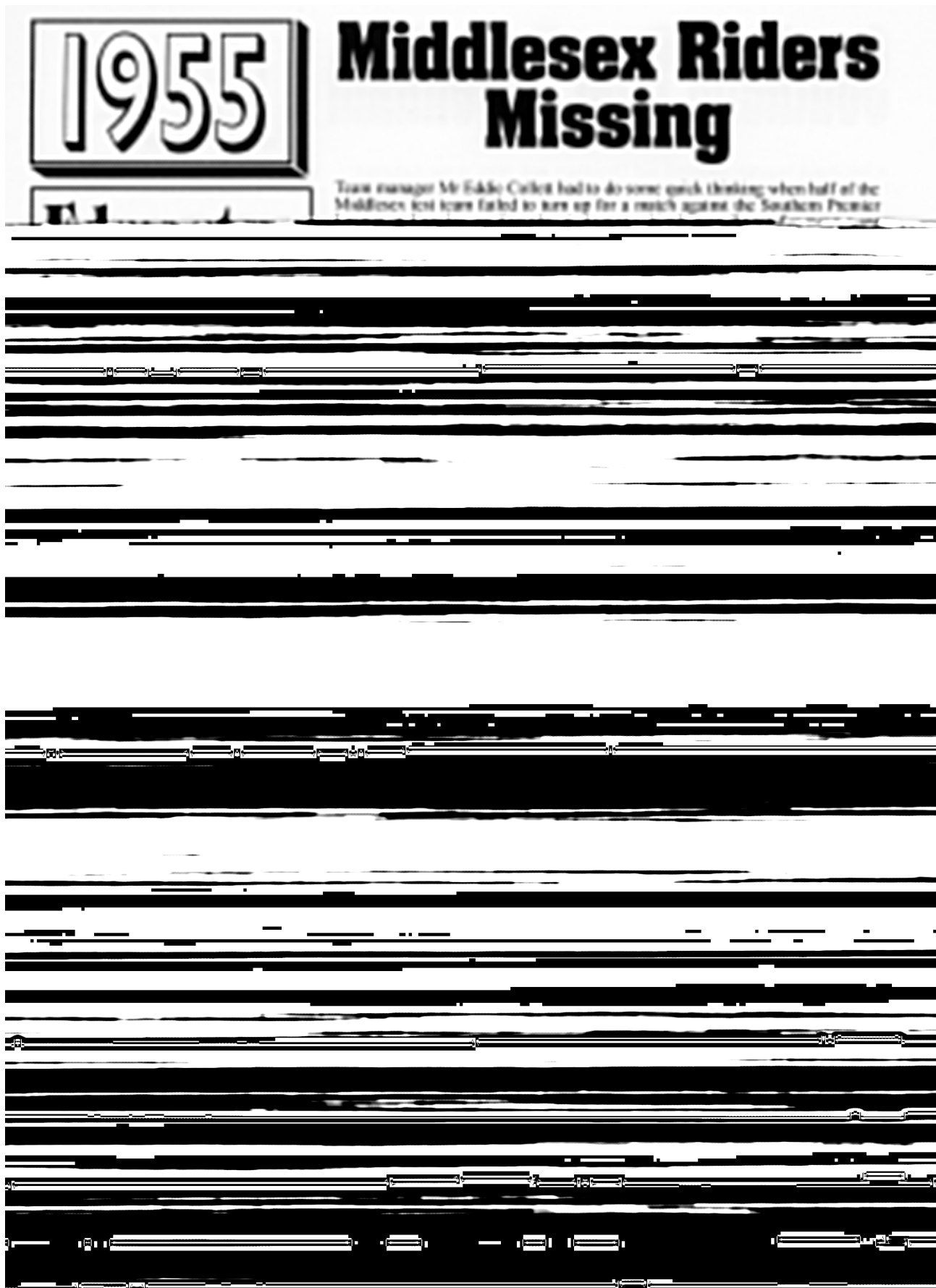


1955 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.



Cowell Wins North London Title

1955

One of the largest crowds of the season assembled at the Tottenham track on 9 October 1955 to witness a thrilling final of the North London Riders' Championship. Leading qualifier Wally Bracey (Tottenham) was the favourite to take the title but along with stars like Len Adams (Tottenham) and Johnny Sayer (Edmonton), he did not get the lucky breaks.

Vic Cowell's win was all the more notable as he took all of his opponents from behind. He was riding a new style of bike which he was using for the first time. Meanwhile Johnny Berwick (Tottenham) had the ill-luck of being disqualified in his final ride for breaking the tapes which cost him the chance of being runner-up. The steward, Mr Griffiths, controlled the meeting expertly. The Tottenham junior championship, raced in the morning, was won by starlet Johnny (Pansy) Potter of Tottenham. The leading scorers in the senior event were Vic Cowell (Edmonton Saints) 15 points, Nobby Dunn (Tottenham) 12, Johnny Berwick (Tottenham) 11, Derek "Wispy" Wills (Tottenham) 11.

SOUTHERN PREMIER PRESENTATION EVENING

The yearly presentation of the Southern Premier League took place on Monday 12 December at the French Horn Hotel, East Hill, Wandsworth. All presentations were made by the Mayor of Wandsworth, Councillor W W Charman JP. In his speech he emphasised the part cycle speedway racing played in society and the sport's fine qualities of team spirit, discipline and sportsmanship. Tooting Tigers took all the season's major team honours with Raynes Park runners-up. The Sportsman of the Year Award was shared by J Whittaker of South London Rangers and T Frost of Raynes Park.

Shorts

In 1955 the South Essex League comprised three full divisions. Champions were Dagenham Aces in Division One and Romford-based teams Gladiators and Crusaders won Divisions Two and Three.

On Saturday 24 September Coalville Stars (Leicester) concert party presented a show at the Bardon Road club in aid of their old age pensioners Christmas party and a grand total of £12 was handed to the senior citizens.

More and more junior competitions were emerging in different areas. Brian Anthony (Ferndale Stars C team) was the winner at West Ham Hammers track with 14 points.

Langstone Dinner

On 17 December 1955, Langstone Eagles from Monmouthshire, held their third annual dinner. There were 70 people present including County officials and two members from each club. A wonderful meal was provided and it was apparent from the speeches given that the club is going far in the cycle speedway world. The most moving part of the get-together was when team captain John Moor made a speech thanking all the village folk for their support. Unbeknown to anyone, the lads had been saving their money for several weeks and presented all the ladies with a box of chocolates and all the men a large packet of cigarettes.



PHOTOGRAPH

Suffolk team Trimley Tigers pictured in 1955.