

THE TRACK RECORD

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**
Volume 18
Issue 3
July 2014

Secretary
Bill Gill
Colchester Road
Holland on Sea
Essex
CO1 5DD
Tel:-01255813476

Publishing Editor
Bill Gadsby
7 Sewell Close
St. Albans
Herts
AL4 0TB
Tel:- 01727-859943

e-mail:- wgill@gmx.co.uk billgadsby@hotmail.com
www.cyclespeedwayvets.org.uk



Name the rider. (see page 3.)
Ron Souch (Southampton), Wally Dighton (Beckenham), ????????
& Colin Wheeler (Southampton Vikings)

Accounts for the period 1st April 2013 to 31st March 2014	2
Name the riders, pictures from Dave Butcher.	3
Haggerston Exhibition Geffrye Museum April 2014	4
Birth of Cycle Speedway, Warwick Lions	5
Essex Veterans Lunch.	6
VCSRA attend the Ade Gale Laurels at Poole.	7
Tyneside Cycle Speedway from Les Gustafson.	8 & 9
Spring Golf Day.	10
Pictures from the 1970s	11
Early Days in North London	12
2014 AGM. Tottenham Racers 1947 & Tribute Wally Warrington.	13
Tribute Dennis Hubble	14
50 Years of Cycle Speedway & Ten Years ago in the Track Record.	15
VCSRA Directory Updates	16

VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION

=====

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD - 1st April 2013 to 31st.March 2014

INCOME

Membership	2191.00
Donations	40.00
Donations (golf)	43.72
Bank Interest	.54

EXPENDITURE

Stationery & computer supplies	239.41
Postage	496.96
Computer Hardware	379.95
Web site registration	99.82
Equipment	275.00
Printing Track Record	542.00
Donation	25.00
AGM	8.88

£ 2275.26

£ 2067.02

Bank Balances at 31st March 2013..... 1286.78
Income..... 2275.26

3562.04

Less Expenditure

2067.02

Total funds at 31st.March 2014

£ 1495.02

Represented by-

Bank Deposit A/C

222.62

Bank Current A/C

1272.40

£1495.02

Note – The total costs of The Track Record is approx £5 per member. Three issues were published during this period.

Tom Kilbey - Treasurer



Colin Stilwell (Southampton),
Mike Vernon (Southampton)
& Ivor Walsh (Kingstanding)

John Cobbin (Tottenham)
Clive Hurrell (Norwich)
& Harry Glover (Leicester)



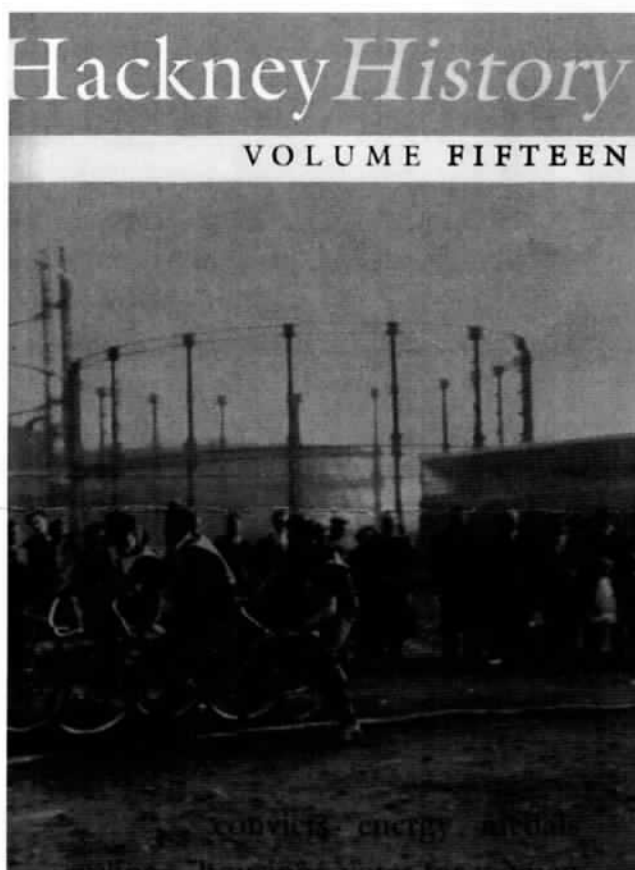
John Cobbin (Tottenham)
Roy Baker (South London)

George Hollebon (Hellingly) is
in the line of spectators

Dave Butcher sent in these 3 pictures from the 1960's, together with the one on the front cover. The idea is to ask members to identify the riders and their clubs. Dave has named some of the riders, but is not 100% sure that he is right.

