

# The FALCON

BERGER  
PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
GRAND PRIX

BERGER  
PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
GRAND PRIX

BERGER  
PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
GRAND PRIX

BERGER GRAND PRIX  
(in association with the  
Daily Mirror)  
and  
SUNDAY MIRROR  
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
(Qualifying round)

Monday, April 30, 1979,  
7.30 p.m.

BERGER  
PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
GRAND PRIX

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PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
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BERGER  
PAINTS  
  
SPEEDWAY  
GRAND PRIX

SOUVENIR MAGAZINE OF EXETER SPEEDWAY

15p





# BOARDROOM BANTER



What a splendid start the boys have made to the new Gulf Oil British League season.

No matter what happened at Wimbledon last Thursday and Eastbourne the following night the competition that really matters is the league — and we could not have got off to a better start.

A win at Belle Vue followed by a comprehensive home victory against Hull Lada Vikings was exactly the opening of the new campaign that we had hoped for.

While we have to admit that Belle Vue are not the force they have been in recent years we do not think it will be long before they hit the winning trail and we are far happier to have gone to Hyde Road and earned a win then to have the trip still to come.

The same thing must apply to Hull who are among most critics' choice as potential league champions.

With the first six matches over we boast an unbeaten record which in itself is not that important. What has been so pleasing has been the fact that we have already scored away wins at Poole, Belle Vue and Rye House.

All important in so much as it warns all opposing tracks that while the team may have undergone a few winter changes it is still going to be a powerful outfit.

Could anyone have had a better start to his British career than Zdenek Kudrna?

It's not so much the points he gets — but the way he gets them that has endeared him to not only Exeter fans but those of other tracks. It has always been our prime concern to provide the public with entertainment and

both Poole and Belle Vue are glowing with their appreciation of the way our side has entertained the fans at their tracks.

We can forget about the league and cup competitions for the next week or so as everyone turns to the World Championship and the parallel Grand Prix tournament.

This year the competition has three linked sponsors — the Berger Paints combine who are backing the Grand Prix in association with the Daily Mirror and their publishing stablemate the Sunday Mirror which again backs the British end of the World Championship.

Elsewhere in tonight's edition of The Falcon the Mirror speedway columnist Graham Baker tells you a little more about the competitions and the method of scoring adopted.

And on page fifteen we list the away rounds of the Exeter riders involved in one or other of the championships.

Several of the Falcons were due to have their first rounds on Saturday so Graham Hambly will bring you up-to-date with their achievements from those meetings.

This week we stage an additional speedway meeting on THURSDAY night when we re-stage the postponed Gauntlet Gold Cup match against Eastbourne.

We will be using the original programmes for that meeting so take this opportunity to remind you of our immediate County Ground schedule:

TONIGHT — BERGER GRAND PRIX  
THURSDAY — v Eastbourne  
MAY 7 (11 a.m.) — v Reading

*John Richards & Wally Mawdsley.*

## EXETER SPEEDWAY

County Ground Stadium, Church Road, St. Thomas' Exeter, Devon.

Promoters: John Richards and Wally Mawdsley.

### SPEEDWAY OFFICIALS

Secretary.....	John Haley	Presenter.....	Lawrie Quayle
Captain.....	Scott Autrey	Deputy Captain.....	Vaclav Verner
Announcer.....	Graham Hambly	Team Manager.....	John Richards
Press Officer.....	Peter Oakes	Telephone enquiries:	Exeter 51478

CORRESPONDENCE: JOHN HALEY, BARCOMBE, ST. GEORGE'S WELL,  
CULLOMPTON, DEVON. TELEPHONE: CULLOMPTON 2475.

PROGRAMME PRODUCED BY SPORTSDATA, 1 PIERMONT PLACE, DAWLISH, DEVON.

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# DEVON

Life's full of ups and downs if you are a speedway rider. Just ask **Steve Koppe**. After coming out in his first race and beating five-times World Champion **Ivan Mauger** so comprehensively you might have expected Steve to roar on to maximum points. Instead he slides off.

★ ★ ★ ★

No-one's ever seen **Scott Autrey** quite so keyed up as he was last Monday night. He really was determined to beat the ex-skipper in that opening race and can there have ever been a better four-lap ride of the County Ground? Just when the Hull Lada Vikings number one thought he'd dealt with Scott's challenges our American superstar whipped round the outside. Truly magic!

