

THE CYCLE SPEEDWAY SPOTLIGHT

Issue No 17

Vol No 1



**Bringing The World Of
Cycle Speedway Into Focus**

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Every Fortnight

Edited by Ken Cooper & Vic Cowell

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THE

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CYCLE SPEEDWAY SPOTLIGHT

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MONDAY 27TH., AUG., 1956.

EACH MONTH

Within the next few weeks many clubs will have completed their League fixtures etc., and will cease racing until the 1957 season.

Of course, the majority of teams will continue to race, as usual, until the end of September and in to October. However, it has been decided that the Spotlight will only be published at fortnightly intervals during the height of the season, and at other times will be printed once per month, due to the easing off of news.

The next issue of the Spotlight will therefore be on sale on Monday 24th. September - still price 4d.

The same arrangements will still apply with regard to news received. This means that results etc., should reach us by the Tuesday prior to publication, or in the case of Issue No.18, Tuesday 18th. September.

The reduced size of Issue No.16 was due to the fact that both Editors were on Holiday at the same time, and it was therefore not possible to publish such a full issue as usual.

DON'T FORGET THE NATIONAL FINALS ON SEPTEMBER 22ND.

MANCHESTER

Without doubt, the weather has been the winner during the first few weeks of August, causing match postponements or teams to be understrength because of the rain deterring their riders from turning up. In the early months of the season, tracks were breaking up through lack of water, now, most of them are causing as much controversy as the Old Trafford Test wicket.

Circuit to suffer most was the Carrs Wood one, which was under one to two foot of water early last Sunday morning, and it seemed that the afternoon Derby match between Tudors and Kestrels would be decided in canoes. Fortunately the water subsided rapidly and the match was ridden after very late start. The Tudors ran out winners after a tight match and so qualify to meet Belle Vue in the North of England Lincs. Final Competition. Only the week previously, Tudors were held to a two point win in the Semi-Final, by League leaders, Openshaw Monarchs. Monarchs, incidentally, are keeping a firm grip on the League at the moment, as their two easy away wins over Wilmslow and Longsight prove but the other main contestants for the title, Tudors and Belle Vue, have also won their matches, so the testing time will come when these teams meet during the next few weeks.

A close match, on a muddy track, with tempers getting a trifle frayed, resulted in Longsight gaining two points at the expense of Blackley, who also suffered a home defeat to Belle Vue the week previously. Carrs Wood Kestrels have had two good wins, one as expected at Ladybarn, but their decisive home win over Offerton came as something of a shock. Only two evenings previously, a very depleted Devils had beaten the Kestrels by the odd point. With manager Derek Garnett starting his National Service this week, things don't look too rosy in the Offerton camp. A special meeting of all, their riders has been called by the League to make sure that the organisation of the team will be carried on satisfactorily.

The selection committee will meet next week to pick the Manchester team to visit Birmingham on 9th. September.

F. ASHTONHURST.

HERTS

BY KEN COOPER.

HERTS. LEAGUE UP TO AND INCLUDING SATURDAY 25TH. AUGUST.

TEAM	PLD	H O M E			A W A Y			PTS
		W	D	L	W	D	L	
HODDESDON KANGAROOS	11	6	0	0	4	0	1	25
PECKHAM STARS	8	3	0	0	4	0	1	18
WHIPPS X COMETS	10	4	0	1	2	0	3	14
EDMONTON SAINTS	11	4	0	2	2	0	3	14
WALTHAMSTOW WOLVES	9	4	0	0	2	0	3	14
CLAY HILL ACES	9	2	0	2	1	0	4	7
LANGLEY LIONS	12	1	0	5	1	0	5	5
FINCHLEY SABRES	12	0	0	7	1	0	4	3

The past two weeks have seen very little progress in the Herts. League, with the weather washing out several of the holiday period matches.

At present, Kangaroos still hold top position in the League Table, with Peckham Stars, Whipps X Comets, Edmonton Saints and Walthamstow Wolves all being in much the same position as the leaders.

Edmonton, with only three remaining fixtures, look as if they have lost their chance of Champions position in the Table for this year, although they can still end in the top three.

Yes! The last month or so of fixtures look like being the deciding ones as far as the Title is concerned.

