

# Southend-on-Sea & District Cycle Speedway 1956 - 1966

## Introduction

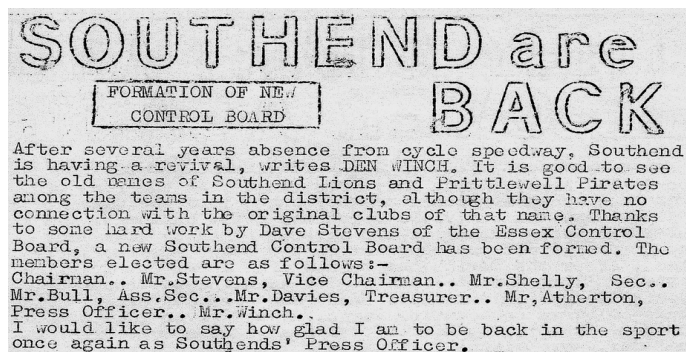
### Southend-on-Sea 1956 - 1966

Hallo, this is the first Regional Press Cutting Section to be added to our site. It has been compiled from the extensive collection of Ex Southend riders Roy Russell & Pete Chilton.

Cycle Speedway first appeared in Southend in the nineteen forties. Many references to Southend Cycle Speedway have been found in the VCSRA CS magazine archive. One of the earliest, a 'World' Cup result,

Eastwood Monarchs 53 Ripple Greyhounds 42 published in the 'CS Gossip Page' of the Speedway World magazine of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 1949.

And then, after a steady decline until late in 1956 -!



Cycle Speedway Spotlight 24<sup>th</sup> September 1956



1956 Rayleigh Rockets

Back Row Lt to Rt Mick Webb, Peter Ebbs Bert Randal, Bob Schooling Dave Withers & manager Charlie Kaufman  
Front Row Lt to Rt Barry Gates, Roy Giggins & John Walden.



1966 Estuary Eagles

Back Row Lt-Rt Val Hockley, Austin Horrex, Rickey Alderton, Roy Russell  
Front Row :Lt-Rt Bernie Hill, Johnny Brooks, Norman Smith, Chris Gooch (National Champion)

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September**

Result

Rayleigh Rockets 64 – Southend Lions 48

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

Result

Rayleigh Rockets 72 – Thundersley Vultures 36

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September**

Southend & District Individual Cycle Speedway Championship

1<sup>st</sup> Round Line ups.

Teams represented -

Barling Brigands

Rayleigh Rockets

Southend Lions

Southend Skulls

Sutton Saints

Thundersley Vultures

Vange Aces

**Southend Standard Pub. 20<sup>th</sup> September**

## SKID KIDS WILL HAVE A BUSY WEEK-END

FIRST meetings in the first round of the Southend and District Individual Cycle Speedway Championships will take place on Sunday at Barling, Southend (Cluny Square), Eastwood (Progress Road) and Thundersley.

Each rider will take part in two meetings and at least 21 points will be needed to qualify for the final which takes place on October 21st. The line-up for Sunday's rounds, which commence at 3 p.m., is as follows:-

**BARLING:** A. N. Other, Woodfield (Skulls), French (Lions), Wilkins (Skulls), Lewis (Vultures), Stone (Pirates), Payne (Vultures), Hales (Saints), Moss (Aces), Smith (Brigands), Webb (Rockets), Ebbs (Rockets), Bokea (Aces), Gilks (Brigands), Warner (Pirates), Jackson (Lions).

**SOUTHEND (Cluny Square):** Hickton (Saints), Terry (Lions), Elsdon (Rockets), Munge (Skulls), A. N. Other, R. Mann (Saints), R. Rose (Rockets), Atherton (Lions), P. Chilton (Skulls), Stonebrook (Skulls), A. N. Other, Smith (Brigands), Telford (Skulls), Berry (Lions), Mogenson (Skulls), Jiggins (Rockets).

**EASTWOOD:** Berry (Lions), Cowland (Saints), Schooling (Rockets), Woolner (Saints), Randall (Vultures), Edwards (Skulls), Moss (Brigands), Harman (Vultures), Piper (Vultures), Banbury (Vultures), A. N. Other, K. Nash (Pirates), R. Petley (Brigands), A. Harland (Pirates), N. Franklin (Saints), J. Key (Skulls).

**THUNDERSLEY:** A. N. Other, Eastgate (Skulls), Banbury (Vultures), Stewart (Brigands), Atherton (Lions), Thomson (Lions), Tall (Lions), Hockley (Skulls), Withers (Rockets), Baines (Pirates), A. N.

