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THE CYCLE SPEEDWAY

ADOLF L. BROWN

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THE

VOLUME NO.1.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY SPOTLIGHT

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PUBLICITY

For some time now it has been obvious that there is one thing that our Sport lacks, and must have if it is to thrive — PUBLICITY.

Some years ago we published a local magazine under the title of the "Herts Cycle Speedway Spotlight". This proved to be a great success.

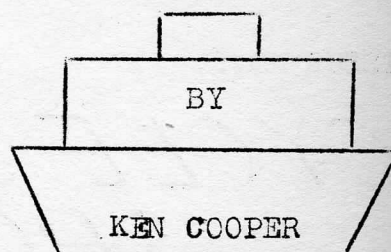
This previous magazine, of course, was only intended to be of interest to those concerned with the Sport of Cycle Speedway in the County of Hertfordshire.

Our new publication will be issued with the main object of distributing the news of the Sport generally throughout the country on a National basis.

This, of course, has been attempted by other papers and magazines in the past, but we feel that, with the aid of our many friends in various parts of the country, we may well be in a better position to produce a magazine of greater general interest to all, than others have been able to do in the past.

THE EDITORS.

NOAH'S ARK



EACH ISSUE, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO REVIVE OLD MEMORIES IN THIS COLUMN. THIS ISSUE, WE RECALL THE VISIT OF TWO DUTCH RIDERS, AS REPORTED IN A LOCAL NEWSPAPER.

AUTUMN CUP 1954.

WIMBLEDON RIDERS TOPS

In a thrilling afternoon's racing at Mersham Vikings track last Saturday, Jimmy Kilsby (Wimbledon Stars), scored a faultless maximum to win the Autumn Cup.

Evert Jonkhart and Martin de Brakel, two Dutch Internationals from the Hilversum club Hollandse Welpen, were in great form, and thrilled the crowd with their spectacular riding.

Sid Greatley, who conceded only two points, was a worthy Runner-up, while Tony Eldridge, despite very bad luck, was able to finish a joint third with Martin de Brakel.

The best race of the afternoon came in heat 11, when de Brakel and Kilsby (both unbeaten), Eldridge and Chivers, met in what was virtually the deciding race in the Championship.

Kilsby, first from the gate, had to fight hard to hold his lead from Tony Eldridge, who brilliantly out-maneuvered the very fast Dutch No. 1, while Chivers, although last, was only a length behind de Brakel.

Mr. Hartog de Ronde, the President of the Dutch Cycle Speedway Association, presented the Trophy, in company with Mr. E. Jonkhart, father of the Netherlands Captain.

THE REPORT COVERING THE ABOVE MATCH WAS PROVIDED BY MRS. E. HENSTRIDGE.

Have you any reports of past matches lying in the bottom draw at home.— If so, select what you consider to be the most interesting, and send it to us.

HEY THERE

Fellow riders named "Dashing Dave Hemus" (Sutton Stars), their unanimous favourite to capture the Birmingham Senior Championship, and, with three scintillating wins to his credit, he certainly looked like fulfilling their prophesy.

Heat 14, however, brought a shattering defeat by Monarchs ace track specialist, Johnny Ward, who cleverly made up lost ground, to slip inside Hemus on the second lap, and then went on to win the race and also the title.

SCORERS: J. Ward (Kingstanding Monarchs "A") 15pts; D. Hemus (Sutton Stars) 14; G. Kean (Kingstanding Monarchs "A") 12; J. Mills & L. Pattinson (Kingstanding Monarchs "B") 11.

OTHER RESULTS FOR 1955.—BEEHIVE TROPHY: Kingstanding Monarchs "A"; RUNNERS-UP; Kingstanding Monarchs "B"—SHIRLEY CARNIVAL TROPHY: Kingstanding Monarchs "B"; RUNNERS-UP, Lambeth Aces. —ALAN HUNT CUP: John Mills, John Heaton, Frank Adams.—NOVEMBER HANDICAP: Gerald Kean, Johnny Ward, Harold Smith.—UNDER 15 CHAMPIONSHIP: Mickey Poole, Tim Wall, Eric Smith.

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

DIVISION 1.

	P	W	D	L	PTS
KINGSTANDING MONARCHS "A"	12	12	0	0	24
SUTTON STARS	12	6	0	6	12
THE RACERS	12	5	0	7	10
FASTMOOR LIONS	12	1	0	11	2

DIVISION 11.

