

The Speedway Researcher

Promoting Research into the History of Speedway and Dirt Track Racing

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Dirt Track Racing Thrills – US Style

Board racing largely confined to California where even temperatures are kind to wood. Majority of tracks in USA are all dirt surfaced, half a mile in circumference and were originally used for horse racing. Dirt tracks are not banked on the turns. As a result we have a highly developed group of solo riders who “corner” (skid) around the short turns at speed and aware that they are breathtaking in their daring. It is a matter of balance that comes with practice. The track has a loose covering of sand, that we all know by bitter experience, is a great aid to skidding.

A rider flashes down the straight, he steers slightly to the left, and the tail end of the machine tries to swing round. With a cool head, the rider steers into the skid and the act makes a picture of daredevil riding. The machine and rider actually seem to be going broadside around the long curve. It is the nearest thing to a giant pendulum movement that one can visualize with a stroke an eighth of a mile wide.

Maldwyn Jones from Ohio had held supremacy in half mile dirt tracks riding for 10 years.

Extract From Motor Cycling 23.5.1923 pages 85 – 86.

Star Trophy Competition 1929

Stuart Staite-Aris has compiled this record on the big championship of 1929 and we have decided to run it as one long article

Home Section – First Round Competitors

Rider	Team
Colin Watson	White City
Eric Spencer	Harringay

Jim Kempster	Wimbledon
Buster Frogley	Wembley
Ivor Creek	West Ham
Tommy Croombs	Lea Bridge
Jack Parker	Coventry
Jimmy Hayes	Southampton
Gus Kuhn	Stamford Bridge
Roger Frogley	Crystal Palace

1. Colin Watson v Eric Spencer – Colin Watson won 2-1

Saturday July 5th – White City

Heat 1 1st Eric Spencer 2nd Colin Watson Time 84.2 secs

Eric Spencer from the inside took the lead and although not as fast as usual he was still able to hold his own on the straights but unusually for him he strayed from the white line far enough for Colin Watson to come through on the inside of the fourth turn. Colin not being a white line specialist drifted off line himself on the next corner and Spencer regained the lead. On the first corner of the last lap Spencer handed back the lead to Watson only for Colin to go on and take the last corner very wide and he ended up finishing several lengths behind the white line riding Spencer.

Heat 2 1st Colin Watson 2nd Eric Spencer Time 83.4 secs

Colin Watson drawn on the inside led from start to finish. Although Watson rode his usual wide line Spencer again lacked his usual speed and was unable to catch his opponent

Heat 3 1st Colin Watson 2nd Eric Spencer (fell) Time 87.2 secs

Colin Watson again drew the inside start and it was a very tired Eric Spencer who lined up alongside him. Watson soon held a lead of several lengths and with his Harley Davidson Peashooter travelling at least as fast as Spencer's machine he was assured of victory when Spencer swerved onto the centre green. Spencer's machine almost stopped and he finally fell off near the pits.

Saturday August 10th Harringay – Eric Spencer won 2-0

Heat 1 1st Eric Spencer 2nd Colin Watson Time 72.9 secs

Eric Spencer had the inside gate and was on the faster machinery. Watson deliberately held back from the start in an attempt to gain the inside line around the first turn. However as Spencer slid out wide Watson found he didn't have the necessary speed and Spencer led the way up the back straight and from that point on he never looked like

losing it. Over the last two laps he was even able to ease off and still finish ahead by half the length of the straight.

Heat 2 1st Eric Spencer 2nd Colin Watson (fell) Time 82.6 secs

Colin Watson had the inside gate but Eric Spencer had so much more speed that he went away from Colin right from the start. After leading into the first corner Eric Spencer (as in the first heat) led all the way. On the last corner Watson decided to take the risk of falling and made one last reckless effort to pass his opponent and he came down in a harmless slide.

As each rider had now won a round each a coin was tossed to decide on which riders home track the deciding leg would be held. Colin Watson won so the decider was set to take place at White City.

Saturday August 23rd White City – Third Leg Decider – Colin Watson won 2-0

Heat 1 1st Colin Watson 2nd Eric Spencer Time 81.0 secs

Heat 2 1st Colin Watson 2nd Eric Spencer Time 83.4 secs

2. Jim Kempster v Buster Frogley – Buster Frogley Won 2-0

Monday July 8th – Wimbledon – Buster Frogley Won 2-0

Buster Frogley was not expected to beat Jim Kempster and the most expected was that he would put up a good fight. However the tie went against all expectations with Kempster soundly beaten and there was no hard l8ucki story as Frogley was the better man and ended up credited with the two fastest times of the meeting and the only man to go under eighty seconds.