I understand there is now a team operating in the St. Albans area once more. Many readers will remember that the St. Albans district was once the centre of the Herts. League, which at one time had the following teams operating: E.A.C. Hawks, St. Albans Cobras, Harpenden Aces, and Hilltop Vampires (Redbourn). Here's hoping that the formation of a new team will lead to a revival in this area.

The Herts. Individual Champion, Les Westwood is a doubtful starter at the National Finals this year due to the same taking place during his T.A. week. It is hoped, however, that special permission may be obtained for Les to end his training week early, in order that he may be able to take part.

FINALS DAY

The Secretary of the National Amateur Cycle Speedway Assn Mr. F. Bennett, has written to inform County Secretaries et al that there will be no semi-finals in the National Individual Championships this year, due to the fact that some of the County Secretaries have not notified the Association of the name of their County Champion. As you will remember all Counties were given to a specified date to submit the name of their Champion.

The National Secretary therefore announces that all the names which have been received will be entered direct for the Final at Garratt Park, Earlsfield, London, S.W.18., on Saturday 22nd. September 1956.

Full directions will be forwarded to County Secretaries in due course.

Would all the areas and clubs that will be attending the National Finals on 22nd. September please notify the Public Relations Officer, Southern Premier Association, 141 Penwith Road, Earlsfield, S.W.18. of the estimated number of coaches that will be arriving from their areas or teams.

This information is required to enable the S.P. Assn. to have the necessary Police supervision in the parking areas.

To avoid the disappointment of finding that you are not able to park in the vicinity of the track WHY DON'T YOU PERSONALLY ASK YOUR FRIENDS IF THE NECESSARY NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN MADE — IF NOT MAKE SURE IT IS DONE AT ONCE.

The next edition of the "Spotlight" will be on sale on the Monday following FINALS DAY, and will contain first hand reports of the proceedings.

If you are not able to attend the Sport's biggest event of the year, why not order your copy of the "Spotlight" NOW AND AVOID THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO OBTAIN A COPY?????

N.W. Middlesex

A REPORT
FROM
ROGER SEYMOUR

NORTH WEST MIDDLESEX LEAGUE TABLE - LATEST POSITIONS.

TEAM	PLD	H O M E			A W A Y			PTS
		W	D	L	W	D	L	
HAREFIELD	8	5	0	0	3	0	0	19
GREENFORD	6	3	0	0	3	0	0	15
LANGLEY	9	2	0	2	1	0	4	7
HILLINGDON	9	2	0	2	0	0	5	4
UXBRIDGE	8	1	0	3	0	0	4	2

On 12th. August, Uxbridge entertained Hillingdon in a League Match, and, using 4 newcomers, pulled off their first win of the season. Bill Punter was in good form and rode unbeaten in his four rides. He was well backed up by Johnny King with 11, points. Dave Ewer, ex-Slough rider, signed on for Uxbridge the previous week and was having his first match for about four years. He scored a very useful 9 points. Fred Tillyer was best for Hillingdon with 11 points.

In the League match at Hillingdon, Harefield kept up their unbeaten run, winning by 55-41. Dave Stonex and Jesse James were a sound partnership, scoring 3, 5-18 together. For Hillingdon, Fred Tillyer was in good form to score 12 points. He was well supported by Jeff Jacobs with 11 points.

Langley, at home to Greenford, went down heavily to a strong Aces team, losing by 37-57. Billy Whyte of Greenford scored 14 points, dropping one to an opponent. Langley were without Charlie Ross for this match.

Tactical substitutes have now been introduced to make more even racing (we hope), and Hillingdon's visit to the Harefield track resulted in the use of same, when the racing was in fact made much more even. At the finish of this match, Harefield ran out the winners by 56-40. Brilliant riding by Hillingdon's skipper, Fred Tillyer, earned him an 18 point maximum.

Greenford are still in a position to take the League Championship, as they are still unbeaten and have played two matches less than the Harefield boys.

THE "WELPEN"

In the results section of this edition, you will no doubt have seen the results of recent racing in Holland. Results which go to prove, that the Dutch, with their own team, are more than a match for an English league club. A statement was made at the last N.A.C.S.A. Annual General Meeting, by the National Secretary, I think, to the effect that there was no organised racing in Holland. Perhaps you can now show how far wide of the target that remark was....