KINGSTANDING MONARCHS "B"	20	19	1	0	39
LAMBETH ACES	20	14	2	4	30
FASTMOOR CUBS	20	10	1	9	21
ALDRIDGE HAMMERS	20	9	0	11	18
EIMDON WASPS	20	4	0	16	8
THE CHASERS	20	2	0	18	4

HAROLD SMITH.

BRUM CALLING

KINGS OF HERTS.

HERTS PICK TEST TEAMS.

The Herts. League have selected their teams to meet Essex in the first of their winter series at the 'Wolves' track in St. James Park, Walthamstow, on Sunday 15th. January at 2.0.p.m.

The backbone of both the 'A' and 'B' teams is drawn from the veteran Test Caps.

T. Greenawy, the Walthamstow Skipper, is to Captain the 'A' Team, and will be backed by home rider Fraser, C. Hitch and M. Jeffrey (Hoddesdon Kangaroos), E. Brewer (Clay Hill Aces), V. Cowell (Edmonton Saints), and two newcomers to Test Matches, M. Brown and K. Taylor (Whipps X Comets).

In the second match, Herts. is equally represented by home riders R. Archie and M. Bell (Walthamstow Wolves), T. Bunce and T. Howse (Whipps X Comets), and A. Doggett and A. Jones (Clay Hill Aces), and D. Hannington (Hoddesdon Kangaroos) and Roy Delaney (Edmonton Saints), who will captain the side.

Stewards will be Mr. Delaney for the 'A' Match, and Mr. Clark for the 'B' Match.

Herts. are looking forward to this clash with their neighbours.

The Annual General Meeting of the Herts. League will be held at the "RISING SUN HOTEL, BARNET", on Tuesday 17th. January 1956, at 7.30.p.m. and onwards.

Teams wishing to enter the Herts. League for the coming season are welcome to attend the above meeting.

JOHN BROWN.

SUFFOLK SCENE

I have been asked by the Editors to contribute articles and news to the "Spotlight". This I shall do, in association with my very great friend and colleague, Rocky Morgan, who, like myself, has been in the Sport for a very long time. Neither of us intends to use pen names. If we cannot write what is on our minds, and sign it, then we will not write at all.

For a very long time there has been a need for a paper devoted entirely to the Sport. Several attempts have been made, but with little success. Now we have two such papers. This is good, because it will prove beyond all doubt the saying "The survival of the fittest".

Our joint writings will be based on Suffolk Cycle Speedway, and the Sport in general—as we see it. We are not interested in who runs the Sport, so long as it is run properly.

We, living in these Eastern Counties, sometimes call ourselves the forgotten people. But at least in one Sport we are determined to lead. Our County Board stands second to none. We have none of the bickering that goes on in many areas. Our officials are chosen on merit, and if they fail in their jobs they are very quickly out.

For the past six years I have been the County Secretary, and have been given the authority of having the first and the last word of a virtual dictator.—not self-inflicted, but elected every year by a 100% vote.

How is it done? Simply by having the fullest confidence of every rider and official in the county. Some of you will say that it cannot be done. It can! It is done, by always (note ALWAYS) discussing with riders and officials every idea that comes along. Never turn a deaf ear to any of your riders. Never ride the high horse over them. Put your riders FIRST at all times. If you are a grown up member, put yourself down to their level. Be one of them.

THAT IS THE SECRET OF OUR SUFFOLK SUCCESS.

CLAUDE JOLLY,

SUFFOLK COUNTY SECRETARY AND ORGANISER.

PITS PORTRAIT

1. OLIVE HITCH (HODDESDON KANGAROOS)

Olive Hitch first began racing in the original Hoddesdon Kangaroos, and was a success from the start.

Olive's first desire was to be a brilliant individual, and from the beginning of his racing career right up to the present time, he has remained among the top rankings of his County.

He did have one short spell away from the local team, when he rode for the E.A.C. Hawks, a factory team at St Albans. In this team Olive was once again brilliant right from the start, but he also began to take a far greater interest in team riding, and was largely responsible for his team finishing the year as Champions of the Herts. League.

The next two years, Olive spent in the forces, mainly in Egypt, but even during this time he kept in constant touch with the Sport at Home.

When he returned, he took over the Captaincy of the Kangaroos once more, and has to a great extent been responsible for the success of his team in the past two years.

Olive is still the top Hoddesdon rider, but he now has to contend with younger brother Alan, who was a rather smallish boy when he went abroad, and is now always among the top scorers due to his tearaway style.

