

# THE VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION (Formed 1996)

Volume 1 Issue 8

April 1997

It was with deep regret that we learnt that **BOB NICHOLAS** had passed away on Sunday December 15th last year. Bob started his cycle speedway with the Warwick Lions, in East London, in 1948 and was a member of their team that were the London County winners in the News Chronicle Championship in 1950. Bob only heard about the Association and became a member less than three weeks before his death. He had been in hospital for an operation for a brain tumour and although first signs were that he would recover, complications set in later. We would like to pass on our sincere condolences to his family at their tragic loss.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS 1997

Subscriptions for 1997/8 were due on April 1st and will remain at £5.00. for the coming year. Anyone who has already paid £7.00. (from late 1996) will be fully paid up until 31/3/1998. If you have not already renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible, as we would like to remain solvent!! Also, current membership will entitle you to attend any of the functions that we are arranging during the coming year. If you do not re-join after receiving this newsletter, we will assume that you no longer wish to continue as a member of the VCSRA and you will not receive any further correspondence. We sincerely hope that this will not be the case!!

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our first AGM was held on Saturday April 5th at The Royal Oak at Sewardstone and we had an attendance of 45, which exceeded our expectations. The meeting was a lively and well mannered one and quite a lot of business was dealt with during the afternoon. Your committee for the coming year is :- Alan Catley Roy Garnham, Ken Taylor, John Brown, Vic White, Bert Hudson, Pete Saunders and Derek Cattle. Vic White was re-elected as Secretary / Treasurer and Len Silver was re-elected as President. We are in a solvent position with funds in excess of £1100.00 at present with approximately 150 of last year's membership still to re-join.

Eric Verdeyen, Secretary of the South Yorks C.S. Association made the long journey down from Bradford and will be reporting back to his members later this month. We are hopeful of a tie up with them and increase our membership if we can work things out. We already have around 35 members from the Manchester area, so we are beginning to spread our wings now, which can only be good for the VCSRA.

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## ANNUAL DINNER & DANCE

The date for the D&D this year will be Saturday November 15th and will be held at The Plough Motel Bulphan, Essex. As you will know from our December newsletter, 180 attended last year's event, which is the maximum that the hall can hold. We do have a possible alternative plan should we exceed that figure, but it is essential that we receive your acceptance, or otherwise, as quickly as possible so that we can ascertain what we will have to do, so that we do not turn anybody away. We would also be grateful if you would kindly send £5.00 deposit per person to ensure your place at the Dinner. Price will be £14.00.

Secretary. Vic White. 90 Ruskin Avenue, Long Eaton, Nottingham. NG10 3HX  
Tel.No. 0115-973 6041

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Another of our early members BERNIE VICKERS has put pen to paper and the amusing result is as follows:-

### A RIDER'S LAMENT

The track was heavy, the rain was cold  
Get to the start line, I was told  
You are under orders, said the Ref  
So I grip my bars and hold my breath  
Up to the tapes I groan and grunt  
In an effort to reach the front  
The rain is falling heavy now  
And the wind is blowing like a gale  
As shale and grit hits my face  
What am I doing in this race?  
Down the back straight, round the bend  
Will this race never end?  
The yellow flag is out for show  
Thank God there's only one to go  
Just keep going, I hear them say  
But my aching limbs are giving way  
I look around to see the pack  
But they are scattered all over the track  
The chequered flag at last I see  
But my tired legs won't carry me  
The whistle's gone, what have I done  
NOTHING MATE, IT'S BEING RE-RUN!

Thanks Bernie, I am sure that we can all relate to your tale of woe!

## Members Directory

It was agreed at the AGM to produce a Members Directory so that members could keep in touch with each other during the year. This will take a little while to produce and we would ask you to let us know if you DO NOT wish either your address or telephone number to be included. If we do not hear from any member then we will include their details, so please let us know if you would rather we didn't.

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### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Our first event of 1997 will be a visit to Arena Essex Speedway on Friday June 20th, meeting starts at 8.00.p.m. Peter Thorogood, the Arena Promoter has very kindly offered us admission, AT NO CHARGE, providing we can take a fair sized party along. We are sure that this will not be a problem, so let us get a nice group together and enjoy the evening. A buffet will be arranged, at a small price, during the evening. The VCSRA will also be putting up a trophy for the Rider of the night. Membership cards MUST be produced for FREE admission, in LEFT HAND entrance lane.

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### NOSTALGIA / SNOOKER EVENING

We are holding the above event at Pete Saunders Snooker Club at Ampthill, Beds on Saturday September 27th. This is just a relaxing evening looking at scrap books, photo's etc and enjoying a drink or two!! Should anyone fancy a game of snooker we can arrange a short k.o. competition during the evening. Please let us know if you are interested.

