      **Newcastle Brough Park**  
77 Mayfield Road, Eastrea, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, PE7 2AY  
01733 350460

**Peter Hopkins** **Liverpool Stanley and Seaforth**  
127 Strathcona Road, Wavertree, Liverpool, L15 1EB  
0151 280 7254

**Paul Hornsby**                      **Peterborough**  
186 Broadway, Yaxley, Peterborough, PE7 3NT 01733 241768

**Paul Houghton** **Coventry Pre War**  
55 The Moorfield, Stoke Aldemoor, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV3 1DL

**Roger Hulbert** **All Four Hull Speedways**  
6 The Garth, First Lane, Anlaby, Hull, HU10 6UY 01482 648240

**Mike Hunter**                      **Scottish Speedway, Speedway Films**  
33 Groathill Road South, Edinburgh, EH4 2LS  
0131 332 1127

**Bill Huntley**                      **Pre-War Riders, especially West Ham**  
28 Rillside, Furnace Green, Crawley, West Sussex, RH10 6PQ  
01293 412084

**Paul Inchley**                      **Brafield Speedway**  
27 Grange Road, Wigston Fields, Leicester, LE18 1JH  
0116 257 0620

**Jeremy Jackson**                      **All West Country Speedways**  
"Glen Maye" 85 Park Way, Fairfield Park, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4HR  
01726 66484

**Matt Jackson**                      **Biography of all speedway riders**  
11 Crescent Road, Nether Edge, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, S7 1HJ  
01114 2500674

**Peter Jackson** **Post War National League**  
41 Riversfield Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3DH  
0181 366 3295

**Norman Jacobs**                      **East Anglian and London Speedways**  
101 Farmleigh Avenue, Clackton on Sea, Essex, CO15 4AU  
01255 426115



**Trevor James Blackpool, Rochdale, Belle Vue, Liverpool, Wigan**  
14 Keats Road, Greenmount, Bury, Lancashire, BL8 4EP  
01204 886959

**Dick Jarvis Canterbury & Edinburgh Speedways**  
47 Old Park Avenue, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1DN

**Steve Collins British Speedway Results 1929 - date, especially Pre War**

12 Ash Tree Drive, Haxey, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 2JT  
01427 754138

**Alan Thompsett Details of Speedway activity on 12th May 1923 to date.**

5 Longmead Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 2TN 01983 564869

**Don Gray Pre War Teams and Riders**

Old Orchard, High Street, Waterbeach, Cambridgeshire, CB8 9JU  
01223 862279

**Colin Greenwell Middlesbrough Speedway**

71 Skippers Lane, Normanby, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, TS6 0JE

**Jim Gregory Early Speedway Bikes & meetings he rode in**

Holly Lodge, 5b Roundabout Lane, Welyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 0TH  
01438 714462

**Steven Harland Middlesbrough Speedway**

8 Bramley Parade, Bowesfield Lane, Stockton on Tees, TS18 3JG  
01642 656803

**David Hartley Track details especially Leeds & early Iwade**

26 Haugh End Lane, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire, HX6 3BJ  
014222 829933

**Jim Henry Glasgow Tigers 1945 - 1954 & 1956 and Motherwell (Lanarkshire) Eagles 1950 -54**

### **Additional Info**

**Bob Ozanne** adds to Mike Terran's item in Vol 2 No 4 re 1929 Star Championship.

Jack Parker v Jimmy Hayes: The Southampton clash was scheduled for Saturday 27th July. Unfortunately it never took place because Jimmy was so badly injured at Bannister Court on Wednesday 17th July (see Vic Butcher item) when he broke his pelvis. He was on the critical list for some time and out of action for the season. Jack Parker went on to the next round by default. Thankfully Hayes returned in 1930.

Stan Catlett withdrew from the contest after defeating Alf Chick because **17**

he was going home to Australia by boat. He embarked before the end of August 1929 by which time the second round of the Overseas action had only just started.

**Jim Henry** wonders if Norwich were the only track to set a start time for each heat in their programme. The 1948 editions show heat 1 starting at 7.30pm, heat 2 at 7.35.25, heat 3 at 7.40.5 and so on in multiples of five and a quarter minutes with a ten and a half minute gap between heat 14 and the start of the second half.

**Colin Pike** of Surbiton points out that Speedway in East Anglia gives Max Pearce's age as 23 when he died not 28 as per Vol 2. No.4. Can we clarify ?

**Alex Broadhurst** "A proud Mancunian" takes Adrian Pavey to task over his mention of Droylesden being a sand track. According to Alex the sources he has consulted confirm the venue was a cinder track. The event at Droylesden in 1927 has always been a contender for first meeting in the UK and it is an old chestnut which will rumble on and on.