HAGGERSTON EXHIBITION GEFTRYE MUSEUM APRIL 2014

A few years ago I was asked to write an article for the Hackney Archive about the post war phenomenon, cycle speedway. The Archive maintains a lively interest in research into the Borough activities, recording through exhibitions, videos and a vast collection of memorabilia. This is all housed in brand new accommodation at Dalston Junction.



The article was published in the Hackney History vol.15 and a copy of the cover shows a match at the Andrews Road track between the Warwick Lions and Becton Aces.

The riders are l to r, Vic White, John Goldsmith and Terry Halloran. Kenny Randall had fallen at the same first bend and was excluded in the re-run. Hackney History has a wide circulation and was picked up by the Haggerston Civic Centre (HCC) who were in the process of celebrating the history of the ward. Two researchers contacted me because they said, "We had no idea that there was such a thing as Cycle Speedway and that it was based in Haggerston". When I recounted how the Tarrant twins found the cleared bomb site and set about creating the track, without consent of the Council or the owners whoever they might have been, they were amazed. I tried to convey the enormous post war wave of enthusiasm for Speedway and the way that this inspired so many kids to strip down their bikes and go race, wherever they could create a track, the researchers could hardly believe it. I do not believe there has been anything like it since then.

The outcome was that the HCC mounted an exhibition in the Geffrye Museum which described the long history, originally called Agostone on the old maps and gentrified later.

The Warwick Lions were featured on two of the panels and the whole picture created was of youthful optimism. A little known fact arose from research I did for the Hackney History and this was arising from a 1943 conference held in London to decide what to do with the bomb sites in the short term. A lady Alderman of Shoreditch Council proposed that the sites should be cleared and unfenced so as to create playgrounds for the children. Without that generous and farsighted attitude, many of the East London tracks would never have existed.

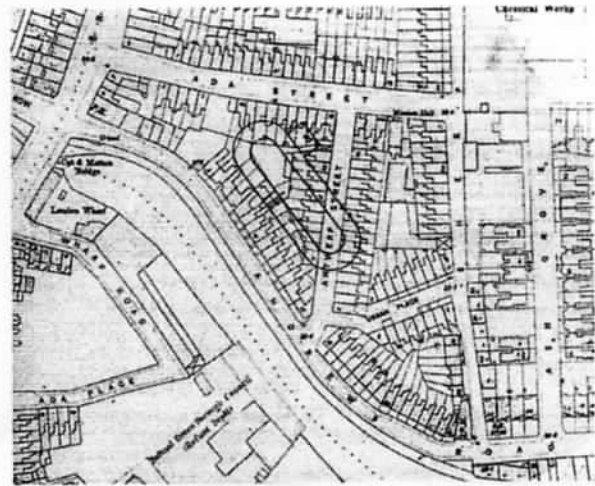
John Goldsmith

The birth of cycle speedway

It was not surprising that young boys attempted to emulate their heroes on the tracks by stripping down their bicycles, including the removal of brakes, lights, bell and mudguards, to save weight and to replicate as near as possible the format of the 500cc J. A. Prestwich (JAP for short) engined speedway bikes. But where to practise?

In most ideal places, such as all-weather playing fields in public parks, the outcome would be being chased off by the 'parky', who saw the riders as vandals. Some enterprising speedway promoters allowed the use of their car parks, but no permanent layout was allowed.

Unknown to the skid-kids, as they became known, the then mayor of Shoreditch created the answer. The mayor was Mrs E. A. Kellett J.P., and as the representative of the borough at a London-wide conference held in June 1945 to discuss peace initiatives, she proposed that 'bomb sites should be levelled to create playgrounds for children'.¹ As a result, cycle speedway tracks came to be created on the ruins of the Blitz.



The site of the track, superimposed on a pre-war Ordnance Survey map



Ron Tarrant on the Andrews Road track in 1946

The Warwick Lions

Twins Ron and Pete Tarrant were mad on speedway. They supported the Wembley Lions, who raced before capacity crowds at the Wembley stadium every Thursday. The Tarrant boys lived in Warwick Grove, Springfield, hence the cycle speedway team was named the Warwick Lions. But where to race, or even practise? They had tried practising on a strip of sandy foreshore by the river Lea, but that had resulted in a collision (no accident), and Pete and bike fell into the river. Pete swam ashore, but the bike sank to the bottom, to be recovered the next

day with a grappling hook after abortive attempts had raised old bedsteads and motor tyres.