Other, Rolph (Skulls), Bridge (Skulls), Gates (Rockets), Pottle (Brigands), Phillips (Skulls).

### TWO WINS FOR ROCKETS

Rayleigh Rockets beat Southend Lions by 64 points to 48 on Saturday. Points scorers:-

**Lions:** Atherton, 11; Berry, 11; French, 7; Thomson, 6; Tall, 5; Berry, 5; Jackson, 3.

**Rockets:** Jiggins, 12; Webb, 11; Rose, 10; Ebbs, 9; Withers, 8; Schooling, 6; Gates, 4.

On Sunday Rayleigh Rockets beat Thundersley Vultures by 72 points to 36. Points scorers were as follows:-

**Rockets:** Withers, 15; Webb, 15; Jiggins, 11; Rose, 11; Schooling, 8; Ebbs, 6; Elsdon, 4; Walden, 2.

**Vultures:** Piper, 9; Randall, 9; C. Banbury, 6; Lewis, 3; Payne, 3; P. Banbury, 2; Colts, 2; Wybrow 1.

In the Rayleigh match race championship M. Webb (Rockets), the holder, beat B. Schooling in two straight runs.

### CHALLENGE MATCH

On Sunday, September 30th Southend Lions have arranged an attractive challenge match against Fyfield Falcons, one of the leading teams in the Colchester League. Match will take place on the Cluny Square track, commencing at 3 p.m.

### NEW TEAM AT LAINDON

Berry Amateur Boxing and Boy Club have formed a cycle speedway team. They have been allocated part of the Landon Community Hall site in Aston Road, on which to lay down a track.



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
Southend & District Individual Cycle Speedway  
Championship - 1<sup>st</sup> Round

Competing riders pose for a picture at the Cluny Square track of the Southend Lions. The action shot shows R. Mann (Sutton Saints) leading F. Berry (Southend Lions).

The Cluny Square track was located just 1.25 miles from the sea in Prittlewell, a north east suburb of Southend-on-Sea.

**Southend Standard**

**Pub. 27<sup>th</sup> September**



Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

## Southend & District Individual Cycle Speedway Championship 1<sup>st</sup> Round Results

At Barling Brigands Track

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| M. Payne (Thundersley Vultures) | 14pts |
| P. Ebbs (Rayleigh Rockets)      | 14pts |

At Eastwood

|                                 |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| J. Piper (Thundersley Vultures) | 14pts |
| J. Berry (Southend Lions)       | 12pts |

At Southend Lions Track Cluny Square

|                              |       |
|------------------------------|-------|
| R. Atherton (Southend Lions) | 14pts |
| R. Rose (Rayleigh Rockets)   | 13pts |

At Thundersley Vultures Track Thundersley Common

|                               |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|
| D. Withers (Rayleigh Rockets) | 14pts |
| R. Rolph (Southend Skulls)    | 14pts |

News Item.

Ex riders Fred Todd and Derek Crabb join the the board of Stewards.

Southend Standard

Pub. 27<sup>th</sup> September

### CYCLE SPEEDWAY

## COWLAND IS A RIDER WITHERS MUST WATCH

FAVOURITE for the Southend and District cycle speedway individual rider's championship is Dave Withers, who recently collected the Rayleigh Speedway trophy.

A big danger to Withers must be the Sutton Saints flyer Alan Cowland.  
Results to date:—  
Barling: M. Payne (Thundersley

