A publication of the
VETERAN CYCLE
SPEEDWAY RIDERS
ASSOCIATION (1996)
Volume 3
Issue 2
MAY 1999

THE TRACK RECORD

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HAWBUSH FUN/RACE DAY - SATURDAY JUNE 5TH - 3.00.P.M. SOUTH v NORTH MATCH followed by an INDIVIDUAL EVENT.

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This year **HAWBUSH** will be hosting the first of two matches between the South and North of England and the match will be followed, as last year, by an Individual event for riders not taking part in the match. The second match will take place in **BURY (Lancs)** on Saturday July 24th.

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The VETERAN CYCLE SPEEDWAY RIDERS ASSOCIATION wish to make it clear to anyone taking part in the racing that, in no circumstances, will they be held responsible for any accident or injury brought about by taking part in these events. The responsibility belongs entirely with any particpant and if they ride it is at their own risk.

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NOSTALGIA EVENING. Unfortunately, the date given in the last Track Record, of August 14th is not now available and the new date for this event will be **Saturday July 31st.** It will, once again, be at the Exmouth Social Club in Stepney and if you have already returned your acceptance slip for this event, you will find a new one enclosed, and we would appreciate a quick response so that we can let **DEREK** know how many people may wish to attend.

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KEN TAYLOR. As some of you will know, **KEN** has not been too well since the middle of last year, due to a burst blood vessel in his head. He is back at work, but is unable to drive and has to be very careful with what he does do. As a result of this he felt unable to continue as a member of our committee and resigned before the A.G.M. We , on the committee, feel sure that you would wish to join us in thanking **KEN** sincerely, for all of the hard work that he put into the Association during his time on the committee. We all wish him a speedy recovery to good health and hope to see him at our events during the year.

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HARRY GLOVER, who runs the Leicester Cycle Speedway Club and is also Chairman of the British Cycle Speedway Council, has for the past couple of years, been of great assistance to us with regard to producing sufficient copies of our newsletters for all of our members. Unfortunately he is no longer able to help us and we wish to thank him very much for all that he has done for us previously. Thanks are now due to **PETE SAUNDERS** who ensured that the last Track Record was produced in sufficient quantities and on time, when **HARRY** was unable to help and also for his help with this edition.

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ROY FRASER. There is now something else to thank **ROY** for. He has very generously purchased 12 sweat shirts for the Southern riders and had them printed, at no cost to the Association, for the forthcoming matches against the North. Last year, the Northern members looked very smart, all wearing the same shirts and this prompted **ROY** to make the offer to the Southern team for this year. There is no doubt that we have a lot of very generous and helpful members within the VCSRA and we should thank each and every one of them for what they do for all of us. **THANK YOU GENTLEMEN.**

VIC DUFFY sent us the following article for inclusion in the Track Record, which he thought might amuse some of you and is entitled :-

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF A CYCLE SPEEDWAY SECRETARY

On Monday, after no reply to a previous letter, I walked into the East Ham Town Hall. Obviously, I had no appointment, but I asked to see The Town Clerk on "sporting" matters. I knew that Mr.Smith, the Town Clerk, had been a top sportsman in his youth and had been a member of my Dad's boxing club, (which I made sure to mention). Amazingly I was granted an interview.

I told him of the poor state of the cycle speedway track. I gave him a list of many youngsters using the track, pointing out how this helped to keep them out of mischief. I was armed with memos and photo's from John Leith, Editor of the Cycle Speedway Gazette. They included Hungerford, Whipps Cross, Hendon, Aston (Birmingham), Victoria Park etc, plus my own designs including an improved drainage system. He seemed very impressed, but I wasn't too hopeful when he gave the time honoured reply of officialdom, "I can't promise anything, but I will look into it". I was pleasantly surprised when, just a couple of months later, council workers were building a virtually new track. I could guarantee that the track would be well maintained and in a tip top condition, because I had transferred from my job as Woodsman/Ranger Assistant in Epping Forest to Gardener/ Groundsman at Little Ilford Park, where the track was. Actually, I had hoped to become a Forest Ranger, but there was an unofficial rule of a minimum height of 6ft (life's not much fun when you're 5ft 1in).

Secretaries can sometimes find themselves needed in two places at once. Twice I had to resolve this dilemma.