No, the river Lea was not ideal for a track, so then they chanced on a newly flattened slum clearance area bounded by Andrews Road, Sheep Lane and Ada Street. The lads marked out the track with broken bricks, and filled in holes to create a passable level track about 120 metres long with two 180 degree bends. In their enthusiasm, they had not thought to ask anyone if they could use the site.

VCSRA Attend the Ade Gale Laurels at Poole.

The VCSRA Rolling Road Show was in attendance at the Ade Gale Laurels, promoted by the Poole Cycle Speedway club at Harbourside Park, on Sunday 25th May. This was the tenth staging of this prestigious event, being held in the memory of Ade Gale, who sadly was taken from us in 2004 after having been diagnosed with leukemia. Ade was a true servant of the Poole CSC, being involved in both the racing and coaching of the club over a period of 25 years.

The Senior Final had no less than five former British Champions, two Welsh Internationals, two Polish Internationals, plus one Australian International rider. With such a star studded field it was no surprise that the riders were all taking points off each other, with nerves being the other deciding factor. A controversial exclusion to Chris Timms in heat 17 ended his chance of being on the rostrum, plus a last place in his final ride by Andy Angell after having scored 14 points from his previous four rides, together with an exclusion to Lucas Nowacki in his final ride all added to the excitement of the event.

Come the count down at the end of the meeting, two riders shared 15 points, these being Andy Angell and Paul Heard, and in the run-off for third place, Andy kept the very fast Paul at his rear. A run-off for first place was now required, with two riders on 16 points apiece, these being Mark Carmichael and Ben Mould, the two Welsh Internationals. Mark took full advantage of the inner gate position, and although Ben threw everything at him, he was unable to get past the leader.

Full Scorers: Mark Carmichael 16; Ben Mould 16; Andy Angell 15; Paul Heard 15; Neil Hollebon 14; Chris Timms 13; Bobby McMillan(Australia) 13; Greg Gluchowski(Poland) 13; Lucas Nowacki(Poland) 13; Lee Aris 12; Mark Boaler 10; Marcus Wadhams 10; Steve Harris 9; Adam Peck 9; Ben Donohue 8; Gavin Wheeler 8.

The VCSRA promotional stand was kept very busy, with much interest shown in the photographs on display. Six new members were encouraged to sign on, plus two expired members renewed their licence, so all in all a very successful day. Unfortunately the Southampton Grand Prix on the following day was cancelled, thus our intended showing at this event did not take place.



The VCSRA Gazebo.

L/R.

Paul Timms Colin Wheeler & Brian Hurst

The Poole Track





Essex Veterans with Wives met for Lunch at the 15th Century Moat House in Castle Headington. With stories and jokes it made an enjoyable afternoon for all present.

Members present:-
 Len & Jackie Adams,
 Harry & Anne Thompson,
 John & Sheila Brown,
 Tensia & Stuart Davies,
 Eric Hemsley & Jenny Long.



Malcolm Bidder arranged a reunion of the Newton Abbot Braves on 12th April 2014.
 Back row l/r. Buster Burnett, Derek Doble, Malcom Bidder, Brian Lancaster,
 Bronco Prowse, & Norman Bunclark.
 Front row l/r. Tony Vinnicombe, Billy Gilpin, Tony Mitchell & Stu Taylor.
 From John Burnett



From Les Gustafson

Thanks for printing my last contribution. Here's another one if you don't get sufficient to fill the next issue.

The Northumbria Vikings club have been rewarded for their revival efforts by being allocated the 2014 staging of the Northern Riders Individuals, featuring participants from Scotland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, as well as home riders.

One spectator the club would like to see at the event, leaning over the new fence, is octogenarian Edmund Hall - provided his hectic schedule permits, that is.

Recent research in the British Library Archives at St. Pancras into the sport's early origins on Tyneside threw up his name in connection with articles about the local scene in the July 1949 issues of 'Cycle Speedway Record'. John Skinner, the webmaster of the Tyneside History site (www.newcastlecyclespeedway.co.uk) remembered meeting Edmund Hall only a few years ago, and the recent passing of Jack Hiscock, one of the sport's pioneers in the post-war years in the North East (and team official during the 1960s) - his obituary appeared earlier this year in the late-lamented Spokesman Online - brought home how little opportunity there still was to learn more about those early years of the sport.

