

THE TRACK RECORD

This is a publication of the VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION
volume 4 issue 1 march 2000

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M was held on Saturday February 19th at Waltham Abbey Sports centre and, as usual, was well attended. There were no new nominations for Officials and as all current Officials were prepared to stand for re-election, then they were re-elected and therefore there will be no change for this coming year. The committee put forward the name of **DEREK CATTLE** for consideration as President for 2001 and again, with no other nominations forthcoming, he was duly elected and he will take over from **BRIAN MOSTON** at the Dinner & Dance in November. After another successful year in which membership remained around the same figure, with new memberships cancelling out non renewals, we are a little better off financially than last year and therefore there will be no increase in the membership fee which will stay at £6.00. This is due on **APRIL 1ST** and your prompt renewal would be greatly appreciated. Renewal forms are enclosed with this Track Record.

MAY 1ST - RYE HOUSE

Make a note of the above date in your diary, as this is the date **scheduled** for the return of speedway racing to Rye House. The man behind the return is our own **LEN SILVER**, who was involved last year with the "nomadic" Rye House team. After a lot of hard work Len has at last managed to secure the return of Rye House, where for most of us it all began and I would ask you to turn out in force to support the venture and make it a successful one for Len. So tell all of your friends about it and let us show Len that we are right behind him.

As you know the riders in the Conference league are basically amateur and racing on a very tight budget, so if anyone is in a position to sponsor any of the riders, any help whatsoever would be greatly appreciated. So when you go along and someone catches your eye perhaps you may be able to offer some help towards enhancing their racing careers. Thank you.

IN THIS ISSUE :-

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SECRETARY :- VIC WHITE, 90 RUSKIN AVENUE, LONG EATON NOTTINGHAM, NG10 3HX.
TEL :- 0115-973 6041 FAX :- 0115-946 5005 E-Mail vwhite@legend3333.screamingng.net



GOLF EVENTS

we will be running two events again this year, one in the Spring and one in the Autumn. One change however will be the venue. Our usual one was The Windmill at Coventry, which was owned by John Harray who gave us, not only a very good deal but also great hospitality. John has now purchased another Golf course at Solihull and we will be looking at the possibility of playing there later in the year. Unfortunately unlike the Windmill, there is no accommodation available at the club.

Our first event will be on Thursday May 11th and it will be at the Stevenage Golf club which Dennis Bottazzi is a member of. The club is situated on the A 602 just south of Stevenage, at Bragbury End. Several of our members have played there and have given good reports of it and there is a nice restaurant there where we can have an evening meal. The cost will be around £27.00 and this will include Tea or Coffee and a Bacon sandwich upon arrival, a bucket of range balls and a three course meal after the golf. As usual, non players will be welcome to join us for the meal afterwards. Acceptance slips are enclosed and if anyone wishes to take part, would you please return them, as soon as possible. Thank you.

DINNER & DANCE - 2000

This will take place on Saturday NOVEMBER 18th at Ye Olde Plough House, at Bulphan in Essex. We meet for drinks from 6.00.p.m. onwards and sit down for the meal at 7.00.p.m. Last year, as in 1998, we had bookings of 190, which is an excellent turnout, so once again we would ask you to reserve your place early and avoid any last minute scrambles. Also by booking early we can make sure that you sit at the table of your choice. The cost will be £ 17.50 and we enclose acceptance slips with this newsletter. Please return these as soon as possible. Thank you.

NOSTALGIA EVENING

As in previous years, this very popular event will take place at the EXMOUTH SOCIAL CLUB in STEPNEY and it will be on **Saturday July 15th** from 8.00.p.m and again there will be a buffet available. This is one of our most well supported events, so bring along your photographs, programmes and scrap books and re-live some of your youth and good times past with old pals and rivals. Please let us know in plenty of time so that **DEREK** knows how many to cater for.

The Historical Mann Family

100 Years of Cycle Speedway Service

In the early summer of 1950, a fifteen years old Manchester schoolboy discovered a new sport, Cycle Speedway. Which was to play a large part in his life, both as a rider and as an administrator for the next fifty years (at least).

