

THE TRACK RECORD

A publication of the
**VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION**
Volume 19
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Southampton Grand Prix? Photo from Dave Butcher see page 10.

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VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION

ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD - 1st April 2014 to 31st.March 2015[illegible]

Bank Balances at 31 st March 2014.....	1495.02
Income.....	3886.05
	5381.07
Less Expenditure	2357.15
Total funds at 31 st .March 2015	£ 3023.92

Represented by-	Bank Deposit A/C	223.03
	Bank Current A/C	2800.89

		£3023.92

Les Gustafson

Middlesbrough has never rated much of a mention in the annals of the sport — a K. Aleringham from the town wrote to the 'Amateur Cycle Speedway' magazine in 1950, asking for riders to join his team, but without naming it or saying where they rode, and Billingham Hornets from the other side of the Tees appeared in the January 1949 Team Directory of the 'Cycle Speedway Gazette'. Billingham Panthers are listed in '50 Years of Cycle Speedway', but with no information as to the era of their existence.

In July 1965 the 'Cycle Speedway Record' reported on the visit to Kingstanding by a team of Middlesbrough teenagers, and several clubs appeared in the Teams section of the Cycle Speedway Annuals of 1965 & 1966. The stimulus for the sport's reappearance on Tees Side after an interval of a dozen years seems to have been an Exhibition Match in 1963, ridden on the Car Park of the Stockton Race Course, and filmed by the local Tyne-Tees TV station.

Curiously, it did not feature any local riders, but two teams from Bradford — Horton Rangers and Elmfield Tudors, who had made the trip north. Each team was bolstered by riders from Bradford Moor Vulcans and Bowling Aces, so Bradford's top riders were on display. A programme for the meeting recently appeared on E-Bay, and although only some of the heat scores had been filled in, VCSRA member and 'Track Record' contributor Tony Emmott still has a good recollection of that day when riding for Elmfield, and he confirmed that the final score was Horton 53 Elmfield 43, and that the top scorers were Mike Cockcroft, Kit Lunn and Robin Wells, each with 11 points, and Jim Meadowcroft & Paul Goy on 9 points.

Unfortunately, the sport did not really develop as hoped in Middlesbrough, Saltersgill Saints raced in the Northern League in 1969 and 1970, but when the Team Captain and star rider Frank Auffret took up Speedway proper, the team folded, and although Speedway continued at Cleveland Park until 1996, the pedal variety of the sport in the area did not resume during that period, as far as we know.

(There was a Tees-Side Individual Championship in 1965, won by Dave Bean after a run-off with Ken Rose, and Brian Horn in third place. Middlesbrough was set to have riders participating in the 1969 Yorkshire Individuals, but the event was scrubbed when the Halifax and Sheffield Associations could not agree on its format).

RIDERS' SCORE CHART.

HORTON RANGERS.							
NO	RIDERS	1	2	3	4	5	T
1	BOB HOPKINSON						
2	KIT LUNN						
3	STEVE BARRACLOUGH						
4	ROBIN WELLS						
5	DAVE GOODALL						
6	MIKE COCKCROFT						
7	TONY EMMOTT						
8	BRIAN BASTON						
Team Total.							

ELMFIELD TUDORS.							
NO	RIDERS	1	2	3	4	5	T
1	PHIL YOUNG						
2	PAUL GOY						
3	JOHN BURNLEY						
4	BILL BERRY						
5	JIM MEADOWCROFT						
6	DEREK WOODWARD						
7	GEORGE SHERICE						
8	JOHN GIFFORD						
Team Total.							

IF YOU HAVE ENJOYED TO-DAY'S MATCH AND YOU ARE
INTERESTED IN EITHER RIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE
SPORT PLEASE CONTACT:-
Mr V. Wieland,
52, Hall Drive,
Aukland.

CYCLE	SPEEDWAY	CHALLENGER	MATCH
		HORTON RANGERS (BRADFORD)	
		versus	
		ELMFIELD TUDORS (BRADFORD)	



SUNDAY 31st MARCH 1965.

HELD ON THE STOCKTON RACE COURSE CAR PARK.

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

Replica of Match programme, spotted on E-Bay by VCSRA member Keith Dyer.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF VCSRA HELD ON SUNDAY JUNE 7th 2015 AT PARADISE WILDLIFE PARK HERTS.