Hopes that Edmund might still be with us were confirmed when he was tracked down to the same address in Walsend as shown in those 1949 articles, and the information he has so far provided has been both revealing and surprising. Blessed with an excellent memory, he seems to have been the Len Silver of post-war Tyneside Cycle Speedway, in terms of his organisational flair and enthusiasm.

That mention of Len Silver has another significance - in those post-war years Edmund used to travel down from Tyneside to stay with relatives in the New Cross area of London, and often crossed the river to watch matches at East London tracks, of which Stratford Hammers may have been one. Edmund marvelled at the facilities enjoyed by some of those London tracks compared to the Spartan set-up back on Tyneside at the time.

He did not pluck up the courage to ask to ride, as cycling through the tunnel under the Thames was hazardous enough for him, and nor was he a member of the Newcastle touring team which raced a match in the New Cross area at Easter 1950, as by then he had already been called up for his National Service.

The photos on the opposite page were forwarded to Les by the son of Edmund Hall.

Top.

Holy Cross Demons. Jimmy Pringle captain on bike. Edmund Hall is 5th from the left, wearing light overalls and holding Helmet. At the Bensham Broadsiders Track at Gateshead.

Middle.

Holy Cross Demons captain, Jimmy Pringle on the inside at the Seaton Deleval Rams Track.

Bottom.

Holy Cross Demons at the Holy Cross Track. Riders gating, Edmond Hall and Peter Campbell, competing against Byker Meteors.



Spring Golf Day at Darenth Valley Golf Club Kent.

The VCSRA held it's annual Spring Golf Day on the 29th May at Darenth Valley Golf Club. There were 15 players, made up of Members and Guests. The weather was really kind to us, which was lovely sunny and warm. Heather Spalding attended the day, also rode in one of the buggies.

On arrival we had Bacon Rolls and Coffee, then the eighteen hole Stableford Golf Competition, playing to full handicaps. This was followed with a two course meal of Steak and Ale Pie and Veg, followed with Apple Pie and Custard, then Coffee.

There was a raffle, which was very well supported by everyone, so thank you for that. The winners who received a bottle of wine each were:- Roy Garnham, Colin Booth, Malcolm Leeworthy, Jackie Adams, Danny Daniels and Heather Spalding.

The results of the Golf Competition were as follows:-

1st - Pat Carey with 32 points.

2nd - Ken Hildrew with 29 points after count back.

3rd - Malcolm Leeworthy also with 29 points.

1st for the Ladies was Ann Thompson

Longest Drive - Len Adams

Nearest Pin - Being as nobody got on the green, a card was drawn out of the pack by Heather, and the lucky winner was Jim Cooper.

Chipper

Drinks container and Case

Glove

Glove

Glove.

The next Golf Day will be at South Essex Golf Centre, which is at Horndon Essex, on the 18th September. Further information will be sent out in July. If anyone who wishes to come and has not been before, will be made very welcome, also with any Golfing friends. Any non Golfers wishing to come for the meal in the evening are also welcome.

Should you require further information, then contact Len Adams on 01440 785474.

Len Adams



L/R. Len Adams,
Pat Carey, Ann
Thompson, Ken
Hildrew, and Jim
Cooper.



Hendon Aces in the mid 1970s

L/R Pete Courts, Matt James, Gerry Wallis & Alan Harman (kneeling)



Southern Counties v English League at Garratt Park.
L/R. Gerry Wallis, Roger Ellis, Alan Cox & Vic Haynes.



John Colbert leads Pete Chubb in Hellingly 4 a side.

Early Days in North London

It is now 1947, most of the War-Time bomb sites are being developed for new housing, plenty of Pre-Fabs. Our search is on for a new track.

We have heard that EDMONTON EAGLES were riding on a track that they had built on the local Gas-Works, even racing in a league!!

The location was very difficult to find, it was on a piece of ground used for the passed twenty years by the Gas Company to dump all the waste cinder, clinker and ash from their coking operations. The area was fenced off with six-foot corrugated iron sheets, which were now showing their age. (completely rusty). To gain access to the site we had to slide a couple of the sheets to one side and prop them up with a stick

We investigated the situation and decided that it was just the place for us to set up our new home. Work began immediately, we leveled the ground and cut out a track at a corner of the site, well away from the Eagles track. Within days we were up and running, TOTTENHAM RACERS were re-born.

The brother-in-law of one of our team members, had just been demobed from the Royal Air Force and had decided that his next career move would be to become a Freelance Press Photographer. He had invested his gratuity in a state of the art (pre. 1940s) camera and tripod and was ready to take on his first assignment.