The Hitch family is indeed a Cycle Speedway family in the real sense of the word, for Olive's sister Beryl, who has always been a keen supporter of her two brothers, is married to the present manager of the Kangaroos, Tony Clark. Tony was one of those people who never used to be interested in the Sport—but he's certainly been converted since.

Olive has been a regular Test Cap for Herts., and is once again selected to ride for his County in the Matches with Essex.

VIV COWELL.

CHEATS!

BY KEN COOPER.--REPRINTED FROM GRAHAM PAYNE'S CYCLE
SPEEDWAY ANNUAL FOR 1953.

In every sport there are cheats; but the majority of competitors do make an honest attempt to satisfy themselves that they have no unfair advantage over their opponents. They feel that such an advantage would, if they win, deprive them of the satisfaction of knowing that they are the better exponents of the sport.

Cycle Speedway has its share of cheats also. The majority try to convince themselves that everything is fair and above board, whilst the minority deliberately set out to win at all cost.

There are many ways in which a cheat can operate. To mention only a few of these tricks will suffice. Firstly, (a). THE ROLLING START. This age-old trick of a cheat is of attempting to beat his opponents from the tapes with a series of rolling movements. (b). HOOKING. A detestable trick of hooking an opponents wheel when he cannot be beaten by fair means, (c). BORING. The deliberate use of body or Cycle weight, where skill is lacking, in an endeavour to beat an opponent by sheer brute force. (d). UNSPORTING BEHAVIOUR. Last on my short list is the trick of lying on the track after a spill in order to gain a re-run to the advantage of the cheat's own team.

Most of you will have seen all these methods of cheating and many others. Why then do these tricks work? They work for the simple reason that you allow the teams in your own areas to continue to use them.

YOU can stop this bad sportsmanship by first making sure that your own team rides ACCORDING TO THE INTENTION OF THE RULES, and insisting that all teams you meet do the same.

Remember, all these unfair methods are obvious to any unbiased spectator. Together with the show of open belligerence, use of obscene language etc. these tricks do more to stop our Sport being recognised than can be countered by dozens of perfect meetings.

INTERNATIONALS

Which eight riders would you select to represent your Country in International Matches?

To every Cycle Speedway Rider, Official and Supporter, there must be some riders who appear to stand out as of International standard.

With the question of International Matches to be discussed at the Annual General Meeting of N.A.C.S.A., we ask you to give your opinion.

Just select the eight riders who you consider would best do justice to your Country. Write them down, and send them to us, together with short notes of why you would choose each rider.

For the purpose of this enquiry, we would like to divide the British Isles into separate units.--- This would mean that a team of eight riders to represent ENGLAND would be selected by readers in England, eight for WALES would be selected by Welsh readers, eight from SCOTLAND would be selected by Scots readers.

If possible, we should also like selections from HOLLAND, and any other Country where Cycle Speedway operates.

It is no mean task to pick eight riders from the whole of Cycle Speedway in say England. We shall be interested to see just how many of our readers send lists composed of roughly the same list of names.

Don't forget, it isn't just your own area you have to choose from, but the whole of your native country.

Should it be possible for any matches to be arranged on an International basis in 1956, somebody will be elected as the official selectors. So how about letting them know who you think is suitable.

We shall publish some of these list every issue, together with short notes of why the riders concerned are considered worthy.

DON'T LEAVE IT TO SOMEBODY ELSE— WRITE NOW TO:—

57, FROBISHER ROAD, HORNSEY, LONDON, N.8.

Ken Cooper

FROM FAR AND

A LETTER TO ONE OF THE EDITORS
FROM HOLLAND

21st. December.

Dear Vic,

Here I am again after the operation which has cost me ten days of my life. I'm feeling quite O.K. now.

I received your letter this morning giving the news that you are starting a new magazine. I'm sure that you have a very good chance of success, as two boys with a good deal of Cycle Speedway experience, well known in the Sport, and insiders on all problems and difficulties of the Sport. I should like to wish the "Cycle Speedway Spotlight" every possible success.

I shall do my best to help with news, results, and some viewpoints from Holland.

By the way, give my best wishes to Ken Cooper, who I met in London. And please pass the best wishes for 1956, from the Dutch Cycle Speedway fans and myself, to all our friends in London, St. Mary Cray, Slough, Maidenhead, Cookham, Marsham Orpington, Tooting, the East End, and all the other places that we visited.

