

THE

TRACK

RECORD

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**
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Maury Shaw (Weston Stars) leads Roy Fraser (Wembley All Stars)
riding for N.W. Middx Test Team. Opposition and track not known.
Photo from Pete Saunders.

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Spring Golf Day Thursday 19th May 2016.

Darenth Valley Golf Course, Station Road, Shoreham, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN14 7SA.

Meet for Bacon Rolls & Coffee 11.00 am

First tee time is 12.04pm. for the 18 hole Stableford Competition.

This will be followed by a 2 course meal and coffee , then the prizes.

The cost for the day including prizes is £38.00 per person coming for the day.

Those coming for the evening meal only is £18.00 per person.

Anyone coming for the day, but not playing golf, then it is £5.00 for the Bacon Rolls & Coffee, plus the meal, so £23.00 per person.

The Club has 10 buggies, they are £25.00 per round, so could you please let me know who wants one.

Please bring any of your friends that play, they are all welcome.

Denny, could you please organise your friends, plus any others that I may have missed off.

Colin, could you please pass the information onto Roy and Ken.

Could you please send all monies to me by the 10th May latest please. Cheques made payable to the VCSRA.

Autumn Golf Day Thursday 6th October 2016

South Essex Golf Centre, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex, CM13 31W.

Meet for Bacon Rolls & Coffee 11.00am

First tee time is 12.04pm. for the 18 hole Stableford Competition.

This will be followed by a 2 course meal and coffee, then the prizes.

The cost for the day including prizes is £37.00 per person coming for the day.

Those coming for the evening meal only is £14.00 per person.

Anyone coming for the day, but not playing golf, then it is £4.00 for the Bacon Rolls & Coffee, plus the meal, so £18.00 per person.

The Club has quite a lot of buggies, they are £25.00 per round, so could you please let me know who wants one.

Please bring any of your friends that play , they are all welcome.

Denny, could you please organise your friends, plus any others that I may have missed off.

Coln, could you please pass the information onto Roy and Ken.

Could you please send all monies to me by the 20th September latest please. Cheques made payable to the VCSRA.

My Address is:- The Rowans, 1, Colne Springs, Ridgewell, Halstead, Essex, C09 8RX.

Telephone — 01440 785474.

Len Adams

John Jennings

I was sad to read of the passing of John Jennings (Chandlersford Stars), I obviously missed any local press announcements at the time.

John and I started our careers at 'dirt track racing' about the same time, 1956/7, and then progressed simultaneously. It was at a time when the Southampton League consisted of just three teams, Chandlersford Stars, Southampton Vikings and Shirley Bombers, occasionally joined for one or two seasons by Millbrook Turfs. So matches between these teams were very frequent events.

John was a popular and loyal clubman and a reliably successful rider, I can't remember John ever being excluded for what was termed bluntly in those days, as 'dirty riding'.

Always cheerful and ready with a friendly chat, yes, a real gentleman of the sport.

Photo caption:

The Hampshire County team away against Wiltshire at Bucklebury in 1959/60.

John Jennings second from the left.



David Butcher

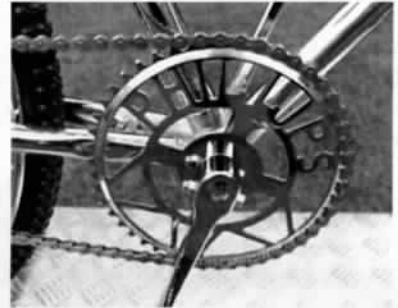
1950 Phillips Speedtrack Renovation by Ken Dare.

The project began when I had a discussion with Dave Hunting at the VCSRA 2014 AGM.

We talked about the 1960's and 1970's bikes that were on display in the VCSRA tent in the previous February and agreed that a 1950's Phillips Speedtrack bike would be more appropriate and on that note, I offered to try and find one.

After contacting ex-riders and checking various websites, I finally managed to locate a frame. Unfortunately, it was in very poor condition with lots of dents, rust, damaged pedals and without the correct forks.

Over the course of the next few months, I restored the frame, found front forks, Phillips pedals, a set of handle bars, a stem and a saddle. Surprisingly I found a Phillips chain set with the correct number of teeth in Greece, via Ebay which was brand new and still in the original box! Gradually I sourced a rear sprocket, handle bar grips and a Phillips badge for the headstock. These came from Japan and the USA, again via Ebay.



