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Correspondence address: P.O. Box 65784, LONDON NW2 9NS

Tel: 020-8452-1798 (Peter Lush) or

020-7515-5615 (Dave Farrar)

Mobile: 07973-845285. Email: peter56nw@gmail.com

***Where Eagles Dared - Speedway in Motherwell* By Jim Henry**

London League Publications Ltd are pleased to announce the publication of *Where Eagles Dared- Speedway in Motherwell* by Jim Henry

Motorcycle speedway came to the UK in 1928. It was staged in Scotland at venues in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Ayr, Broxburn and Motherwell with varying levels of success before the Second World War. It relaunched in Glasgow in 1945, Edinburgh in 1948 and came to Motherwell in 1950.

The first season saw a makeshift team provide a variety of meetings to introduce the sport to the town. The positive response saw the Lanarkshire Eagles enter the National League Division Two in 1951. As speedway declined nationally in the early 1950s, the Eagles' fellow Scottish teams closed down – Glasgow Ashfield for league racing after 1952 and both the Glasgow Tigers and Edinburgh Monarchs in 1954. The Eagles were willing to race in 1955, but the English teams refused to travel north for only one meeting in Scotland, effectively forcing the team out of business.

A short resurgence in 1958 did not last and 1972 saw a flicker of bike action on the site of the demolished stadium.

The riders for the Eagles in the 1950s included Noel Watson, Bluey Scott, Gordon McGregor, Keith Gurtner, Derick Close – who reached the World Final in 1952, Ron Phillips and Tommy Miller – arguably Scotland's best speedway rider of this era.

The Eagles did not do particularly well in the league, but did win the North Shield tournament in 1954 and were finalists in the Scottish Cup in 1953.

This book gives a fascinating insight into speedway in Motherwell, when the Eagles dared in Scotland's black county. It also includes profiles of all the riders who rode for the team and full statistical records. All speedway fans will enjoy this book.

The author has written widely on the history of speedway in Scotland and has a lifetime's involvement in the sport

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