



56 Summer Term, 1904, and
to see that your news and views appear
in as near to your own originals as

commencing their 1904
will do our best
regularly in a form
possible.

TRACK BIKE!

First of all let me explain what this page is about. It is a page for riders only, and will give them an opportunity to discuss the merits of certain types of track bike components. In this article, I am going to say which type of handlebars I prefer, and why. I should like to receive your comments to publish in the next issue.

There are hundreds of shapes and sizes of handlebars, but they all fall into one of three main classes; the straight bar without curves, the Speedway type, and the roadster type about 20" wide, as used on the normal work bike.

I prefer the latter every time, because you can really get hold of them and pull like mad, with the result that your legs can put more pressure on the pedals and give a terrific burst of acceleration. After all, a really fast turn of speed is half way towards winning a race.

The straight bars are useless, because, on them, a rider has his whole body in a very awkward position, and cannot concentrate on winning a race when his muscles are protesting.

As for the Speedway type, and the type fitted to certain factory made machines, — they look very nice, and are easy to steer round the bends, but they are useless for real speed out of the gate unless you drop your gear. — But that is the subject of another article. Also, with the wide bars, the gap left by an opponent must be six inches wider before you can get the ends of your bars through to take the lead.

I have tried them all — always give me a narrow bar about 20" wide. But let me have your views. Don't let it all be one sided.

BRIAN MOSTON.

Please reply direct to : Brian Moston, 36, West End Avenue, Gatley, Cheshire.

HEY THERE

Several familiar faces will be missing from the 1956 racing scene in Birmingham. Vic Halliwell, Kingstanding Monarchs' veteran campaigner, has at last hung up his leathers, while Birmingham Lions will be minus Johnny Chaplin and former Warwickshire Champion, Norman Thompson, who joined the Ballsall Heath outfit from Coventry's Roland Rockets.

Lions have bolstered their line-up, however, by securing the services of Ewart Edwards and Johnny Varnish, star performers for the Defunct Racers, who lost their track at Oldbury a couple of months ago.

Talking of tracks, Dave Hemus tells me that alterations now being carried out at Sutton Coldfield will make the Stars' circuit the fastest in the Birmingham League. At the moment I'd say that honour belonged to the Lions.

Exact constitution of the League is not yet known — seven teams have so far applied for membership — but if, as rumoured, only one division is formed, the Second Division Cup will be awarded to the junior team occupying the highest position in the final table. As an added incentive to the juniors, a form of handicap racing is being considered.

Officers elected at the League's A.C.M. were :-
Chairman, Mr. A. L. Gregory; Secretary, Mr. H. Smith; Treasurer, Mr. P. Dorman; Executive Committee, Messrs. R. L. Bowen, D. J. Howell, K. Myring, O. W. Nutt, T. Slater and J. Thurstan.

HAROLD SMITH.

BRUM CALLING

KINGS OF HERTS

HERTS PREPARE FOR ENCOUNTER WITH ESSEX

There are two changes in the "A" team to meet Essex Representative "A" at Longbridge Essex on Sunday 12th February. Alan Hitch (Hoddesdon) joins his brother Clive to form the third heat partnership and Bernard Hart (Clay Hill) comes in as first reserve. The "B" team shows several changes, one of the most notable being the inclusion of Johnny Pinnock former international and now with Finchley. Both the teams won their matches at Walthamstow three weeks back and are hoping to bring off the double.

Past Fortnights' Results : (Challenge)

Walthamstow 50 (Greenaway 15, Frazer 11)

Whipps Cross 46 (Brown 11, Nastri 9)

Whipps X "B" 65 (Sear 15, Woolnough 13)

Edmonton "B" 43 (Reading 9, Isaacs 9)

Walthamstow 75 (Frazer 15, Greenaway 14)

Edmonton "B" 29 (Reading 7, Keay 6)

Hoddesdon .v. Peckham Postponed.

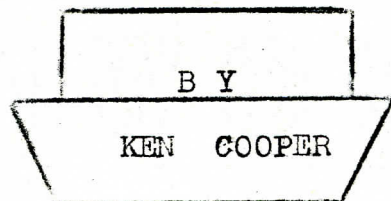
NORTHERN RACING RESULTS

Offerton Devils gained a surprise win away to Openshaw Monarchs. After four heats they were six points down but managed to pull back to win 51 - 44.