Without any hesitation, I say that the racing which I saw in Hilversum during the week just passed, was the finest organised, best publicised and most attended since the International held at Empress Hall in 1950. It is hard for me, as an English enthusiast to say this, but we have been left far behind in the art of presenting Cycle Speedway to the public.

Let me dwell for a moment on the publicity side of the Edmonton Saints recent tour. Three hundred posters were displayed throughout the town. Three thousand hand-bills were distributed a few weeks before the matches took place. A poster, twelve feet long and six feet high dominated the entrance to the track. All this was bound to have effect on the public. And effective it was. In the two matches advertised, a total of two thousand people paid to watch the racing. An afternoon match held entirely for local school-children free of charge, drew four hundred excited youngsters to the new Minckelersstraat track. Can anyone over here imagine getting a crowd of that dimension at 3.00p.m. on a week-day?...

Now for a word or two about organisation. From the time the Edmonton party arrived, their machines were taken care of by the "Hollandse Welpen". These, along with the riders and supporters were whisked to and from the track with all care and attention. At the track itself, on the night which I will cover later, organisation was at its peak. A battery of loudspeakers kept the crowd informed of the proceedings. In the spacious pits, first-aid officials were ever on the alert for the first signs of fatigue on the part of the riders. Crates of drink were on hand for the competitors' refreshment. The spectators were amply

AY

VIC COWELL, AFTER SEEING FOR HIMSELF,
TELLS YOU OF THE DUTCH 'SET-UP'.

protected from the bikes by a strong safety fence. Yes, this was a track which lived up to its name.

The racing surface is of asphalt. Unorthodox by our standards I agree, but then, just what standard do we demand here? Sliding on the bends is eliminated to a minimum. Before trying it out, I was of the opinion that a great deal of skill was dispensed with by a surface of this kind. After several practice laps, I changed my opinion. This track called for both skill and speed, with emphasis on the latter. It was useless to crawl round the bends, for the Dutch lads just rode past on the outside. The last two meetings of the tour show, to some extent, that we increased our speed tremendously. We had it proved to us, that only the fittest can hope to come out on top on this track.

The class of the Dutch heat-leaders is phenomenal when one considers that the only competitive racing they get is when an English team tours there. They practice together once a week right through the year. Head and shoulders above the rest, are Henk de Bruin, famous for his exploits in this country, and Martin v.d. Brakel. Henk imparts much of his wide experience to his second strings, who also have much of the speed of these two stars.

The club is organised and run by Hartog de Ronde, ably backed up by Henk de Bruin. Both manager and captain have welded together an outfit second to none. They have in them a rare love of the Sport, and justifiable proudness in a job well done.

I hope that in this article I have given you a clearer understanding of Dutch racing. All difficulty has been overcome by a faith in what they consider to be a worthwhile thing. They are an object lesson to us who are credited with having started Cycle Speedway. Perhaps we are too much concerned with inter-club or inter-county rivalry who can really say? We can't change our nature. But I do think we should take stock from time to time. Have we, with our many clubs, achieved as much as our Dutch friends? Can we command as much public attention as them? To me, it seems that we've 'been left standing at the gate'.....

ESSEX TESTS

REPORTED
BY
T.P. COLLINS

The return half of the Test series between Essex and Suffolk at the Fyfield Falcons track on Sunday 12th. August resulted in two wins for Essex.

ESSEX "A" V SUFFOLK "A" (49-47)

This was not a terribly exciting match, and was possibly marred by six exclusions. Some particularly good riding by D. Lockwood, of Suffolk, who topped both score charts with a faultless maximum, only overshadowed a splendid performance from Essex riders Ernie Lamacq and Ronnie Gibbons, who scored 9(1 bonus) and 8(5 bonus) respectively. Len Adams had one of "those" days, 2 exclusions and a last place and then called it a day. Dunn started well with a win, but trailed off miserably.

ESSEX "A" Gibbons 8(5), Lamacq 9(1), Adams 0, Dunn 3, W. Sutton 8, Turner 6(2), Boxall 6, R. Sutton 9.

SUFFOLK "A" Bagley 5, D. Corcoran 5, Bridges 4, Hisprey 2(1), Lockwood 15, Saunders 2(1), Game 6(1), Latter 5.