My next search was for wheels. I visited countless cycle shops with no luck but eventually found an Endrick for the front and a Westwood for the rear with the right hubs and then built the wheels with stainless steel spokes to match the originals.

Unfortunately, it proved impossible to find original Avon Gripster tyres so I have fitted Swedish made tyres.

The biggest problem proved to be finding the trussed stays (commonly called crash bars) for the front forks. After studying various photographs and a lot of guesswork and trial and error, I made them as close to the original design as possible. I then finished with new bearings for the front forks, pedals and the bottom brake assembly before sending it away to be chrome plated.

I would like to say thank you to Pete Saunders who kindly sent me an original Phillips Speedtrack sales brochure which was a great help.



On show at the VCSRA stand, at the "Celebration of Speedway", at Paradise Park.

Photo from Pete Saunders

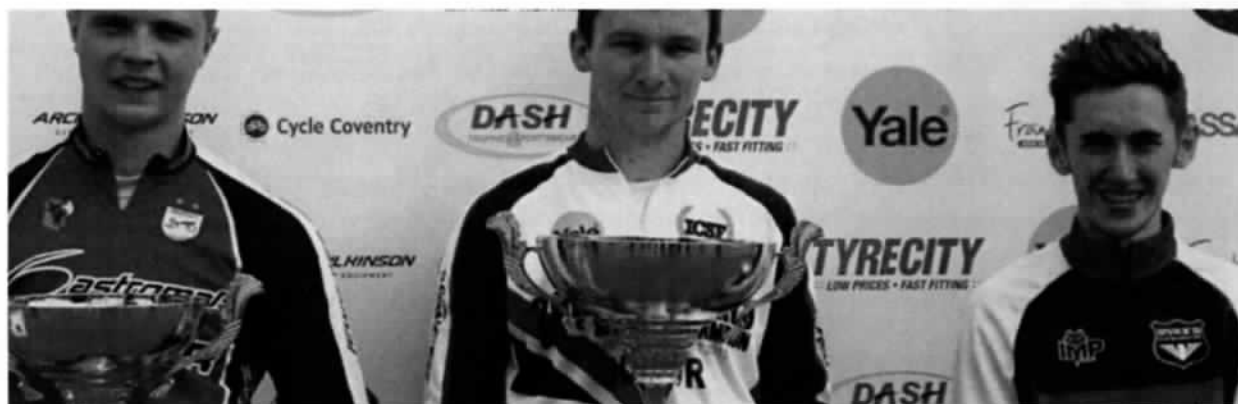


Above is an extract from the original brochure for the Speedtrack cycle speedway bike. It was submitted by Fred Pallett and was included in Aug. 2012 issue of the Track Record.



The bike can now be seen at the Cycle Speedway section of the Speedway Museum at Paradise Wildlife Park at Broxbourne.

From 33/18



VCSRA members who recently received the latest issue of their 'Track Record' magazine may well have noticed a glaring error on Page 10, where Shane Weinart was named as the 2015 World Junior Champion. Although it's perfectly true that an Australian named Shane took that title at Wednesfield, it was Shane Bentley not Shane Weinart.

Les Gustafson, who wrote the piece, said, "Apologies for the mistake, especially to Shane Bentley after his hard-earned victory, and no excuses given that I have a filled-in programme for the event.

"I've asked Bill Gadsby, the 'Track Record' editor, to print a correction in the next issue, but it won't be out for another three months or so."

Don't worry Les, we know how this feels!

A THANK YOU FROM MALCOLM BELL!

(Ex Black Lion Monarchs, Walthamstow Wolves, East Ham Wolves and Hawbush Hammers).

On behalf of the VCSRA Committee I would like to thank all those Members who enclosed a SAE in with their M/ship renewal Cqs.

The Committee would also like to thank those Members who added a DONATION to their M/ship renewals.

These very generous will enable us to keep our cost down,

THANK YOU ALL!

Malcolm Belchambers, Hon. M/ship Sec. VCSRA.

CYCLE SPEEDWAY GAZETTE.**No 289 1963 DECEMBER / JANUARY 1964.***NAMES at the TOP* By "ALLOTT"

There have always been a set of riders every year whose names "hog the headlines" so to speak. The same people, with few exceptions, keep their names in the news for about four or five seasons.

In the very early days we had Ronnie Genz, Malcolm Flood, Vic Keeble, Pete Bell, Buster Brown, Lew Grepp, Brian Moston, Vic Halliwell etc. The late 40's and early 50's had the likes of Bill Ritchie, Dixie Dean, Danny McGrath, Cyril Prince, Ken Worlock, Brian Moston Lew Grepp, and Arthur Wilkinson in the limelight.