Leading scorers : Devils - (Heath 14, Garnett 11)

Monarchs - (Heap 9, Davies 7)

NOAH'S ARK



Casting my mind back the other day, I recalled a match which took place in 1949, between a team of Speedway riders and the Borehamwood Wolves. A crowd of 400 turned up to see this match which had received much publicity in both the Cycle Speedway and Motor Speedway press. Wearing all kinds of paraphernalia, the Speedway riders soon entered into the spirit of the thing, and Dick Geary had a special laugh all to himself, when he displayed large learner plates on his machine.

The fun began on the bends, when the Speedway boys made brave efforts to broadside, but with their machines wanting to leave the track, falls came fast and furious.

Dick Geary might have won one of his heats, but in the excitement and fun of things, he tumbled on the last lap !.

Both teams received great encouragement from the supporters, and at the end of a ding-dong struggle, they ended up with 36 points apiece! Stranger things have been known to happen!.

Jim Gregory scored the only maximum of the day, winning his three races. Speedway riders present on this memorable day included Dick Geary of Walthamstow, George Butler and Cyril Brine of the Dons, Percy and Ron Brine of Rayleigh and Alex Gray of Liverpool, who acted as Steward.

This was some match, and one I'll not easily forget.

DOWN

ESSEX

Next "Representative" match between Essex and Herts. takes place at the Longbridge Leopards track in Barking Park on 12th. of the month. The Essex "A" team is as follows:

1. Ernie Lamacq, 2. Ted Walker, 3. Stan Stevens (Capt), 4. George Wakeman, 5. Sid Tomlyn, 6. Alan Wood, 7. Fred South, 8. Denny Hubble.

Interesting point this brings up is that Denny Hubble was in the Dagenham Test Team in 1949, the team that met the Southend Test Team. Anyone recall the team? — It was:

1. T. Coell (Stadium Stars) (Capt), 2. T. Jones (Stadium Stars), 3. T. Risley (Wantz Wallabies), 4. J. Brown (Wantz Wallabies), 5. Denny Hubble (Dagenham Aces), 6. G. Dower (Foxland Panthers). Reserves from S. Gamage, A. Stacey, and P. Webb.

The Aces are the only team of that lot that are still functioning, and from what George Wakeman tells me, they are in danger of having only half a team this coming season.

The Dagenham Area League at that time, July 1949, by the way, consisted of Stadium Stars, Foxland Panther, Wantz Wallabies, Dagenham Aces, Dagenham Diamonds, Campbell Dragons, and Dagenham Lions.

Over in the Ilford Area League at the same period in 1949, the season had just opened and the League consisted of Fairlop Aces, Eaugwood Leopards, Clayhall Flyers, Romford Rangers, Aerodrome Aces, and Hainault Wasps. None of these teams are now in existence, although some of the riders are still around.

In Romford, the Faircross Flyers, Mawney Kangaroos, and North Road Eagles were trying to get a Romford and District League operational.

A group of Hertfordshire riders, labelled Herts. Tourists, made a Whitsun Tour of the Southend League, and their scores were:— Hullbridge Vampires 39 Herts. 47, Eastwood Meteors 48 Herts. 35, Hawkwell Hammers 46 Herts. 38, Hawkwell Flyers 46 Herts. 52, Southend Lions 47 Herts. 47.

Outstanding rider of the tour was Boreham Wood's Johnny

EX

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Pinnock who, in his five matches scored 58 points from a possible 60, and this on away tracks, is no mean feat.

Since that time, Johnny Pinnock has gained International honours, and is now back in the Sport as the rider Manager of the Finchley Sabres. None of the Southend League teams are in existence now, as the Southend area dropped out of Cycle Speedway in the latter part of 1953 and early 1954. A great pity this, as, as late as 1953 Romford indulged in home and away Test Matches with the Southend boys, losing by 12 points at Rayleigh, and by 53-54 at the Hawbush track in the return match. Dagenham also a team to Southend, also losing by a 12 point margin. The return was never held.

Getting back to the present day news, the Essex "B" team to meet Herts. on Feb. 12th is:-

1. Geoff Letchfield, 2. Sandy McGillivray, 3. Ron K. Jones, 4. Johnny Hibben, 5. Barry Norris, 6. Colin Booth, with Peter Stevens and Len Adams filling the reserves berths.