He come to our next meeting with his newly acquired equipment and took a portfolio of action pictures. These were proudly submitted to the editor of the national magazine PICTURE POST for publication.

Within a week, he had received an acknowledgement from the editor, and convinced us, and himself, that his work had been accepted and would be in the next edition of the publication. We told all of our friends and family that we were going to be celebrities, placed our orders with the corner paper shop and awaited the issue date with great excitement.

The day came, but to our disappointment and his embarrassment the article did not appear. However it was not totally bad news, on the centre spread was an action picture of our hero VIC DUGGAN at Harringay and a pre-view of the forthcoming Olympic Games to be held in London in 1948.

We heard much later that our photographer had secured a staff job with the London Evening Standard and was responsible for the internationally famous picture of THE BEATLES arriving home at Heathrow, from their first tour of the USA in the early sixties.

After about six months on our new track, we and our parents were getting concerned, that the contaminated land would give us permanent health problems. When the wind was in our direction, the smell was unbearable.

The final crunch came, when it was suggested that we wear our war-time gas masks as a safety precaution. We took our parents advice and decided to look for a new track.

We were on the MOVE yet again.

Tom Kilby

2014 VCSRA AGM.

The AGM of the VCSRA was held on Sunday June 8th 2014 at the Speedway Museum, Paradise Park, Broxbourne. The meeting was preceded by a luncheon and approx. 50 members and friends attended and it was pleasing to see Vic White and Laly Catley present with their group of friends.

In the absence of the President, Ray Gingell, the meeting was opened by Secretary Bill Gill who reported that Ray was suffering with health problems and he showed his appreciation to Ray for carrying out his duties over the past year and wished him well for the future.

The new President was introduced as Pete Saunders and he took over the Chair of the meeting. The various reports from Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer were duly observed and items for discussion included, future of Track Record, exhibition days at racing events and annual dinner or luncheon. A full report of the meeting will appear in next copy of Track Record as the official minutes of the meeting.

Bill Gill



TOTTENHAM RACERS 1947 (at the Gas Works site.)

(left to right.) Dave Scapens, Tom Kilby, Keith Sherring, Joe Brown, Wally Warrington, Eric Holly (manager) Ron Dockrell, Vic Richards & Don Page.

WALLY WARRINGTON.

Wally Warrington died on 16th May in Barnet Hospital aged 81. He started racing in 1946 With Tottenham Racers.

He was an accomplished Golfer and played with th VCSRA Golfing section on a number of occasions. His biggest achievement, was a legendry "Hole in One" at his local Club in Oakwood.

Dennis Hubble



It is with deep regret that we have to announce the death of Dennis Hubble who, after a short illness passed away on 21st May 2014. Having the loving care of his wife Vi and family around him during these difficult weeks was a great help to him and speaking to Dennis 3 weeks before his death he said, "I'm so lucky having the family doing so much to make my life more comfortable".

To his wife Vi and family we send our sincere condolences.

Dennis joined the Stratford Hammers from the Dagenham Aces as a promising 17-year old and by 1951 he had established himself as a firm favourite with everyone at Stratford.



His pairing with George Stephens was arguably the best you would have seen. 1951 was rather special for Dennis, as being a member of Stratford's National Championship winning team, plus The Festival of Britain trophies, the Mars Cups and the Battersea Borough Council Cup were events that he often spoke of.

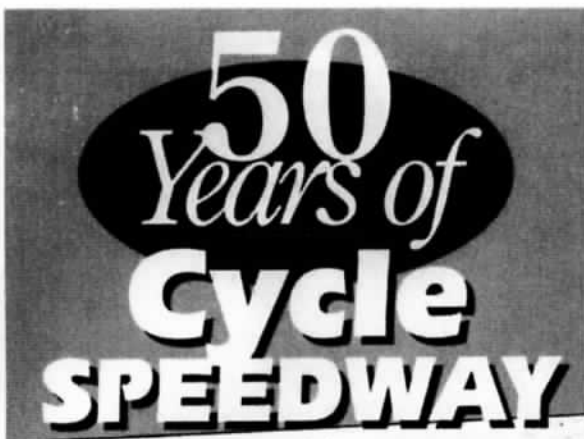
Dennis in 1951 riding at Hayes in the National Team Championship Final

After his conscription in the Forces Dennis returned to racing for several years and on retirement his enthusiasm and support for the sport never waned. Dennis was truly a fine ambassador for our sport.