Up till 1957 Brian Moston, Haimish Orr, Joe Letts, Derek Tegg, Stan Stevens, Dave Chivers, Eric Buckingham, Clive Elmer Pete Blackweft, Ken Worlock, Dixie Dean, Ron Bagley and a few more at the top.

Coming to the last few years and with the inevitable Dean, Moston and Worlock, we find Dave Chivers, Ray Chivers, Roy Baker, Les Westwood, Mike Parkins, Mike Richards, Pete Blackwell, Derek Garnett, Vic Hinchliffe, Dave Butcher, Harry Glover, John Cobin, Pete Saunders Wally Deighton and one or two more.

Why the 'Who's Who' ... Well friends, in my humble opinion, the best riders I've ridden against or seen are in that bunch and, as I'm hoping to be around for a few seasons yet, there is going to be a few more names at the top and subsequently "Hogging the Headlines".

I have my own ideas as to who they will be from my travels this season ... here they are

1. DAVE COLLINS ex Southampton Provincial, now a R.A.F. boy with Drayton St.Leonard.
2. BARRY DAWES - Horspath's a London Youth Champion and one of the fastest gaters I've ever seen.
3. PETE BURY —Gortons Junior National Champion, who is the most dedicated rider I've seen since Brian Moston.
4. MIKE VERNAM — Shirleys smiling star, who will be making the British League sit up a bit in 1964.

From Pete Saunders

A POLITE REMINDER

that the VCSRA M/ship Renewal was due on the 1st April '16.

So dig out the 'lost' M/ship Renewal Form enclosed with the last 'Track Record',

Write your Cq. out, (M/ship fee £10.00, payable to VCSRA plus a SAE if possible), and pop it in the post to me,

Malcolm Belchambers, Hon. M/ship Sec. VCSRA. 16a, ETHELRED GARDENS, WICKFORD, ESSEX. SS11 7EX.

Thank You. Malcolm.

I spent a few interesting hours sorting through some of the late Dave Hunting's memorabilia, looking for anything that would be suitable for inclusion in the magazine. There were about 30 good quality professional A4 size photos of the Leiston Aces, I must admit, that I had never heard of the team, so where better to look than on Dave's excellent website.



Cycle Speedway Teams Down the Ages

Suffolk: Leiston Aces(1970s)

About the team

This team was a completely new one that was formed in 1974, when the new track was built at the Leiston Town Athletic Association (LTAA) Sports Ground in Victory Road, Leiston. The track was officially opened by John Louis of Ipswich Speedway on Sunday 4th April 1976.

The opening was attended by more than 500 spectators. Dave Hunting, the close season signing from Grundisburgh and the reigning Suffolk Individual Champion, was introduced to the supporters, together with Kenny Jessup, Steve Potter, John Fisher, John Chiverton and Dave Lacey (all ex Grundisburgh riders).

Club Colours: Red/White/Black breast plates, with Red shirts & White socks.

A Team Emblem - Ace of Clubs prominent with three Aces. B Team Emblem - Ace of Clubs.

The Club closed down in 1986.



Unfortunately none of
the riders were named

Although there were 43 photos
on the website, none of these
were included.



What is wrong with this picture?

PAGE 16



1970s Great Blakenham v Bow Monarchs.
L/R Alan Ford (GB), John Smith (Bow) Colin Cox (GB) Dave Hughes (Bow).

Also in the collection were many newspaper cuttings with match reports and articles, very interesting, but nothing suitable for inclusion in the magazine, likewise the various magazines in the collection. There was one copy of Cycle Speedway Gazette, from which I could take a couple of articles (page 11) There are very many photographs, some of them very good quality, some good team photos, but in most cases, the team is not even named, never mind the riders, also one or two very good action shots including the one above.

As this was another A4 sized photo, I decided to use it on the back cover, rather than reduce it in size. It was a bit tricky, getting the caption and page number in the right places, after three or four attempts, I was satisfied with the result. Then I looked at it again, and realised that I had the riders going round the wrong way! I was quite tempted to leave it like that to see if anyone noticed, but decided to redo the page, the right way round.





THURROCK V EDMONTON ?

I am sure that Bill Gill & Roy Delany can identify the riders.



This picture says copyright (oops) R. Nicholson, Poole .
(so I assume that the team is from that area.)