These riders between them have seen a wealth of experience, as you will notice when I tell you that McGillivray has ridden for the Mawney Kangaroos, Dagenham Diamonds, Little Heath Hammers, and The Crusaders and the Gladiators. R.K. Jones has ridden for Romford Rockets, Dagenham Diamonds, Hawbush Hammers, and the Gladiators and Manford Falcons.

Johnny Hibben has had outings with Manford Falcons, and the Cobras from Barkingside, while Pete Stevens has signed on the dotted line in the past for Tudor Monarchs, Hawbush Hammers and Barkingside Cobras.

Barry Harris has spent many years with Longbridge Leopards, whilst Colin Booth, who put up a good show for Essex "B" last month, had experience with Whipps Cross Comets before signing with West Ham Penguins.

Would be rather interesting to find out who has ridden for the most teams, don't you think?

My total is seven — that should be easy to beat.

PITSPORTRAIT

3. KEITH BASS (OFFERTON DEVILS)

Captain of the Offerton Devils, Keith started racing in 1953 and has been with the Devils ever since.

Being a very average rider at first, it wasn't until late 1954 that Keith started to show signs of success.

At the start of the 1955 season, he started off in brilliant fashion, having acquired a more aggressive style than previously. His team-riding ability improved with the season, and his average soared up. Touring Edinburgh with a Manchester League team, he set up the highest scoring team pair with partner D. Garnett. His hopes of winning the Cheshire Final was dashed by an exclusion in his first race.

Having been selected to ride for his County "B" team, he went on to obtain a full County Cap for Cheshire.

Keith, who is one of the teams most stolid riders, forms an inseparable partnership with the County Champ.

At only 18, Keith thinks that 1956 will be his year. Who knows ?.

RESULTS OF MAJOR DUTCH CHAMPIONSHIPS DURING 1955.

Individual Championship of Holland

- 1st. Henk de Bruin (H. Welpen)
- 2nd. Jerard Jacobs (")
- 3rd. Theo Dusbaba (The Hague)

Individual Championship of Hilversum

- 1st. Jerard Jacobs (H. Welpen)
- 2nd. Eric Jockhard (H ")
- 3rd. Henk de Bruin (")

OPINION!

EXTRACTS OF LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

.....may I take the liberty of criticising Miss N. Gooddy's article on "Fees". First she points out the perilous position of the finances of the Association, I agree, perhaps she is right..... Yet she finishes off by saying that N.A.C.S.A. could be helped by various leagues and boards cutting their own fees..... Surely, reading between the lines, this shows lack of initiative. I say, N.A.S.C.A., cut your fees, set the example..... Surely Miss Gooddy you cannot expect various authorities to do something you cannot do yourself. As a National body, you should be helping the smaller bodies, not vice-versa. Secondly, Editors, in issue No.2. Essex are allowed a terrific coverage, whereas in No.1. the Birmingham report was condensed. Please be fair, what's good enough for Essex is also good for Glasgow, Manchester, Cardiff and the old enemies, Birmingham.....

T.Slater, Manager, Lambeth Aces.

Editors' Note : It is hoped a reply from Miss Gooddy will be in our next issue. As far as coverage is concerned, we do not like cutting articles, but sometimes pressure of news necessitates this. In the point mentioned, no news was available from B'ham, therefore this left more space for other areas, Essex were the more fortunate ones.

.....an advantage with the "Spotlight", will be that riders will be able to "throw mud" at ideas, instead of managers throwing it at each other.

B.Moston, Gatley, Manchester.

Editors' Note : Agreed Brian, that's the way we look at it.

From Far And Wide

The new season for Cycle Speedway in Scotland starts in the month of March.

Six teams at least are expected in the Glasgow and District League: — Craigton Eagles, Redhill Rockets, Everard Eagles, Linthouse Lightnings, Govan Rams and Arden Aces.

The Glasgow A.G.M. is to be held on 19th. February, and as "Spotlight" reporter, I will be present. The Glasgow Association invites any English or Welsh club to visit and race in Glasgow. Arrangements will be made for board and accommodation free, so as to cut down expenses. — Any offers?

Glasgow League Secretary, Jim Deans, tells me that there are many retirals this year, and that the forces have claimed some riders. Will the forces give special leave to Cycle Speedway Riders, as they do to Football players?

