Les Gustafson

INDIVDUAL WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The first staging of the individual World Final took place in 1958 in Holland at the Hilversum track, and was won by a Dutch rider, Martin van der Brakel, with a maximum score. The next competition was two years later at Garratt Park, and two years after that at Harrison Park in Edinburgh. There were two Dutch riders in the 1960 event (& even one from West Germany). but in 1962 there were participants from only England and Scotland, which rather contradicted the 'World' description. The late Les Westwood was the 1960 victor and Mike Parkins beat Derek Garnett in a run-off for the title in 1962.

A gap of almost twenty years followed, until the 1981 Lions' Tour to Australia enabled riders from the Southern Hemisphere to participate in the event, and there were staging at intervals of roughly every two years thereafter (the 1987 Championship was followed by another in 1988, but then nothing until 1991, when Dave Hemsley, current promoter of Leicester Speedway, won the first of his three titles — although Mark Newey was the first rider to win more than once. Mark's first title in 1996 also saw the first appearance of a Polish rider, Damian Wozny.

Poland made its initial hosting of the event in 1999 in Rawicz, when Steve Harris emerged as winner, ahead of Damian Wozny, who had improved significantly from that first appearance three years previously when he finished last with one point. Rawicz also saw the last appearance by a Dutch rider Johan Koudijs, who exited with a creditable fourth place.

The 2011 Final was held in Edenton, North Carolina, and last year it was Adelaide's turn to host the event — both being won by Polish riders. The current World Champion is Marcin Szymanski, who had also won in 2007 in Czestochowa, after five riders— all Polish — had tied for first place- The first eight places were filled by home riders, followed by 2005 World Champion, Australia's Daniel Pudney, and England's Lee Aris. Daniel Pudney is another two-time winner, taking the title again in 2009.

Title winners have come from Holland, England, Scotland, Australia and Poland. England lead the list with nine separate winners, although the last Englishman to take the title was Dave Hemsley back in 2003, the third of his victories,

The 2015 Championship will be held in the UK, when Marcin Szymanski (who has also been European Champion) may attempt to emulate Dave Hemsley's hat-trick of victories.

The 2017 staging is tentatively pencilled in for New Zealand. Their most famous former Cycle Speedway rider is, of course, Ivan Mauger, who combined second-half appearances at the Wimbledon Speedway Stadium with outings for South London Rangers back in 1958.

Poole to host 2015 World Championships.

The progressive South Coast based club will be staging the World Senior and Junior Team Championship event at their Harbour side venue on Sunday 2nd August. Apart from the four home nations Australia and Poland have confirmed their entry. News is still awaited regarding the inclusion of New Zealand and the USA. Racing commences at Noon so a day not to be missed. For further details contact Pete Barnes as follows:

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Les Gustafson

INTERNATIONALS

With the demise in the 1970s of regular league racing in Scotland and the decline of Holland as a Cycle Speedway nation, further opportunities for full (i. e. two participating sides) International matches were very limited until the 1981 Ashes series in Australia opened up a new era of competition, but distance and cost imposed limits on how frequently sides from the Northern and Southern Hemispheres could meet (although geography did not prevent individual Australians from riding here — notably Daniel Pudney and Brad Hoppo a few years ago at Poole, and currently Bobby McMillan at Sheffield).

It was therefore one of the most significant events in modern Cycle Speedway history when, twenty years ago this year, Graham Sutton and Pete Barnes went to Poland to investigate the sport's development there and to establish links with its organisers. It is difficult to imagine where Cycle Speedway would be today without the involvement of Polish teams and riders — clubs as widely apart as Poole and Edinburgh regularly track one or more Polish riders in their teams, and the 2014 Elite League Final Averages featured four Polish riders in the Top Ten

Anyone watching an England-Poland match can get a feeling of how exciting it was to see international matches in the early days of the sport - the 2013 Test Series came down to virtually the last bend of the last heat of the final match at the rain-sodden but perfectly-rideable Poole track, enabling Poland to clinch the series 2-1. The attached score sheet is from the 3rd Test of the inaugural series in 2006, held at Coventry. If ever a meeting could be described as a match of two halves, then this has to be it.

