The READERS' Club

"Make way for Broncho Hancock and his 'Flippin' Skids". Will somebody please push over my perishin' pedal cycle?"

That's what radio star Tony Hancock yelled when he joined our Readers' Club last September. Tony, seen on the left, is still hoping to become the sport's national champion.

Other personalities who are members of our chummy International club include: Geoff Duke, President; Bob Hope, Rhonda Fleming, Petula Clark, Arthur English, Gilbert Harding, Brian Johnston, Johnnie Hoskins, and lots more.

Are you a member?

The A.C.S.R.A. has, you will be pleased to learn, reorganised and been made simpler. From this month onward, all regular readers are automatically members of the club and entitled to the full advantages it has to offer. At the foot of this page you can see the special order forms for both the magazine and your special Club badge.

We have produced a very attractive gold and yellow, black and green metal gilt badge and a neat, pocket-size folding membership card, on which is your own number and other "gen". Cost is only two shillings.

HERE'S THE BADGE

A NOVEL COMPETITION

And here's a way in which you can help us. We have often wondered how enterprising some of our club members are. Now supposing you were in charge of the distribution of "Amateur Cycle Speedway" paper, how would you go about getting extra sales? Would you simply get your friends to order copies, or would you start some sort of private publicity campaign. How would you do it? We want to know.

We don't mind how you do it, and if you think you are able to get plenty of definite orders for this paper, start straight away, for each month we are offering a two guinea prize to the reader who gets the most. Moreover, if you win the month's prize you will also score a point for your county cycle speedway control board or to any control board you wish to nominate.

Here's an example: John Smith (Norfolk) secured 100 orders for "Amateur Cycle Speedway" during June 1953. As this was the highest number for that month he wins the 2.2s. prize and the Norfolk Control Board gains one point.

Get the idea? At the end of the year, the winning Control Board will be presented with a handsome silver trophy, which they can keep and which they may present as a prize for a meeting or use to their own purposes.

Start collecting those orders for June today! And send them to us only when you consider you have a likely winning amount.

One further point on this novel competition. When sending us your orders, you must include: (a) your own name and address and Readers Club membership number. (b) The names and addresses of those people you have collected who want the paper. (c) the correct amount of money (i.e. 4d. per copy) to cover your orders. It is always safest to register your envelope.

Kill 2 birds with I stone

Regular copies of "Amateur Cycle Speedway" will be certain to reach you promptly if you post off both of the forms below NOW! The special form on the right hand side enrols you in our "READERS CLUB". You must become a member for there are special privileges and a grand badge. JOIN TODAY!

To Circulation Dept.

Please send me "ACS" for .....months commencing with the July 1953 issue. I enclose P.O. value.....

6 months subscription 2s. 9d.
12 months subscription 5s. 6d.

To Readers Club.

Please enrol me as a member of your Club. I enclose 2/- for my card and badge. Please send by return.

Birthday (*not year*).....

NAME..... P.O. value s. d.

ADDRESS .....

TRACK CHAT

written by **TONY STONE**, the writer who sees and hears more than anyone

We've got the biggest cup ever!

I understand that it will take two men to lift the newly-purchased National Team Championship Trophy. The National Association claim it is the largest in any sport. Height of the cup with plinth 31 inches. Without plinth 26 inches. Weight of silver 166 ounces.

Many are with me in my opinion that it is high time the National Association gave serious thought to International and Representative matches. Now that Ireland, Wales and Scotland are running many cycle speedway teams and with Holland most anxious to send over their test team during this Coronation Year, I feel the National Association should, at least, stage a series of Trials to find England's strongest Team.

A Toscal Best Pairs Championship was held at Stella Gardens recently, home of Ireland's famed Penroe Flyers. The Championship was won by Whitehall Pirates' pair, W. Doyle and W. O'Brien who notched 11 pts. and 7 pts respectively. Second pair were C. Dowdell and P. Hart of Penroe Flyers with 10 pts. and 6 pts.

