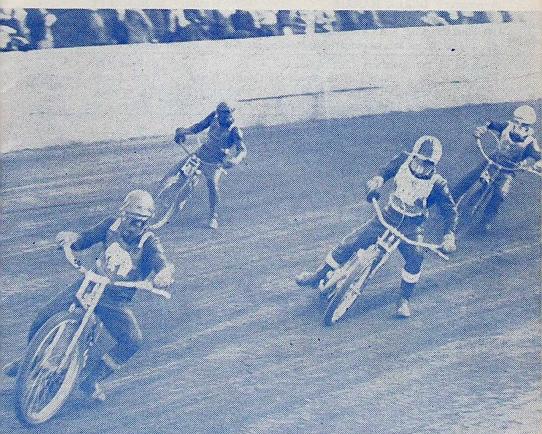


THE SHAY GROUNDS, HALIFAX



14th MEETING - SECOND SEASON

WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINAL

Sponsored by the 'SUNDAY MIRROR'

Promoted by the British Speedway Promoters' Association

WEDNESDAY, 15th JUNE, 1966 at 7-30 p.m.

Official Programme — One Shilling

BETTING AND UNAUTHORISED PHOTOGRAPHY PROHIBITED

HALIFAX SPEEDWAY

Promoters: NORTHERN SPEEDWAYS LTD. Directors: R. A. V. FEARMAN, J. FEARMAN

THE SHAY GROUNDS, HALIFAX

Telephones: Track - Halifax 62201 Stoke Office - Stoke-on-Trent 87230

OFFICIALS

Clerk of the Course: R. FEARMAN A.C.U. Referee: J. R. GREENE Timekeeper: E. BOOCOCK Announcer: DEREK HARRIS

Medical Officer: IN ATTENDANCE Machine Examiner: A. AMBLER

Team Manager: R. FEARMAN Asst. Team Manager: M. MORLEY Starting Marshal: M. J. WHITAKER

Pit Marshal: E. BENNETT Track Maintenance: M. MORLEY St. John Ambulance Brigade in attendance

The Times announced at this Meeting are not by an Official of the A.C.U.

Licenced by the Speedway Control Board Held under the regulations of the Speedway Control Board

Permit No. S.P. Track Length 378 yards

Track Record - Nigel Boocock (Coventry), 1/5/65, 67.6 seconds Fastest 1966 Time - Eric Boocock (Halifax), 11/4/66, 67.8 seconds

THE 'DUKES' DEBATE

Good Evening Everybody.

It is indeed our very great pleasure and honour to present this evening the Semi-Final of the World Speedway Championship. On behalf of the British Speedway Promoters' Association I wish you all a good evening's entertainment and the best of luck to all competitors. This event is sponsored by the 'Sunday Mirror' and tonight we welcome their representative, making his first visit to The Shay, Speedway Columnist Don Clarke.

Last Thursday the 'Dukes' travelled to Middlesbrough for a Northern Cup match with Halifax Skipper and Middlesbrough Promoter Eric Boothroyd's 'Bears.' For young Eric and Dave it was like going home, both boys having started their Speedway at Cleveland Park. Some very good racing was witnessed and had Colin Pratt not been off form the 'Dukes' would have had to fight that much harder for their win. The score and scorers as follows: Halifax 46-young Eric 12, Dave 10, Tommy 8, Dennis 6, Bert 5, Bob 3 and Greg 2. Middlesbrough 32-Nigel Boocock 12, Roy Trigg 12, Kevin Torpie 4, Ray Day 2, Vic Lonsdale 2. Colin Pratt 0 and Dennis Jenkins 0.

Greg was lucky to escape serious injury during the second half when his bike turned over half-way down the straight. The four riders bearing down on him all miraculously missed him. Greg's injury-a suspected couple of broken bones in the hand.

This coming Saturday we shall be saying welcome to four times World Champion Ove Fundin and the rest of the Long Eaton 'Archers' when we meet them in a battle for British League points.

Don't forget to make a note in your diary for next Wednesday's meeting here at The Shay when we stage the third International Test Match between England and Scotland.

It is now time for tonight's semi-finalists to line up . . . I wonder if you have managed to pick the top eight to go forward?