England were comfortably ahead at the interval, 48-37, with Heat 7 being lucky seven, where England took a 7-0 win, but nobody expected how the second half would unfold. Poland made no tactical changes—each rider took his programmed outings—but they seemed to move up a gear and after five heats they had pulled the score level to 67-67. and as the riders lined up for the penultimate heat they held a narrow but reversible lead 78-75. A Polish 7-3 followed by a 7-2, however, clinched what had been a remarkable turnaround.

(One of the more amusing exclusions came when Lewis Bates was penalised for unsporting conduct for throwing his opponent's bike off himself so that he could get up from under both it and his own machine - presumably as opposed to politely handing it to his adversary so that they could continue).

ENGLAND **POLSKA**

Saturday August 12th 2006 **International Test Series: Match 3**

	ENGLAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total	Bns.
1	LEE ARIS	1			4			4						1	FRM				1		11	
2	MARK BOALER	4				1		3			I			2				2			12	
3	DANE HEMSLEY		1 FR						4		N		2				3			EX	10	
4	PHIL HOWELLS		3						2		T		1			3			2		11	
5	TERRY NORMAN			2			2			4	E				1			3			12	
6	SHAUN WOODHOUSE			4			4				R	4			4					2	18	
7	LEWIS OSBOURNE				2					EX GATE	V					1					3	
8	LEWIS BATES					3					A	EX					EX				3	
	Heat Score >	5	4	6	6	4	6	7	6	4	L	4	3	3	5	4	3	5	3	2	80	
	Progressive Score >	5	9	15	21	25	31	38	44	48		52	55	58	63	67	70	75	78			

	POLSKA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total	Bns.
1	Andrzei Brombosz	3			EX	GATE			1						2			4			10	
2	Marcin Szymanski	2				4			3		I				3					4	16	
3	Prezemek Binkowski		2				3			3	N			4					3		15	
4	Dominik Rycharski		4				1				T	3		3				1			12	
5	Lukasz Jozwiak			1				EX			E		3			4				3	11	
6	Lukasz Nowacki			3				EX			R		4				2		4		13	
7	Krzyzstof Kowalski				3					2	V						4				9	
8	Mateusz Szymcrak					2					A	2				2					6	
	Heat Score >	5	6	4	3	6	4	0	4	5	L	5	7	7	5	6	6	5	7	7	92	
	Progressive Score >	5	11	15	18	24	28	28	32	37		42	49	56	61	67	73	78	85			

BRITISH CYCLING

FROM TONY EMMOTT.

In my research I came across some stuff from 1959- only 55 years ago !!!!!! when I rode for a team in Wyke, in South Bradford. There was no cycle speedway league in the area at that time so five challenge matches were raced, four on the old post war track at the back of the Co-op premises in Wyke Lane (the track now has houses built on it) and one at Morley Carr (later the home of Elmfield Eagles for whom I rode) and again now no longer - it is under the development of a huge chemical works. Another old post-war track between Wilson Road and Storr Hill at Wyke almost underneath a huge electricity pylon was also re-opened - we spent several weekends in 1959 digging this out and raced a bit on it (it was very bumpy though) but sadly we did not have enough riders to get even a four-track league underway so things petered out. My parents that year moved to Shipley and that is another story when I attempted to resurrect cycle speedway at the other side of Bradford - I can send details of this for the next issue.

I will send you with this in the post, typed copies of the results of the 5 challenge matches Just a couple of points in that I am down under my first name of "David" instead of Tony. Second many of the riders for Odsal Aces (meetings 1 and 4) later rode for Lindale Lions or Lupset Aces, the Wakefield teams participating in the Lancashire League. After they disbanded those riders moved to the newly formed Bradford Cycle Speedway League in the early 1960's.Wyke also made a further visit to Odsal as you will see showing the Wyke riders and their scores only.