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## MANCHESTER MEETING

A "Booze and chat" evening has been arranged by Brian Moston and his committee for Wednesday May 7th, 8.00 p.m., at THE IMPERIAL, DELAUNEYS ROAD, CRUMPSALL, MANCHESTER. They will be arranging other events which will be discussed at this get together. So please go along, if you are free, and support Brian's efforts, we feel sure that you will have an enjoyable evening amongst old friends. All members from wherever will be welcome.

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### ACCEPTANCES

We would be grateful if you could return your acceptance forms as quickly as possible, as the sooner we know whether or not you are able to attend any of the functions the sooner we can finalise arrangements. As mentioned earlier the Dinner & Dance response is the most important due to the numbers that may attend so PLEASE let us know if you will be coming. We know that it is a long way off, but these things take a long time to organise properly. We will be having a FUN / RACE DAY which we are hoping will be at HAWBUSH on Sunday September 7th. So put that date in your diary and we will give full details in the next newsletter. If anyone is interested in a GOLF DAY please let me know and if there are enough we will arrange one.

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Please note that the date for the FUN / RACE Day which will be at HAWBUSH is now

SUNDAY JULY 20TH NOT as mentioned in the newsletter September 5th. Full details will

be in the next newsletter which will be with you around Mid to Late June


# THE VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION ( FORMED 1996 )



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

JUNE 1997

## FUN / RACE DAY. HAWBUSH SUNDAY JULY 20TH

 Proceedings will commence at 12.00.p.m., with a League match between HAWBUSH & HELLINGLEY and things should be clear for us to "have a go" at around 3.00.p.m. There will not be anything hard and fast (except perhaps the racing!) but during the afternoon we will be running some elimination races, in two groups, under and over 60's and there will be trophies for the 4 finalists in each section. FRED PAUL, our one member from Cornwall has sent us a cheque to buy trophies for the day and we are very grateful to him for his continued generosity. Unfortunately, due to an accident, Fred cannot travel far, so is unable to attend our functions. It would be nice if any member could find the time to give him a telephone call, or visit if you are in his area, I know that it would be appreciated very much. His number is, 01503-230855. We will be hiring a room at Fairlop Waters, which is nearby the track, so that we can spend some time during the evening together. There will be a bar available!! The address of the track is FOREST ROAD, HAWBUSH, HERTS. MK45 2JQ. There is a large car park and parking and there is a large BMW dealer opposite ( LKJ ), which may be of help in finding Hawbush and it is also very close to Fairlop Tube Station. If you wish to come along, please let us know so that we will be able to ensure that there will be sufficient refreshments available for everyone.

## DINNER & DANCE SATURDAY. NOV 15TH.

You will recall that in the last newsletter we mentioned the possible problems with regard to numbers for this event. To date your response has only been moderate. We must know soon if you wish to attend or else we could find that the additional room has been booked and is no longer available. This, of course, would mean turning people away, something that we do not want to do. So if you haven't let us know, please do so right away and ensure that you don't miss out! The final date for payment, so as to ensure your place at the Dinner, will be August 1st. Those of you who have paid just the deposit, please let us have the balance by the above date. We would also like you to let us know who you would like to sit with during the evening. We do still have the table plans from last year and will use those should we not hear from you.

## ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your response to membership renewals that were due on April 1st, has also been disappointing and there are still around 80 members from last year who have not renewed their membership. Of course, we hope that they have just forgotten and not that they no longer wish to be a member of the VCSRA. This will be the last reminder, so please let us hear from you by return of post and help the Association to go from weakness to strength and also keep in touch with your old buddies.

## OXFORD GET TOGETHER.

BARRY SHAPLEY, now where have we heard that name before!, has been busy and has arranged a re-union at HORSPATH as part of the staging of the British Senior Team Championships on SUNDAY 7th SEPTEMBER. The informal re-union will start around 1.00.p.m. with a visit to the village hall very close to the track. After track activity is over, there will be a visit to the Host Club's ( Horspath H&M Transport CSC ) and then to the Queens Public House for the proverbial lemonade! The Queens is just a few minutes walk from the village hall. Quite a few names from the past have promised to be there, amongst them Grass track sidecar champ, Roger Measor Kevin Rowland, Graham Mullett, Doug Califano and Barry Dawes. It sounds like a good day out, so if you have a free day why not go along and who knows you may see some old rivals there.

