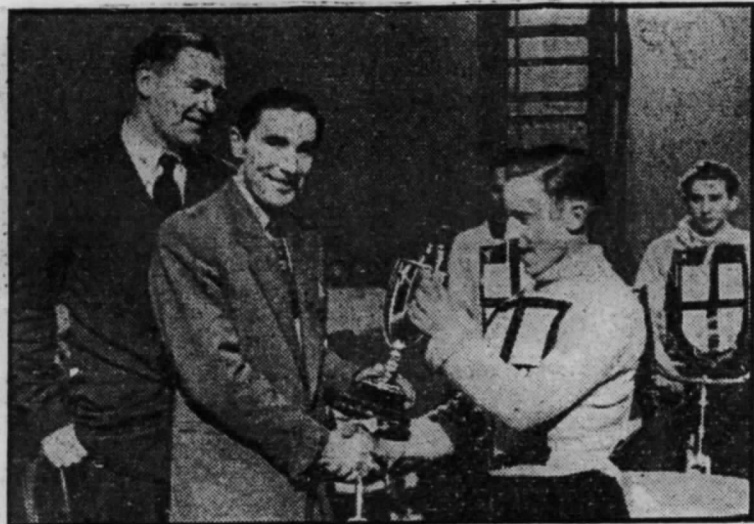




Wally Green (centre), West Ham speedway rider, presents the News Chronicle trophy to Ron Holvey, captain of the London side who beat Birmingham 55½ points to 40½ in an inter-city cycle speedway challenge match at the Empress Hall, Earls Court, London, last night. On the left is Mr. Frank Waters, managing director of the News Chronicle

LONDON BOYS ON TOP IN CYCLE SPEEDWAY

NEWS CHRONICLE SPORTS REPORTER

ENCOURAGED by the cheers of hundreds of their supporters London rode in great style at the Empress Hall, Earls Court, London, last night to beat Birmingham 55½—40½ in a cycle speedway inter-city challenge match for the News Chronicle Trophy.

The match was watched by hundreds of thousands of viewers on television sets

London had a shock in the opening heat when the Birmingham pair broke away to snatch maximum points, but by Heat 4 the Londoners had forged into a lead which they never lost.

The trophy was presented to the London captain, 20-year-old Ron Holvey, by West Ham speedway rider Wally Green, who was runner-up in the World's Championship last year.

Special leave

He was introduced to the large crowd by Mr. Frank Waters, managing director of the News Chronicle.

Mr. Waters referred to the great interest in the national team championships, sponsored by the News Chronicle last year, and said it was

a pleasure to return to the Empress Hall to compliment the young riders on another fine and exciting evening's sport.

Two members of the London team, skipper Holvey and 19-year-old Ray Braddon, are in the Army, and Pte. Braddon obtained special leave

It was a journey well worth while from the Londoners' point of view since Braddon, whose home is at Peckham, was second highest scorer for his team with ten points.

Came back

Stalwart for the winners was dark-haired slightly built Jack Buffham, a 20-year-old clerk, who rode in particularly dashing fashion to collect 11 points.

Real hero of the evening, however, was Birmingham's Roy Turnham, A 17-year-old junior draughtsman, Roy, suffering from fatigue, had to receive attention from first aid men after making an all-out bid to dead-heat for second place in the tenth heat.

He quickly recovered and insisted on taking his place in the final nominated-riders' heat. He crowned an excellent performance by winning the heat to finish highest scorer of the night with 11½ points.

Another Birmingham rider to feel the strain of the hectic racing was Roy Farndon (17), Roy, only son of the former New Cross and England speedway idol, the late Tom Farndon, twice had to receive attention from the first aid attendants, but he stuck to his task and collected six points for his team. Details:

LONDON: J. Buffham 11, R. Braddon 10, T. Weston 7½, D. Bottazzi 7, J. Lunan and G. Harrison 6, R. Holvey 5, E. Black 3.

BIRMINGHAM: R. Turnham 11½, B. Slater and H. Kent 8, R. Farndon 6, M. Spooner 3, A. Herbert 2, V. Halliwell and B. Bamwell 1.

Test trial

In a North v. South test trial which preceded the inter-city match, the Northerners proved themselves vastly superior and gained a runaway win by 65pts. to 30. Details:

NORTH OF ENGLAND: B. Moston 10½, D. Fletcher 10, L. Grepp 9½, G. Barraclough and K. Vine 8, B. Slater 7, M. Flood and J. Hawley 6.

SOUTH: K. Worlock and J. Henderson 6, R. Swaine 4, S. Luke, A. Dabinette, D. Hunter and J. Windsor 3, M. Mulholland 0.

The third round of the London Area Championship at the Empress Hall is on Wednesday, April 4 (7.30 p.m.). Finals take place on Wednesday, April 18 (7.30 p.m.), also at the Empress Hall.

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