Heat 1

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Jim Kempster (fell) Time 78.2 secs

Kempster had the advantage of the inside start position but Frogley kept up with him through the first corner. Kempster gained a slight lead down the back straight and was definitely ahead when the riders came out of the fourth turn; Jim retained this advantage by a few lengths until the end of the third lap. Kempster had consistently been cornering very wide which was unusual for him and Buster Frogley succeeded in going inside him. Kempster tried a hectic dash around Frogley on the last turn but ended up falling. He would not have been successful as Frogley was riding very fast and close to the inside line.

Heat 2

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Jim Kempster Time 79.4 secs

Buster Frogley had the inside start position and led throughout the first corner. Jim Kempster rode around Frogley on turns three and four and

found himself in what should have been a winning position. Kempster held the advantage until the first corner of the last lap in a race that had seen Buster Frogley putting in a determined effort to get past throughout. Kempster eventually left a gap and despite the fast pace both riders were travelling at Frogley did not hesitate to take his chance.

Thursday July 25th Wembley – Buster Frogley Won 2-0

Buster Frogley won in two straight runs with plenty to spare

Heat 1

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Jim Kempster Time 87.0 secs

Heat 2

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Jim Kempster Time 85.8 secs

3. Ivor Creek v Tommy Croombs – Ivor Creek Won 2-0

Tuesday July 9th – West Ham – Ivor Creek won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Ivor Creek 2nd Tommy Croombs Time 91.6 secs

Speed 39.30 m.p.h.

Ivor Creek drew the inside gate and once he hit the front he swung out and although Tommy Croombs tried hard to go inside him on the first few corners he hadn't got the speed to pull off the pass. Creek was then so far ahead that all Croombs could do was follow him around behind. The West Ham man went on building up a big lead and finally won by half a straight. Creek was not only on the faster machine but he also rode a dashing race and it would have took a very strong combination of man and machine to defeat him.

Heat 2

1st Ivor Creek (fell pushed home) 2nd Tommy Croombs (fell)

Ivor Creek's superiority was just as conclusive in the second heat. Although on the outside gate this time Creek had a definite lead by the time he reached the back straight. He went on to increase his lead slightly until he reached the last corner when he exited the turn much faster than was necessary in view of his lead and he came down. Tommy Croombs had plenty of time to decide what to do but he decided to try and go through where there was not quite enough room and ended up taking a heavy fall. Croombs was knocked out cold and was carried off the track on a stretcher badly shaken.

Ivor Creek not noticing that his opponent was hurt quickly got to his feet and pushed his machine home for the remaining few yards of the race. The rules quite entitled Creek to do this however he later admitted he would not have done so had he realised that Croombs was knocked out. Ivor however was the worthy winner and a re run on the night would have not been possible as Croombs would not have been fit enough to compete in a re start. In a gesture of good sportsmanship Creek refused his heat two victory and the race was run a week later when Croombs was fit enough to compete.

Tuesday July 16th – West Ham – Heat 2 Rerun

Heat 2

**1st Ivor Creek 2nd Tommy Croombs Time 92.8 secs
Speed 38.79 m.p.h.**

Saturday July 27th Lea Bridge – Ivor Creek won 2-1

Heat 1

1st Ivor Creek 2nd Tommy Croombs Speed 36.07 mph

Heat 2

1st Tommy Coombes 2nd Ivor Creek Speed 36.14 mph

Heat 3

1st Ivor Creek 2nd Tommy Croombs (fell)

4. Jack Parker v Jimmy Hayes – Jack Parker Won 1-0

Thursday July 11th – Brandon – Jack Parker won 2-0

Jack Parker of Coventry had a busy evening as he was also engaged in the first round of the ‘Star’ trophy against Jimmy Hayes, the Southampton star, who recently defeated Australian star Frank Arthur in a match race at the Southampton circuit.

The winner would gain the advantage in anticipation of the return which will take place shortly between the same riders at Southampton.

The riders upon drawing will toss for choice of track upon which the deciding races will be staged en route for the next round.

Jack Parker beat Jimmy Hayes in two straight runs, the first in a time of 80.6 seconds when he won by a length and the second in 78.8 seconds when Hayes who was also on a Rudge fell.

Heat 1

1st Jack Parker 2nd Jimmy Hayes Time 80.6 secs

Heat 2

1st Jack Parker 2nd Jimmy Hayes (fell) Time 78.8 secs

Saturday July 27th Southampton

Jack Parker entered the second round of the ‘Star’ Trophy Competition without having to complete the second leg at Southampton as Jimmy Hayes was out injured.

Jimmy Hayes was injured in the Southampton v Stamford Bridge match on Wednesday July 17th. Heat 6 saw Hayes having moved through from last to second going flat out on lap 3 chasing the race leader. Hayes however lost control and spun right around and fell heavily sustaining a fractured pelvis.