The meeting was preceded by a luncheon attended by 23 members and guests.

The AGM was opened at 2.30 by the President Pete Saunders.

Apologies were received on behalf of John Burnett Roy Fraser, Roy Garnham, Pete Leckie and Peter Chubb.

The minutes of 2014 AGM accepted on proposition by Colin Booth sec. Malcolm Belchambers.

Bill Gill, Secretary gave his report and thanked the committee members for their continued support and said that he hope to get more publicity for the assn. with a greater use of IT and social media sites and stated that several items for discussion would follow later in the meeting. The report was accepted on a prop. By Len Adams, seconded by Tony Marsh.

Tom Kilby gave his financial report and stated financially the association remained strong. Report accepted on prop. By Bill Gadsby sec. Danny Daniels.

Malcolm Belchambers gave his report as Membership Secretary stating numbers were down on 2014 and we had sadly lost 10 friends to illness. He stated he was going to remind members from 2014 who had not yet paid up. His report prop. Bill Gadsby sec. Ron Johnson.

A discussion on the future of the President decided that this office would be for a term of 3 years and nominations for a new President will be started at the end of year two. Len Adams suggested that in the event of a second placed nomination he should be vice President and automatically take President and end of 3 year ter. Proposed by Colin Booth sec. Malcolm Belchambers carried unanimously

Bill Gadsby reported next edition of Track Record would be early July and articles submitted should be typewritten by the sender. Malcolm Belchambers showed concern about the proposed visit to Rye House Speedway being cast into doubt because Len Silver had sold the arena and asked if the Track Record could be delayed but the meeting expressed concern and it was agreed publication will remain as early July and alternatives means will be used to inform interested parties about proposed meeting at Rye House.

A discussion on future methods of advertising and recruitment followed and Bill Gill stated that the Assn. was to place three permanent displays stands in three major cycle speedway areas at a cost of around £1,000.00. Proposed Len Adams sec. Tony Marsh and unanimously agreed to allow Secretary to go ahead. Tony Marsh to liase with Colin Booth in seeking cheaper printing costs for photographic material. Bill Gill and Colin Booth to organise lay out and distribution to CS centres. This followed because our current membership is ageing and it felt wise to seek new members from younger ex riders.

Bill Gill reported that we had secured the future of Dave Hunting's website and were pursuing the possibility of have our site and Dave's site under the same web host. To this effect Bill Gill and Colin Booth were to meet with the host provider.

A discussion on future of AGM and luncheon agreed to allow Committee to decide and meanwhile suggestions were sought from the membership.

Geoffrey Lennox Dunstan.

21/09/1931-27/4/2015



Hello to all at the Veteran Cycle Speedway Rider's Association,

I just wanted to say how pleased my father and the whole family were at receiving April's, "The Track Record". My Dad was over the moon at seeing his name on the front page and true to form, he listed a few "corrections", * which I've attached!

Sadly however, I must inform you that he passed away on 27th April after suffering a massive stroke on 23rd, from which he never regained consciousness and from which he would never recover. He put up a good fight, breathing without assistance for a few days longer.

One of the things which is really upsetting is that he never got to meet up with fellow veterans. It's a shame I never located your association a lot earlier as he would have enjoyed going to some of your events, and even perhaps visiting Coventry's remaining cycle speedway track on Hearsall Common. But we can't change that now.

Kevan Dunstan.

* The corrections:-

Front page, Bill Slater not Pete Smith. Page 6 Barrass Black Bats, not Barren B/Bats.

Page 7, Rosecombe Rockets not Roseycosibe Rockets.

AGM cont.

All committee members agree to continue in office.

Len Kitching suggested perhaps an advert in SPEEDWAY STAR and Pete Saunders advised Bill Gill to try and do this via Bert Hawkins.

Malcolm Belchabers requested permission to offer Hon. Membership to Dereck Garnett and Len Silver and from 2016 Mick Little.

Tony Marsh suggested we make a special presentation to a special member and this was passed to the committee to decide.

There being no further business the President, Pete Saunders, thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 4.06 p.m.

Robert Stanton has written from Dudley with some photographs and memories of his own involvement in the sport in the Midlands, and also of the participation of his near-neighbour from Netherton, Ted Llewellyn.

