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Knightswood Toffs at Whipps Cross Comets track July 31st 1958

Secretaries Notes- October 2007	2
The Thoughts of Chairman Derek	3
Pedals to Power Len Silver	4&5
VCSRA Autumn Golf Day	6
Tribute to Pete Jarman	7
Editors Pages	8&9
Yardley Gobian Aces	10
Paradise Park & Speedway Museum	11
Cycle Racing packed in the crowds	12

Secretaries Notes - October 2007

Another 3 months has past and although things generally are running smoothly some behind the scenes disharmony have left me feeling somewhat unhappy with my lot as secretary. In this issue there is a statement that, hopefully will bring an end to matter. I firmly believe that as an elected committee we should always present a united front to the membership.

Membership. I have to date received 195 renewals, which together with our 11 honorary members means we have a total membership of 206. 14 of last year's membership have failed to renew of whom 2 have stated their intention not to join. For the remaining 12 this quarters issue will be their last 'Track Record'.

Dinner Dance.

Saturday 24th November 2007

As of the 4th October I had issued tickets for 93 members and their guests, well down on last years 127.

Please note that as stated on the ticket request form issued in May I required all requests and payment for tickets by the 21st September 2007. However any late requests will be considered if possible.

And for those of you who may have forgotten, the menu will be as follows: -

Fanned Melon with Ginger Syrup
Beef Medallions with Red Wine Jus
Roast Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables
Pepper Stuffed with Mushroom & Pumpkin Risotto (Vegetarian Option)
Sherry Trifle with Cream
Coffee

Bowl of Fruit on the table throughout the evening

Cheese & Biscuits are available as an alternative to the Desert but you will have pre-order, at least 7 days before dinner and also if there is anything on the menu you have a **MAJOR** problem with, you can give me a call.

Directory Amendments

New Members

Alan Ford – 60 Underwood Close, Bramingham Park, Luton, Beds, LU3 3UW. Tel. 01582 585293

Re-joined Members

Pete Thorogood – 85 Roseberry Ave., Benfleet, Essex, SS7 4JF Tel. 01268 753067

Roy Trigg – 14 St. Ives Terrace, Mairangi Bay, Auckland, New Zealand. Tel. 0064 9479 1094

And finally. Please if there are any questions you would like to ask the committee or proposals you would like to make do not hesitate to write and we will attend to them at our next meeting. Future committee meetings will be held in mid-December and March with the AGM coming in February/March.

Re. 'Track Record, Vol.11 Issue 2 May 2007 – An Apology

At our committee meeting held on Wednesday 19th September a complaint from Mr. Eric Hemsley was discussed and a resolution was unanimously passed to apologise unreservedly for any inconvenience or embarrassment that may have been caused by the recent article published in the associations' magazine.

THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN DEREK.

It's that time of year again, when we review the past year. Sadly we have lost many of our friends, rivalry forgotten, only the happiness they brought remains.

What did we organise or at least try to? The day out to Leeds Castle was a reasonable success and thanks to Johnny Brown's work on his computer we obtained a reduced entrance fee. The day out at the Paradise Wild Life Park and Speedway Museum, a great success, again many thanks to J.B. and Tom Kilby for their efforts and negotiations with the management, getting us a reduced entrance fee and a specific meeting place. What can be said about the day out to the Colne Valley Railway? A total disaster, just three people turned up, two from South London and just one from Essex. This was specifically laid on for the Essex and East London contingent. Makes one think.

Len Kitchen's ramble, a great day out, slightly strenuous for some of us. An excellent pub lunch. Len puts so much effort into this day out, maps on how to get there, maps of the route we would be taking and he is a mine of information, answering questions all along the route. Thanks Len, very much appreciated.

Speaking to Colin Brown the other day, the Dinner/Dance seem to be on a par with last year. Will review in the next issue.

After a great deal of thought I have decided that I will be standing down from the committee at the A.G.M. This is not a decision that I have taken lightly. My health is not quite what it should be and I find the travelling is now very tiring. It has been an honour and a privilege to have been a committee member of this association. I will write more in the next issue. Well I got through this page without upsetting anyone.

DEREK CATTLE



LEN KITCHEN RAMBLE 2007

Back row L to R. Charlie Aldrich, Ray Gingell, Len Kitchen, Wally Dighton & John Burrough.

Front row L to R Derek Cattle, Mick Little, Peter Page & Ron Holvey.

Picture taken by Mrs R. Holvey

Pedals to Power

Potted profiles of those VCSRA members who made the successful transition from Cycle to Motor Speedway

No. 10 Len Silver

VCSRA President 1996/7/8



Our first President, Len Silver, one of Speedways characters, over 60 years involved in Speedway in one way or another.



Len leads Ossie Austin of Forest Gate Tigers at their track in Forest Gate



1949 Stratford Hammers with the Speedway World Cup. Lt-Rt Mr.T Archie, Jack Wilson, Duncan Menzies, Len Silver, Roy Garnham (Capt.), Dennis 'Twitch' Day, Johnny Livings, Mr Tom Garnham. Front Row. Ray Wilmore, Jimmy Heard, Eddie Parham, Roy Archie.

STRATFORD HAMMERS CYCLE SPEEDWAY CLUB.

Sec-
Mr T. GARNHAM

Track-
JANSON ROAD.

Team Manager-
L. G. SILVER

PRESENT A

"Grand Test Match" EAST LONDON v WEMBLEY

Sunday Sept 18th, 1949. 3.30. p.m.

Betting Strictly Prohibited.

Good Afternoon Hammers! Once again we are giving you all that is best in Cycle Speedway Racing when the East London Test Team oppose our old Rivals from Wembley, Wembley if you remember were the only team to defeat East London last year so our Lads will go all out to day, we are hoping that Her Worship the Mayor of West Ham will honour us with her presence this afternoon, if she does it will be her first-view of Cycle Speedway, let us hope she is favourably impressed as we are trying to get the Local Council to allocate some Land to us this has already been done by the L.C.C.

Have you joined the Supporters Club yet? as every regular Spectator at Janson Road should, only 1/- per year, we hold our 1st Supporters Meeting at Maryland Point School Sept. 23rd 1949, at 7-30. p.m.

NOW! on with the show and may the best Team Win.
Len SILVER.

Official Programme.

1946 and 14 year old Len and schoolmate from Stratford Grammar School, Roy Garnham joined other lads from the area to emulate their hero's from the recently reopened West Ham Speedway on a very bumpy bomb site track in the Grove, Stratford, East London.

1947 and the activity moved a huge circuit in Janson Road and Len together with Roy set about establishing and organizing what was to become one of the greatest and most respected of London's Cycle Speedway teams, The Stratford Hammers. Instrumental in the formation of the East London Cycle Speedway League Len then proceeded to visit local businesses to seek sponsorship and trophies; needless to say he was successful procuring The Rivets (Cycle Retailers) Cup, The Stratford Express Cup and The Phillips (Meat Product Factory) Cup for the league. Len approached the organization of cycle speedway in a very professional way for youngster, the Stratford Hammers match program is a good example, it was just the beginning.

c1950 and the Hammers on tour in Yorkshire took part in a match against a Bradford