Alex also would like confirmation of the date of death of Jim "Indian" Allen as he questions the mention in Don Gray's article about 1931. (I suspect the confusion is due to the report Alex has read. If I recall correctly Allan was fatally injured in one meeting and died on the day of another, hence the abandonment of the second meeting. However I stand to be corrected. Jim H.)

**Andrew Anderson** of Dorchester questions the date given for the death of Reg Vigor. According to Andrew, Peter Jackson has him riding in a match on 27th September 1937 but The Speedway Researcher has his date of death as 27th July 1937. Can anyone sort this one out ?

**Chris Byles**, 49 Brendon Road, Wellington, Somerset, TA21 8RN 01823 664323 Email [Chris@exeter-falcons.demon.co.uk](mailto:Chris@exeter-falcons.demon.co.uk)

<http://www.dirttrack.clara.net/> passes on some information about the bikes we've mentioned in previous editions.

The Italian Villa, made around 1979/80, had two types namely the 500NE and the 500SP. The former was an OHV (overhead valve) 500cc (cubic centimetres capacity) offering 55BHP (brake horsepower) at 7,000 revs (revolutions per minute) whilst the latter was a DOHC (double overhead camshaft) type offering 60BHP at 8,000 revs.

Chris thinks the Benneli should be Bellini and advises these were built by Paola Bellini from Verona and Walter Kruger, a German Porsche mechanic using a Weslake OHV bottom half and a SOHC (single overhead camshaft) 2V (two valve) Porsche head. A normal roller chain drove the camshaft on this Type T152 engine. A later Type T154 was made using a Weslake bottom end but Bellini made a new cylinder and a new four valve head machined from a solid piece of alloy. In 1981/82 Bellini started to make his own engine, the Type 254. This was followed by a Type 354 which, like the 254, was then quite innovative **18**

for a speedway engine. The 354 recycled the engine oil in the days of total loss systems and turned out 63.5 BHP at 8,600 revs running up to a maximum 11,000 revs. Bellini later built a SOHC 4 valve engine using a GM SOHC head with the drive delivered using a roller chain.

Chris thinks the Husqvarna owned by Richard Foreshaw dated from 1931.

Chris also has the technical specification for the Phil Pratt PPT of 1985.

The New Zealand motor is probably the Denco made by Denco Engineering which Chris indicates was quite technically advanced.

For the more technically minded looking for full details we suggest you contact Chris directly or have a look at his web site.

Chris advises that he is researching the Cole engine made by Howard Cole Senior and would welcome any help and information anyone can provide.

### ( or why doesn't Jim get it right first time? )

**Andrew Anderson** and others correctly point out Peter Bailey was killed at the entrance to Brandon Stadium, Coventry, not Holland in 1974 not 1973. Andrew and others also picked up the slip in Vol 3 No. 3 Star Championship details - Francis and Farndon should indeed be Crystal Palace not Plymouth. (Anyone want to volunteer for proof reading?)

**Bryan Tungate** points out that our ACU Northern Cup table is a bit wide of the mark. The reason is that home wins scored 2 points but away wins scored 3 points. Similarly a home draw earned 1 point but an away draw earned 2 points. An other oddity pointed out by Bryan is that despite the event requiring a 16 heat format six of the fixtures : Glasgow v Birmingham, v Norwich and v Sheffield and Newcastle v Glasgow, v Norwich and Norwich v Middlesbrough were all raced over the 14 heat format. Norwich won the event with 17 points(not 14) , Middlesbrough had 16 (not 14), Sheffield 13 (not 12), Birmingham 9, Glasgow 6 and Newcastle 5. For and against home Norwich should be amended to 489 - 430 and for Middlesbrough 492 - 454.

Bryan also suggests that the Northern League results grid should be modified. Middlesbrough 46 Sheffield 38 not 49 - 34 and Newcastle 49 Sheffield 34 not 48 - 34. Also amendments to for and against Sheffield A 844.5 (not 851.5); Norwich A789 (not 793); Birmingham H 741 (not 740); Newcastle A 862 (not 806) and Glasgow 810 - 862 (not 811 - 865.)

Bryan questions if the Norwich side were ever called the Canaries.

Bryan suggests the issue of the No. 18 race jacket goes back to 1963 when Antonin Kasper qualified as Continental Reserve but could not ride and was replaced by Ron Mountford.

Finally Bryan suggests the lights out incident featuring Peter Lansdale was a Foot Forward v Leg Trailers match at Liverpool.

**Jim Henry** has finally found the song title which formed the basis for Gundy Harris' nickname. It is "The Road to Gundagai." See Speedway News 17.10.1948 page 5.