See you on Saturday, until then . . . Enjoy your Speedway!

SPOTLIGHT ON THE RIDERS

TERRY BETTS (King's Lynn and England)—Although Terry must unquestionably rate as one of England's brightest hopes for future speedway glory, there are a number of experienced observers of the sport who feel that the progress of his career was delayed by a virtual two-year absence from the sport. No amount of persuasion could tempt him on to the track in 1964, and when he did join Long Eaton in 1965 he only managed one and a half League matches before ending up on the injured list for the rest of the year. Now back in full time action with King's Lynn Terry is riding as well as ever—but we can't help wondering how much better he would have been with those extra two years of experience. Scored ten points on his last official visit to the Halifax track.

BRIAN BRETT (Newcastle and England)—England's top rider in the 1965 World Championship at Wembley and one of speedway's long distance commuters, travelling to the far north-east from his Hertfordshire home for all his home meetings. Had, in fact, announced his retirement during the 1964-5 close season, but was coaxed back into action by Mike Parker when 'Diamonds' lost Ivan Mauger in the early weeks of last season. Speedway in general is the better for his continued participation. Scored 8 paid 9 on his last League visit to The Shay.

BARRY BRIGGS (Swindon and New Zealand)—Number one rider in Britain at present. Current holder of the Golden Helmet and the Silver Sash. Had the Internationale in his pocket when his last ride was stopped because of an accident behind him, and he was just pipped by Gote Nordin in the re-run. Scorer of more British League maximums than any other man in the land last season, and at the end of 1964 had a spell during which he won 56 races in succession. Has already won the World Championship three times, and is keen to equal Ove Fundin's total of four this year. Recently won the Midland Riders' Championship by going through three rounds and a Final without dropping a point. His last official visit to Halifax saw him defend his Golden Helmet successfully against Olle Nygren, and his last League visit with Swindon produced a fifteen point maximum.

JON ERSKINE (Newport and England)—For a rider who finished no higher than sixth in his team's averages last season, it is quite an achievement to reach this stage of the greatest individual competition in speedway. While it would surely rate as a major surprise to find Jon qualifying for the British Final this year, the big night experience should prove invaluable for the future. Whatever else happens, though, Jon is determined to do enough to wipe out the memory of his last visit to our track ten days ago when he only managed a couple of points for Newport in a League match.

JIMMY GOOCH (Oxford and England)—Kept out of action for the first couple of months of the season with a back ailment, Jimmy went into his qualifying rounds without having competed in any British League fixture this season, which makes his qualification for the Semi-Final all the more creditable. Knows his way round The Shay and on his last official appearance here—in last year's World Championship Qualifying Round—he scored 14 points from five rides and walked off with the 'Sunday Mirror' cheque.

COLIN GOODY (Exeter and England)—Riding at present with a thumb injury sustained at Exeter on Whit Monday morning. An injury bad enough to keep anyone less tough than Colin out of action for quite a while. Made light of his handicap at West Ham last week by beating home skipper Ken McKinlay in his first ride, and spoiling Sverre Harrfeldt's maximum in his last. Has never yet reached the World Final, but deserves to for his courage alone. Also a double figure scorer on his last League visit to Halifax.

GEORGE HUNTER (Edinburgh and Scotland)—There are times when George is his own worst enemy. At present he falls short of the real super-star class because the temperament doesn't match the ability. During an eventful 1965 season he received selection for the Great Britain Test team, challenged for the Golden Helmet, walked out of, and failed to arrive for, meetings, and had a spell on the suspended list. Missed last year's World Championship rounds through being injured in an incident with team-mate Doug Templeton. His last appearance here doesn't bear mentioning, but no-one would be happier than us to see him producing up to his full potential regularly. At his best, speedway needs George Hunter.

JIM LIGHTFOOT (Coventry and England)—One of speedway's long term loyalists. Bracketed with Belle Vue's Dick Fisher and Swindon captain Mike Broadbanks as the only three riders in the game at present to have ridden ten seasons or more with the same club. Has captained his 'Bees' to the top of the 1966 British League and is looking forward to keeping them there for the rest of the year. Guested for Edinburgh here this season and suffered machine troubles, missed the Coventry League match here this year through injury, and was himself injured on his only other official appearance here way back in May 1965. Doesn't rate Halifax as one of his lucky tracks.