Tony Mann now in his sixties and living in Chesham, Bury was that schoolboy. His imagination was soon fixed by the fierce competition and the incredible daring of the rider's. He knew he had to be part of it all.

Tony's first club as a rider was the famous Chorlton Aces. He then moved on and had spells with Stretford Hammers, Wythenshawe Pelicans and Longsight Pegasus - all alas teams that are no more. The start of the 1956 season saw Tony line up with the Carrs Wood Hunters at Gatley where he was to remain, riding at the top level for the next ten years. During this period he helped his club to win many local, regional and national trophies the highlight being the National Team Championship in 1957.

Tony with his wife Beryl and their family moved from South Manchester up to Bury in 1967 and he continued his riding career with the Blackley Flyers team at the old Heaton Park track.

During the early seventies the next generation of Mann trackmen came on the scene as sons Steve and Paul made their track debut and imbued with their fathers enthusiasm are both still both active in the sport over 25 years later.

Once settled in Bury and always seeking the opportunity to expand and introduce more young people to his sport. Tony organised two demonstration Cycle Speedway meetings on a temporary marked out grass track for the 1974 Bury Festival of Sport. Interest was such that he founded the then Chesham Comets in October of that year.

Permission was granted and on Council land at Clarence Park a new track for the Chesham Comets was constructed during 1975, the principal architect and clerk of works being Tony Mann. This remained the home of Bury Cycle Speedway until 1994 when they moved to their present track at Goshen.

Tony has worked tirelessly over the past 25 years for the club. He has been the secretary for the whole of that time and has also held the posts of treasurer, club manager and team manager. He has also given sterling service flying the flag for Bury, serving on many regional and national committees of the sport alongside younger son Paul. He was awarded a certificate of merit by the British Cycle Speedway Council in 1996, its jubilee year, for his services to Cycle Speedway. Tony served on the Bury Sports Advisory Council as Vice Chairman for many years in the 80's and early 90's. He was the Bury Sports Council Official of the Year in 1979 and was awarded it again, jointly with son Paul in 1996, the only ever double winner.

At 64 Tonys riding days are over, although he can still turn a "crafty wheel" as he did when turning out for the Manchester Veterans against the London veterans during the past two summers. He is now one of the sports top administrators where his experience, enthusiasm and integrity over a fifty year period is greatly valued.

Tonys eldest son Steve now 41 was a founder member of the Chesham club and is now in his 26th racing season of racing with Bury. He is acknowledged as one of the most dedicated of riders and has been one of the stalwarts of the club and a very solid team member. He has an impressive collection of trophies and as recently as 1998 was the winner of the much coveted Chairmans Cup. Steve is noted for his meticulous preparation of his racing machinery and his willingness to help others sort out their mechanical problems particularly Junior riders and new recruits to the sport.

Youngest son Paul, was also a founder member of Chesham Comets and when riding had a spectacular all action physical style that brought him considerable success both at regional and national levels. Unfortunately injuries and being diagnosed as a M.S. sufferer curtailed his racing career in 1991. Although he has turned out and "churned up the shale" occasionally. Since his retirement from racing Paul has involved himself in team management. His record in this field is second to none and he has built a reputation as a clever and tactical team manager that has been instrumental in bringing considerable team success to the Bury Club and also the Manchester League Under 18 Test Team. Paul has also played no small part in organising and running demonstration and training evenings for youngsters, who wish to try the sport for the first time as part of the Bury Councils Summer Fun Campaign. A Bury team comprising of riders who all came from this initiative won the Northern Junior League this year - managed by Paul.

The Mann men Tony, Steve & Paul have amassed an incredible 100 years between them of service and dedication to the sport of Cycle Speedway both as riders and administrators and if one includes wife and mum Beryl and we should, who for many years organised and served refreshments at race meetings, sewed racing colours, patched racing kits, took telephone messages etc. etc. and no doubt had her social life organised around Cycle Speedway, we are probably looking at a family involvement of over 120 years and over 75 of these to the Bury club.