★ ★ ★ ★

Big problems next Monday following an almost - laughable - if - it - wasn't - serious decision by the Czechoslovakian government. They've cancelled next Sunday and with it the World Championship qualifying round at Slany in which both **Ales Dryml** and **Zdenek Kudrna** ride. All Czechs have been told to work as normal on the Sunday and instead have a three-day Bank Holiday starting on the Monday. With it the meeting has been put back 24 hours — so neither of the two Czechs will be able to ride in Britain that day. Exeter had already accepted the non-availability of **Jan Verner** (who is also in a championship round in Hungary) because **Nigel Boocock** is an obvious replacement. **Vaclav**, incidentally, has his qualifier in Germany on the Sunday and will be flying back that evening so will be racing in both the Gulf Oil British League matches with Reading.

★ ★ ★ ★

What a trip for Exeter's away team manager **Graham Hambly**. Last Thursday morning he was one of the delegates at a

union meeting in Ayr, Scotland. And on Friday night he was with the Falcons at Eastbourne.

★ ★ ★ ★

Sad to see Ipswich's **Tony Davey** so seriously injured in a crash at Leicester last Tuesday. He broke his thigh and could be out for the rest of the year.

★ ★ ★ ★

Confirmed: **Scott Autrey** as the May Golden Helmet Match-race Championship challenger. Likely dates for the contest between Scott and current title holder **Peter Collins** are Tuesday May 15 at Belle Vue and either Monday May 14 or Monday May 21 at the County Ground. Last year Scott lost out in a decider at Swindon after mechanical problems hampered his title bid.

★ ★ ★ ★

Number eight **Nigel Boocock** is already a firm favourite at his new National League base Canterbury. He's had double figures in his last two meetings for the Crusaders — and finished fourth in last Monday night's re-arranged World Championship Preliminary round at Boston, beating Weymouth's **Brian Woodward** in a run-off.

★ ★ ★ ★

Change of venue for this year's Berger Grand Prix Final. In the past it has been held at White City but this year it is switched to Wimbledon. But London White City isn't lost to the big meetings — the racing calendar includes three major World Championship meetings at Wood Lane — the Commonwealth Final on July 1; the Inter-Continental Final on August 5; and the World Team Cup Final on September 16. All of them on a Sunday and, hopefully, all including Exeter riders!

★ ★ ★ ★

# DIARY



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MAY 14TH.



# SPEEDWAY GRAND PRIX

[in association with the Daily Mirror]  
and SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP  
[qualifying round]

Monday, April 30, 1979, at 7.30 p.m.

No	Rider/Track	1	2	3	4	5	Total	GP Pts
1	JOHN TITMAN Leicester	1	2	1	1	2	7	
2	VACLAV VERNER Exeter	2	3	2	1	2	10	
3	PIP LAMB Oxford	-	1	1	1	1	4	3
4	NIGEL BOOCCOCK Exeter	3	-	2	3	1	9	8
5	STEVE GRESHAM Swindon	2	ST	1	/	X	3	3
6	STEVE KOPPE Exeter	-	ST	2	2	3	4	4
7	PETER PRINSLOO Exeter	3	-	1	/	1	5	
8	BILLY BURTON Stoke	1	1	3	3	1	9	
9	TREVOR GEER Eastbourne	X	X	X	X	X	/	
10	COLIN RICHARDSON Wimbledon	2	2	3	2	3	12	
11	KAI NIEMI Eastbourne	1	3	-	2	3	9	6
12	SCOTT AUTREY Exeter	3	3	3	3	3	15	10
13	DANNY KENNEDY Poole	1	1	/	/	2	4	2
14	ERIC DUGARD Eastbourne	-	1	-	X	X	1	1
15	BOB KILBY Swindon	2	2	-	/	/	4	
16	PHIL CRUMP Swindon	3	2	3	3	3	14	
17	Res: JAN VERNER Exeter	EX						
18	Res: ZDENEK KUDRNA Exeter		3		/	1		
19	Res: ALES DRYML Exeter			2	2	2		