IVAN MAUGER (Newcastle and New Zealand)—Number one rider in the Provincial League up to the time of the amalgamation Ivan was looking forward to keeping up the good work last year—but his luck changed for the worse. A serious leg injury kept him off the track for months, and when he returned and qualified for the British Final on sheer guts alone, he was hampered by a further string of minor knocks which stopped him showing his best. This year, only machine troubles on occasions have slowed him down, otherwise it has been the Mauger of old once again. Desperately keen to do well in this competition. Ten points on his last visit to Halifax in April.

CHARLIE MONK (Glasgow and Australia)—The first of the Provincial-produced riders to really get to grips with—and beat—the big boys of the old National League last year. This season he has been going through one of those horrendous spells which come to all riders at some time or another during their careers when nothing will go right. Points have been lost by incomprehensible machine troubles, despite all efforts to eradicate them, and his attempt to defend the Internationale title he won last year was foiled by a first heat spill this Whit Monday. But Charlie will be back—and nothing will please him more than to make the breakthrough once more in this competition, when only a highly controversial refereeing decision kept him out of the World Final last year. Scheduled to ride at Halifax only four days before this meeting, which should have given him valuable up-to-date information on current conditions.

PETER MOORE (King's Lynn and Australia)—Forced out of the game last season after only two League matches by an injury to his back, Peter started this season with a very big question mark against his name. Was it worth the while of any promoter to bring him back from the other side of the globe when there was no real certainty that the back would stand the strain? More than one had the opportunity and wouldn't take the risk. But Maury Littlechild at King's Lynn—whether through bravery or desperation is not clear—took the chance, and Peter's presence in these Semi-Finals shows that Maury has won his gamble. A seven point score on his last visit here earlier this year.

RON MOUNTFORD (Coventry and England)—Over the last few seasons it has been almost automatic. That when the World Championship rounds arrive Ron Mountford will be either just on, or just off, the injured list. This time Ron's gremlins left him alone and he responded by winning 'Sunday Mirror' cheques at two of his three qualifying rounds—and this despite being given one of the toughest draws of all. A draw which took him as far north as Glasgow and as far south-west as Exeter all in the space of four days. A seven point score in his last League match at this track scarcely reflects his potential. A good first ride to set him alight can see Ron surprising an awful lot of people tonight.

ARNE PANDER (Oxford and Denmark)—Although resident in this country for some years now, Arne has had to wait an awfully long time before getting clearance to ride in the British rounds of the World Championship rather than having to qualify on the continent. Arne must surely be one of the best rider in the game at present who has never qualified for a World Championship Final and is determined to remedy that omission this year. Last turned out here as a guest rider for West Ham when he was paid for 11 points.

DOUG TEMPLETON (Edinburgh and Scotland)—Last time Doug reached the Semi-Final stage of the World Championship he was a Provincial League rider—and very much the giant-killer amongst the giants. Unfortunately, that time, the giants won. Missed the qualifying rounds last year after tangling up with team-mate George Hunter. Almost carried the Edinburgh team on their recent League visit to us, finishing with twelve points for his night's work.

ROY TRIGG (Hackney and England)—Got as far as the British Final last year—but only as a reserve, and he wasn't lucky enough to get a ride. Still. Roy had his appetite whetted by being at the big night and is determined to be on the programme with a full schedule of rides when the British Final comes round at Wimbledon on June 27th this year. And this despite the fact that he only just scraped into the Semi-Finals by virtue of having a greater number of heat wins in his thirty points than did Ronnie Genz and John Dews. Rode here with Hackney in a League match last month and recorded nine points in five rides.

PETER VANDENBERG (Wolverhampton and Australia)—Born in Holland but now a naturalised Australian. Apart from the two King's Lynn boys who are riding for a newly formed team, Peter is the only one of tonight's competitors who has changed his club since last season, being directed to Wolverhampton by Rider Control to help fill the gap caused by the non-return of Bob Andrews and Jim Airey. And right well he's been doing in his new surroundings—heading the 'Wolves' scorers over the first couple of months of the season. Has not been here in an official fixture since April last year when he scored an unrepresentative four points.