M.Taylor 8, P.Garside 9, M. Coates 7, V.Storey 2, T. Emmott 11, D. Hartley 10, G. Armatage 0, & L.Hartley 0.

The match was quite a thriller, the lead changing hands throughout with the teams going into the last heat 16 (nominated riders race) drawing at 45-45. Then the home team Odsal gained a 3-2 win in the last heat to win the match 48-47 ! !!!! I wish my memories of it were better as clearly in that last heat my team mate Peter Garside was excluded and I came in second place without any record of what happened to the other Odsal rider.

1st Meeting :- at Wyke Track. 12 Heats.

Sunday April 12th, 1959 at 3.0 p.m.

WYKE versus ODSAL ACES (CHALLENGE).

WYKE.

					Total
Peter Garside	fell	1	1	3	5
David Hartley	2	fell	1	0	3
David Emmott (Cpt)	3	2	3	fell	8
Michael Jagger	1	2	1	0	4
John Medcalf	m.f.	m.f.	2	1	3
Roy Kernall	1	2	2	1	6
					29.

ODSAL ACES.

					Total
C. Ormanroyd (Cpt)	3	3	fell	3	9
A. Baxter	1	fell	1	0	2
Frank Rowntree	2	3	3	1	9
M. Thorne	0	fell	0	2	2
R. Wells	3	3	3	3	12
I. Thomas	2	2	2	2	8
					42.

Final Result of Eliminating Scratch Race:-

Wells;Ormanroyd;Emmott;Thomas:

2nd Meeting :- at Wyke Track. 12 Heats.

Monday April 13th, 1959 at 7.15 p.m.

WYKE LANE versus WYKE (CHALLENGE).

WYKE LANE.

					Total
David Emmott (Cpt)	3	3	m.f.	m.f.	6
Gerald Medcalf	0	0	1	1	2
John Medcalf	2	3	X	X	5
Richard Coates	0	1	0	m.f.	1
Martin Coates	1	3	1	m.f.	5
Jack Smith	3	2	2	1	8
Geoffrey Armitage(Res)	0	1	X	X	1
					28.

WYKE.

					Total
Roy Kernall	2	2	1	2	7
Michael Jagger	1	0	2	m.f.	3
Leslie Hartley	1	1	2	0	4
Peter Garside (Cpt)	3	3	3	3	12
Paul Bentley	0	3	3	2	8
David Hartley	2	2	3	2	9
John Firth (Res)	Did not ride				X
					43.

3rd Meeting :- at Wyke Track. 8 Heats.

Saturday April 18th, 1959 at 3.0 p.m.

WYKE LANE versus WYKE (CHALLENGE).

WYKE LANE.

					Total
John Medcalf (Cpt)	2	3	3	2	10
David Parkinson	0	2	1	X	3
Martin Coates	2	fell	2	X	4
Jack Smith	3	1	1	0	5
Richard Dewey(Res)	0	3	X	X	3
					25

WYKE.

					Total
David Emmott	3	3	2	3	11
Gerald Medcalf	1	0	1	0	2
Peter Garside (Cpt)	1	2	fell	1	4
Leslie Hartley	1	2	fell	X	3
Richard Dewey (Res)	fell	3	X	X	3
					23

5th Meeting :- at Wyke Track. 12 Heats.

Monday April 20th, 1959 at 7.15 p.m.

WYKE versus THE "REST" (CHALLENGE).

WYKE.

					Total
David Emmott (Cpt)	3	2	3	3	11
Jack Smith	m.f.	Ex.	3	1	4
Martin Coates	2	1	2	2	7
Roy Kernall	3	0	1	1	5
Peter Garside	2	3	2	3	10
John Firth	0	0	fell	0	0
					37

THE "REST".