He writes that he was too young to merit a place in the Cinderbank Aces team, who raced at a track in Netherton, Dudley, in 1960-3. He is pictured at the age of ten at their original track, and again about four years later at their subsequent track, smaller and inferior to the earlier strip, but by then a number of teams had folded and he never really got to take part in team racing. He did have a go at Speedway proper about six years after that, but found it unrewarding financially and painful after a number of injuries.



Sheffield 1971
Rob Stanford (left) & John Westwood



Sheffield 1971

The 'Black Country Bugle' printed a article in 2009 about Quarry Bank Diamonds, in which Dennis Ryder of the local History Society outlined some of the club's background - the track location was officially described as on Hickman's Plateau, although it was always known locally as Table Top, as mentioned by Ted Llewellyn. The outline of the 85-yard track and its concrete starting area were still visible five years ago. Possibly the highlight of the club's existence was the visit of Beckenham Monarchs in May 1963 for a BCSF Gold Cup match.

Ted rode in the late 50s/early 60s. His team was Cradley Heath Kestrels, whose race-jacket design was red and white stripes. Their original track was at Table Top, below Netherton Reservoir, which they shared for a while with Quarry Bank Diamonds, but racing was often marred by the grippy clay surface, and the Kestrels moved to a site off Cradley Road where the Dudley Wood Playing Fields are now located. At the time, the land belonged to Barnsley's Foundry, who were happy for the club to lay out a track there.



Cradley Heath Home Track,

Back L/R.

?, Jones, ?, Brimmell, Hadley, Thompson.

Front Edward Llewellyn, Trevor Bate & Guest.

Wolverhampton track.
Bernard Thompson leading.



Ted's abiding memory seems to be of an off-track incident, where his team were riding home along the public highway after a match, having fixed the obligatory brake on to their bikes. As they descended a steep hill, one of their team started going faster than the others and it became clear that he was not going to stop at the traffic lights at the bottom of the hill. They watched as he managed to weave in and out of the traffic crossing in front of him, like some Hollywood stunt rider, and when they finally caught up with him they found his hand still gripping the brake lever and the broken brake cable dangling down beside him.

Thanks to Les Gustafson for summarising and typing this article.

Spring Golf Day at Darenth Valley Golf Club Kent.

The VCSRA held it's annual Spring Golf Day on the 28th May at Darenth Valley Golf Club.

There were 14 players, made up of Members and Guests. The weather was really great, and probably the best we have had. Along with the Golfers, the following came for the day, and enjoyed the walk in the sunshine following golfing groups around, were Heather Spalding, Eve and Martin Willgress and Jackie Adams.

On arrival we had Bacon Rolls and Coffee, then the eighteen hole Stableford Golf Competition, playing to full handicaps, there was also Nearest the Pin hole on the 7th and a Longest Drive hole on the 16th, the ball must come to rest on the fairway.

Following the Golf and a drink or two, all 17 sat down for the two course meal of Steak and Ale Pie and Veg, followed with Spotted Dick and Custard, then Coffee.

There was a raffle, which was very well supported by everyone, so thank you for that. There was eleven prizes, Bottles of Wine, Sports socks and Balls.

The results of the Golf Competition were as follows, and presented by Jackie Adams:-

1st - Fred Evans with 41 points.	Tee Shirt, Socks and Balls
2nd - Pat Carey with 37 points	Tee Shirt
Longest Drive - Pat Carey	Glove
Nearest Pin - Ross Taylor	Glove

The next Golf Day will be at South Essex Golf Centre, which is at Horndon Essex, at the beginning of October. Further information will be sent out in August 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, or all day, are also welcome.

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

Len Adams



Two Members having dinner, Colin Booth (left) & Roy Garnhan

YO YO THE LITTLE BULL By Roy Delaney

I received a phone call recently from one of our illustrious VCSRA members Henk de Bruin, I quote illustrious because he was a very eminent rider. I initially met The Flying Dutchman when my club Edmonton saints visited Holland in August 1956 for a series of matches over seven days

Our first stop after docking at The Hook of Holland was the Amstel Hotel which was sited in Hilversum this was the year incidentally when Elvis Presley's hit "Heartbreak Hotel" was released needless to say banter was the order of the week, fortunately the Hotel did not live up to the Elvis hit.

