

1965 – A snapshot review first published in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' by The British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996.

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Cinema Boost

Cinemas throughout the country showed the Rank Organisation's ten minute documentary "Out of the Bomb Site" feature on cycle speedway, filmed in colour for their "Look at Life" series. Considered of sufficient interest to merit national screening on the Rank cinema circuit, the film enabled cycle speedway to project its real image to a vast new public, estimated five million cinema goers.

Mail Fails

"Cycle Speedway Mail", the Coventry magazine edited by Barry Shapley, has ceased publication. Started in 1964, the Mail came out regularly last season but has only appeared twice this year. On 26 March, Mr Shapley announced that the paper was finished.

Match Race King

Ray Lewis has held the Coventry match race title for seven years with only one defeat in that time when Barrie Butler won 2-1 towards the end of the 1960. Ray regained the title the following month and has held it ever since. Later in the year Lewis lost his proud record when rising star Mart Harban won on Lewis's home track at Spencer Park and then repeated the feat at Henley.

Southend Week-end

Graham Swann (Hungerford Panthers) won the Southend Grand Prix at Whitsun. Runner up was national champion Vic Hinchliffe of Offerton. This was the best individual field ever seen in Southend.

England Double in Test Series

The all-round solid scoring by England was the foundation for their victory in the opening test match at Uxbridge. Only Tam Daly and Don Moir, who have considerably more experience of riding on English tracks, made any real impression and generally the Scots could not match their opponents on the big Uxbridge track although John Murphy and Jackie Pinkerton battled hard. John Mills and Mick Currey top scored for England with nine points apiece and Clive Hurrell was classy as England won 60-35.

A large crowd witnessed the return match in Edinburgh. Literally hundreds of small boys made the atmosphere right from the start when a terrific "boo" went up as each English rider was introduced followed by ecstatic cheering for each of the Scottish side. But their enthusiasm was dampened as England took control of the match and went on to win 72-48. Jack Pinkerton showed what a great rider he is on his own track scoring a well earned 13 points. Roger Ellis was the top scorer for England on 17 but must share some of his glory with team partner John Sanderson who scored seven and three bonuses.

More Clubs in The Midlands

A new team has been formed in Rugby and news has been received of a new club being formed at Attleborough near Nuneaton. Neither team has a track yet but the Coventry Association is making efforts towards this end. Added to the news that a league is now operating in the Long Eaton and Nottingham area, this looks like being a welcomed revival for the Midlands.

Thurrock Carnival Cup

Heavy rain the day before helped a great deal in making the Thurrock track in ideal condition for good fast racing. Last years runner-up, Mike Parkins, went one better this time, winning the cup with a brilliant maximum. Ray Chivers, winner in 1963 and 1964, rode some brilliant races and did some fantastic overtaking to take the runner-up spot this time. Ray's brother Dave was third and the British League Laurels runner-up, at this same track in May, Malcolm Reading was beaten into fourth place. The cup and prizes were presented by Carnival Queen, Miss Pauline Harris.

LITTLEMORE CLUB CLOSES DOWN - £150 TO GIVE AWAY

Littlemore Falcons are to disband after competing for only four seasons. With four regulars either married or contemplating marriage and several more taking to go-karting, the club are finding it hard to interest riders. No one has been found to replace Graham Miles, who has left the club. Equipment is to be sold, and the income, plus the £150 already in the bank is to be given to charity. A small donation will be given to the National Association.

At a recent Council meeting, it was decided to reorganise the Oxford Road Recreation Ground and relay turf for football pitches, tennis courts etc. Changing rooms are also to be built, including a pavilion and showers. The Cycle Speedway club could have had access to these amenities had it remained in being.

Bill Gill to Manage British League

Most years the Thurrock club are left holding up the rest of the clubs in the British League and they have become known as the wooden spoonists. So it is no wonder that Thurrock manager Bill Gill was very surprised when he learned that the BCSF had appointed him team manager of the British League team for the match with the Manchester and District League on July 3rd at Beckenham. Congratulations to Bill and all praise to the BCSF for recognising his efforts to keep a good club going at Thurrock - despite the lack of top class riders.