As we approach the end of the century and indeed the millennium, it is a good time to appraise and acknowledge the contribution that people such as the Mann family have made to the community, we should value them all far more than we do.

Yours in Sport

Mr Roland Parr.
21 Rushmere Drive
Bury

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

NEW MEMBERS

ELDRIDGE, Terry, 22 Naylor Road, London, SE15 1BE
 RYLES, Bert, 26 Hamble Road, Stone Cross, Pevensey, East Sussex BN24 5PU
 CARTER, Derek, 311 Bishopsford Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 6BW
 WESTWOOD, Les, 186 Mendip House, Market Square, Edmonton, London N9.
 Tel :-0181-807 8412

AMENDMENTS

CHIVERS, Ray, 139 Woodlands Way, Surrey Hills Park, Box Hill Road, Tadworth
 Surrey, KT20 7NB. Tel:- 01737-844808
 ESCOTT, Gerry, Tel No:- Should be 01443-225783 Not 227583
 WESTMANCOAT, Roy, No 18 Dorritt Close, NOT No 11.

HAWBUSH RACE DAY

This will be on Saturday , but this year it will revert to Individual racing, a little bit more of a Fun day, as was originally envisaged back in 1997, with enjoyment being the key word. Our members are getting older and we want to make sure that there is no real pressure on them to do well except for their own satisfaction. The race committee of **JOHN BROWN, ALAN CATLEY and DEREK CATTLE** will be sorting out a formula that will give everyone an equal chance of success and ensure that members race other members in the same age group. If you wish to take part please give any of the committee a call, **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**, and let them know, so that they can work out all of the details. Also give them your age, **the real one !!**.

Derek Cattle will be running his Garrett Park meeting , South v North London , later in the year and no doubt Den Winch will have his annual bash at Wakering. As soon as we get dates and information we will give you details. Our new President **BRIAN MOSTON** has told us that he is hoping to have a race day in the North and we have suggested that perhaps both his event and Hawbush could be "Open" so that if anyone wished to take part in either the North event or the South or both, then they would be more than welcome.

I would like to thank everyone who sent me get-well cards and good wishes after my second knee replacement at the beginning of December and also for the Christmas cards received. It was very thoughtful of you all and greatly appreciated. VIC

BARRY BRIGGS WITH THE VETERAN SPEEDWAY
RIDERS ASSOCIATION

presents



**WEMBLEY
END OF ERA
BANQUET**



In the famous 'Wembley Banquet Room'
with *Speedway's*
WORLD CHAMPIONS

at the Wembley Empire Stadium London
SATURDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2000

★ ★ only days before the arrival of the bulldozers ★ ★

- Walk in the footsteps of Speedway's Champions up the 'Famous Wembley Tunnel' onto the speedway track
- Savour the dressing rooms - 'home of the butterfly stomachs'
- Sit in the Royal Box, visit where the Queen goes at half time
- Have your photograph taken on the bikes of the Era on the Wembley track, with the Wembley scoreboard lit in the background

*All World Speedway Champions
are invited*

*Limited ticket supply . . . don't be late
Be part of history at the final curtain call
of Speedway's home . . . WEMBLEY*

Ticket info: Vic White, 90 Ruskin Avenue
Long Eaton, Notts. NG10 3HX
Tel. 0115 973 6041 Fax 0115 946 5005
or Ron Hoare
Tel: 01902 339811



WEMBLEY . . . 'Speedway's spiritual home'



WALLY HARKNETT

After a four year long battle against cancer WALLY succumbed to the illness and passed away on Thursday February 10th in the Southend hospital. A former Walthamstow Wolves rider Wally was a keen member of the Association and attended our functions, despite his illness. He leaves behind his wife Sylvia and two daughters and we would like to pass on our most sincere condolences to them in this time of great loss. Wally was very well liked and will be missed by all of us.

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H

AWBUSH RACE DAY
SATURDAY JUNE 17TH.

Plans are well under way for this annual event and the race committee have been working very hard in an effort to come up with a formula that will suit everyone who wishes to take part.