Later on during our first day we met up with members of the Hollandse Welpen and soon became familiar with the local Dutch riders and of course their popular manager the late Hartog de Ronde who was a perfect gentleman in every sense of the word, in fact the bond was so vast between Hartog and Henk that the rider looked Upon him as his second father

Henk was a brilliant rider who specialized in showing the opposition his rear wheel when racing as we were later to discover, after all he won the Dutch National Championship no less than 6 times.

During our interesting telephone conversation we turned the clocks back to somewhat 65 years to when the Cray Tigers (Kent) raced a series of matches in Holland in 1950 the Tigers skipper Jimmy Henderson quickly mastered the Dutch tracks and beat all comers, not forgetting Joe Abbott who lowered numerous track records, the Dutch fans called him Yo Yo the little Bull, the youngest Tiger was a 14 year old schoolboy Roy Kavanagh who won 24 races from 28 starts.

The Tigers felt quite jubilant when they returned to Harwich after a successful trip winning all of their seven matches, the average match scores were 58—38.



Henk de Bruin leads the way



Henk de Bruin & Hartog de Ronde

The 2015 Surrey Ramble will take place in Nonsuch Park, near Epsom, Surrey on Tuesday September 8th. Full details may be obtained from:-

Len Kitching, 17 The Mount, Worcester Park, Surrey, KT4 8UD

Phone: 0208 394 2125

The article in October's Track Record by Mike Pretty (Bournemouth) likewise brought back some great memories for me.

The Southampton Grand Prix/Pride of the South, Leicester/ Kingstanding and Hellingly/ Broad Oak weekends were always firm favourites with us too. I remember one particular year in the Broad Oak village hall, before kipping down in sleeping bags on the Saturday night, of playing indoor football dressed in theatrical costumes and headgear from a huge box, (no doubt used by the local amateur drama group) into the early hours of the morning with several of the Broad Oak lads joining in.

Mike's final comment in his article regarding "it's no longer the sport that we all knew and loved" struck a chord with me as well. Again likewise, I've visited Poole and Southampton on a handful of occasions and thought the charm of wearing breastplates is gone, race Stewards (Referees now?) and Starters no longer wearing smart white coats and I thought that there was a greater tendency for Stewards to stop races if a rider fell (for whatever reason) on the first bend from the gate. Imagination?

Mike's point about photographs bringing back memories of 'our sport' is so true. I'm occasionally browse through my albums of black and white photos in dreamy nostalgia. We were very fortunate at Southampton in that respect, manager Brian Makepeace had a keen interest in photography and took scores of excellent pictures, mostly 'in action' shots. Copies he made available to the riders as well being published in the local newspaper.

I feel lucky I had the sense to obtain copies of most of them, but importantly the sense to keep them. As Mike said, Track Record is a great magazine and greatly appreciated for maintaining that link to the past for us — compliments to the editorial and production team.

A few more photographs attached but I've left out the names!



M/ship Sec. update on Len Silver's Invitation to Rye House Speedway. Sunday 16 August.

There has been a late change to the fixtures for Rye House. There will only be ONE MATCH on Sunday 16 August. Rye House 'Rockets' v Workington 'Comets'. STARTING AT 5PM. (Not 2PM as originally advertised).

LEN SILVER has kindly agreed to reserve the 'Hospitality Suite and Bar' for our use. (The Hospitality Suite is the glass-fronted building overlooking the run-up to the Starting Gate. It is above the famous 'Rye House Fish and Chip Bar', hot and cold drinks can be purchased from the counter nearby).

If Members arriving early wish to eat, the 'Rye House Pub', (adjacent to the Stadium), do good hot Pub Meals starting at 12 Noon.

'Free Entry' to VCSRA Members and their Companions/Families will be by showing their 2015/16 NAMED MEMBERSHIP CARDS. The Rye House Turnstile Staff will be advised of our visit.

If any Members have lost/mislaidd their M/ship Cards please write to me promptly ENCLOSING A STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. I will then send you a duplicate M/ship Card.

REMEMBER --- no SAE ---- no replacement Card!

As I indicated in the previous issue of the T/Record I intend to hold a 'donation collection' in aid of the SPEEDWAY RIDERS BENEVOLENT FUND (SRBF) as a 'thank you' to LEN SILVER for his kind invitation to the VCSRA Members.