5. Gus Kuhn v Roger Frogley – Roger Frogley Won 2-0

Saturday July 13th – Stamford Bridge – Roger Frogley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Gus Kuhn Speed 43.37 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Gus Kuhn Speed 42.45 m.p.h.

Saturday July 27th Crystal Palace – Roger Frogley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Gus Kuhn Time 86.4 secs Speed 42.51 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Gus Kuhn Time 87.2 secs Speed 42.12 m.p.h.

Home Section – Second Round

Rider	Team
Buster Frogley	Wembley
Ivor Creek	West Ham
Jack Parker	Coventry
Colin Watson	White City
Roger Frogley	Crystal Palace

Of the 5 Home riders remaining Jack Parker drew a bye through the Second round

1. Roger Frogley v Ivor Creek – Roger Frogley Won 2-1

Thursday August 29th West Ham – Ivor Creek won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Ivor Creek 2nd Roger Frogley Time 91.8 secs Speed 39.22 m.p.h.
Heat 2

1st Ivor Creek 2nd Roger Frogley Time 94.0 secs Speed 38.30 m.p.h.

Saturday August 31st Crystal Palace – Roger Frogley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Ivor Creek Speed 40.90 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Ivor Creek Speed 40.19 m.p.h.

Tuesday September 17th 1929 West Ham – 3rd Leg Decider– Roger Frogley won 2-0

Roger Frogley was declared this second round tie winner after winning both races in the decider

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Ivor Creek Time 90.8 secs Speed 39.64 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Ivor Creek Time 91.8 secs Speed 39.22 m.p.h.

2. Buster Frogley v Colin Watson – Colin Watson Won 2-1

Thursday August 29th Wembley – Colin Watson won 2-0

Colin Watson won in two straight runs and in one race he shattered the Wembley track record winning by six clear lengths in a time of 82.4 seconds.

Heat 1

1st Colin Watson 2nd Buster Frogley Time 82.4 secs (Track Record)

Heat 2

1st Colin Watson 2nd Buster Frogley Time 82.6 secs

Friday September 13th White City – Buster Frogley won 2-1

This tie ended up all square with both riders having won a leg thus necessitating a deciding leg which was to take place at Wembley

Heat 1

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Colin Watson Time 82.6 secs

Although Colin Watson had the advantage of the inside start Buster Frogley took the lead on the first turn and was from there never headed.

Heat 2

1st Colin Watson 2nd Buster Frogley Time 83.8 secs

Buster Frogley made a determined effort on the last lap and managed to draw level but Watson managed to hold him off and went on to win by eight lengths.

Heat 3

1st Buster Frogley 2nd Colin Watson Time 83.6 secs

This was the closest race with very little in it until the last lap when Watson rode a little bit too wide which let Buster Frogley through and he won by four lengths

Thursday 26th September Wembley – Third Leg Decider – Colin Watson won 2-0

Colin Watson in beating Buster Frogley rode better at Wembley than he ever had before.

Heat 1

1st Colin Watson 2nd Buster Frogley Time 81.0 secs (Track Record)

Buster Frogley had the inside gate and with a great start led the race for a short while on the first lap. However by the end of the first lap Watson was in front by a length and continued to increase his lead and eventually won by 8 lengths.

Heat 2

1st Colin Watson 2nd Buster Frogley Time 82.6 secs

Colin Watson won the race very easily and by a large margin as Frogley appeared to be suffering from mechanical problems.

Home Section – Semi Final

Rider	Team
Jack Parker	Coventry
Colin Watson	White City
Roger Frogley	Crystal Palace

Of the 3 Home riders remaining Roger Frogley drew a bye through the Final

Thursday October 3rd Coventry Jack Parker v Colin Watson – Jack Parker Won 2-0

On his Douglas Jack Parker had no problem winning the Semi Final in two straight runs.

Heat 1

1st Jack Parker 2nd Colin Watson Time 76.8 secs

In heat one Watson drew the inside however his Harley Davidson Peashooter was no match for Parkers faster Douglas. On the first bend Parker did his expert cornering which gave him a 5 lengths lead and the race was over

Heat 2

1st Jack Parker 2nd Colin Watson Time 75.6 secs

Watson came out on a Douglas for round 2 and the race was much closer. Parker never looked a loser and won by two or three lengths even when losing control momentarily at the start of lap 4

Parker was now set to meet Watson again on Friday October 4th at White City London where a win would qualify him for the Final against Roger Frogley

Friday 4th October White City London – Jack Parker won 2-0

Jack Parker on by far the faster machine put in a display of brilliant and daring riding on the White City track to defeat Colin Watson in 2 straight runs and will now meet Roger Frogley of Crystal Palace in the Star Riders Final. This was the last meeting of 1929 at the White City.