Best wishes and Cheerio,
Yours sincerely,

HARTOG de RONDE.

EDITORS NOTE : Hartog de Ronde will be sending us regular reports from Holland during the coming season.

If you would like the answers to any queries on racing in Holland, please write to us, and we will pass your requests to Hartog.

.. WIDE

THE FOCUS ON

CARRS WOOD HUNTERS

Carrs Wood Hunters, winners of the National Team Championship in 1955 and 1954, are perhaps the most successful club in the country.

Formed in 1951, by Brian Moston and Roy Carter, who forecast that the Hunters would win the Trophy inside three years. That they accomplished this feat and then gave a repeat performance is now history, and for them it is a very proud one indeed.

In 1955, they added the Lancashire and Cheshire League Championship Trophy to their club sideboard, and now, they are working hard training enough riders to enter two teams in the local League for 1956.

One of the King Pins of this Power House team is Brian Moston, voted by Graham Payne in his 1953 Cycle Speedway Annual as the second best rider in the country for that year. The wisdom of Graham's choice was proved when Brian finished Runner-up to Ron Bagley of Ipswich in last years Final of the National Individual Championship. Brian has, of course, been a star for years, but the Hunters did not build their hopes of fulfilling their prophesy on existing stars. They made stars where none previously existed; Dereck Tegg was one of these.

Yes Carrs Wood are a very progressive club, and set a shining example to the whole of the country.

Manchester can be very proud of their Champions.

Tally Ho' Hunters — Good racing in 1956.

Ken Coopers

OUR THANKS TO..

In this first issue of the "SPOTLIGHT", we have tried to include something from as many areas of the country as possible.

Already the following have promised to send us a series of regular reports from their districts : -

Hartog de Ronde (HOLLAND), Claude Jolly & Rocky Morgan (SUFFOLK), Ronald E. Bull (ESSEX), John Brown & Roy Delaney (HERTFORDSHIRE), Harold Smith (BIRMINGHAM), Brian Moston (LANCASHIRE), Miss Norma Goody (LONDON), Pete Leckie (NORTH WEST MIDDLESEX), Mrs. E. Henstridge (LONDON).

You will notice that some of the above correspondents have in fact dashed off a short article for this issue. Our thanks are due to the above for their assistance at such short notice.

PLEASE NOTE ALL ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN THIS MAGAZINE WILL BE COVERED BY THE NAMES OF THE EDITORS, OR, THE CORRECT NAMES OF THE CORRESPONDENTS. — NO ARTICLE, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, WILL CARRY FICTITIOUS OR PEN NAMES.

For the future — We would like to hear your ideas and suggestions.

We shall, of course, concentrate more on actual results and reports of matches as we enter the new season. But, WE SHOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO READ.

If you like, or dislike, any of the styles of articles which appear in this issue, please let us know. REMEMBER, WE WILL PUBLISH WHAT YOU WANT US TO — WITHIN REASON.

WHEN ORDERING FUTURE ISSUES

Copies of future issues of this Magazine will only be available when paid for in advance.

Orders should be sent to; C.S.S., 57, FROBISHER ROAD, HORNSEY, LONDON, N.8. — Enclosing a Postal Order to the value of 6d per copy (4d. plus postage).

Where several copies of the same issue are to be sent to the same address, the amount over paid on postage will be refunded.

SPARE-

SPINDLES.

HOLLAND ; A new £2000 track accommodating 3000 people as spectators is being built for Hollandse Welpen for 1956. Edmonton Saints of London are one team who will race there next August.

SUFFOLK ; It is rumoured that the 1955 National Champ. is retiring. We still expect to see him around in 1956.

LONDON ; Pathe Gazette filmed part of a recent match in London. The shots have now been released in colour on the A.B.C. Circuits.

HERTFORDSHIRE ; Ken Woolard, of the Langley Lions at Stevenage, has asked that we request any riders moving into the new town to contact him at 37, Green Street, Stevenage.

LANCASHIRE ; Carrs Wood Hunters' star, Brian Moston, is busy training new riders to provide two line-ups for his club in 1956.

NORFOLK ; Malcolm Flood, ex-Earlham Eagles star, and now having a bash at motor Speedway, still enquires about the progress of the Sport in various parts of the country. Malc. sends his best wishes to all his old friends.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ; Henk de Bruin, who most readers will remember from the 1950 England v Holland match at London's Empress Hall, has recently been visiting old friends in Slough. Back across the water Henk is still up amongst the top scorers.