Let's hope the weather is kind to us and we enjoy a good afternoon and evening together.

Full details of how to get to Rye House can be found on their website, www.ryehouserockets.com 'Sat Nav' details EN11 OEH.

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

16a, Ethelred Gardens, Wickford, Essex. SS11 7EX.

Tel 01268 734896. e-mail belrover@btinternet.com



PRIDE OF THE SOUTH TROPHY AT BOURNMOUTH.

L/R. Ray Chivers (South London Rangers), Keith Dawson (Beckenham Monarchs), Mike Pretty (Bournemouth Viscounts) & Danny Daniel (Beckenham Monarchs)
Photo from Danny Daniel.

Les Gustafson Australia 50 years ago

According to "50 Years of Cycle Speedway when Rod Witham posted a letter to Australia in September 1978 he had no idea whether he would even receive a reply, but it turned out that the Adelaide area in the form of the Findon and Salisbury clubs were flying a lonely flag for the sport - yet ten years previously, according to the Cycle Speedway Annuals of 1965/6, there were still three centres of activity on the subcontinent - Perth, Adelaide and Sydney.

The CS Annual's Australian reporter was Perth-based, so apart from a Directory of Clubs in Sydney and Adelaide, all the information in the articles related to events involving Perth teams, whose main centre seemed to be the Claremont Speedway. Three local clubs were listed - Manning, Wembley & Welshpool, with mention also of Bayswater and Claremont.

There was also a mention of participants from Kalgoorlie, which lies almost 400 miles to the east of Perth, and this brings home the extreme difficulty of any co-ordination of activity between the various centres of the sport fifty years ago. Adelaide lies about 1600 miles to the east of Perth and Sydney a further 800 miles east of Adelaide, but Findon's own "50 years" book reports on some Test Matches between Perth and Adelaide, and Australian Championships held in both centres, featuring riders from clubs in each city.

As late as 1985, officials from the Findon club attempted to help the Gosnell club in Perth to continue in existence, albeit unsuccessfully.

Although the 1965 CS Annual listed six clubs in the Sydney area, there was no other information on them. As with many other subjects connected with the sport, the late Dave Hunting's History site has items devoted to the Australian scene of fifty years ago, and names nine teams operating in the Sydney area, some of whose riders hoped to travel to Adelaide for the Australian Individuals of 1962.

It is apparent that there was more contact between Perth and Adelaide, than between the latter and Sydney, even though Perth is double the distance from Adelaide than is Sydney.

These days, the sport is centred on the three Adelaide clubs - Findon Le Fevre and Salisbury, plus Murray Bridge, about 50 miles outside the city, and these have been the venues for International events held in Australia since 1981.



Picture of the Findon Track, from an article by Brian Robinson (Greenford Aces & South Ruislip Aces) which was in the Feb 2010 issue of the Track Record.



Jimmy is far right, back row. Other riders and the year not known. Photo from Josh Gleave.

Sadly Jimmy has passed away. He really had done it all when it came to cycle speedway, having been a rider, captain, Glasgow Test star, Scottish internationalist, team manager of both club and country and office bearer on both the Glasgow Control board and NACSA.

You can see the whole of Nicky Nicolson's tribute on the Glasgow Cycle Speedway History Association web site.

A further tribute can be seen at:-

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/obituaries/jimmy-cobain.123410429>

VCSRA M/ship Directory additions and amendments, June 23rd 2015.

NEW MEMBER. VIC HAINES. 'The Annexe', Crowstone House, Crowstone Ave., Westcliff - on - Sea, Essex. SS0 8HT. Tel.07768 334553. E-mail. hainesace@aol.com

AMENDMENTS.

Gary Colby. Additional e-mail. gary.colby1@gmail.com

David Jewkes. E-mail correction. no . between dave and jewkes.

Ron Johnson. New e-mail. ron.johnson@blueyonder.co.uk

Tom Kilbey. c/o/a & tel no. 14, The Knowle, Hoddesdon, Herts. EN11 8LD. Tel 01992 304574.

Eva Livings. New e-mail elivings@gmail.com

Pete Lomas. New e-mail jennylomas23@gmail.com

Ernie Randle. New e-mail diane_randle@hotmail.co.uk add mobile 07779 237285.