Heat 1

1st Jack Parker 2nd Colin Watson Time 79.8 secs (Track record)

Colin Watson started from the inside but that advantage wasn't enough to deal with Parkers all round superiority. Jack Parker rode around Watson on the first turn and had a definite lead as the riders entered the second corner when the red lights went on indicating a false start.

The rerun led to the same scenario as Parker led from start to finish and won by a quarter of a lap in a second faster than Vic Huxley's track record. Parker averaged a speed of 39.35 m.p.h. which was a whole second faster.

Heat 2

1st Jack Parker 2nd Colin Watson Time 83.4 secs

Heat 2 had to be re run after Colin Watson fell heavily and suffering a painful finger injury as he almost tore off a finger nail. Watson starting from the outside was forced to take the outside run as Parker drifted off the white line on the first turn and he hit the safety fence as he went down the back straight. Watson clearly upset by his fall as he was nowhere in the picture and lost by eighty yards as he again failed to hold Parker. Parker won in a speed of 37.66 m.p.h. Parker had immediately taken the lead and after the first lap he already had a lead of practically half a straight.

Home Section – Final

Rider	Team
Jack Parker	Coventry
Roger Frogley	Crystal Palace

Jack Parker v Roger Frogley – Roger Frogley Won 2-0

Saturday October 12th Crystal Palace

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Jack Parker Speed 43.03 m.p.h.

Roger Frogley won the first race by a margin of seven seconds

Heat 2

For nearly two laps there was hardly an inch between the two riders. However Roger Frogley lost control and hit the fence and damaged his knee so badly that he was unable to ride again so the second heat of the first leg of the Final for the Home riders section was abandoned.

Monday October 14th Wimbledon

This leg was abandoned as over the weekend Roger Frogley had been injured in an aeroplane crash and although his injuries were to prove to be minor he was unable to ride. A replacement match race on the programme was staged between Jack Parker and Frank Arthur which Arthur won 2-0.

Saturday October 19th Lea Bridge – First Leg Heat 2

Heat 2 1st Roger Frogley 2nd Jack Parker Speed 39.3 m.p.h.

Time 91.6 secs

The abandoned heat 2 from the first leg at Crystal Palace was re staged at Lea Bridge. Roger Frogley emerged victorious after a neck and neck race for all four laps.

Monday October 21st Wimbledon

Thick fog enveloped the Wimbledon stadium and it was with difficulty that racing could be followed. It was generally thought that Jack Parker would win easily as it was a circuit he knew well and had always displayed his best form on. Roger Frogley was however to upset the calculations of the experts as he gave his best ever display at Wimbledon.

Heat 1

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Jack Parker Time 77.8 secs

Roger Frogley from the inside held his own as the riders went into the first corner and took Jack Parker out some distance from the white line. Frogley then turned abruptly inwards and cut the corner very fine which enabled him to gain a couple of lengths lead. Down the back straight the riders were enveloped in the fog but when they appeared again on the second corner Frogley had increased his lead. After one lap Frogley had a six lengths lead and by the half distance he had increased this further. In the last lap Jack Parker had pulled the lead back a little but he had during the race lost control twice but somehow managed to remain on board his machine however his mishap enabled Roger Frogley to take the win by six lengths.

Heat 2

1st Roger Frogley 2nd Jack Parker Speed 39.3 m.p.h. Time 77.0 secs

Jack Parker this time on the inside made the better start and held the lead for a few yards however Frogley passed him on the first bend and was again well clear when Parker took a fall on the pit corner on the second lap forcing the race under A.C.U. rules to be re run.

The re start saw a titanic struggle of a race. This time Parker on the inside got a slight lead going into the first corner. The two riders rode wheel to wheel down the back straight with Roger Frogley getting the inside run into turn three. Frogley pulled out a definite lead as Parker could not reproduce his normal cornering skills and Frogley held off his opponent on the first lap by half a length. Both riders were going at it hammer and tongs and on the second lap Frogley took the first corner at terrific speed and ran very wide allowing Jack Parker to take over the lead. On the back straight of the third lap Parker looked to have got away but Frogley took the next corner as resolutely as ever but kept much nearer to the inside of the track and gained so much ground that he was leading again when three laps had been completed. Frogley then managed to hold his position despite going very wide again on the last turn as Parker had decided to run out wide too and Frogley held on to win by three lengths.