From Cycle Speedway Gazette No 318 March 1966

PLYMOUTH TOUR MIDLANDS by ERIC ABBOTT

The Plymouth team arrived in Wolverhampton at 5a.m. on Saturday 26th March, to begin their tour of the Midlands. after combating 6 hours of snow, sleet rain and icy roads as well as lack of sleep They parked by the track to catch a couple of hours sleep. After a visit to Basils Cafe a trip around Wolverhampton, more grub, and it was back to the track for the match. The Wolves literally hammered the Devils into the shale, on this big 100 yard track, in every race except the nominated, Pete Neale actually gave up in two races, a thing never before witnessed. It was no joke to say the riders had to be literally woken up before each ride yet time and time again the Plymouth boys led from the gate, only to be overhauled after two laps Tiredness played a big part in Plymouth's defeat and it is a lesson learned. The riders were in great spirits apart from nodding off every so often. Bobbie Saunders (Plymouth) rode well and although he only scored 2 points, he rode hard for them.

WOLVES 68 PLYMOUTH 28

Four hours later, the Devils lined up for their second match of the tour on a track more to their liking and a good match ensued. Tamworth started off with a 5—1 through John Heaton and Rob Hardie after Pete Cooke had fallen whilst second. The Stars improved on their lead but the Devils put up great opposition. Vic Poster won three races in great style but after a terrific race with John Heaton, he was pipped on the line by John in a grand stand finish. Bobbie Saunders again got two points but what a great effort this youngster put up although very inexperienced. A new find for Plymouth. Passing and repassing made the match interesting to the end, with Tamworth getting 5—1 in the final heat to bring the score to 57—39 in the Stars favour. Tamworth generously treated the Devils riders to a slap—up feed and allowed them to sleep the night in the local Club Centre. The man of the Tamworth team was without a doubt John Heaton, unbeaten by all opposition.

In all, a. great meeting, in a very friendly atmosphere.

TAMWORTH 57 PLYMOUTH 39

The Plymouth team travelled back across country to Wednesfield to ride the Midland B.C.S.F. team ,Kingstanding. The match was a walk—over for the "Monarchs" against a very tired Devon team. Three matches in 13 hours, plus a visit to Coventry motor Speedway and sleeping rough all took its toll on the Plymouth riders.

KINGSTANDING 71. PLYMOUTH 23.

TOLWORTH START THE SEASON WITH A TRACK (1st time since 1960)

Tolworth look set for their most enthusiastic start to a season for many a year, this being the first time since 1960 that they have started the season with a track. The Elmbridge Avenue circuit has stood up well to the winter, the recent weeks of rain have had little effect on it. The council has provided. a fence and the outside edge has now been completed.

It seems likely that the following riders will turn out for the club:- Glyn Brimson, Tony Foster, Chris Gale, Ron Gale, Johnny Gould, Ray Harris, Roger Kirk, Len Kitching, Mick Little, Dick Naylor, Keith Owen, Lee Pearce, Robin Richardson, Pete Rides, Reg Squires, Trevor Winham and Roger Woollen There are two or three other possibilities and with this surplus of riders two teams will be fielded, Tolworth Tudors in Division 1 of the Home Counties League and the Tolworth Aces in Division 2. Exactly who rides for which team has not been decided yet.

LOOK AT LIFE

'Look at Life' was a series of short films produced by the Rank Organisation and shown in their Odeon and Gaumont cinemas. Lasting about ten minutes per viewing, the series ran from 1959 to 1969 and over 500 features turned the spotlight on interests and activities slightly outside the mainstream. In the summer of 1965 it was the turn of Cycle Speedway to be screened between the adverts and the main feature. Entitled 'Out of a Bomb Site', it opened by showing how London's bombed-out places had been converted into car parks and green spaces, and then moved to a group of youngsters descending on a piece of rubble-strewn waste land, clearing away the debris and using the discarded bricks to mark out a track, on which they proceeded to race, with the start being controlled by a piece of elastic.

Having highlighted the traditional origins of the sport, it moved on to Beckenham track, where the British League team were lining up against a Manchester side. The handbills advertising the match showed the date as 3rd July 1965, and the page for that year in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway' mentions that Manchester lost the return leg at Ashton by 57-62, after winning the Beckenham encounter by an undisclosed score - perhaps Bill Gill remembers, as he'd been nominated as the British League's Team Manager for the event, or Len Adams, who certainly rode in the second leg, if not in both matches (British League wore Union Jack breastplates and Manchester sported the red rose of Lancashire).

