

1958

World Title Defended

Earlier in the meeting national secretary Fred Bennett outlined proposals for the first ever cycle speedway World individual championship. He stated that the promoters realised that the use of the word "World" was technically incorrect but if at some future date cycle speedway authorities in other countries wished to participate, then the competition was already in existence. After the 1958 event had been concluded he thought other countries would wish to enter. NACSA chairman George Fernyhough supported the motion and the report was accepted. However proposals for a County league to replace the British team championship were stoutly rejected.

Worthing Debut

After a week of torrential rain, the day dawned bright for the first ever cycle speedway match in Worthing. All the riders were pleased with the shape of the track but the surface cut up badly. Brighton Scorchers provided the opposition but Worthing Sputniks ran out winners by 16 points, 56 to 40.



Dutch supremo Hartog de Ronde who was instrumental in the development of international racing

Annual Meeting Ends in Disorder

The annual general meeting of the National Amateur Cycle Speedway Association held in Manchester in Saturday 11 January 1958 ended in disorder and confusion. The room was only booked until 5.30 p.m. and by that time several resolutions, including the election of officers, still had to be debated. With time running out someone moved that the officials be elected en bloc but there were a number of objections to this proposal. There followed arguments that the officers could not be elected with so many dissensions at which point national secretary Mr Fred Bennett stood up and asked the chairman to accept his resignation.

This caused further outburst in all quarters and arguments were still going on when the room was vacated and YMCA personnel began preparing the room for its next occupants at 6 p.m. When the meeting re-convened two weeks later Fred Bennett had reconsidered his position and was re-elected as national secretary for a further three years. Other officials included Chairman - G W Fernyhough, Vice Chairman - A Mansbridge, Treasurer - E Branch, Public Relations Officer - R Bull, Executive Committee - J McPate, T Greenaway, D Stevens, J Bradley and B Moston

England Trounce Sweden

At Whipps Cross Comets' cinder circuit on Saturday 16 August, the first ever international between England and Sweden took place with the sun beating down on a meagre crowd that had little to enthuse over. The racing was very one-sided. At the end of heat nine the Swedes protested that the track was too dry. But the break for watering made little difference as England went on to win by 97 points to 35.

Nilsson was a consistent trier and he was backed for a while by Kjollin but he faded in his last two rides. For England, Gibbons rode superbly and was never troubled. Sportsman Ken Worlock showed his class with a secondary

maximum and the opening pair of Blackwell and Harrison were brilliant. Hinchliffe was the better of the two reserves but Kean has lost a lot of the speed that made him the terror of the Midlands

ENGLAND 97
Ron Gibbons 17, Ken Worlock 16, Alan Harrison 14, Pete Blackwell 13, Dixie Dean 10, John Heaton 9, Vic Hinchliffe 9, Gerry Kean 9

SWEDEN 35
Jan Nilsson 8, Lennart Kjollin 6, Hans Esjoberg 5, Christer Lundquist 4, Soren Fermelin 3, Tord Ericksson 3, Douglas Nordberg 3, Hans Johansson 3

Lewis Tops in Coventry

The Coventry individual champion for 1958 is Ray Lewis who successfully won a run-off for the Bob Fletcher Cup. Joe Fletcher, who only needed two points from his last rider to win the title outright, was excluded by steward Ken Lord when in second position for running with his machine.

POLISH INVITE

Hartog de Ronde, president of the Dutch Cycle Speedway Association, is negotiating with Bronislaw Ratajczyk, president of the Polish Cycle Speedway league, for an international match between Poland and Holland. Mr Ratajczyk is reported to have invited the Dutch team with an all expenses paid offer.

Cycle speedway's first ever World championship was held at Hilversum in Holland on 14 June 1958. The event was won by Martin van de Brakel (Hollandse Welpen) with a faultless 15 point maximum. Second place went to England's Dixie Dean (Wembley All Stars) who defeated Pete Blackwell (Kingstanding Monarchs) in a run-off after both riders had tied on 13 points.

McGillivray Crowned National Champion

With Union Jacks fluttering everywhere, there was a truly festive spirit about the 1958 national finals held at Hungerford Berkshire. In a thrilling triple run-off, Sandy McGillivray easily won from Derek Lockwood of Suffolk and Bill McGuinness of Cheshire after the three tied on 12 points. Modest in victory McGillivray said he was lucky to win. "Fraser of Middlesex should have walked away with it but for the fact that his cotter-pins went in his first ride" he said after his victory.

Swindon First Winners

At Coventry, Swindon Eagles waded through the opposition to become the first ever national junior team champions. They beat Wembley Hawks in the semi-final, meeting Tatnam Tudors in the final who had in turn beaten Claydon Greyhounds.

Leiston Opens

On Sunday 21 September 1958, the oldest club in Suffolk, Claydon Greyhounds, visited the newest club, Leiston Aces. A crowd just short of 500 gathered to watch the opening match on the Playing Field off King George's Avenue and were rewarded by some spirited riding.