Home Section Star Trophy Presentation

The finalist's winner's trophy and runners up memento were presented at Harringay on Saturday October 26th by a Mr F.W. Thomas of the Star Newspaper

Overseas Section – First Round
Competitors

Rider	Team
Sprouts Elder	West Ham
Billy Galloway	Southampton
Stan Catlett	Wembley
Alf Chick	Coventry
Ron Johnson	Crystal Palace
Vic Huxley	Wimbledon
Max Grosskreutz	Lea Bridge
Frank Arthur	Harringay
Billy Lamont	White City London
Art Pechar	Stamford Bridge

1. Sprouts Elder v Billy Galloway – Sprouts Elder Won 2-0

Saturday June 22nd – Southampton – Sprouts Elder won 2-0

Billy Galloway in both races lacked the necessary speed to pass Sprouts Elder although at the same time it was an honourable defeat. Sprouts best winning time was 79.8 seconds of 36.9 m.p.h.

Heat 1

1st Sprouts Elder 2nd Billy Galloway Time 80.8 secs

Speed 38.50 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Sprouts Elder 2nd Billy Galloway Time 79.8 secs

Speed 39.0 m.p.h.

Tuesday July 16th West Ham

Neither rider was fit to ride in the second leg due to injuries. Billy Galloway didn't ride again until August 17th 1929 so the leg was awarded to Sprouts Elder.

2. Stan Catlett v Alf Chick – Stan Catlett Won 2-0

Thursday July 4th – Wembley – Stan Catlett won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Stan Catlett 2nd Alf Chick Time 89.2 secs

Heat 2

1st Stan Catlett 2nd Alf Chick Time 88.8 secs

Thursday July 18th Brandon – Stan Catlett won 2-0

The second leg of this ‘Star’ Overseas Riders £100 Trophy tie was expected to be a very attractive item at Brandon.

In this Alf Chick who has been nominated for Coventry, was riding against Stan Catlett, of Wembley. Both men were Australians, and Catlett had won the first round at Wembley 10 days previously.

Heat 1

1st Stan Catlett 2nd Alf Chick

Heat 2

1st Stan Catlett 2nd Alf Chick

3. Ron Johnson v Vic Huxley – Vic Huxley Won 2-1

Saturday July 6th – Crystal Palace – Vic Huxley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Ron Johnson (mt) Speed 41.17 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Ron Johnson (fell) Speed 41.82 m.p.h.

Monday July 29th – Wimbledon – Ron Johnson won 2-0

This was the long awaited re run (delayed from July 15th) of the star trophy meeting between Vic Huxley and Ron Johnson.

The result of the tie was all square with each rider having won on the others home track. A coin was then tossed to decide the venue for a deciding contest. Huxley won the toss and a deciding leg was set to take place at Wimbledon on the forthcoming Bank Holiday Monday.

Heat 1

1st Ron Johnson 2nd Vic Huxley (chain) Time 77.2 secs

Vic Huxley was drawn on the outside and as the race began Huxley tried to force his way around Johnson. For half the distance around the first corner he kept it level pegging. On passing the apex of the bend Johnson turned towards the straight with the jerking motion characteristic of his style and gave Huxley a clear view of his back wheel. All Huxley could do was follow behind now half a dozen lengths in arrears. Huxley gained a little when Johnson wobbled slightly on the back straight on the third lap but seemed to lack his usual speed. Huxley made a desperate effort on the last corner and nearly ended up ramming his opponent. The violent jerk with which he pulled up resulted in Huxley losing his chain and Johnson finished alone.

Heat 2

1st Ron Johnson 2nd Vic Huxley Time 78.2 secs

Huxley now on the inside managed to get an early lead which he retained for the first lap and a half. On the back straight of the second lap he went a little bit too wide which allowed Johnson to come through. It was Johnson's peculiar method of coming into the straights that allowed him to keep close enough to the grass to sneak past his opponent on the inside. Johnson was mounted on a very fast machine which he handled to good advantage and all the time he was travelling at near track record pace.

On the last corner but one Johnson went right out onto the fence and let Huxley get through easily. Johnson however wasn't finished and he went tearing down the back straight and emerged from the last bend just over a length behind. On the run to the line he beat Huxley by half a length.

Monday August 5th Wimbledon Third Leg Decider – Vic Huxley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Ron Johnson Time 78.0 secs

Ron Johnson drew the inside gate and the race initially had to be re run due to a false start. Once underway Huxley tries to go around his opponent but found this impossible but he hung on and kept level until the third turn by which time Ron Johnson was gradually going to the front. Huxley knew he now wouldn't get past on the outside although a dash through on the white line may work. He knew however that he needed to try this on the first two laps when the A.C.U. rules would stipulate a re run is either rider fell.

As the riders entered the first corner of the second lap Huxley made his move. He had deliberately dropped back a couple of lengths going down the home straight and Johnston free from Huxley's close attention on the outside swung out two yards from the white line. Vic wrenched his machine around and darted into the very slight gap. Had he stayed upright he would have got through but he was travelling too fast and despite a great effort to stay on board he came down.