The film then profiled several London riders - Roy Baker, a case-repairer by occupation, Geoff Smith, the manager of an archery shop, and Wally Dighton, shown laying bricks for a wall. Just to also show that you could go to work in a suit and tie and still ride Cycle Speedway in your spare time, it also featured Dave Morris, a scientist at the Rutherford Energy Research Laboratory near Oxford. The London riders were shown taking part in a training session at the Garratt Park under the supervision of Ron Johnson, with attention paid to the bikes - especially the knobby tyres, and the scene then switched to Waterden Road, with youngsters riding their bikes (no brakes) to a Hackney v Wimbledon derby, featuring ex-Cycle Speedway riders Roy Trigg, Cohn Pratt and Doug Davies in the Hawks colours, led out by their still-youthful promoter Len Silver ('white boots' Olle Nygren was the Wimbledon Captain).

The speed then slowed down to a South London v Beckenham match at the Earlsfield track, with a cameo appearance by that well-known Wimbledon Speedway supporter Mrs. Dorothy Charles-Batson, and ending with riders loading their bikes on to cars - or just wheeling them home - after signing autographs for their young fans.

I had wondered whether it was seeing this film in our local cinema which stimulated a few of us in South Shields to take up the sport, but our 1st official match was on July 4th 1965 - the day after the filming at the Beckenham track - so we had obviously been involved for several weeks before the film even hit the cinema circuit. Maybe it was the purchase of the 1965 Cycle Speedway Annual from an advert in the Speedway Star which was the catalyst ? (Coincidentally, a bunch of Newcastle teenagers were starting their activities at the same time, although it wasn't until the 1966 CS Annual with its Club Directory was published that we came into contact with them).

L GUSTAFSON

LES GUSTAFSON

It is beyond question that the best rider to have emerged from the Tyneside racing scene during its fragmented history is Gavin Parr - current British Vets Champion and runner-up in the World Vets Final, big points scorer for Sheffield's Elite League side, Northumbria's mainstay in the Northern League and the inspiration for their bronze medal-winning performance in the 2015 Team Vets Final - but there was one Newcastle rider who might have given him a run for his money, had their riding exploits not been separated by an interval of more than fifty years.

Bill Bird was the outstanding local rider in the immediate post-war years - he top-scored in the 1949 home-and-away Tests against Edinburgh and led the Newcastle score-sheet on the tour of South London in 1950, mixing it with the local stars Ray Braddon, Henry Brand and Terry Vinter, although he was denied the opportunity of showing them the fastest way around his home tracks, as the scheduled return series failed to take place, as far as we can see. Billy may also have won the inaugural Tyneside Individual title in 1949, but although we have a programme for the event, the results were not filled in. He must, however, have been the favourite.

A description of him appeared in the Autumn 1949 edition of the 'Cycle Speedway Gazette', in an article covering that Newcastle v Edinburgh Test Match. It read: 'Bill is the fastest thing out of the gate and only a person who is able to see the blades of a revolving airscrew can appreciate his speed'. The article was headed 'Newcastle beat us' on the Edinburgh Page and was written by J. Cullen, the magazine's Scottish Correspondent, so he must have been impressed.

Archie Cooper - along with Edmund Hall our source of information about post-war Tyneside racing - lived in the same street as Billy, raced with him locally, and was also a member of the same Newcastle Test Team v Edinburgh and of the Touring party to South London. He says that Billy was at his racing peak when that scourge of post-war Cycle Speedway - National Service took him out of the scene. Ironically it sent him to Catterick, but he had finished his basic training and been posted away to Egypt before the track was built there, depriving him of the opportunity to show his skill among the all-star side formed from conscripts such as the Tarrant brothers and Kid South. By the time Billy returned to Tyneside, both Speedway and its pedal version had gone into hibernation.

Billy passed away some years ago.



Newcastle Harts Cycle Speedway team from the 1940's
Photo from Newcastle Cycle Speedway website.

Billy Bird is 3rd from the left

(According to Archie Cooper, the lad on the far left - George Moody - was about the only one who could live with Billy on the track)

VCSRA M/ship Directory additions and amendments. March 2016.

NEW MEMBERS.