**Keith Brooker**, 18 Harefield Road, Maidenhead, SL6 5EA suggests that we should carry "where are they now" type articles. The editors are not sure on this one so we'll let you think about it and canvas opinion when we issue the next renewal slip.

## Obscure Mentions

Articles and items about speedway turn up in lots of unusual places and we would like to tell you about them. How is this for starters. Ecurie Ecosse magazine Vol 9 No8 July 1966 has an article entitled "Rosalind Goes Ga-Ga Over Cha Cha!" about Rosalind Smith's liking for Charlie Monk and Scottish Speedway in general. Rosalind is better known these days as Ros Isbister.

Another interesting item has been sent in by **Chris Marsh** from Chesterfield. It is an extract from the Bradford City F.C. Fanzine called The City Gent. This magazine carried an item about Bradford Greenfield Stadium and gives a brief history of the dirt track (described as primitive version of speedway) in 1928 and the revival in 1961 - 62. The article also carries an ordnance survey map showing the stadium.

**Norman Jacobs**, 101 Farmleigh Avenue, Clacton on Sea, Essex, CO15 4UL 01255 426115 tells of the publication called Picture Postcard Monthly and the March 2001 which carries an article by Norman about postcards that recall the early days of speedway racing.

## Web Sites

The electronic age is with us!!! If you have a speedway information web page you want readers of **The Speedway Researcher** to know about please pass on the details and we'll publish them. Some have been listed in the Speedway Star of late.

## Planning Help

Are you a member of a group looking for a site for a new speedway track? If so this may be of help. Planning 23.2.2001 tells of group interested in raising the profile of motor sport in land use planning. Whilst it appears the group are geared towards moto-cross, it is possible they may be able to help speedway. Contact names are Richard Fordham and Alan Kind Email (Richard.Fordham@NCLAC.UK) and (alan@highwayman.demon.co.uk). Alan Kind is the Land, Access and Recreation Association's planning officer.

## Publications

**Allan Batt**, PO Box 19 687, Woolston, Christchurch, New Zealand (ajbatt@hotmail.com) has published "Aranui a speedway legacy" costing £15, \$30 Australia and \$15 US all inc Air Mail postage. Cheques payable to A.J.Batt or by cash. (Could CV Chubb contact Allan re NZ engine.)

**London Local Archives** (A Directory of Local Authority Record Offices and Libraries) are the subject of a book published by the Greater London Archives Network priced £4.50 will help you find where these are located. (The completed list of Colindale Library holdings for London will be published soon in The Researcher as will the list of Scottish newspapers held there.)

**Robert Bamford**, 3 The Mews, Gastons Road, Malmesbury, Wiltshire, SN16 0BE has a few more publications as follows:

Somerset Yearbook 2000 £5.99 plus £1 p & p. The Flying Fryer - all about Paul Fry - £9.99 plus £2 p & p. 25 Years of Mad Dog - all about Martin Dixon - £8.99 plus £1 p & p. Jointly with John Jarvis - Track Photography II - £9 plus £1 p & p and The Birth of the Bulldogs £8.99 plus £1 p & p. Cheques / POs payable to Robert Bamford.

**Howard Jones**, Speedaway Publications, 26 Cheviot Avenue, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, FY8 4TE 01253 733288 has published No.4 of the defunct tracks series on Nelson (Lancashire) £2.50 inc p & p, and the Stoke Handbook 2000 £3.00. The History of Ellesmere Port is due out on August 1st cost £10.99. Subscriptions for the Speedway Programme Monthly £3 for a single issue and £30 for 12 issues. Cheques payable to H.Jones

## Cigarette Cards

We have received from **David Hartley** a detailed list of cigarette cards and will publish this information in a forthcoming edition. However, David has a gap in his information - in the A & J Donaldson Ltd, 69 Ingram Street, Glasgow series which seems to be from the late 1940s - early 1950s. For those in the know they are numbered from 400 to 438 (or higher if you know of higher numbered cards.) Can anyone tell us who featured on cards numbered 402, 406, 413, 417, 419 and 426? Two cards were numbered 408 and none to David's knowledge, was numbered 407.

## Programme Information

**Speedway Programme Monthly** editor **Howard Jones** would be pleased to help anyone seeking information about speedway programmes. See above for Howard's address and magazine subscription details. **21**

## Speedway in Bridgewater?

**Don Gray** from Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire wonders if anyone down in the Somerset cider country can help provide a bit more information about a possible venue in Bridgewater in the mid-summer of 1935. The track was possibly located at the local rugby ground in or near the town. The source of Don's information is Tom Morgan writing as Broadsider in the Sunday People.