ESSEX "B" V SUFFOLK "B" (61-34)

What a start to an inter-County match! After 6 heats the score stood at 30-5 for Essex. Suffolk held together by Enefer and Last, who topped their score chart with 10 and 9 respectively. Essex were a compact side, including some of the best team riding I have seen from Sid Tomlyn and Stan Stevens— a real education to watch!

ESSEX "B" Berwick 7(1), Stevens 8(1), Avery 10, Milano 3(1), McGillivray 8(3), Tomlyn 8(1), Risley 6(1), N. Sutton 11(1).

SUFFOLK "B" Last 9, Gilbert 1, Williams 2, Benfield 4, Enefer 10, Hogger 2, Derrett 3, Keeble 2.

ESSEX "C" V COLCHESTER (58½-37½)

With more experience, these Colchester boys will be a hard hitting side. Smith, Perham and Wills all rode well for Essex. Cooper, Robinson and Pitt hit the Essex defence quite hard for the Colchester team. Point scorers are not to hand for this match.

ODDS

We apologise for the fact that this issue of the "Spotlight" is of reduced size, but several of our regular contributors are still on holiday and have not been able to send reports from their home areas.

Next issue, we are dropping the familiar grey cover in favour of a cover of a lighter material. This should reduce the cost of postage of large numbers of the same issue which are posted as one unit.

HOOK CONTINENTAL EXPRESS DELAYED FOR A QUARTER OF AN HOUR.

Does anybody know the man who held up the Hook Continental express for a quarter of an hour recently?????????

You haven't heard about it?? Well this is how it came about..... The Edmonton Saints team, after their tour of the Dutch Cycle Speedway, were due to travel by the Continental from Hilversum— but when Mr. de Ronde rang up the station to ask them to collect the bikes, the Stationmaster said that they could not possibly travel with the riders (even though the Saints had the necessary tickets) as it was the peak holiday period.

No amount of persuasion would make the Stationmaster change his mind, so Hartog simply asked for the telephone number of the Chief Railway Controller (Approximately the equivalent of our Head of British Railways). He then rang the above gentlemen and calmly informed him that Dutch hospitality would get a bad name if the bikes were not allowed to go with the riders so that they could use same on their return to England.

The Controller told Mr. de Ronde to ring off and then phone Hilversum station about five minutes later. This he did, to find that the Controller had rung Hilversum, called for a shorthand typist, and dictated a letter to the effect that the bikes must be put on the train with the rider at all costs.

When the machines did not arrive at the Station at the stated time, Mr. de Ronde calmly walked (at about 30 m.p.h.) up to the guard and waved the magic letter in front of his face — THE SPOT ON TIME CONTINENTAL LEFT 15 MINUTES LATE!!!

RESULTS

HOLLAND 69 (H.de Bruin 16,T.Dusbaba 10,M.v.D.Brake1 18,
K.Koudijs 8,E.Jonkhart 11,J.Langhout 6.)
EDMONTON 51 (R.Delaney 3,V.Cowell 5,M.Reading 12,L.Westwood
9,J.Sayer 5,P.Bowden 5.)

HOLLANDSE WELPEN 57 (H.de Bruin 15,H.Koot 7,Blankenstein
10,T.Dusbaba 11,E.Jonkhart 11,J.Langhout 3.)
EDMONTON 51 (D.Keay 4,V.Cowell 13,M.Reading 9,L.Westwood
14,J.Sayer 4,P.Bowden 7.)

NORTH OF ENGLAND TROPHY-LANCASHIRE SEMI-FINAL

CARRS WOOD TUDORS 51 (B.Moston 12,T.Turton 8,T.Pashley 8.)

CARRS WOOD KESTRELS 45 (A.Clark 13,D.Tegg 11,T.Mann 9.)

BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR LEAGUE

SUTTON STARLETS 70 (R.Smith 15,R.Jones 12,Brooks 9.)

JUNIOR MONARCHS 26 (Burke 12.)

HERTFORDSHIRE LEAGUE

LANGLEY LIONS 49

PECKHAM STARS 89

(Point scorers not available)

WALTHAMSTOW WOLVES 88½ (M.Bell 9½,R.Archie 15,T.Greenaway
19,E.Palmer 8,B.Fraser 6,P.Bromley 18,W.Harknett 13.)