London's Coombe Aces are, I hear, on the look out for good riders and good matches. The Aces race only on Saturday afternoons and prospective riders must have their own machines. Contact E. Elliott, 1 Beverley Avenue, Coombe Lane, London, S.W. 20. or phone WES 3751, and ask for Ted.

Watch out for Don McFarlane of Glasgow's Redhill Rockets. They're saying over the border that Don's the best natural rider they've seen for a long time. I hear he's only fourteen years old!

Keep a look out for the "Eagle Comic Sports Annual", on sale about September this year. Contents include a lengthy article by Editor Graham Payne "Making The Grade in Cycle Speedway". It should prove to be quite invaluable to the many newcomers to the sport. There are also plenty of photos too!

My picture this month shows ex-boxing champ Freddy Mills shaking hands with the 1952 Cycle Speedway English Champion Rob Hunt, (Walton Swans).

Freddy is the Swans' President and I know that he thinks quite a lot about cycle speedway. It has been rumoured that he will become official physical fitness manager of the sport. The sport will pack plenty of punch if this ever comes about.

The Teign and District League is going great guns. Eleven teams are competing including Teignmouth, Newton Abbot, Heathfield, Bovey Tracey, Bickington, Paignton, Torquay, Watcombe, Dartmouth, Kingsteignton, and Combeinteignhead. At the time of writing, Heathfield are leaders with 10 pts., Bickington second with 8 pts.

Now Available!

TROPHIES FOR CYCLE SPEEDWAY

At long last Cycle Speedway enthusiasts can have their own trophies — Medals, Plaques and Shields by Alfred Roden & Son Ltd. Each award features in the appropriate size an accurate representation of a "first bend rush" which has been approved by many of the Sport's leading names. (See illustration)

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FWS 56

They wanted riders so they staged meeting

"If you want to be a cycle speedway rider, then come along to our meeting in the Ambulance Hall next Friday," read the notices and posters dotted around Felixstowe a short while ago.

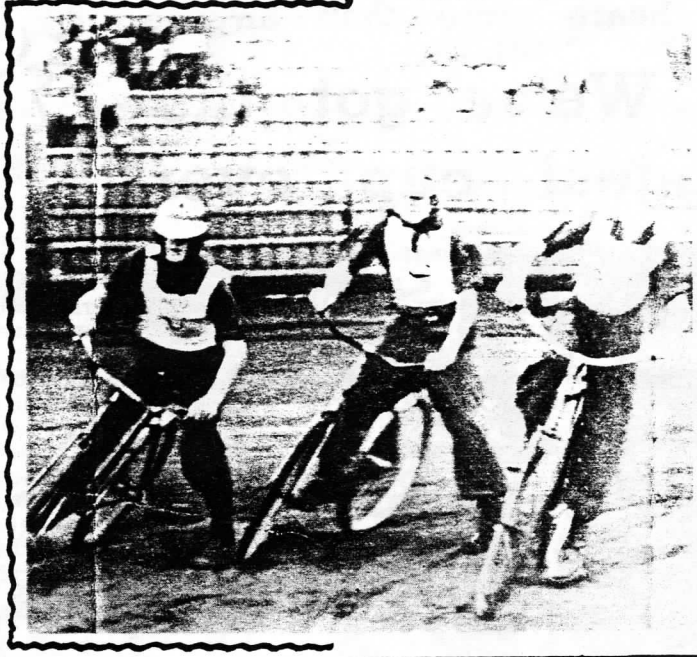
The meeting, arranged chiefly by members of the Felixstowe Flyers club, was well attended by both youngsters and adults.

There was a lecture from Mr. S. Kippen (vice-chairman of the National Association) on the history of the sport. "It is a good medium for making friends," said Mr. Kippen.

Major W. Allen, chairman of the Flyers said that his club's new track would be ready later than was at first anticipated, the council having had to postpone work due to after-effects of the great flood disaster in that area.

However, it has since been learned, that the Flyers track is now complete. It lies in an area in Margaret Street Recreation Ground; was mapped by Major Allen, and built by the lads themselves.