The race had to be re run and this time Huxley made no attempt to go round Johnston. He dropped back at once and watched Johnston go fairly wide and passed him on the inside easily. On the next turn however Huxley made the same error himself and Johnson took the lead down the home straight only to go wide again and hand the lead back to

Huxley. Huxley however was by his momentum being carried a long way from the white line and for a moment his lead still seemed in danger. However he was still in the lead by the third turn of lap two and all Ron Johnson could do was get near enough to end up thoroughly filled in. Johnson was now well behind and at the end of the second lap he slipped off at the edge of the turf.

Each competitor had now had their one gratuitous fall allowed by the A.C.U. under Match race rules.

The third re run saw Huxley get the slightly better start and he got ahead at the first turn. Johnston got the inside run as the riders entered the back straight and was first into the third turn. Vic however cut through at terrific speed just missed collecting Johnson on the way and re took the lead. After that Johnston once or twice nearly fell off but each time he recovered to continue to press hard until the end where he finished one and a half lengths behind Huxley.

Heat 2

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Ron Johnson (mt) Time 77.2

Huxley this time started from the inside and had no difficulty in hitting the first turn ahead. He was still leading comfortably when Ron Johnson came to a stop near the end of the second lap. Huxley finished the race alone and therefore qualified for the Star Championship second round.

4. Max Grosskreutz v Frank Arthur – Frank Arthur Won 2-1

Saturday July 6th – Lea Bridge – Max Grosskreutz won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Max Grosskreutz 2nd Frank Arthur Speed 37.34 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Max Grosskreutz 2nd Frank Arthur Speed 37.82 m.p.h.

Saturday August 3rd Harringay – Frank Arthur won 2-0

Frank Arthur was riding in the second leg despite not being fully recovered from a recent crash

Heat 1

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Max Grosskreutz (fell) Time 84.4 secs

Frank Arthur drew the inside start position and that did not improve Max Grosskreutz's chances. For two laps Arthur held the lead and the way in which he covered the inside line made things look hopeless for Grosskreutz. Max realising that this was an occasion that justified

taking a risk drove flat out into the pit corner on the third lap and went right round his opponent to take the lead. That only spurred Arthur on to greater efforts and on the same corner on the last lap he came up the inside of Grosskreutz to regain the lead. Arthur held this advantage until Max made a last desperate effort on the last corner and actually drew level only to fall when he appeared to have a slender chance of winning.

Heat 2

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Max Grosskreutz (fell) Time 85.6 secs

Max Grosskreutz had the inside start but this didn't stop Frank Arthur taking the lead around the first corner. Grosskreutz thought Arthur would try and make an inside pass and deliberately slowed up to keep the inside line himself. Arthur however changed his tactics and went around the outside to take the lead. Having secured the advantage Frank took no risks and kept Grosskreutz well behind him. As in the first heat Grosskreutz put in a special effort on the last bend but once again overdid a slide and came down.

As both rider had won one round each the A.C.U. steward tossed a coin to decide on which track the deciding round was to be held. Frank Arthur won the toss so the third round was to take place at Harringay.

Saturday August 10th Harringay Third Leg Decider– Frank Arthur won 2-0

Max Grosskreutz put up a wonderful fight in both races and if ever a man went down with flying colours he did. Max had it all against him, firstly he was racing on a track whose shape and size he still hadn't mastered having only ridden it two or three times previously whereas Arthur was a master. The second factor was that Grosskreutz found that his machine was far slower than that of Frank Arthur and he couldn't keep up with him on the straights.

In both races Frank Arthur made the better starts and left Grosskreutz chasing a lost cause throughout although he never gave up trying and put in maximum effort. Frank Arthur finished both races several lengths ahead.

Heat 1

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Max Grosskreutz Time 79.4 secs

Heat 2

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Max Grosskreutz Time 80.2 secs

5. Billy Lamont v Art Pechar – Billy Lamont Won 2-0

Friday July 12th - White City London – Billy Lamont won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Billy Lamont 2nd Art Pechar Time 83.2 secs

The riders were level until they reached the back straight when Billy Lamont was the first to find some extra speed and he was ahead by the third turn. One ahead Lamont settled into his usual spectacular style and maintained a speed that

Pechar seemed unwilling to risk matching and the American backed off towards the finish.

Heat 2

1st Billy Lamont 2nd Art Pechar Time 83.2 secs

Pechar appeared none too happy and in the face of Lamont's sustained challenge he soon dropped behind. Pechar two or three times didn't appear to come out of the corners cleanly. Lamont continued to gain ground over all four laps and at the end was over a quarter of a lap ahead.