One Wednesday I was due at an important meeting at Ron Bull's Essex league in Romford. However, I received a last minute plea from the fledgling committee of the newly formed (or re-formed) St. Mary's Cray Tigers to attend their AGM the same evening. I left work at Epping at 5 o'clock on my motor bike and arrived at 6 o'clock for a 6.39 start. At 7.45 I left for Romford, arriving at about 8.30, "late again" said someone !. Also, having stupidly double booked my Welling Juniors to race Beckenham, I'd also arranged for the young Ferndale team to race Thurrock (I think). Not wishing to let down any of them I arranged to race my races at Welling. I raced four races straight off, then leaving Brian Lucas the Captain to carry on. I cycled some 6 miles to Ferndale and raced in the last three races. (We lost both).

In those days many Secretaries, including me, didn't have cars or 'phones. I once had to reply quickly to a letter by 'phone, but as usual every public 'phone in Canning Town had been vandalised (quite usual). I had to swallow my pride and ask a neighbour- the only one with a 'phone in the street- if I could use his. We had a row over "noisy motor bikes" a few days earlier. So I had to apologise and then ask to use the 'phone.

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If anyone has any interesting or amusing stories to tell of times long past, please let us have them and if space permits we will be only too pleased to print them. Articles that we have printed in the past have proved to be very popular with our members so keep them rolling in. I am sure that there are lots of stories worth repeating , which will bring back a few memories. We will also try to reproduce photographs but they must be black and white and very clear or else they will not come out very well when photocopied.

DINNER AND DANCE

We have had a very good response already with around 100 places taken so far. We can avoid the problem of last year, when we had to turn some members away, providing we know who wants to go in plenty of time . Also we want to create more room at the tables so that members will be more comfortable, but again the sooner we know how many people want to come along the easier it will be for us to make sure that everything is right.
So let us know as soon as you can, if you would like to join us in November.

Please note that at this stage we are only sending tickets to members when they have paid in full, not upon payment of the deposit only.

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FROM THE EDITOR.

I am sorry that this edition of the Track Record isn't as full as usual, but as some of you may know I have been in hospital for a knee joint replacement which has curtailed my activities somewhat.
However, we will be back to normal for the August edition so there should be plenty of news for that one. **VIC.**

MEMBERSHIP 1999

Membership renewals are also going well but there are still around 60 members from 1998 who have not re-joined. Naturally we do not want to lose any members, but this will be the last reminder and the last Track Record unless you renew your membership shortly. So get your cheque books out now !!.

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GREAT WAKERING. Den Winch GOLDEN JUBILEE. MAY 23rd.

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Den is celebrating 50 years in cycle speedway on the above date and he is sponsoring an Individual event for riders with whom he has been associated over the years. The meeting starts at 4.30.p.m and then proceeds to the Gt.Wakering F.C. clubhouse for, what he describes as "a few jars", from 7.00.p.m onwards. Den has issued a welcome to all ex riders so keep this date clear.
Den's annual "bash" at Wakering will be on August 8th, so if you wish to take part, contact Den direct, in plenty of time.

ADDITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO MEMBERS DIRECTORY

Additions :-

BRETT, Alan ,Aldea de las Cuevas 66, Buzon 60, 03759 Benidoleig, Alicante, Spain.
Tel :+03496 640 4165
ELLIS, Dave, 7 Playfield Crescent, East Dulwich, London, SE22 8QR, 0181-299 3759
GEATER, Bryan, Wynford House, 71 Priory Road, Hungerford, Berks, RG17 0AW
Tel :01488-682505
HENNESSEY, Dennis, 64 Whatley Avenue, Wimbledon, London, SW20 9NS
Tel: 0181-395 6733
RUSSELL, Terry, Bocoda Hill Farm, Wrotham Road, Meopham, Kent, DA13 0QD.
Tel : 01474-822351
WOOLARD, Ken, 11 Churchgate Way, Terrington St. Clement, Kings Lynn, PE34 4PG
Tel: 01553-828292

Amendments :-
New Tel: HUGHES, Tom 01268-473117
Address addition :- MARSH, Tony. Should read Cheapside East.

HAWBUSH RACE DAY 5th JUNE

The Association would welcome any prizes for the raffle which will be held during the meeting, last year's was a great success. Please don't forget, all proceeds go to the Association.

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The legendary Pete Leckie (Harefield Pirates) is looking for a copy of the 1950 London Grand Prix programme which was held at Janson Road, he says he came Forth. If anybody can help Peter's address is in the directory.

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Peter Leckie is also involved in occasional meetings with former Uxbridge Pirates' Riders. We are told some of them that attend are Maurice Maitland, Bill Punter, Geoff Pearce, Johnny Unsworth and former 'super star' Dixie Dean. It would be nice to see these boys in V.C.S.R.A.

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The Vintage Speedway Magazine may be of interest to some of you former cycle speedway stars Pete Lipscombe and John Chaplin produce this excellent publication. Call Peter to place your order, his number is in the directory.