SPEEDY SPRINGBOKS... this shot, from South Africa, was taken at Roy Park speedway stadium where a small cycle track is laid. (l. to r.) Graham Caun, Jim Love and Koose



see YOU in print

In reply to numerous letters, we devote this space to all those team secretaries and other officials who write and ask: "How much does it cost to have an article and our news and photographs published in your paper?"

We would like to stress that we make no charge whatsoever, and we cordially invite your articles and news-items.

Send as much as you like, how you like, when you like about whatever you like.

If you send photos, please remember to send also a stamped-addressed-envelope for their return. Otherwise we cannot guarantee their safe return.

Whether your news fills a postcard or a novel, send it along.

Here's a grand free chance to see yourselves in print.

"We Elizabethans" (No.1. — Chiswick Comets)

With London's Chiswick Comets, we introduce the first of a new regular feature — "We Elizabethans" — in which we will spotlight briefly, one team each month.

Known once as "London Gunners", the Comets rode on a small site that was later taken over by the council for building purposes.

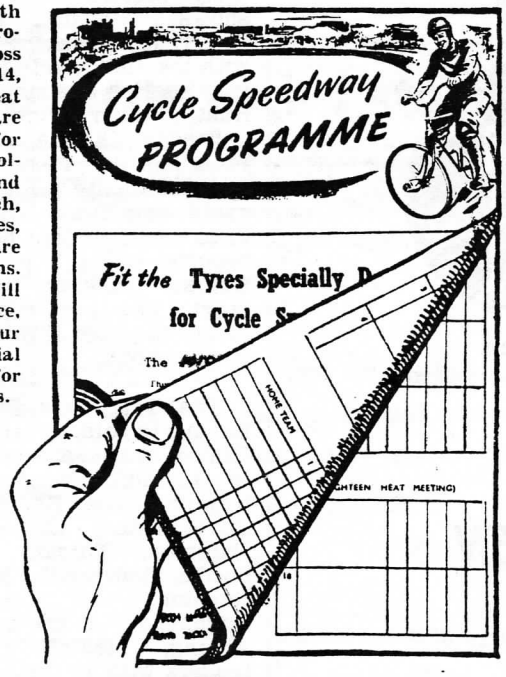
Manager S. Byford approached a local councillor, and, after months of negotiating, the Council spent some £150 converting a disused tennis court. And so good a job did they do that it was decided to stage the 1952 National Championship Finals on the track as a special opening attraction.

Some 8,000 turned up to see the National Finals. Up to the end of last year, Comets were members of the S.E. London league and whilst members, raced unbeaten at Chiswick. Geographical reasons have forced them to seek admittance into the Thames Valley League.

Comets' President is Councillor F.G. Murray, J.P., S.G. Byford is Chairman, Manager and Treasurer. Ron Byford is Captain. Ron Taylor, vice-captain. T.J. Young, Secretary.

Blank Programmes

We can supply your team with neatly printed programmes on gloss paper to cover 14, 16 or 18 heat matches. There are blank spaces for riders' names, colours and time and venue of match, etc. Programmes, when folded, are 9 ins. by 6 ins. Four pages. Will sell at any price, 2d., 3d. or 6d. Our price to official teams: 250 for 13s.6d. 100 for 6s.



Send s.a.e. for sample 'Programmes' 15 Locket Rd., Wealdstone, Middlesex.

opinion

The 'News Chronicle' National Team Championship and the 'Mars' Golden Helmet are no more.

Just when these two great competitions were leaving a happy trail of memories in the records books and thousands were beginning to look upon them as the sport's very own F.A. Cup and 'Wimbledon' attractions, they are withdrawn from competition.

No official reason has been forthcoming from the National Association. I have learned that the two sponsors of these trophies considered they had already far exceeded their budgets for cycle speedway. This may be so. I have not bothered to contact either of them for their reasons.