MICHAEL CORBY, 17, Overhill Gardens, Brighton, Sussex. BN1 8ND. Tel. 01273 551233.
Mob'l 07714 322383. e-mil corby.m@gmail.com

BARRY BISHOP, 4, The Mount, Enstone, Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire, OX7 4LR.
Tel.01608677905. e-mil barrybishop@yahoo.com

Re-Instatement.

PETER PAGE and DAVE PALFREYMAN. Details as previously published.

C/O/A.

FRED PAUL, 'Porte Rouge', Vicarage Rd., Torpoint, Cornwall. PL11 2EP. 01752 814469.

JOHN STRONG, 27, Woodlands Park Drive, Great Dunmow, Essex. CM6 1WH.

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MATT ALDRED. mattaldred6@gmail.com

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BERNARD HART. bernard.hart@btinternet.com

PHILLIP HEMMING. D.hemming@virginmedia.com

JOHN LEYLAND. leylands3@btinternet.com

ADD Mobile Numbers.

DAVID BAXTER. 07931 456647.

PAUL BODLEY. 07545 841502.

VICTOR HINCHLIFFE. 07973 214942.

NORMAN HUNTER. 07421 831130.

GEORGE MILES. 07532 043848. Amend Landline Code to 01 727

STEPHEN HARVIE. e-mail should read. Stephen.harvie@btinternet.com

KENNETH MILLS. Add additional e-mail. Ken.tordri@gmail.com

Add mobile No. 07837 765671.

Malcolm Belchambers, Hon. M/ship Sec. VCSRA.

RON SOUCH (Southampton)

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Ron Souch (22.2.16) following a long brave battle against his illness. Although his career was a short one he displayed both a natural talent and enthusiastic approach to racing and all those who remember him will agree that he was a rider with outstanding potential after reaching a high level in his too short career.

My first contact with Ron was in 1961, as a star man for the Southampton Provincials, he agreed to sign for my Brighton Scorchers team where he immediately became one of the leading point scorers. In 1963 he moved to Shirley Bombers, who became Southampton later that year, and he led the way, with Dave Butcher in the 1964 British League debut season. Such was the impact he made was shown when he was selected that year for the British League side versus Rest of England in Manchester.

An Engineer by trade Ron developed his own specialist company and, over the years, became one of world's leading specialists in Restoration and Building of Antique Aircraft and planes he has built or developed are flown today in USA, Australia, the Far East, as well as Europe. He became a legend in the world of aviation and he will be widely mourned. Ron was a quiet, serious, enthusiastic and modest man who will be fondly remembered by everyone who had the good fortune to cross his path. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family at this desperately difficult time.

God Bless Ron - continue to "fly high" - great memories.



Brian Makepeace

MAYBE THE LAST EDITORS NOTES.

Received a phone call from his daughter, to say that Bryan Geater (Hungerford Panthers) had died and that she would like a tribute in the Track Record. I said that if she had any photos, I could scan them in to the computer and send them back to her, but she said that she would do it herself, and email it to me. So far, I have not heard any more.

Also I heard that Billy White (South Ruislip Aces) has died, do not have any further information.

In the "VCSRA COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT" on page 2 of the January issue it said :-
"It was decided to keep the Track Record at 16 pages per edition", but does not say how this is to be achieved. If members do not support the magazine, there will be no magazine to support.

When I took over as editor in July 2003 (is it really that long) the "Track Record" only had eight pages, I increased it to twelve pages in the following issue, and eventually to 16 pages in November 2010.

I really struggled with the January issue, and had it not been for five pages of obituaries and some last minute emergency contributions that Bill Gill and Roy Delaney sent in when I said that I was short of contributions. Otherwise I would have had only 7 pages, even with the contributions of the ever reliable Les Gustafson, who always manages to contribute some very interesting articles each time.

This issue was even more of a struggle, Bill Gill brought Dave Huntings memorabilia to the "Celebration of Speedway" event, to see if there was anything suitable for the magazine, but let another member of the committee have first choice, who carted it off, without even letting me see it. I have managed to make a some pages out of what was left.

I do often wonder if it is all really worth while. Every time I tell Therese, my wife:-
"This is definitely the last issue". ("You said that last time she says")

Probably the only reason that I have not given up is that "PENINK.CO.UK" make such a good job of printing the magazine, that every time I receive my copy, I think well MAYBE it was all worth while, MAYBE I will do just one more issue!

Bill Gadsby



1970s Great Blakenham v Bow Monarchs.
L/R Alan Ford (GB), John Smith (Bow) Colin Cox (GB) Dave Hughes (Bow).