## Collection Policy

Much in all as we try to be helpful The Speedway Researcher will not carry requests items sought by collectors. We do not want to cut across other publications that specialise in collecting. We do, however, carry your adverts provided by you in the envelope subject to availability of space. You may advertise for what you like, within legal constraints, for whatever you like. Contact Graham Fraser for details of availability of space etc.

## Confidential Responses

If you wish to respond to a request for information but do not wish to contact the person seeking the information then **The Speedway Researcher** will publish or pass on information as "honest broker" on a "name and address supplied" basis.

## Fanzines

The wee advert in a recent Speedway Star for The Last Lough - £1 plus A4 sae from 22 South Road, Wooler, Northumberland NE71 6NJ prompts us to ask if you could pass on details of any fanzines for our publications section. The magazine title of the magazine all about Berwick Bandits makes reference to the deep rural Berrington Lough track in case you were wondering about the title. Equally we would be happy to give a mention in the Researcher to any supporters club publications currently in production.

**Deadline for items for next edition is : 31st August 2001**

**The Speedway Researcher is edited and published by :**

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

**Jim Henry**  
**90 Greenend Gardens,**  
**Edinburgh, EH17 7QH**  
**Tel : 0131 664 7185** **22**

### 1931 Evening News London Challenge Cup

First Round	Second Round / Semi Final	Final	Winners
Wimbledon 49 Wembley 45			
Wembley Wimbledon	Stamford Bridge 50 Wembley 46		
West Ham 41.5 Stamford Bridge 53.5	Wembley 53.5 Stamford Bridge	Crystal Palace 59 Wembley 36	<b>Crystal Palace 114 - 76</b>
Stamford Bridge 58 West Ham 36			
High Beech 46 Lea Bridge 48			
Lea Bridge 60 High Beech 35	Lea Bridge 41 Crystal Palace 55	Wembley 40 Crystal Palace 55	
Crystal Palace - Bye	Crystal Palace 69 Lea Bridge 27		

### Provincial League 1936

Away Team	Bristol	Cardiff	Liverpool	Nottingham	Plymouth	Southampton	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Team							Southampton	16	10	0	6	618.5	518.5	20
							Bristol	16	10	0	6	593.5	536.5	20
Bristol	xxxxx	38 - 33	41 - 30	43 - 29	40 - 32	38 - 32	Nottingham	16	9	0	7	601.5	548.5	18
	xxxxx		52 - 19	43 - 29	49 - 23	35 - 37	Liverpool	16	9	0	7	555	577	18
Cardiff	39 - 33	xxxxx	42 - 28	35 - 36	37 - 34	33 - 37	Plymouth	16	2	0	14	476.5	662.5	4
Liverpool	36 - 35		xxxxx	29 - 40	43 - 24	40 - 31	Cardiff	9	3	0	6	280	351	6
	39 - 33		xxxxx	34 - 37	44 - 26	40 - 30								
Nottingham	33 - 34	38 - 34	30 - 41	xxxxx	39.5 - 32.5	30 - 41								
	53 - 19		55 - 17	xxxxx	48 - 23	47 - 24								
Plymouth	35 - 37	57 - 15	25 - 47	35 - 37	xxxxx	47 - 25								
	35 - 36		40 - 32	27 - 44	xxxxx	29 - 43								
Southampton	43 - 29	35 - 37	35 - 37	53.5 - 17.5	49 - 20	xxxxx								
	41.5 - 29.5		43 - 27	42 - 30	49 - 23	xxxxx								

### National Provincial Trophy 1936

Away Team	Bristol	Liverpool	Nottingham	Plymouth	Southampton	West Ham	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Home Team							Southampton	10	8	0	2	361	275	16
							Bristol	10	7	0	3	391	318	14
Bristol	xxxxx	32 - 40	45 - 24	50 - 22	32 - 38	43 - 29	Liverpool	10	5	0	5	376	335	10
Liverpool	30 - 42	xxxxx	47 - 23	46 - 22	33 - 39	44 - 27	Plymouth	9	4	1	4	318	319	9
Nottingham	27 - 43	30 - 41	xxxxx	38 - 33	31 - 39	47 - 24	Nottingham	9	3	0	6	290	343	6
Plymouth	46 - 25	38 - 34	Not Raced	xxxxx	42 - 30	53 - 18	West Ham II	10	1	1	8	270	432	3
Southampton	29 - 40	43 - 27	42 - 28	44 - 27	xxxxx	52 - 20								
West Ham II *	33 - 39	37 - 34	29 - 42	34 - 34	28 - 44	xxxxx								

\* Raced at Southampton

Note Cardiff 43 West Ham II 28 Did West Ham II v Cardiff take place ?

Compiled by **Mike Teran**