Saturday July 20th – Stamford Bridge – Billy Lamont won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Billy Lamont 2nd Art Pechar Time 83.2 secs

Speed 42.05 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Billy Lamont (burst tyre) 2nd Art Pechar (fell) Time 83.2 secs

Art Pechar crashed heavily hitting the safety fence after trying to avoid Billy Lamont who had a tyre burst when in the lead.

Overseas Section – Second Round

Rider	Team
Stan Catlett	Wembley
Billy Lamont	White City London
Vic Huxley	Wimbledon
Frank Arthur	Harringay
Sprouts Elder	West Ham

Stan Catlett who was representing Wembley has to withdraw as he was soon due to return to Australia

1. Billy Lamont v Frank Arthur – Frank Arthur Won 2-0

Friday August 30th White City – Frank Arthur won 2-0

Many assumed that this tie would be a mere walkover for Frank Arthur. It was freely said that Billy Lamont would fall off at an early stage based on the “Cyclones” recent non success. However the event bought out the best riding in both competitors and it was a shame that one had to lose.

Heat 1

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Billy Lamont (chain) Time 82.0 secs

Billy Lamont drew the inside gate but he ended up delaying the start due to mechanical problems. When at last they got underway Lamont held the inside position right around the first corner and Frank Arthur found it impossible to pass him down the back straight. Arthur decided to drop back a little and took the inside himself going into turn three although he still wasn't able to gain the lead. As the race progressed Lamont began to wander wider and wider out on the turns and on the first turn of the third lap Arthur pushed his machine through to the front. Lamont continued to ride flat out and on the last bend was almost level when his chain broke and he was only able to drift over the finish line.

Heat 2

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Billy Lamont Time 81.6 secs

This time Frank Arthur had the inside start position and was in front at the flag for what looked like it would be called back for a false start and the red stop lights came on immediately.

The re-start went without any more hitches and Frank Arthur once again reached the first turn in the lead and as the race progressed he never looked like losing it. Arthur rode a perfectly smooth race and was within a second of the White City track record.

Billy Lamont never looked as fast as his opponent and despite superlative cornering through which he generally gained a few yards he proceeded to lose heavily on the straights and ended up well beaten. On the third and fourth laps pits turn Lamont struck a bump which threw him clean into the air but on each occasion he was able to retain control and continue racing.

Saturday August 31st Harringay – Frank Arthur won 2-1

The Star Championship second leg saw a large increase in the Harringay attendance figures such was the level of interest. The opinion of the Speedway News at the time was that a majority of the crowd were hoping to see a Billy Lamont win. Many thought Lamont's defeat

lied in the fact that he drew the outside gate position for the third and deciding heat whereas each win came from the inside start position.

Heat 1

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Billy Lamont Time 78.8 secs

Frank Arthur won the first and third heats from the inside but at no time in the two races was Billy Lamont far behind him and ended up beaten only by very small margins.

Heat 2

1st Billy Lamont 2nd Frank Arthur (fell) Time 84.8 secs

In the second heat Lamont from the inside set such a fast pace that Arthur in trying to pass his opponent fell on two separate occasions.

Heat 3

1st Frank Arthur 2nd Billy Lamont Time 80.4 secs

Lamont also made the mistake of not following Frank Arthur's lead in withdrawing from the Scratch Race events. Frank by being allowed to withdraw managed to save his energy for the Star championship race whereas Billy had to ride in his heat, semi final and final of the Silver Sash. The last two events were also immediately prior to the third Star championship race. As well as taking a lot out of himself Lamont's machine had also begun to slow up before the deciding Star championship heat and whereas he was on the pace with Arthur in the first two races his opponent was far faster in the deciding race..

2. Vic Huxley v Sprouts Elder – Vic Huxley Won 2-1

Tuesday August 20th West Ham – Vic Huxley won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Sprouts Elder Time 89.4 secs Speed 40.27 m.p.h.

Heat 2

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Sprouts Elder Time 89.2 secs Speed 40.36 m.p.h.

Monday August 26th Wimbledon – Sprouts Elder won 2-0

Heat 1

1st Sprouts Elder 2nd Vic Huxley Time 77.2 secs

Heat 2

1st Sprouts Elder 2nd Vic Huxley Time 77.8 secs

Monday September 9th Wimbledon Third Leg Decider – Vic Huxley won 2-0

Sprouts Elder was unwell when he attended this meeting in front of the biggest Wimbledon crowd of the year for the Star final qualifier. Despite not being fully fit Sprouts made the effort to appear and still put up a good show

Heat 1

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Sprouts Elder (mt) Time 79.0 secs

Sprouts Elder started from the inside and he took the lead into the first turn and held his line on a bend that both riders took in a terrific broadside. Elder over the first lap pulled out a lead of four lengths. However by the second lap Vic Huxley still on the outside and on the faster machine had caught and passed the American to lead by half a wheel and then he was the clear leader as the riders completed lap three. On the last lap Elder suffered a machine failure.