Actions speak louder than words . . .

says DON CLARKE (Speedway Columnist of the Sunday Mirror)

Nine years ago, when the Sunday Mirror started its sponsorship of the World Championship competition, I clearly remember Sports Editor George Casey turning to me to say: "They can't talk their way to Wembley. They've got to fight for a place."

What applied then, most certainly applies today. In fact I would say that any rider with hopes of becoming a World Finalist has an increasingly tougher task to perform.

Four weeks ago 101 British riders optimistically set out on the World Championship road with their eyes firmly fixed on cash and glory.

Now only thirty-two of the original 101 starters are left to battle out this week's two semi-finals.

Tonight you will have the opportunity of watching sixteen of these gladiators fight it out in an attempt to reach the World Final, at Gothenburg, Sweden, on September 23rd.

But before they can hope to get there they have three further tough obstacles to overcome.

From this week's semi-finals sixteen top scorers move on to the British Final (Wimbledon, June 27th).

From Wimbledon, the ten top scorers travel on to Sheffield (July 14th) to link up with six Nordic finalists, and from Sheffield the top ten will have won a passport to Wembley (September 3rd), where they will clash with Russian, Polish, Czech and German challengers.

Tough going, eh? But if it isn't an easy road to ride, it is certainly littered with gold just waiting to be picked up by riders who have nerve and courage.

Tonight's semi-finalists have a chance of collecting Sunday Mirror prize money of £30 to the winner, £15 to the second, £5 to the third—plus point money.

Once through to the British Final (at Wimbledon), and British-European Final (at Sheffield), the prize monies jump to £100 to the first, £50 to the second, £30 to the third, at each meeting.

Then at the Wembley European Final (September 3rd) the gold rush is really on. In addition to point and start money, further Sunday Mirror cheques of £250 to the winner, £125 to the second, £75 to the third, and £25 to the fourth, plus £20 to each British rider not placed in the first four, but who qualify for the Gothenburg World Final.

Sounds easy when you read it. But believe me, it won't be. Any rider who hopes to be on the World Final scene will have to ride like the devil to get there. And if on the way he can line his pockets with Sunday Mirror cheques, he'll certainly have earned them.

World Speedway Championship Semi-Final

Sponsored by the 'SUNDAY MIRROR'

Riders identified by helmet colours: Red, Blue, White and Yellow/Black Winner decided on Race Points: 1st—3 points, 2nd—2 points, 3rd—1 point

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6 Barry Briggs 333			3	3		15 14 Arne Pander				0	1	3	0	1		5			
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Heat	RIDER	Gare	CLUB	Helmet Colour	Points scored by Riders	Substitute or Remarks
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11 Time 72.4	Ivan Mauger Charlie Monk Jon Erskine Arne Pander	1 2 3 4	Newcastle Glasgow Newport Oxford	Red Blue White Y./B.	20-3	
12 Time 70 6	Brian Brett Jim Lightfoot Ron Mountford Terry Betts	1 2 3 4	Newcastle Coventry Coventry Kings Lynn	Red Blue White Y./B.	2130	
*13 Time	Terry Betts George Hunter Arne Pander Jimmy Gooch	1 2 3 4	Kings Lynn Edinburgh Oxford Oxford	Red Blue White Y./B.	230-	
14 Time	Colin Goody Brian Brett Ivan Mauger Peter Moore	1 2 3 4	Exeter Newcastle Newcastle Kings Lynn	Red Blue White Y/B	02-3	
15 Time 70 4	Roy Trigg Jon Erskine Ron Mountford Doug Templeton	1 2 3 4	Hackney Newport Coventry Edinburgh	Red Blue White Y/B	Nom-	
16 Time 7/-	Charlie Monk Barry Briggs Jim Lightfoot Peter Vandenberg	1 2 3 4	Glasgow Swindon Coventry Wolverhampton	Red Blue White Y/B	0312	
*17 Time	Jimmy Gooch Ivan Mauger Peter Vandenberg Ron Mountford	1 3 3 4	Oxford Newcastle Wolverhampton Coventry	Red Blue White Y/B	2301	
18 Time 72.2	Charlie Monk Colin Goody Terry Betts Roy Trigg	1 2 3 4	Glasgow Exeter Kings Lynn Hackney	Red Blue White Y/B	2/53/	
19 Time 7/- 6	Jon Erskine George Hunter Brian Brett Barry Briggs	1 2 3 4	Newport Edinburgh Newcastle Swindon	Red Blue White Y/B	0273	
20 Time 73.2	Doug Templeton Arne Pander Peter Moore Jim Lightfoot	1 2 3 4	Edinburgh Oxford Kings Lynn Coventry	Red Blue White Y./B.	12	
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THEY LAP IT UP!