Heat No. Col Rider Pts Replacement Pts Time

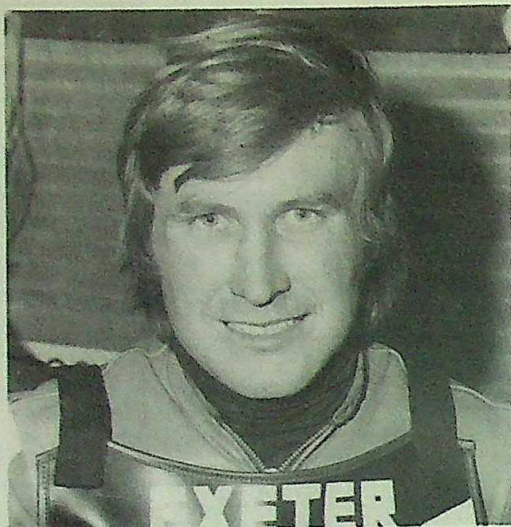
1	1	R	John Titman			1	68.8
	2	B	Vaclav Verner			2	
	3	W	Pip Lamb			3	
	4	Y	Nigel Boocock			3	
2	5	R	Steve Gresham			2	68.7
	7	B	Peter Prinsloo			3	
	6	W	Steve Koppe				
	8	Y	Billy Burton			1	
3	10	R	Colin Richardson			2	68.1
	11	B	Kai Niemi			1	
	9	W	Trevor Geer	J VERNER	EX		
	12	Y	Scott Autrey			3	
4	15	R	Bob Kilby			2	68.9
	14	B	Eric Dugard				
	16	W	Phil Crump			3	
	13	Y	Danny Kennedy			1	
5	13	R	Danny Kennedy			1	69.3
	1	B	John Titman			2	
	5	W	Steve Gresham				
	9	Y	Trevor Geer	Z. KUDRNA		3	
6	14	R	Eric Dugard			1	68.7
	10	B	Colin Richardson			2	
	2	W	Vaclav Verner			3	
	6	Y	Steve Koppe				
7	11	R	Kai Niemi			3	69.6
	15	B	Bob Kilby			2	
	7	W	Peter Prinsloo				
	3	Y	Pip Lamb			1	
8	4	R	Nigel Boocock				68.2
	8	B	Billy Burton			1	
	12	W	Scott Autrey			3	
	16	Y	Phil Crump			2	
9	6	R	Steve Koppe			2	69.1
	16	B	Phil Crump			3	
	1	W	John Titman			1	
	11	Y	Kai Niemi				
10	12	R	Scott Autrey			3	68.5
	5	B	Steve Gresham			1	
	15	W	Bob Kilby				
	2	Y	Vaclav Verner			2	
11	8	R	Billy Burton			3	70.
	9	B	Trevor Geer	A. DRYML		2	
	3	W	Pip Lamb			1	
	14	Y	Eric Dugard				
12	13	R	Danny Kennedy				69.3
	4	B	Nigel Boocock			2	
	10	W	Colin Richardson			3	
	7	Y	Peter Prinsloo			1	

INTERVAL

13	7	R	Peter Prinsloo				69.
	12	B	Scott Autrey			3	
	14	W	Eric Dugard	4 DRYML		2	
	1	Y	John Titman			1	
14	2	R	Vaclav Verner			1	69.7
	13	B	Danny Kennedy				
	8	W	Billy Burton			3	
	11	Y	Kai Niemi			2	
15	16	R	Phil Crump			3	69.2
	3	B	Pip Lamb			1	
	10	W	Colin Richardson			2	
	5	Y	Steve Gresham				
16	9	R	Trevor Geer	2 KUDRNA		1	70.
	6	B	Steve Koppe			2	
	4	W	Nigel Boocock			3	
	15	Y	Bob Kilby				
17	1	R	John Titman			2	69.5
	8	B	Billy Burton			1	
	15	W	Bob Kilby				
	10	Y	Colin Richardson			3	
18	9	R	Trevor Geer	2 KUDRNA			69.2
	2	B	Vaclav Verner			2	
	7	W	Peter Prinsloo			1	
	16	Y	Phil Crump			3	
19	3	R	Pip Lamb			1	69.7
	12	B	Scott Autrey			3	
	13	W	Danny Kennedy			2	
	6	Y	Steve Koppe		EX	3	
20	5	R	Steve Gresham				69.8
	14	B	Eric Dugard	A. DRYML		2	
	11	W	Kai Niemi			3	
	4	Y	Nigel Boocock			1	

No	Col	Riders	Pts	Time
	R			
	B			
	W			
	Y			
No	Col	Riders	Pts	Time
	R			
	B			
	W			
	Y			





# SPOTLIGHT ON...

## Jan Verner

**Born:** March 9, 1951, Mlade Boleslav, Czechoslovakia.  
**League teams:** Ruda Hvezda, Praha (1970-79), Exeter (1978-79).  
**British debut:** April 13, 1974 at Canterbury for Czechoslovakia against Young England. Finished last in his first race but scored 10 (paid 11) from his remaining five rides.  
**Best Achievement:** Reaching the World Ice Speedway Final from 1972 until 1977; winning the Continental Speedway Championship in 1977 in the Soviet Union; and reaching five World Finals (Ice, Individual Speedway, Long-Track, Pairs and Team) in 1977 — the first rider ever to do so in the same season.  
**Married:** Yes to Vladimira.  
**Children:** Two, Radim and Jan.  
**Car:** Lada.