Jeffrey Wins BCSF Riders Title

When the British Cycle Speedway Federation was formed six months ago, its chairman, Mr Derek Bacon, stated that one of the Federation's main aims was to give its members the best of everything with first class organisation. With that in mind, everybody present at Garratt Park, London on Sunday 14 September 1958 will agree that Mr Bacon kept his promise when the Federation presented its first ever individual championship, the Britannia Shield. The meeting, promoted by the South London club, attracted a large crowd who enjoyed some top class racing.

The first winner of the shield was Edmonton Monarch's Mike Jeffrey who became the holder after a run-off with Roy Baker of South London Rangers after both riders finished on 14 points. North London rider Len Adams of Tottenham Kangaroos came third with 11 points. The handsome trophy and medals were presented to

the winner and runners-up by Miss Joy Shelton, the television, radio and film actress, assisted by Mr Sidney Taflor, well known on television and films.

Scorers

Mike Jeffrey (Edmonton Monarch) 14, Roy Baker (South London Rangers) 14, Len Adams (Tottenham Kangaroos) 11, Vic White (Warwick Lions) 10, Nobby Watson (Barling Brigands) 10, Derek Cattle (Tooting Tigers) 9, Wally Bracey (Tottenham Kangaroos) 9, Charlie Read (Warwick Lions) 9, Pete Jarman (Beckenham Monarchs) 8, Richard Baker (Thornton Heath Cobras) 8, Mike Smith (Tottenham Kangaroos) 6, Sam Sabourne (Ditton Devils) 4, Len Baker (Raynes Park Stars) 4, John Tutin (Raynes Park Tigers) 3, Burt Rand (Shoebury Devils) 1, Terry Walter (Warwick Lions) 0

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Ill Feeling Emerging

Relationships between NACSA and the BCSF are already strained. NACSA officials objected to the BCSF calling their team England when they compete against Holland next year.

Van De Brakel Crowned World Champion

Dutch star Martin van de Brakel, age 22, became the first cycle speedway world champion when he raced to a faultless maximum in front of his own supporters at Minklerstraat, Hilversum. Although the awards went to the home country, the home countries provided several of the lower placings including Dixie Dean (Wembley All Stars) and Pete Blackwell (Kingstanding Monarchs) who finished second and third respectively. Five countries were represented in the final - England, Germany, Holland, Scotland and Wales.

First on parade was Donald Reiche (Germany), followed by Keith Bristow, Dixie Dean and Vic Cowell (England); Scotland's Norrie Allen, whose beard proved quite a sensation with the locals, came next followed by three more Englishmen, Mick Jeffrey, Gerald Kean and Willy Evans. Next on parade were the Dutchmen Kees Koudijs and Jan Langhout, Bill Punter (Wales) and Tom Smith (England); and final four were Pete Blackwell (England) and Henk Koot, Johnny van Meteren and Martin van de Brakel, all representing Holland.

The greatest race of the day proved to be the fifteenth heat when Dean and van de Brakel met. Both were unbeaten (each having nine points) but the Dutchman, who was on the inside of Dean, made a fast gate and although

Dean tried hard he could make no impression on the "Flying Dutchman". Another great race was the nineteenth when Blackwell, with 10 points from four rides, met Dean (11 points); what a tear up these two English boys had before Blackwell crossed the line inches ahead of Dean to give them 13 points each, and the right to race off for the second place. Norrie Allen won the last race to earn the fifth place for Scotland.

For the vital run off for second and third places Dean had the inside of Blackwell; both riders made the gate together but Dean used his inside advantage to pull away on the first turn and take a comfortable win.

Following the run off the first three riders paraded on the rostrum in the centre of the track and Martin van de Brakel was crowned with a laurel wreath and Dixie Dean and Pete Blackwell were presented with bunches of carnations. After the Dutch national anthem van de Brakel returned to the pits, but the small group of English supporters were not satisfied with the honours accorded their fellow country men and insisted on parading Dixie Dean and Pete Blackwell round the track. The reception given to the two Englishmen was terrific and many local supporters rushed onto the track to shake hands with the great English riders.

RIVAL BODY FORMED

Three areas, North West Middlesex, Southern Premier and Southend, were represented at the first official meeting of the British Cycle Speedway Federation, held in Wandsworth. The North London League were also represented but took no part in the proceedings. Following a short discussion the operative proposal was made by Mr Derek Bacon "That a British Cycle Speedway Federation be formed"; the proposal was seconded by Mr. Joe Bloor and carried unanimously.

A "caretaker" committee for the Southern Region was formed, the following persons taking office for a period of three months; Chairman - Mr D.A. Bacon; Vice Chairman - Mr W. Punter; Secretary - Mr V. Merner; Assistant Secretary - Mr J. Whittaker; Treasurer - Mr C.J. Shelly. A Public Relations Officer has still to be elected.

Three Leagues have affiliated so far - North London have voted to stay out for the present, although they will watch with great interest the arrangements of the Federation. The founder members are N W Middlesex, Southern Premier and Southend. "We shall fight NACSA and hope for a good fight; there is room for both of us and also room for improvement. The Federation will stand for improvement", said Mr Bacon.



Photograph left:

By 1958 international racing was proving increasingly popular. Styles contrasted markedly. Note the small back wheel of the Dutch rider pictured in this photo and compare it with the traditional English machine.