DRINK

RAMSDEN'S

FROM START TO FINISH .

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HOW DID THE BOYS GET HERE?

The sixteen riders drawn to appear in the Halifax Semi-Final of the 1966 World Championship are half of the top 32 scorers from the qualifying rounds. Each has ridden at three qualifying meetings against such stiff competition that a double figure average was necessary to get them here. Tonight's riders scored their points as follows:

Barry Briggs (Swindon)—15 at West Ham*, 13 at Sheffield, 15 at Swindon* ... 43 Ron Mountford (Coventry)—15 Glasgow*, 11 Coventry, 15 Exeter* ... 41 Brian Brett (Newcastle)—11 Newport, 15 Belle Vue*, 14 Newcastle ... 40 Ivan Mauger (Newcastle)—15 Newcastle*, 12 Long Eaton, 11 Hackney ... 38 Jim Lightfoot (Coventry)—13 Coventry, 11 Newcastle, 12 Oxford Charlie Monk (Glasgow)—14 Glasgow, 10 Poole, 12 Sheffield Doug Templeton (Edinburgh)—13 Edinburgh, 12 Poole, 11 Sheffield ... 36 ... 36 ... 36 Terry Betts (King's Lynn)—10 Newport, 10 King's Lynn, 14 Wolves ... 34 Jon Erskine (Newport)—12 Newport, 13 Belle Vue, 9 Poole Arne Pander (Oxford)—11 Glasgow, 11 Oxford, 12 Swindon ... 34 ... 34 Peter Moore (King's Lynn)—9 Wimbledon, 11 Long Eaton, 12 King's Lynn 32 Peter Vandenberg (Wolves)-9 Belle Vue, 11 Wolves, 12 Cradley Heath ... 32 Jimmy Gooch (Oxford)—9 Wimbledon, 10 Exeter, 12 Oxford Colin Goody (Exeter)—10 Coventry, 10 Exeter, 11 Cradley Heath ... George Hunter (Edinburgh)—14 Edinburgh*, 5 West Ham, 11 King's Lynn Roy Trigg (Hackney)-11 King's Lynn, 9 Hackney, 10 Cradley Heath

* Marks 'Sunday Mirror' Cheque Winners

Drawn to ride in the other Semi-Final at Cradley Heath last Monday (with qualifying scores) were: Eric Boocock (Halifax) 42, Nigel Boocock (Coventry) 41, Mike Broadbanks (Swindon) 37, Norman Hunter (West Ham) 37, Ray Wilson (Long Eaton) 37, Ken McKinlay (West Ham) 36, Martin Ashby (Swindon) 34, Eric Boothroyd (Halifax) 34, Trevor Hedge (Wimbledon) 34, Cyril Maidment (Belle Vue) 34, Colin Pratt (Hackney) 34, Bob Paulson (Sheffield) 33, Bill Andrews (Poole) 32, Reg Luckhurst (Wimbledon) 32, Geoff Mudge (Poole) 31, Dave Younghusband (Halifax) 31.

Reserves for both meetings: Ronnie Genz (Poole), John Dews (Sheffield).

SEMI-FINAL SNIPPETS

Of the sixteen riders who came through last season's Semi-Finals to ride in the British Final no less than thirteen have reached the Semis again this year, and Ronnie Genz very nearly did. Bob Andrews, late of Wolverhampton, did not return from New Zealand this year, and the only other missing name is that of last year's shock man, Gordon Guasco.