### JAN'S CAREER RECORD GULF OIL BRITISH LEAGUE

1978 Exeter	32	114	137	30	167	5.86
1979 Exeter	2	6	10	2	12	8.00
Overall record	34	120	147	32	179	5.97

### MAXIMUMS

Jan scored two paid maximums for Exeter in Gulf Oil British League and Speedway Star Knock-out Cup matches last year, his debut season in Britain.

### JAN'S INTERNATIONAL RECORD

Young Czechoslovakia (22), Czechoslovakia (22), World Speedway Finals (2), World Long Track Finals (2), World Ice Speedway Finals (6).

### JAN'S 1978 RECORD

Track: Exeter (Division One).  
**World Team Cup:** Czechoslovakia, Continental Final, 8 pts; World Final, 5pts.  
**World Pairs:** Czechoslovakia, SF2, 11 pts (Jiri Stancl, 13 pts); World Final, 9 pts (Jiri Stancl, 9 pts).  
**World Championship:** Round D, 9 pts (Miskolc); Continental SF2 9 pts (Norden); Continental Final, 11 pts; World Final, 5 pts.  
**Volkswagen-Daily Mirror Grand Prix:** QR: 6 pts (Exeter), 7 pts (Leicester), 8 pts (White City).  
**GOBL Individual meetings:** Westernapolis, reserve 3 pts.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All facts and figures used in this feature are courtesy of the Daily Mirror 1979 Speedway Yearbook which will be on sale shortly. Statistics by Lynn Marshall. Portrait photograph: Keith Hughes. Action photograph: Miroslav Mican. Shows Jan Verner (6) with Jiri Stancl (11), Vaclav Verner (16) and Ole Olsen.

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## DAILY MIRROR speedway columnist GRAHAM BAKER looks at the Berger Grand Prix Tournament

The Grand Prix lives! And, indeed, Britain's top individual speedway tournament has emerged from a troubled close season stronger and more vibrant than ever.

It's four years now since the Daily Mirror introduced the Grand Prix with a novel method of points scoring that have an alternative to the straight forward knock-out principle of world championship racing.

Immediately, the tournament caught the imagination of the public and the top riders in the world.

Already Peter Collins, Ole Olsen and Chris Morton have won the Grand Prix title following three dramatic Finals at White City. This season the Final switches to Wimbledon on August 23.

But at one stage during the close season the future of the Grand Prix was most uncertain. Our joint sponsors Volkswagen withdrew after two years.

Happily, the situation was saved when the leading paint manufacturers Berger decided to fill the vacant sponsorship of the Grand Prix.

Already Berger back soccer's Isthmian League. This is their first speedway venture — and we are delighted to welcome them as co-sponsors of the re-named Berger-Daily Mirror Grand Prix.

The name has changed. But the thrills are the same. And the format that gives the Grand Prix a unique flavour is unaltered.

Putting it simply, the Grand Prix system makes every race count — and yet it allows riders to repair the damage of an occasional slip up or temporary loss of form.

Riders from every Gulf British League Club will be involved in three qualifying rounds each. First place in each qualifier will score ten points, second will get nine down to one for tenth.

After totting up the qualifying round points the top sixteen will go through to the Grand Prix Final. There qualifying points will count towards the Final total.



But even the lowest qualifiers can win over-all with a brilliant display at Wimbledon — as Belle Vue's Morton proved last season.



1977 Grand Prix winner Ole Olsen who missed last year's tournament but is back this time around.

Their qualifying scores will be added to the Final premium points of 50 for first, 45 for second down to five for tenth.

It sounds complicated, I know — but it is the fairest possible way of deciding the top overall rider of the season.

I'm looking forward to the action — and I know that our friends from Berger will share the sentiment. I hope you all feel the same way.





# A MESSAGE FROM BERGER



Berger, who announced their sponsorship of the Speedway Grand Prix earlier this month, are one of Britain's largest paintmakers.