LANGLEY LIONS 48½ (D.Bottazzi 11½,W.Reeves 8,P.Ebers 6,
J.Wheelers 3,D.Graves 6,E.Saul 5,K.Woolard 5,J.Buckridge 4

CHALLENGE MATCH

FINCHLEY SABRES 31½ (Mills 2,Pinnock 8,Gadsby 9,Carvell 0,
Downe 1,Porter 4½,Rolfe 6,Wright 1.)

WEMBLEY ALL STARS 64½ (Humphries 8,Hunter 12,Hill 3,Fraser
10,Green 5,Bristowe 8½,Walker 9,Pitt 9.)

MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT & DISTRICT LEAGUE

LONGSIGHT PEGASUS 46 (J.Heap 9,P.Lowesby 7,A.Heywood 6,B.
Robinson 6,A.Sudbury 6,T.Rostron 6.)

BLACKLEY FLYERS 45 (D.Barlow 13,J.Hughes 11,B.Taylor 8.)

WILMSLOW HAMMERS 39 (P.Rollason 12,J.Mottershead 6,A.Howson
6.)

OPENSHAW MONARCHS 57 (N.Edwards 11,T.Lawton 10,N.Nairn 9.)

ARE YOUR RESULTS APPEARING REGULARLY IN THE
SPOTLIGHT???

RESULTS

MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT & DISTRICT LEAGUE UP TO 19TH AUGUST.

TEAM	PLD	WON	LST	DRN	FOR	AGT	PTS
OPENSHAW MONARCHS	23	21	1	1	1306	892	43
CARRS WOOD TUDORS	23	18	2	3	1227	872	39
BELLE VUE COBRAS	22	18	4	0	1248	850	36
OFFERTON DEVILS	24	11	12	1	1026	1064	23
CARRS WOOD KESTRELS	22	10	12	0	1069	927	20
LONGSIGHT PEGASUS	25	10	15	0	1119	1259	20
BLACKLEY FLYERS	22	7	14	1	984	1112	15
WILMSLOW HAMMERS	23	5	18	0	838 $\frac{1}{2}$	1265 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
LADYBARN KINGPINS	24	1	23	0	805 $\frac{1}{2}$	1381 $\frac{1}{2}$	2

NORTH OF ENGLAND TROPHY

OPENSHAW MONARCHS 47 (T. Lawton 11, K. Percival 7, C. Payton 6, T. Wales 6.)

CARRS WOOD TUDORS 49 (N. Collier 15, B. Moston 10, G. Riley 8.)

BLACKLEY FLYERS 40 (B. McArthur 9, R. Hyde 9, D. Barlow 6.)

BELLE VUE COBRAS 55 (K. Graham 11, B. Cramer 9, E. Timmis 9.)

MANCHESTER, STOCKPORT & DISTRICT LEAGUE

OFFERTON DEVILS 47 (D. Garnett 11, V. Hinchliffe 11, T. Marshall 9)

CARRS WOOD KESTRELS 46 (D. Tegg 13, A. Bailey 10, T. Mann 8.)

WILMSLOW HAMMERS 34 (P. Rollason 13, B. Williams 6, J. Mottershead 6)

CARRS WOOD TUDORS 62 (A. Pennington 12, D. Williams 11, N. Collier 10, G. Riley 10.)

BLACKLEY FLYERS 45 (B. McArthur 10, B. Marshall 9, J. Hughes 8)

BELLE VUE COBRAS 50 (B. Morrison 11, K. Graham 8, B. Cramer 7.)

CARRS WOOD KESTRELS 61 (D. Tegg 14, A. Clark 10, A. Bailey 9.)

OFFERTON DEVILS 33 (D. Garnett 11, V. Hinchliffe 7, F. Heath 6.)

LADYBARN KINGPINS 31 (R. Boole 6, B. Hope 6, E. Moss 5.)

CARRS WOOD KESTRELS 65 (A. Clark 12, A. Bailey 12, D. Tegg 11, P. Dennison 11.)

LONGSIGHT PEGASUS 28 (A. Heywood 10, B. Murphy 7, A. Sudbury 3.)

OPENSHAW MONARCHS 68 (N. Nairn 12, F. Davies 11, T. Lawton 9, K. Percival 9, C. Payton 9.)

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