Vultures), P. Ebbs (Rayleigh Rockets), 14; M. Webb (Rayleigh Rockets), 12; R. French (Southend Lions), 10; D. Woodfield (Southend Skulls), 9; I. Watson (Rayleigh Pirates), 8; Hales (Sutton Saints), 7; L. Gilkes (Barling Brigands), 6; R. Jackson (Southend Lions), 5; P. Smith (Barling Brigands), 4; Moss (Vanges Aces), 3.  
Eastwood: J. Piper (Thundersley Vultures), 14; J. Berry (Southend Lions), 12; A. Randall (Thundersley Vultures), 10; N. Franklyn (Sutton Saints), 8; B. Schooling (Rayleigh Rockets), 7; D. Banbury (Thundersley Vultures), 6; T. Woolner (Sutton Saints), 5; P. Moss (Barling Brigands), 4; T. Mason (Sutton Saints), 3; K. Nash (Rayleigh Pirates), 2; J. Key (Southend Skulls), 1; R. Pettie (Barling Brigands), 0.  
Southend: R. Atherton (Southend Lions), 14; R. Rose (Rayleigh Rockets) and R. Giggins (Rayleigh Rockets), 13; A. Smith (Barling Brigands), 12; R. Mann (Sutton Saints), 11; M. Eldon (Rayleigh Rockets), 9; D. Terry (Southend Lions) and F. Berry (Southend Lions), 8; P. Chilton (Southend Skulls), 7; Garbutt (Southend Lions), 6; G. Munge (Southend Skulls) and C. Moorsen, 4.  
Thundersley: D. Withers (Rayleigh Rockets) and P. Rolph (Southend Skulls), 14; S. Thompson (Southend Lions), 12; M. Atherton (Southend Lions), 11; M. Tall (Southend Lions) and B. Gates (Rayleigh Rockets), 10; A. Hockley (Southend Skulls), 9; P. Banbury (Thundersley Vultures), 8; R. Pettie (Barling Brigands), 7; R. Stewart (Barling Brigands), 6; D. Raines (Rayleigh Pirates), 5; G. Bridge (Southend Skulls), 3.

### SUNDAY FIXTURES

Challenge matches (at 3 p.m.):  
Southend Lions v Pyralis, Falcons (Colchester), Barling Brigands v Sutton Saints.  
Former Prittlewell Pirates' star Fred Todd and ex-Southend Sabres' rider Derek Crabb intend joining the new Board of Stewards. Both will be greatly welcomed back to the sport in the Southend area.



# Southend-on-Sea & District Cycle Speedway 1956

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Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October  
Southend & District Individual Cycle Speedway Championship

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Line-Ups

With the Vange Aces disbanded their round was transferred to Progress Road Eastwood

With rounds 1 & 2 added the top sixteen riders went on to ride in the Final on 21<sup>st</sup> October on the track in Pantile Ave Southend.

Southend Standard Pub. 5<sup>th</sup> October

**64 riders battle for a place in the final** **CYCLE SPEEDWAY REVIEW**

SECOND round of the Southend and District Cycle Speedway Association's individual rider's championship will be raced on Sunday. Sixteen top scorers qualify for the final.

As Vange Aces have disbanded, the meeting scheduled to take place on the Vange track has been switched to Progress Road, Eastwood.

The line-ups for Sunday's meetings are as follows:—

**Barling:** D. Withers (Rockets), N. Franklyn (Saints), L. Telford (Skulls), M. Payne (Vultures), B. Schooling (Rockets), P. Moss (Brigands), P. Pottle (Brigands), M. Atherton (Lions), R. Petley (Brigands), P. Chilton (Skulls), L. Gilkes (Brigands), J. Piper (Vultures), B. Gates (Rockets), B. Edwards (Skulls), R. Atherton (Lions), A. N. Other. Steward: Mr. C. Shelley.

**Southend:** R. Rolph (Skulls), P. Smith (Brigands), D. Harman (Vultures), P. Ebbs (Rockets), R. Mann (Saints), R. Rose (Rockets), P. Wilkins (Skulls), R. Jackson (Lions), M. Webb (Rockets), M. Elsdon (Rockets), J. Warner (Pirates), G. Munge (Skulls), A. Randell (Vultures), K. Eastgate (Skulls), A. N. Other. Steward: Mr. G. E. Atherton.

**Progress Road:** P. Moss (Aces), R. Hickton (Saints), J. Key (Skulls), T. Woolner (Saints), R. French (Lions), A. Cowland (Saints), P. Banbury (Vultures), A. Stonebrook (Skulls), C. Mogenson (Skulls), R. Giggins (Rockets), A. Hockley (Skulls), G. Bridges (Skulls), K. Nash (Pirates), R. Stewart (Brigands), A. N. Other. Steward: Mr. T. Davies.

**Thundersley:** D. Terry (Lions), D. Banbury (Vultures), P. Lewis (Vultures), S. Thompson (Lions), F. Berry (Lions), B. Hales (Saints), J. Berry (Lions), M. Tall (Lions), A. Smith (Brigands), D. Phillips (Skulls), D. Baines (Pirates), J. Bokea (Aces), P. Stone (Pirates), A. Harland (Pirates), D. Woodfield (Skulls), A. N. Other. Steward: Mr. D. Winch.