The Scottish Cycle Speedway Association's next meeting is to be held in Glasgow on 19th. February at 8.30.p.m. So, with this and the Glasgow A.G.M. at 7.0.p.m., well I am going to be busy.

The Edinburgh and Lothian League expect to have at least five clubs:— Granton Griffins, Edinburgh Monarchs, Sighthill Tigers, Edinburgh Falcons, and Abbeyhill Giants.

Ken Cameron, Abbeyhill Giants manager, informed me that he hopes to take a team to the South of England this summer.

There are prospects that the Lancashire League will be resuming in the Motherwell and Wishaw area.

To Mr. Edwards, S. Wales (See issue No.2.), the Scots reply:— We will have atomic cooked hags to satisfy the Welsh Dragons — but the Dragons will be "Leek"ing when the thistle starts jaggging them. Best of luck Dragons — you'll need it.

JAMES MACKIE.

MANCUNIAN S

With only three weeks to go before the season opens, interest is hotting up, and practice matches are taking place. The number of teams looks like being the smallest number for about five years, and unless more new teams are found, a one division League is in the offing. The enthusiastic second division will have to be scrapped, which is a great pity. Teams so far making application to join total eight; Belle Vue Cobras, Blackley Flyers, Carrs Wood Kestrels, Carrs Wood Tudors, Ladybarn Youth Club (Team name not yet decided), Longsight Pegasus, Offerton Devils, and Wilmslow Hammers. It is still possible that one or two other teams may yet decide to join. All teams as usual will be affiliated to N.A.C.S.A., and will race in both National Competitions.

Other competitions, as last season, are the North of England Championship, which is open to all teams in the North of England, and the League's Knock-out Trophy Competition. There will also be the Individual Championship, and Junior Championship, the latter for riders under 17.

No inter-city matches have been arranged so far, but it is expected that the Manchester team will be entertaining and visiting other cities.

The local clashes between Lancashire and Cheshire will be on the fixture list once again, although the number of matches has been reduced from three to two, while two additional matches between Lancashire "B" and Cheshire "B" have been inaugurated.

One of the main fixtures in July, is the Individual event "Manchester Grand Prix", This will be the fourth time it has been staged, and it arouses more interest on every occasion. It is expected that invitations will again be sent to Wales, Scotland, as well as the top class English riders. National Individual Champion, Bagley, has already agreed to ride.

So the scene is set for a good season's racing.

F. ASHTONHURST.

SPARE-

SPINDLES.

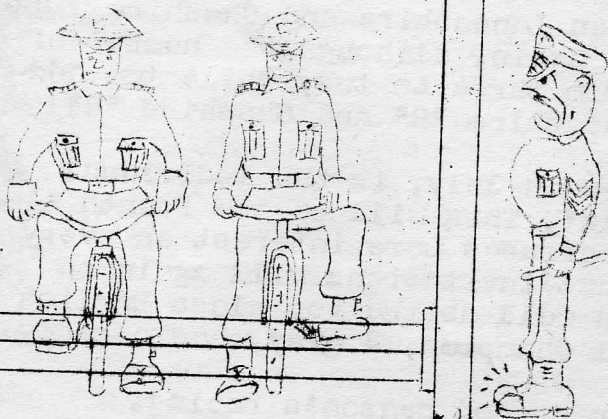
HOLLAND : Head-ache for Hartog de Ronde, President of the Dutch Cycle Speedway Assn. Apparently, applications from English Clubs wanting to tour are heavier than anticipated. As he says, "It gives me big troubles". Judging on past experiences, he'll fix it O.K.

LONDON and HOME COUNTIES : A get together on proposed T.V. project is the aim of Dave Stevens of Essex. Representatives from Kent, Surrey and Herts are requested to contact him at :- 152, Meads Lane, Seven Kings, Ilford, ESSEX.

HERTFORDSHIRE : Johnny Pinnock, who rode for England in 1949, leads Finchley Sabres back into the Herts League after an absence of two years. The County will start its competitions on 4th March, 1956.

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Dee!



"UNDER STARTER'S ORDERS !"

SUFFOLK : The area board in co-operation with Swedish film star Zsa Zsa Brandon-Cox are preparing for their famous Annual Cycle Speedway Beauty Queen Competition.

LANCS : New name in Carrs Wood split-up this year will be "TUDORS".

YOUR TOWN : Next issue of "SPOTLIGHT" will be published Monday 27th Feb '56.

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