Derek Willcocks. New e-mail derekdelboy28@talktalk.net

NEW 'HONORARY' MEMBERS.

SHIRLEY ALLISON ----- Widow of STAN ALLISON.

EVA LIVINGS ----- Widow of JOHN LIVINGS.

DEREK GARNETT and LEN SILVER, Elected at VCSRA AGM, Paradise Park, 7th June 2015.

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

THE WOLVES

SHOW THEIR METTLE

ONE reason for the success of Cycle Speedway as a sport is the tremendous enthusiasm of the youngsters who participate. No matter how many obstacles are put in the way, the team spirit of clubs like Walthamstow Wolves invariably triumphs over all difficulties.

One of the first Cycle Speedway teams in East London, the Walthamstow Wolves have come a long way since those carefree bombed-site days of 1948.

In late 1948 the Wolves' bombed-site track had loose house bricks laid to mark the bends. It was considered smart in those days. In the spring of 1949 Wolves were a formidable force, and crowds of 500 people regularly attended the

Thursday evening meetings. On a few occasions—once when the Lord Mayor was a guest—over 1,000 gathered round the dusty track to watch the thrilling new sport.

After Wolves had won several racing honours in 1951, the local authority took an interest and decided to spend £400 on the building of a new track in the centre of the borough's biggest recreation ground.

The Wolves, who by now had formed a second team known as 'The Diamonds,' helped council workmen to make the track and to install track watering equipment, electricity, a first-aid shed, and other amenities. Soon they had one of the best tracks in the country—a fact that

An exciting race in which the splendid team riding of A. Worboys (left) and P. Chapman, of the Wolves, is keeping an opposing pair at bay.



From David Pipes.

I recently came across this article in The Third Eagle Sports Annual, published by Hulton Press. It is not dated, but is probably mid 1950s.

The three page article features the Walthamstow Wolves and may be of interest to readers of the Track Record.



Doug. Surtees, a 19-year-old joiner, practising at the Wolves' Low Hall Farm track.

was recognised by the *News Chronicle* and the N.A.C.S.A., who selected it as the venue for the semi-final of the National Championships.

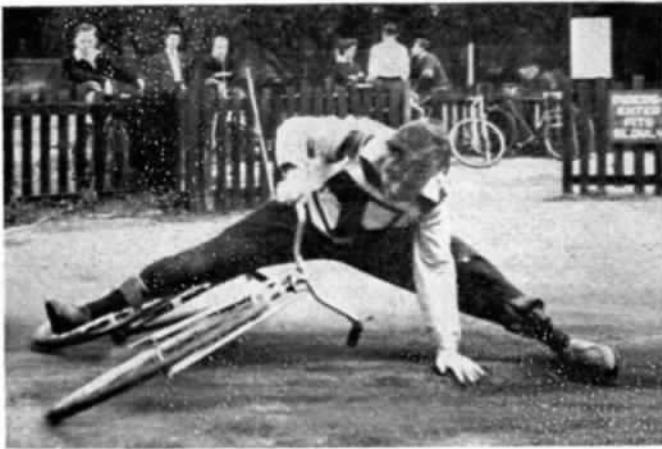
But, towards the end of 1953, the blow fell. Wolves were informed that their track lay in the path of a proposed new reservoir, and that it would have to be broken up. It wasn't long before bulldozers arrived to smash up the circuit of which the youngsters had been so proud.

But, nothing daunted, riders and supporters at once started to plan a new and still better track on a neighbouring plot of land. Council workmen, with their voluntary helpers, worked hard to ensure that the Wolves had a circuit on which to race by the spring of 1954.

You can't keep a good Wolf down! They're rightly mighty proud of their third and latest track—long may they continue to prosper there.



Wolves were unbeaten at home in 1953, and this was the team which made short work of Norwich Stars, Walton Swans and other crack combinations. Back row: T. Stringer (club steward), P. Coyle, D. Surtees, A. Worboys. Front: J. Morris (team manager), R. Massey (captain), and R. Tilley.



Novice Alan Embleton, age 13, is learning the hard way!

Undeterred by spills in practice, Alan Embleton stuck to it until he made the grade; and here he is leading Ted Sear.



Wolves' luxury track in a recreation ground, used for the National Championships Semi-Final but now broken-up.