So Many Happy Memories,

Dennis's funeral took place on Thursday 12th June at the Corbets Tey Crematorium, Upminster, Essex and after at the 'Huntsman and Hounds' also in Corbets Tey. The family were joined by 18 or more representatives from the VCSRA and Cycle Speedway fraternity in general with ex-riders from 2 generations.

Roy Garnham



FIFTY YEARS OF CYCLE SPEEDWAY 1946 - 1996

Part 1 - Memories and Observations of some of the Sports
Celebrities (50yys_part1.pdf)

Part 2 - 1946 - 1996, a Year by Year Scrape Book
(50yys_part2.pdf)

Part 3 - Cycle Speedway Statistics, all the Winners etc.
(50yys_part3.pdf)

A Digital/PDF file scanned by the VCSRA in June 2014 from
the Original Book Published by the British Cycle Speedway
Council in 1997

(Adobe Reader, available as a free download required to
view this document)

50 Years of Cycle Speedway

Many of you will own a copy of 50 Years of Cycle Speedway, however some of you may have wanted a copy and discovered that it is no longer available as the original printers have gone bust and the masters lost. Now as a partial remedy for this situation the VCSRA have had an original scanned and are making copies available as a 'pdf' file on a CD (see above).

Priced at £5.00, with all proceeds going into VCSRA funds it can be viewed on a Desktop or Laptop computer with an 'Adobe Reader' installed when copies of any number of individual pages or pictures can be viewed or printed.

To obtain a copy of the CD send your cheque, made payable to 'VCSRA' to Colin Booth, 29 Broad Oaks, Wickford, Essex, SS12 9BQ or phone 01268 561248. A copy can also be purchased from Dave Hunting when he is manning the VCSRA stand at race

TEN YEARS AGO. From the "Track Record" July 2004.

At the 2004 AGM Chairman Derek Cattle said that the committee intended to invite me to the next meeting to discuss the future of the "Track Record". The discussion amounted to Derek saying "you're the editor, edit it!" giving me a free hand to do whatever I liked with the magazine. So this issue was the first one that was entirely my own work. Also the first to have a picture on the front cover.

Also in this issue:- A report on the "Grand Opening of Cycle Speedway USA."

A report on the event by Ron Tarrant, who had driven 2,500 kilometres to be guest of honour.

Report & pictures of the "Great Annual Fun Day at Colchester.

Part two. of Cycle Speedway in Surrey, an excellent article by Robin Richardson.

A report on the Golf Day by Stan Brown. Also a picture and report of Stan winning a new car in the St. Helena Hospice draw.

Secretaries report by Colin Booth..

My introduction as Editor, and finally an appeal for more contributions from our members!

Bill Gadsby.



VCSRA Directory Updates, June 7 2014.

Roy Atlwright	Email roy.allwright@sky.com
Gene Bailey	Email gene.genebailey@gmail.co.uk
Gene Bailey	Mob'l 0797 982 7280
Ray Chivers	Email raymondo.chivers@gmail.com
Brian Green	Tel. No. 01 530 815622
Terry Kirkup	Email vikings@northumbriacsc.org
Pete Leckie	Email peter.leckie4@btinternet.com
Derek Mills	Email anneskills@aol.com
Fred Pallett	Email fred.pallett@hotmail.co.uk
Bill Punter	Mob'l 0780 602 8996
Andy Schofield	Email andy.schofield301@btinternet
Mike Vernham	Email mikevernham@sky.com
George Wakeman	Tel. No. 0208 220 1336
John Wells	Email johnwickford@gmail.com
Vic White	Email tigerman3333@btinternet
Trevor Winham	Tel. No. 01 483 475209
Tony Clarke	Tel. No.01202 670534
	Email lynneandtony@sky.com
Gary Colby	COA 47, Meadow Rd., Norwich, Norfolk. NR5 ONF
Gary Colby	Email gary.colby@nch.mc.uk
David Collins(Surrey)	COA 297, Commonsides East, Mitcham, Surrey. CR14 1HE
David Collins(Surrey)	Mob'l 0744 350 8375
Peter Courts	Email petercourts@btinternet.com
Dennis Hall (NZ)	COA 115, Warwick Rd., Mayfair, Hastings 4122, NZ
Vic Hinchcliffe	Correct Surname is Hinchliffe
John Lambert COA	14 Avon House, Welland Place, St.Marys Rd.
	Market Harborough, LE16 7GD
John Lambert	Email johnrita@aol.com
John Lambert	Tel No. 01858288256
John Lambert	Mob'l 07955792669
Paul Robinson	Correct Postcode is WD19 5HG