We hope that by now anyone who wishes to ride, has already told the race committee, but if you haven't done so and do wish to ride, then you must contact John Brown right away, as they will soon be finalising the programme. When final numbers are available the committee will be able to work out the best formula for the afternoon's racing, so it is essential that you let John, Alan or Derek know by no later than the END OF MAY if you wish to take part, otherwise we cannot guarantee that you will get a ride

The formula for the afternoon's racing will be based on age groups in order that everyone is racing against someone of their own age and ability. We have reserved a room at Fairlop Waters where we can go after the meeting to have a drink and chat, which you may recall we did a couple of years ago.



G

GOLF DAY
Thursday
May 11th.

This is a reminder that this will take place at the Stevenage Golf Club on

the A602, just south of Stevenage at Bragbury End. There is still time to join us if you wish, but you must let us know right away. In the last Track record we said that the price would be around £27.00 and would include Tea/Coffee, a sandwich and a bucket of range balls. The club is now under new management and the cost of the Golf and Dinner only will be £18.00. Of course you can still purchase tea and sandwiches if you so wish. The first Tee off time is 12.35.p.m. Non players are welcome to join us for a meal afterwards.

N

OSTALGIA EVENING.
SATURDAY JULY 15TH

This will take place at the Exmouth Social Club in Stepney, from 8.00.p.m onwards. As always, members and their wives will be very welcome and as last year, Derek is arranging a buffet. Please let us know as soon as you can, if you will be attending, in order that Derek can organise the catering for the correct number of people.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK !

It's later than you think— everything is farther away now than it used to be. It's twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill. I notice that I've given up running for the bus — it leaves faster than it used to. It seems to me that they are making steps steeper than in the old days and have you noticed the smaller print that they use in newspapers now ? There is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud..... everyone speaks in such a low voice that I can scarcely hear them. It's almost impossible for me to reach my shoelaces nowadays. Even people are changing.....they are much younger than they used to be when I was their age On the other hand, people my age are much older than I am. I ran into an old classmate the other day and he had aged so much that he didn't remember me. I got to thinking about the poor chap while I was combing my hair this morning and I glanced at my reflection in the mirror and confound it, they don't make mirrors like they used to either !.....

MIXED UP IN THE HEAD

Just a line to say I'm livingThat I'm not among the dead
 Though I'm getting more forgetful.....And more mixed up in the head
 I've got used to my arthritis.....To my dentures I'm resigned
 I can manage my bi-focals.....But God I miss my mind !
 Sometimes I can't remember..... When I'm standing by the stairs
 If I should go up for something.....Or if I've just come down from there ?
 And before the fridge so often.....My mind is full of doubt
 Did I put some food away.....Or did I come to take some out ?
 If it's not my turn to write.....I hope you won't get sore
 I may think I have written.....And not want to be a bore
 As I stand beside the mail box.....My face is really red
 Instead of mailing this to you.....I've opened it instead !
 Does any of this ring any bells ???

VIC

NEW MEMBERSHIP

We are always looking for ways to attract new membership and we are hoping that you will give us some help in this matter. We know that members let us know when they come across an ex rider, which is how most of our membership has come to being, and we hope that they continue to do so. We are including with this copy of the Track record a document giving information about the VC&RA and we would be grateful if each member could pass this on to their local paper with a request for them to publish this, in the hope that some ex riders will see it and maybe contact us about joining. This will cover quite a large area as we do have a widespread membership and hopefully it will help us to increase our membership, which would be very welcome.

WEMBLEY – END OF AN ERA BANQUET

Some of you have already booked for this one off event and there is still time to book if you wish to be part of this special evening. However, this will be your last reminder and tickets are going very quickly, so if you do not want to miss this very auspicious evening, then you had better book right away or you may be too late. Acceptances have already been received from IVAN MAUGER, RONNIE MOORE, OVE FUNDIN, BJORN KNUTSSON, JAN.O. PEDERSEN, MICHAEL LEE, GOTE NORDIN and FREDDIE WILLIAMS.