Already well-known for our sponsorship of the Berger Isthmian League, the south of England's leading soccer league, our backing of the Grand Prix is another association between our Company and the pursuit of sporting excellence.

Although we are best known to the public for our decorative paints — Magicote, Colorizer and, in trade circles, Brolac, we have also shown — in our recent television commercials — that we supply paint for virtually every industry in Britain.

All four British car makers use Berger paints and finishing materials. If you have your car repaired or resprayed after an accident, chances are it will be done with our refinishing paints. Every civil aircraft made in Britain has Berger sealants in its structure — even Concorde, where Berger materials seal the cabin and the wings.

Oil rigs, refineries, bridges, food packaging, printing inks, oil tankers, luxury liners, office machines, Match box toys — all these products and thousands more benefit from paints and coatings, special resins or adhesives supplied by us.

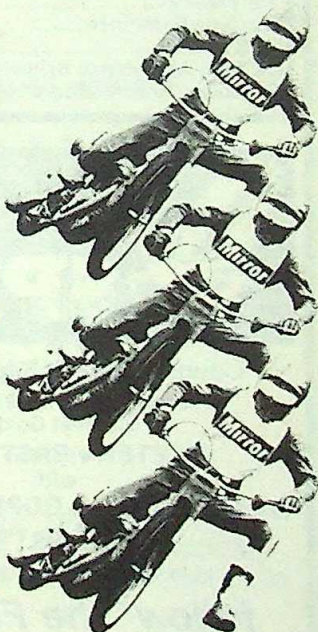
In Britain we have eight manufacturing and distribution Sites, employ 2,800 people and are the largest Company in the world-wide Berger Group.

We, at Berger, look forward to this year's Speedway season with interest and excitement. The qualifying heats and final of the Berger Grand Prix will, we hope, be one of the leading attractions in this year's sporting calendar and we know that it will attract your support and provide a real test of international top riders' skills.

## **DAILY Mirror**

### **First and best for Speedway**

### **Follow the action with Graham Baker**







# JACK GERAN'S Junior Beat

Last week one of the youngest junior riders Nicky Gill learnt about one of the nastier things that can happen in speedway — hitting the rear wheel of the rider in front of him.

It's a shame to see any rider having a bad crash but it seems worse to someone so young. But as horrible as the crash was I'm very pleased to be able to tell you young Nick suffered no more than a sprained ankle.

Sometimes when you are learning the game having one accident and doing yourself no injury can be a good thing.

It makes you realise what you are dealing with and that every move you make must be a calculated one.

Young Tony Garard again rode well and so did Peter Christopher. They are two young Australians who have obviously had a lot more experience than our three 16-year-olds on parade.

Two disappointed riders last week were young Aussie Roger Commerford who slipped off after only a couple of laps and Rob Wilson who was bugged with engine trouble again.

Hope you can sort this out Rob.

## IN CHARGE ON THE TRACK AND

## .....IN THE BOX

Clerk of the Course .....  
SCB Timekeeper ..... Fred Vigers  
Medical Officer ..... Dr. M. R. Mole  
Pits Marshal ..... Sid Stone  
Colour Marshal ..... Dudley Gardner  
Start Marshal ..... Paul Gillard  
Machine Examiner ..... Trevor Dark  
SCB Licence .....  
St. John Ambulance Brigade in attendance.  
Speedway Control Board regulations apply.

**Tonight's Referee:**  
**Peter Ryall**

## TRACK DETAILS

Length: 396 metres  
Record: 67.2 seconds  
Vaclav Verner [Exeter] April 16, 1979



# EXETER SPEEDWAY

County Ground Stadium, St. Thomas, Exeter. 51478

Thursday, May 3, 1979, 7.30p.m.  
Gauntlet Gold Cup

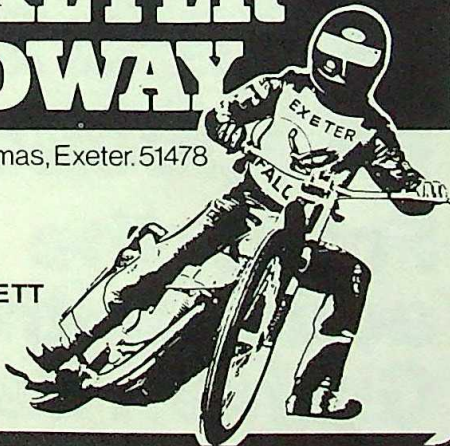
**EXETER v EASTBOURNE**

with

**World number two GORDEN KENNETT**  
**and all the Falcons**

plus Wadham Stringer Trophy

**follow 'The Falcons'**





# AROUND THE TRACKS

## Squibb Kerr's Column

We were lucky last week with the weather — we had some misgivings wondering if we would be able to run the meeting but with lots of fingers crossed we were successful.