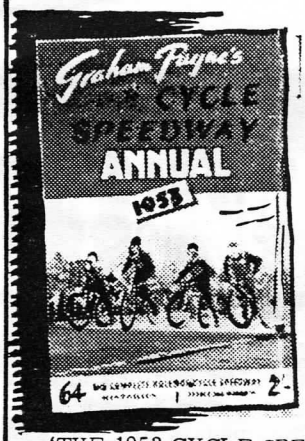
It seems a great pity. But there is nothing we can do about it.

However, it would seem that the sport is not to lose its Annual Championship, for the National Association have, I hear, purchased one of the biggest cups in the country ("That would even make the Football final trophy look like an egg-cup") and are re-organising their own National Team Championship on very much the same lines as the 'News Chronicle' affair. I am pleased to see that the National Association are of the same opinion as myself that without some sort of annual meeting on an extra large scale, the sport would tend to lose originality and attraction.

Response to our decision last month to change into a newspaper was, in the main, gratifying. Naturally in some circles it was considered that by thus changing we would lose our previous high standard of cycle speedway journalism. I cannot disagree more.

Graham Payne

BOOKSHELF



GREAT VALUE FOR 2/-

'THE 1953 CYCLE SPEEDWAY ANNUAL' (64 pages, 2/3d. post free) has been on sale since March, and if you are still without a copy, it is advisable to send for yours without delay as stocks are rapidly falling.

It's an action-packed, hard-hitting, fearless publication and will bring the whole world of cycle speedway to your own home.

For newcomers to the sport, there is a special '2-PAGE GUIDE'. Our foreign reporters, far and near, give you all the latest information from *'The Sport in Other Countries'*.

That greatest "newsy parker" of them all, our own Tony Stone, recalls some of 1952's outstanding achievements in his *"Patter of Little Feats"*.

Editor Graham Payne names the six riders he considered most prominent during 1952 in his factual article *"The Six Best"*.

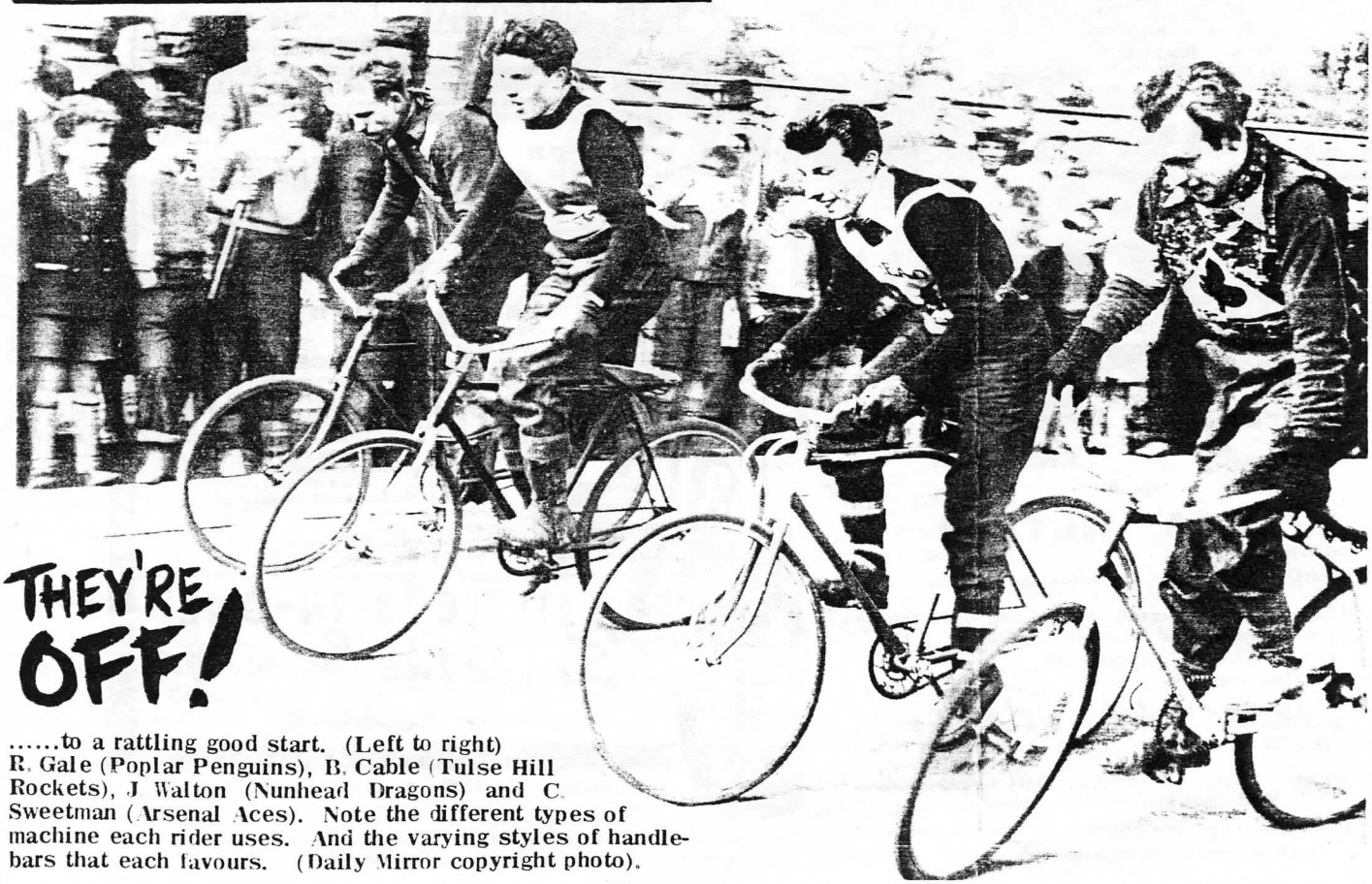
Our comprehensive statistical department present to you fact with figures in *"Teams and Riders with Trophies"*.