Is it fair to take the top eight scorers in each Semi-Final for the next round, or would it be better to take the top sixteen points scorers overall? No doubt what West Ham's Norman Hunter thinks about that one. Last year three riders qualified for the British Final from the Glasgow Semi-Final with eight points, while Norman scored nine at the tougher Poole meeting and was left on the outside looking in. Rough justice. But, in our view, the only possible way of doing it unless both Semi-Finals are run off on the same evening. It would be fatal for fair competition if the riders in the second Semi knew exactly how many points were required for them to move on.

HOW DID THE BOYS DO LAST YEAR?

If you believe that history repeats itself—and in speedway it very, very frequently does—let us have a look and see how tonight's sixteen riders made out in their attempts on the World Championship last season.

Barry Briggs: Qual, round 44; Semi-Final 11; British Final 13 (winner);

World Final 10 (finished in 4th place—highest Britisher)

Brian Brett: Qual. round 33; Semi-Final 13; British Final 10; World Final

9 (finished in 6th place—highest Englishman)

Jimmy Gooch: Qual. round 40; Semi-Final 11; British Final 10; World Final 3

Charlie Monk: Qual. round 45; Semi-Final 15 (winner); British Final 8 did

not qualify

Ivan Mauger: Qual, round 34; Semi-Final 11; British Final 5 did not qualify Colin Goody: Qual. round 31; Semi-Final 10; British Final 4 did not qualify Peter Vandenberg: Qual. round 32; Semi-Final 8; British Final 3 did not qualify

Roy Trigg: Qual. round 41; Semi-Final 7; British Final reserve did not ride

Jim Lightfoot: Qual. round 31; Semi-Final 3 did not qualify Jon Erskine: Qual. round 7 (from 2 rounds) did not qualify Ron Mountford: Qual. round 1 (from 1 round) did not qualify

Terry Betts: Did not enter Championship

George Hunter: Missed Qual. rounds through injury

Peter Moore: Did not enter Championship

Arne Pander: Not qualified to ride in British rounds last year

Doug Templeton: Missed Qual. rounds through injury

SEMI-FINAL SNIPPETS

Every year it happens. One of the Semi-Finals gets an 'easy' label attached to it, while the other is considered 'tough.' Last year there wasn't any argument-Poole was the tough one-Glasgow the easy. And events proved these opinions true. At Poole, ten points were required to qualify for the next round, while three riders qualified at Glasgow with only 8. Of the top seven scorers (including the reserve) who reached Wembley from the British Final, six had appeared in the Poole Semi-Final, and only one in the Glasgow meeting.

But that is being wise after the event. How can you compare the fields for this year's Semi-Finals before the results are known? Look at the sixteen riders drawn at Halifax. In their qualifying rounds they amassed a total of 558 points. A quick check on the sixteen drawn at Cradley Heath shows that they totalled—559! Does that make the Halifax round the 'easy' one?

Or look at the cheque winners in the qualifying rounds. The nineteen rounds produced fifteen cheque winners, with Barry Briggs, Ron Mountford and the Boocock brothers each helping themselves to two. Three of these fifteen—Ivor Brown, Billy Bales and David Crane—although winning one top prize, failed to score enough points in their other two rounds to reach the Semi-Finals. And of the remaining twelve big money men, only five are here tonight, while seven were booked for Cradley Heath. Does that make the Halifax round the 'easy' one?

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Halifax v. Long Eaton 'Archers'

with 4 times World Champion OVE FUNDIN of Sweden

RAY CRESP — RAY WILSON — VIC WHITE — JOHN MILLS

NORMAN STORER — DENNIS NEWTON

NORMAL ADMISSION PRICES: 4/-, 5/-, 6/-Children Half-Price

ONE YOU MUST NOT MISS!

NEXT WEDNESDAY, 22nd JUNE, 7-30 p.m., AT THE SHAY

INTERNATIONAL TEST MATCH

ENGLAND v. SCOTLAND

ENGLAND 'Lions' — NIGEL BOOCOCK, CYRIL MAIDMENT, ERIC BOOCOCK, ERIC BOOTHROYD, DAVE YOUNGHUSBAND, RAY WILSON

SCOTLAND 'Thistles'—KEN McKINLAY, DOUG TEMPLETON,
GEORGE HUNTER, CHARLIE MONK,
BLUEY SCOTT, GORDON McGREGOR

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