### WANTED

We are looking for some ticket sellers so if you would like to give a helping hand now is your chance. After selling the jackpot tickets helpers can see their speedway. Please try and give a hand.

Recent Jackpot winners were: 1 Mr. P. Hawkins, no 17100; Mr. Tapper, no 17170; 3 Mr. T. Reed, no 17139.

The winners for April 23 were: 1 Mr. Dolly, no 17213; 2 Mr. Boundry, no 16525; 3 Mr. Hooper, no 16535.

## FOR YOUR FUTURE ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 7.30 p.m.  
Gauntlet Gold Cup

**EXETER**  
v  
**EASTBOURNE**

(see advert opposite)

★ ★ ★ ★

MONDAY, MAY 7, 11 a.m.  
Gulf Oil British League

**EXETER**  
v  
**READING**

with

*JOHN DAVIS, TERRY BETTS,  
REIDAR EIDE, JAN ANDERSSON,  
BERNIE LEIGH, SIGVART PEDERSEN*



[illegible]

w.c. -- World Championship



## BERGER GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING ROUNDS

	Meeting Pts	Meeting Pts	Meeting Pts	T.Pts
SCOTT AUTREY	Swindon <sup>13</sup> Saturday <sup>5.2</sup>	Exeter ..... Tonight .....	Cradley ..... May 5 .....	.....
*NIGEL BOOCOCK	Exeter ..... Tonight .....	Wimbledon . May 3 .....	Wolves ..... May 4 .....	.....
STEVE KOPPE	Swindon <sup>9</sup> Saturday <sup>4</sup>	Exeter ..... Tonight .....	Eastbourne . May 4 .....	.....
*PETER PRINSLOO	Coventry <sup>5</sup> Saturday .....	Exeter ..... Tonight .....	Wolves ..... May 4 .....	.....
VACLAV VERNER	Halifax <sup>5</sup> Saturday <sup>3</sup>	Exeter ..... Tonight .....	Leicester .... May 1 .....	.....

Riders marked \* are also competing in the World Championship. The top 32 scorers from this competition qualify for the British semi-finals of the World Championship. The top sixteen Grand Prix scorers qualifying for the Berger Grand Prix Final at Wimbledon.

### NOTICE TO PATRONS

The taking of photographs in this stadium is strictly prohibited without the written permission of Exeter Speedway and all photographs taken are the copyright of Exeter Speedway who have the right to use such photographs for their own purposes.

The management of Exeter Speedway reserves the right to alter this programme without notice. Should it be necessary through any cause to abandon the meeting prior to the start of the sixth race in the programme re-admission tickets will be issued at the entrances and these should be available for any one of the following three meetings organised by Exeter Speedway. Money will not be refunded under any circumstances.

stances.

Motor Sports events are dangerous and all persons attending this meeting do so at their own risk. It is a condition of admission that all persons having any connection with the promotion and/or conduct of the meeting including the owners and lessee of the stadium and the competitors and officials are absolved from all liability arising out of accidents causing damage or personal injury to spectators or ticket holders.

BETTING AT ANY SPEEDWAY MEETING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

### GULF NEWS

As the Gulf Oil British League programme takes a break because of the World Championship and Grand Prix rounds Exeter remain the only unbeaten league team in the country.

Their win at Belle Vue followed by victory over Hull gives them four points out of four as they chase their second championship success.

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## 1979 GULF OIL BRITISH LEAGUE AVERAGES

	M	R	Pts	B.P.	T.Pts	Ave	Max.	1-2-3-4
Scott Autrey	2	8	21	1	22	11.00	1	6-1-1-0
Vaclav Verner	2	8	19	0	19	9.50		4-3-1-0
Zdenek Kudrna	2	7	13	1	14	8.00		4-0-1-2
Jan Verner	2	6	10	2	12	8.00		2-1-2-1
Ales Dryml	2	7	6	2	8	4.57		0-0-6-1
Steve Koppe	2	8	8	0	8	4.00		1-0-5-2
Peter Prinsloo	2	8	8	0	8	4.00		0-3-2-3

(up to and including tonight)

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