## 1997 Veterans Individual Championship

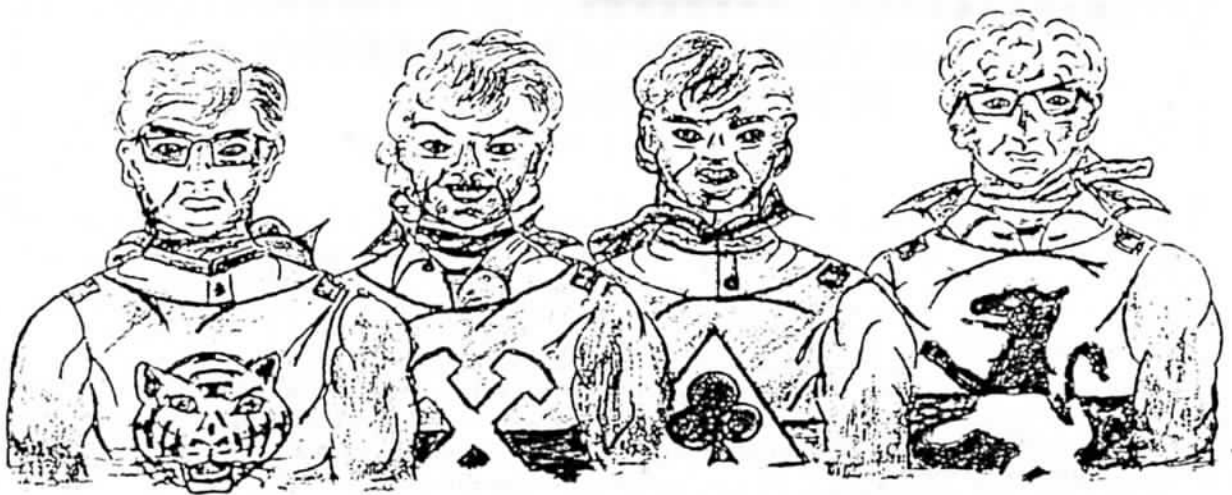
On behalf of the British Cycle Speedway Council, the POOLE Club will be staging the event, commencing at 3.00.p.m. on Saturday 12th July. The POOLE NATIONAL CENTRE, is located at BAITER PARK, in the central town area. Members who require further information could contact, either PETE BARNES on 01202-245087, or COLIN SUTTON on 01202-777822. If you require overnight accommodation, reservations can be made via, THE POOLE TOURISM CENTRE, THE QUAY, POOLE, BH15 1HE, tel, 01202-253253.

GOLF. Finally, there will be a Golf day at Coventry on Thursday August 14th, followed by dinner. If anyone who has not been in touch

## 100 YEARS TOGETHER

BOB PIKE AND VIC DUFFY celebrate 100 in years in Cycle Speedway between them this year and they will be holding a VETERANS MATCH at Great Waking on Sunday August 17th at 2.00.p.m. This will take the form of an East London versus Essex Veterans match and anyone who rode in either area will be welcome to take part. If you are interested, please either telephone Vic Duffy (01206-541578) or write to Bob Pike, 12 Tartan House, Dee Street, London, E14 0PF and let them know. Vic and Bob are also looking for anyone who would like to "volunteer" as a Steward. If you haven't been to the Great Waking track, there are on site toilets, and a Public House opposite the sports centre. Refreshments will be on sale at the track., and the event is being supported by the local Parish Council. Several ex riders have already agreed to race and as far as Vic and Bob are concerned, the more, the merrier. So why not contact them and go along to support their efforts, we feel sure that you will have some fun and enjoy yourselves.

P.T.O



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## TOGETHER

TEAMS MAY HAVE GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN. FACES  
HARD TO RECORD, MEMORIES AT TIME FADING.

SO SUPPORT THE (VETERANS CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS  
ASSOCIATION) AND HELP TO KEEP ALIVE WITH FRIENDS  
THE MEMORIES AND PLEASURES WE ALL SHARE OF BYGONE  
DAYS; WHEN AS YOUNG LADS WE SHARED A COMMON BOND.  
WHEN WE RODE OR TOOK PART IN A SPORT WE ALL  
ENJOYED (CYCLE SPEEDWAY). MANY HAD THE PRIVILEGE  
TO RIDE FOR ONE OF MANY TEAMS THAT WERE AROUND AT  
THAT PERIOD OF TIME, ALAS NOW GONE BUT IN NO WAY  
EVER FORGOTTEN

SO LET'S TALK OF OUR PAST WITH PRIDE AND ALWAYS  
REMEMBER WE ARE A PART OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING OF  
THE SPORT (CYCLE SPEEDWAY) AND WE CAN SAY WITH NO  
FEAR OR CONTRADICTION WE WERE THERE, AT THE  
BEGINNING.

HAPPY MEMORIES

BERT HUDSON  
(EX-FOREST GATE TIGERS)

PS/ IT'S GOOD TO TALK.

The Veteran Cycle Speedway  
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