We now have accommodation arranged, at the WEMBLEY HILTON HOTEL at a very special price of £65.00 for a double/twin room and £55.00 for a single room, both prices include breakfast. If you wish to reserve accommodation please contact me as it must be arranged through me to obtain the reduced price, which is also available prior to or after the Saturday evening, if required.

WALLY HARKNETT

In the last issue of the Track Record, we reported the passing of Wally and some of his very close friends have asked us to pay this tribute to him, which we are very pleased to do.

"The late Wally Harknett was buried at the Basildon Cemetery on Friday February 18th, 2000, he was 66 years of age. Wally's widow Sylvia and daughters Tracy and Jeanette send their most sincere thanks for the Floral Cushion tribute sent to Wally by the VC&RA.

Cycle Speedway was represented by many of his friends :- ROY ARCHIE, PETER BROMLEY, PETER FRASER, CHARLES VAN-KEMPEN, COLIN WILSON, SID PIPE, ERIC HEMSLEY and MALCOLM BELL.

"A short tribute to Wal". He had battled against cancer over many years and was a fighter to the last - just as he was on the cycle speedway tracks of this country. He was a real character with an infectious laugh ! There was no pretences about OUR WAL. What you saw was what you got !.

MANCHESTER "BOOZE AND CHAT" NIGHT

Our President BRIAN MOSTON has recently advised us of the recent get together in Manchester which proved , as usual, to be successful and enjoyed by all who attended. Brian did say however, that the Northern members were disappointed that there would not be any NORTH v SOUTH race days this year, but that 5 or 6 of them expressed an interest in taking part in any of the Southern days. Naturally, we would be extremely pleased to have them join in the fun. Brian also said that he doubted if they would have a Race day in the North this year as they appear to be struggling to find sufficient fit riders for a full meeting.

Perhaps there are some of you in the South who would consider making the trip North which may have the effect of creating enough riders to run a meeting.

If you are interested, please let John Brown, Alan Catley or Derek Cattle know and we will see what can be done.. We feel sure that if there are enough riders to run a meeting, then Brian would have another look at the situation.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

NEW MEMBERS

WOOTTON, Doug, 19 Bassett Crescent West, Bassett, Southampton, SO16 7EB.

Tel:-023-80790903

HONE, Jim, 78 Knightwood Crescent, New Malden, Surrey, KT3 5JW

Tel:- 0208-949 9118

DE RONDE, Hartog, Wasbeer Z, 1273 Jn Huizen NH, The Netherlands

NICHOLSON, Roger, 10 Eastlake Avenue, Parkstone, Poole, Dorset BH12 3DC

BROCK, Alan, 26 First Avenue, West Molesey, Surrey, KT8 2QN

JONES, John, 16 Adomar Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 3LR, Tel:- 0208-924 9497

AMENDMENTS

SKEGGS, Alan. Telephone number :- 01992-304462

PARISH, Rob. Telephone number :- 01263-822423

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

These were due on April 1st and over 180 have renewed their membership to date. That still leaves quite a number who have not done so and we hope that they wish to remain members of the Association. Renewal slips were sent with the last newsletter, so please let us have these back, together with your cheque for £6.00. It would also be very helpful if you could let us know if you will be attending the Dinner & Dance in November as the earlier we know the easier it is to plan and to organise the seating arrangements. As with the membership renewal you will have received acceptance slips for this event so please let us know as soon as you can. Thank you.

DAVE PALFREYMAN.

Our old pal VIC DUFFY has asked us to give mention to a nice gesture made by DAVE PALFREYMAN who has presented Vic's junior team, the COLCHESTER STARS with a set of racing jerseys as a gift. Dave was so impressed with their commitment, general ability and sportsmanship that he felt he would like to give them some help, which was obviously greatly appreciated by Vic and his youngsters. We feel that Dave deserves a big thank you for his generosity and for the nice thought.

SNIPPETS FROM THE CYCLE SPEEDWAY STAR 1957

RAYNES PARK TIGERS.