Manchester's First Home Defeat Since 1949

Manchester test team lost their first ever home match when they were beaten at Ashton by the British League team 62-57. Their unbeaten home record has stood since 1949. The British League thus gained revenge for their earlier home defeat at Beckenham. The visitors were stronger all round and this more than anything accounted for their victory. The Leicester trio of Ken Adams, Harry Glover and Grant Warwick scored solidly with Colin Wheeler and captain Len Adams combining well together. Reserve Bob Wyatt was well worth his points from three rides.

For Manchester, Vic Hinchliffe and Johnny Watling were the only pair who clicked with Derek Garnett and Tony Hardy only sharing the points in their races. Vinny Marsland rode steadily but Paul Rennie had a terrible day. Ken Adams broke the track record in his second ride, lowering it from 42.4 to 41.8

London Riders Championship

Before a good sized crowd at Wormwood Scrubs on Bank Holiday Monday, Graham Fletcher of Uxbridge Pirates won the first London Riders Championship, with 14 points. Fate struck in the opening heat. Mick Currey gated well and was a certain winner when his bike packed up. This undoubtedly cost him the championship as he went on to win his remaining rides. Wembley's Ron Watters finished third on 11 points.

CLUBS FINED

Horspath, Bournemouth and Hellingly have all been fined £2 for failing to send a representative to the British League Management Committee meeting held on July 31st. The maximum fine for this offence has now been increased to £5. Other fines imposed by the Federation are as follows:

Gerald Still (Bournemouth) - 40/- and a 14 day suspension for threatening behaviour towards a referee at Bristol July 11.

Arthur Ellis (Broad oak) - 20/- for not turning up at Thurrock Carnival, having given no explanation.

Successful Year for Sighthill

For the third successive season Sighthill Hammers swept all before them in the East of Scotland League and enjoyed a successful debut in national competitions. In the league the greatest opposition came from Granton Griffins. The two teams met four times in the year and the closest score was 53-42 at Sighthill in the league. The team ended the year winning all its 16 league matches, amassing 1105 points with 355 conceded. As in 1964 Granton provided the opposition in the cup final and were again heavily beaten.

Action from the 1965 Southampton Grand Prix at Winchester Road. Left to right Bob Wyatt (Southampton), Mick Vennam (Southampton), Dave Collins (Tottenham) and 1962 world champion Mike Parkins (Norwich) get away to an even start.



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Hellingly Surprise

Bottom of the league side, Hellingly Lions, sprang a surprise at Eastbourne when they defeated an over-confident Tottenham side 51-45. The lost match has cost Tottenham their chances of the league championship this season.

Cobbin's Bike Stolen

In preparation for the test trial, John Cobbin spent twelve pounds on his machine to put it in tip top condition. On the Thursday before the match, thieves broke into the Tottenham clubroom and stole three machines. John Cobbin's gleaming copper-plated bike among them. Despite Police and club members searching the borough, no trace was found and the luckless Cobbin was forced to borrow a bike to ride in the trials. Also stolen were the bikes belonging to fifteen year old Peter Hooper and Steve Fordham, both of the Tottenham reserve team.

Netherton Cubs Disband

The Netherton club who finished second in the Birmingham League last year have broken up. Most of their riders have gone to Quarry Bank, but the team will ride in a set of Cradley Heath speedway body colours and is being re-named Cradley Heath Heathens. They will join the National Association and the Birmingham League. With their new signings, the club should soon be as strong as Wolverhampton, the league champions.

Wickenden Scoops Norfolk Title

Seventeen year old Dave Wickenden won the county's premier event, the Norfolk championship at Eaton Park on September 12th. David really showed his critics how wrong they were by saying he is not good enough to ride for Norwich. He rode brilliantly to score 13 points. Second, after a run-off, was Helledon ace Clive Hurrell. He was put out of the running when he finished last in heat nine. Third was another 17 year old, Paul Baxter of Marsham Thunderbolts with 11 points. Ex champions Barry Woodcock and Mike Parkins had mixed fortunes and finished joint fourth with 10 points each.