Southend Standard

Pub. 25<sup>th</sup> October

## DAVE WITHERS WINS CYCLE SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

### League matches on Sunday

THE newly-formed Southend and District Winter League commences activities on Sunday with four matches, as follows:—  
Southend Skulls v Rayleigh Rockets at Pantile Avenue (12 noon).  
Southend Lions v Rayleigh Rockets at Pantile Avenue (3 p.m.).  
Sutton Saints v Barling Brigands at Barling (3 p.m.).  
Thundersley Vultures v Rayleigh Pirates at Thundersley Common (3 p.m.).

A CROWD of over 250 saw Dave Withers become the 1956 Southend and District Cycle Speedway Association's champion at Pantile Avenue, Southend, on Sunday.

The crowd saw some thrilling racing, especially from home rider R. French, who was rather unlucky to be beaten in a ride-off for third place with R. Giggins. J. Piper, top scorer in the qualifying rounds, failed to live up to his reputation and scored only seven points. Another visiting rider, N. Franklyn (Sutton Saints) rode extremely well for his nine points.

The guests of honour were Miss Sherrie Ann Scott, Southend's "Miss Lovely, 1956", who presented the winner with the trophy. Miss Irene Osborne, Rayleigh's "Miss Speedway, 1956", and popular Rayleigh Rockets rider Les McGilivray. Points scores in the final were as follows:—

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| D. Withers (Rayleigh Rockets)     | 13 |
| R. Rolph (Southend Lions)         | 12 |
| R. Giggins (Rayleigh Rockets)     | 10 |
| R. French (Southend Lions)        | 10 |
| M. Webb (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 9  |
| N. Franklyn (Sutton Saints)       | 9  |
| P. Epps (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 9  |
| J. Berry (Southend Lions)         | 9  |
| A. Randall (Thundersley Vultures) | 8  |
| J. Piper (Thundersley Vultures)   | 7  |
| S. Thompson (Southend Lions)      | 6  |
| R. Atherton (Southend Lions)      | 6  |
| D. Banbury (Thundersley Vultures) | 5  |
| A. Smith (Barling Brigands)       | 3  |
| R. Rose (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 1  |
| M. Payne (Thundersley Vultures)   | 1  |

### FOUR-TEAM TOURNAMENT

Following the championship there was an invitation four-team tournament between Rayleigh Rockets, Southend Lions, Southend Select and the well-known South Essex League team Longbridge Leopards. Included in the Leopards' team were Stan Stevens, the English international, and Roy Milano, who made a welcome return to Southend.

The racing was keen and fast, and Graham Priest, riding the track for the first time, showed he had not lost his old dash.

The highlight of the match was the meeting of Priest and Milano, two old rivals, in heat seven, with Priest finishing a popular winner. Result of the four-team tournament was as follows:—

1. Longbridge Leopards, 40 pts. (A. Risley 12, R. Milano 10, S. Stevens 10, J. Hibben 8); 2. Rayleigh Rockets, 28 pts. (R. Giggins 10, M. Webb 6, D. Withers 5, P. Epps 4); 3. Southend Lions, 24 pts. (G. Priest 10, S. Thompson 6, R. Atherton 5, M. Atherton 3); 4. Southend Select, 7 pts. (J. Piper 3, P. Wilkins 2, R. Mann 2, A. Smith 0).



Southend's "Miss Lovely", Miss Sherrie Ann Scott, presents the Individual Riders' Championship Trophy to Dave Withers at the conclusion of Sunday's final.

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October

## Southend & District Individual Cycle Speedway Championship Final – Result

|                                   |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|
| D. Withers (Rayleigh Rockets)     | 13pts |
| R. Rolph (Southend Lions)         | 12pts |
| R. Giggins (Rayleigh Rockets)     | 10pts |
| R. French (Southend Lions)        | 10pts |
| M. Webb (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 9pts  |
| N. Franklyn (Sutton Saints)       | 9pts  |
| P. Rose (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 9pts  |
| J. Berry (Southend Lions)         | 9pts  |
| A. Randall (Thundersley Vultures) | 8pts  |
| J. Piper (Thundersley Vultures)   | 7pts  |
| S. Thompson (Southend Lions)      | 6pts  |
| R. Atherton (Southend Lions)      | 6pts  |
| D. Banbury (Thundersley Vultures) | 5pts  |
| A. Smith (Barling Brigands)       | 3pts  |
| R. Rose (Rayleigh Rockets)        | 1pt   |
| M. Payne (Thundersley Vultures)   | 1pt   |

## + Supporting 4 Team Tournament Result

Longbridge Leopards 40, Rayleigh Rockets 25, Southend Lions 24, Southend Select 7.

## News Item

Newly formed Southend & District Winter League Fixtures.