The Tigers are undoubtedly the strongest team in the Southern Premier league. Already this season they have defeated National Team Champions Tolworth Tudors 60-36 at home and away 49-47. Manager Johny Braden one of the best in the sport seems to be able to bring out the best in his team who include the Chivers brothers Dave and Ray. Ray is in the forces now with England International Wally Deighton. Roy Baker now back from the army is on top form and will take a lot of beating this year. Geoff Penniket, Pete Andrews and Ted Cracknell complete a formidable combination. As reserves they have Skipper Fred Lawrence and Fred Bedford.

Devon News

Shaldon Kestrels 36 B. Hooper 10 M. Hannaford 7 A. Stoneman & P. Luxton 5
 B. Winsborrow 4 W. Highgate & A. Beal 1.
 Wembley All Stars 60 N. Hunter 10 A. Cowland, E. Hill & A. Fraser 8
 B. Carter & P. O'Grady 7 B. Gadsby 5.

Middlesex Review.

League Matches 14-4-57

Langley Lions 31 Denis Bottazzi 8 Dave Graves 7.
 Harefield Pirates 80. Lenny Richards 20 Dave Thopson 16 Jim Barret 10
 Roger Seymour 9 Pete Leckie & Bruce Ansall 8.
 Wembley All Stars 64 K. Bristow & N. Hunter 14 A. Fraser 11 B. Gadsby 9
 Hendon Stars 48 A. Cowland & G. Pitt 12 R. Humphries 8.

Notes & News.

There are only 62 clubs affiliated to N.A.C.S.A. this year as against 92 last year, a drop of almost a third. Total number of riders affiliated is 678.

The Editors Contribution

Many Speedway riders graduated from cycle speedway, Billy Bales, Brian Crutcher, Ronnie Genz, Len Silver, Buster Brown to mention a few, Bob Andrews the young Wimbledon Starlet must be the only one to continue riding cycle speedway, after breaking into speedway proper, he still rides frequently for Edmonton Saints.

Edmonton Saints. Managed by Roy Delany, the team is the same as last year apart from those riders transferred to the Monarchs. The Saints have competed in the Hertfordshire league for a number of seasons. Les Westwood won the Herts individual trophy last season and opened this year with another great individual effort, winning the Edmonton open Easter Trophy.

Racing Reports & Results.

Edmonton Monarchs 48

V. Cowell 10, M. Boddy 0, B. Issaccs 2, M. Jeffery 8, P. Bowden 4,
H. de Bruin 14, D. Kay 10.

Edmonton Saints 58

L. Westwood 12, C. Denton 8, M. Reading 13, B. Lewis 5, R. Delany 10,
R. Wright 5, B. Andrews 4,

Edmonton Saints 59.

L. Westwood 15, C. Denton 6, M. Reading 8, B. Lewis 8, R. Delany 10,
R. Wright 7, J. Jackson 1, M. Hall 4.

Warwick Lions 49.

T. Emmon 9, L. Read 11, C. Read 10, T. Lewis 3, T. Walker 10, L. Adams 3,
T. Gooch 3, D. Browne 0.

Pit Rumours. A little bird says that ex-Clay Hill Aces and Hertfordshire star Alan Doggett may sign for the Saints. A new track may soon be built in the Wood Green area.

MIDDX REVIEW.

National Team Championship Semi-final

Wembley All Stars 55. R. Fraser 11, N. Hunter 11, K. Bristow 8.

Harefield Pirates 40. J. Barrett 12, L. Richards 7, B. Fewal 6.

2nd Leg

Harefield Pirates 45. J. Barrett 13, D. Stonex 10, P. Leckie 6.

Wembley All Stars 51. D. Dean 12, B. Deveraux 9½, R. Fraser 8.

Three Ruislip riders scored maximums (Whyte, Wood & Robinson) in the home teams 78-34 victory over Hendon Stars. Weston Stars maintained their unbeaten home record with a 66-46 win over Harefield Thursday, May 16th. This mid-week match was firm and very fast. Weston Stars finally beat Wembley by four points after a close and exciting match. R. Fraser, D. Dean, N. Hunter and K. Bristow did the bulk of Wembley's scoring.