						Total
Frank Rowntree	1	3	3	1	3	11
Michael Jagger	2	0	1	2		5
Gerald Medcalf	1	2	1	fell		4
D. Charlesworth (Cpt)	fell	1	fell	2		3
David Hartley	3	Ex.	3	2		8
Leslie Hartley	1	2	0	X		3
						34

4th Meeting :- at Morley Carre. 16 Heats.

Sunday April 19th, 1959 at 3.0 p.m.

ODSAL ACES versus WYKE (CHALLENGE)

ODSAL ACES.

						Total
R. Wells	3	2	2	2	X	9
I. Thomas	0	3	3	3	X	9
D. Thorne	2	2	3	2	X	9
F. Rowntree	3	2	3	3	X	11
C. Ormandroyd (Cpt)	3	3	3	3	X	12
M. Thorne	2	2	fell	fell	X	4
C. Emmett (Res)	0	2	2	0	X	4
D. Charlesworth (Res)	3	fell	1	1	X	5
						63

WYKE.

						Total
David Emmott (Cpt)	0	1	2	0	X	3
David Hartley	1	fell	1	1	X	3
Peter Garside	1	3	fell	2	3	9
Michael Jagger	2	fell	1	1	X	4
John Medcalf	1	1	1	2	2	7
Roy Kernall	0	fell	Ex	fell	X	0
Martin Coates (Res)	1	1	3	X	X	5
Paul Bentley (Res)	1	0	0	X	X	1
						32

Two Kingstanding Monarchs (see page 2)

Picture taken in the pits during the North v South Match. Riders L/R.:-
Pete Blackwell (K.S.), Billy White (South Ruislip Aces)
Gerry Kean (K.S.) & Johnny Unsworth (Langley Leopards)

Picture from Cycle Speedway Star July 1957.

The Tottenham Kangaroos Christmas get together this year was held at the Hunters Meet in Hatfield Heath on 15th November and Organised by Nobby Dunn. A good turn out this year attending was Nobby Dunn and Cecilia, Len and Jackie Adams, John and Jean Cobbin, Derek and Maureen Wills, Vic and Jan Haines, Peter and Carol Hooper, Vic White and partner. It was a very good evening and a chance to talk about the great old days of the Kangaroos.

Peter Hooper

Speedway historian Mr Cyril J Hart of Stanfield Road, Bournemouth sent us this 1949 photograph of cycle speedway racing and says this was a Newtown Eagles home match on the Mannings Heath track. On the left is Merv Hannam, a recently retired motor trader, whose son Ashley is now managing the premises at the Wallisdown Crossroads. Cyril goes on to say that Merv, known as Merv the Swerve, later rode league speedway with Eastbourne and the famous Wembley Lions from 1954 to 1956, and that if you think there is something recognisable about the cloth-capped nipper (third left) you'd be right. He was Hannam's Newtown team-mate, the Nipper himself, fellow car sales boss Brian Crutcher.

The rider 2nd from left is Roy Howells. Picture from Dave Hunting.

NACSA Team Championship

From John Whiting

Interesting to read the article based on NACSA and the British Team Championship. I am amazed your reporter has managed to omit the Team of the 70s Blackley.

Their record surely surpasses any other club in that era

1970. Beat Offerton

1972. Lost to Offerton

1975. Beat Wednesfield

1978. Lost Wednesfield

1979. Beat Carrswood

1980. Beat Thurrock

The club disbanded in 72 but reformed in 1975 so lost the chance of even more wins