Heat 2

1st Vic Huxley 2nd Sprouts Elder (mt) Time 77.2 secs

Heat two was a close fought contest and although Huxley from the inside start gained the lead on the first lap there was no gap between the riders. On the third turn of the first lap Huxley went wide enough to allow Elder to get through up the inside. On the next three corners Elder gained several yards on the bends but lost his lead on the straights. Vic Huxley persevered with an outside line after realising he had the faster machine and managed to stay in front over the last two laps even on the bends and got the decision by a length in the last 15 yards in what was the fastest time of the meeting.

Overseas Section – Final

Rider	Team
Vic Huxley	Wimbledon
Frank Arthur	Harringay

Frank Arthur v Vic Huxley – Frank Arthur Won 2-0

Monday 16th September Wimbledon

Frank Arthur's wizardry upset Vic Huxley in the first leg of the Overseas final as he went on to win the first two heats

Heat 1 1st Frank Arthur 2nd Vic Huxley Time 75.8 secs (Track Record)

Frank Arthur won this race by about 6 lengths. By the end of the first lap Vic Huxley was already 4 lengths behind but he managed to draw

level on the second lap. The two riders continued practically level on the third lap until they got to the third and fourth turns where Arthur gained the advantage. Arthur retained the upper hand and went on to equal Jack Parkers track record.

Heat 2 1st Frank Arthur 2nd Vic Huxley Time 75.0 secs (Track record)

Frank Arthur found the only bump there was on the track and took a fall so under the rules a re-run was ordered. Vic Huxley from the inside was soon in the lead with Frank Arthur giving chase. Arthur's efforts were rewarded on the last lap when Huxley left a gap of a few inches between himself and the white line and Arthur didn't need a second chance as he turned everything on and went on to win by three lengths

Saturday 21st September Harringay

The final of the Star Trophy Overseas section pulled in a crowd of over 20,000 spectators at Harringay the biggest Harringay crowd so far. In each race Vic Huxley was to secure the early lead but did not use of a machine that was faster than Frank Arthur's he preferred to deliberately slow down on the corners to keep Frank Arthur on the outside line.

Heat 1 1st Frank Arthur 2nd Vic Huxley Time 78.6 secs

A hush of expectance fell over the crowd as the two Australian stars lines up for the first race. Frank Arthur had the inside gate but Vic Huxley gained the early lead around the outside and had a slight lead up the back straight and from there on a ding done battle ensued. Huxley held the lead for the best part of two laps but went out wide entering the straight for the third lap which allowed Arthur through on the inside. Having taken the lead Arthur had no problems retaining it until the last turn on the final lap. At this stage they were still neck and neck until Frank Arthur gained the slight advantage to take the win.

Heat 2 1st Frank Arthur 2nd Vic Huxley Time 79.6 secs

The second race was just as exciting and in the first attempt Frank Arthur fell heavily in trying to race Huxley around the first corner forcing a re run allowed under A.C.U. rules. In the re run Vic Huxley from the inside gate held a slight lead which he eventually extended to several lengths. Huxley actually rode at top speed for the first two laps and increased his lead before deciding to slow down and play for safety. Huxley virtually coasted around the first corner on the third lap and ended up drifting wide enough for Frank Arthur to come past him.

Arthur went on to win with Huxley right on his tail.

Overseas Star Trophy Presentation

The Star Final trophy and cheques were presented to the riders at White City London on Friday September 27th. Making the presentation was the popular novelist and playwright Edgar Wallace who was accompanied by the Editor of the Star newspaper Mr Chattaway and his wife. Frank Arthur received the silver “Star Trophy” and a winner’s cheque of £100.00 and Vic Huxley received runners up memento and cheque.

Gaps to Fill

If anyone from local knowledge can fill out race descriptions from those missing please put together a report for the Speedway Researcher for us to pass your information to Stuart.

Web’s Wonderful

Hopefully by now you will have noticed the web is moving forward again under the helm of **Matt Jackson** from Sheffield who has taken to the job like a duck to water. We have given **Matt** free reign to re-design the site which was brought to life originally by **Ron McNeil**. Without **Ron**’s sterling work the site would never have got off the ground and we all owe him a **HUGE** debt of gratitude for the site. The web site is the main outlet for work that we do and there is still a pile of things, such as compiling the heat details of meetings staged at tracks on an annual basis, to do which can make it even better. The site will provide a better indication of tracks which staged speedway and the years each operated. If you can’t access the web, we can send you copies of the files if you send a blank CD to Jim. Providing paper copies is not a practicable proposition for us. **Graham and Jim**

Deadline for items for next edition is 31st October 2011

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