Of interest to all enthusiasts will be the officials and addresses of *"The Control Boards of all Nations"*.

And on page 26 of the Annual you can read about *"The Queerest Race of 1952!"*.

The Duke of Edinburgh, in his capacity as President of the National Playing Fields Association, was interested to see the Annual. The Daily Mirror said you shouldn't miss it.

Order a copy Now! Send a two-and-threepenny postal order to "Amateur Cycle Speedway" (Sales Dept), 15, Locket Road, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, and a copy will be in your hands within forty-eight hours.



THEY'RE OFF!

.....to a rattling good start. (Left to right) R. Gale (Poplar Penguins), B. Cable (Tulse Hill Rockets), J. Walton (Nunhead Dragons) and C. Sweetman (Arsenal Aces). Note the different types of machine each rider uses. And the varying styles of handlebars that each favours. (Daily Mirror copyright photo).

"I seem to be at my best on a wet track....."

WORLD NEWS

Dutch Champ turns to motor speedway

Holland has lost one of the sport's most outstanding riders and personalities. Henk de Bruin, five years Dutch National Champion, has decided to finish as a cycle speedway rider, and has already taken up motor speedway (writes Hartog de Ronde).

Also from pedals to throttles goes our Hans Bekkers, Klomp and Portengen, all four of them are winning many motor races with their new J.A.P. machines

In the recent Individual Netherlands Championship 1953, Henk de Bruin was beaten in a thrilling decider by Martin van de Brakel (known to all English enthusiasts as our little mascot in the 1950 International at London's Empress Hall!). Yes, little Martin will go places. He beat Henk by a couple of inches — close but enough!

17 years old Evert Jonkhard won the Hilversum Individual Championship, he was riding our new type of machine with a 26" front wheel and a 20" rear wheel. We have imported the well-known Avon Skidway Gripsters.

On the 1st of August, Hollandse Welpen club celebrate their sixth birthday and will probably race on television.

"Hooked him? Who, me?"

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6d. per word (prepaid) minimum 12 words.

ENJOY your leisure or at your ease, Smoke TOM LONG, it's sure to please.

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JOIN ACSRA. The official Readers Club of this magazine. Full details of how to join, costs of metal badge, membership card etc. can be found on the Readers Club page elsewhere in this edition.

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