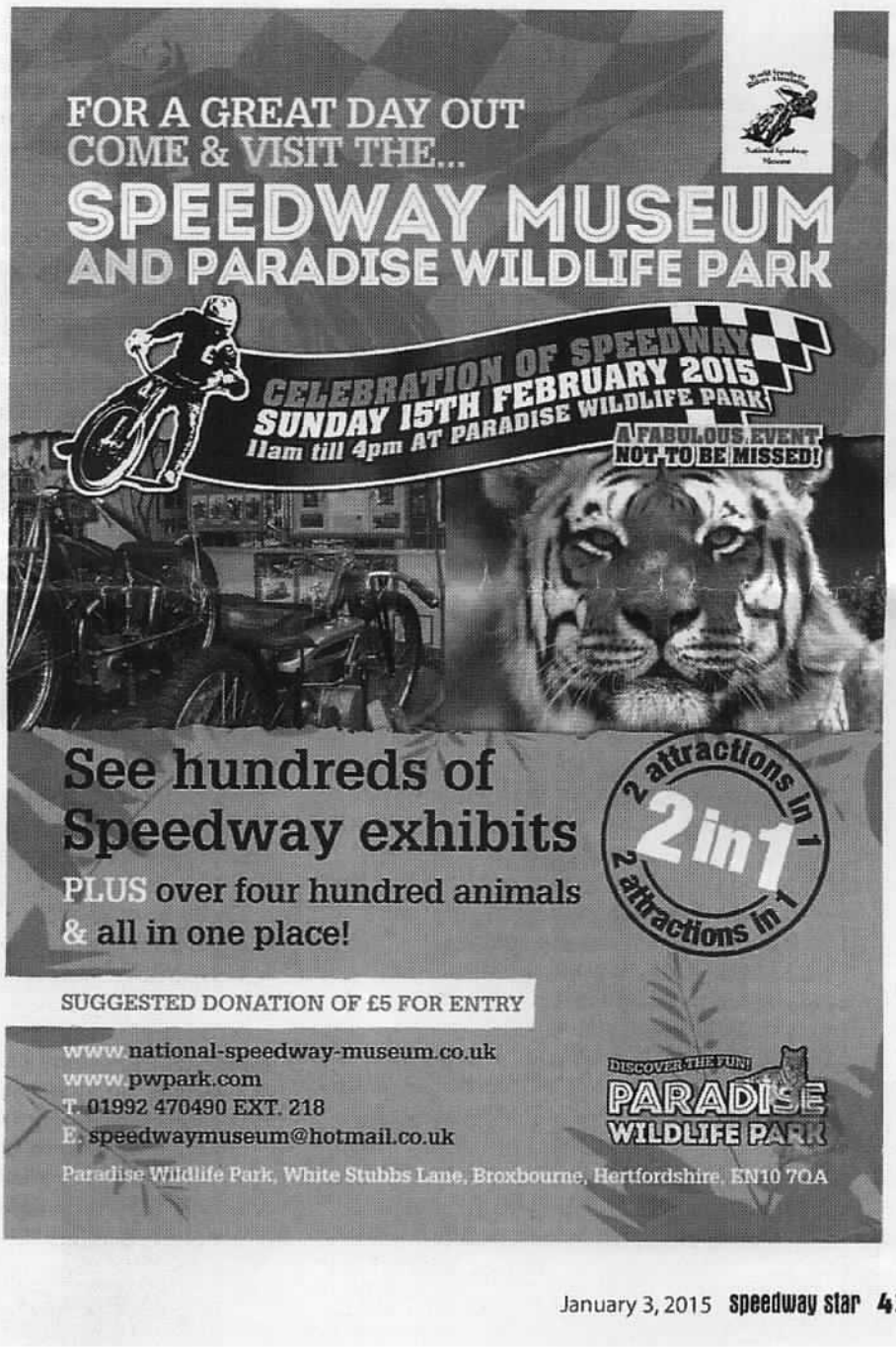
John Watchman and John Whiting rode in the 70/72/3/4/5/8/9/80 finals which must be some sort of record.

Both riders signed for Denton and made the BTC finals of 73/4. Losing to Offerton and then Wednesfield

Just to correct your records

07881786944

(johnwhiting8@outlook.com)

1968 Blackley v Wednesfield at Southampton.

JUST A REMINDER. SUNDAY 15th FEBRUARY 2015.