



WIMBLEDON SPEEDWAY

1979 SEASON



BERGER GRAND PRIX

(in association with the
DAILY MIRROR)

Qualifying round for the 1979
SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

THURSDAY, 3rd MAY at 7.45 p.m.

*Wimbledon
Stadium*

Plough Lane, London SW17 0BL
Telephone: 01-946 5361



20p

MIRROR SPORT

Action all the way
-every day



Speedway with
Graham Baker in the

DAILY
Mirror



From the manager's chair

By CYRIL
MAIDMENT

TONIGHT we stage our qualifying round of both the Berger Grand Prix and the 1979 World Championship...and in doing so welcome guests and representatives of Berger, the Daily Mirror and the Sunday Mirror.

Berger are new to speedway this year and we at Wimbledon are proud to be presenting the Berger Grand Prix Final here at Wimbledon on August 23.

Points in tonight's meeting count towards the Grand Prix and the World Championship, at least as far as the British boys are concerned. For riders like our own Larry Ross (who has already qualified for the Commonwealth Final at the White City on July 1), Edward Jancarz and Stefan Salomonsson, their World Championship path takes a different course.

Stefan will be hoping to progress through the Swedish Final—to be held on May 29—to the Scandinavian Final and then the Inter-Continental Final, again at the White City, on August 3.

With the World Final in Poland this year, on September 2, Edward should take one of the three home places at Katowice.

Again we must thank the Mirror group for their continued backing of speedway and I believe their leading speedway writers, Graham Baker (Daily Mirror) and Keith Fisher (Sunday Mirror) are to be here tonight.

Last week's victory over Exeter ensured that we go through to the Final of the Gauntlet Gold Cup. We must wait to see whether we meet Ipswich or Reading, who clash at Foxhall next Thursday. The

teams are level on points with this one fixture remaining but injury hit Ipswich, having lost Tony Davey with a broken leg, may struggle to hold the Racers even at home. The final will be over two legs.

We return to Gulf British League action here on Monday evening with a match against an impressive Swindon team, bolstered this year by the signings of Phil Crump and Steve Gresham. The following Thursday we entertain Halifax in another Gulf British League match.

Meanwhile five of the Dons will be taking in two away meetings each in the Berger Grand Prix rounds and details of those meetings can be found on the "Dons 79" page of this programme.

Both Rudy Muts and Larry were due to be riding in a four-team tournament in Bremen, West Germany, last Tuesday and hopefully we will be able to give you details of that tonight.

Monday's match against the Robins will also include a Trackstar Junior League fixture with Swindon so we have plenty in store for our Plough Lane patrons. But in the meantime let's sit back and enjoy what promises to be an outstanding round of the Berger Grand Prix (in association with the Daily Mirror) and the Sunday Mirror World Championship.

PITS with DARRELL MASON PATTER

IF at the end of the season the Dons have acquired a shining piece of silverware, it will be in no small measure thanks to the efforts of our 1979 captain, Larry Ross.

Larry appears to have taken to the role of captaincy of the Dons, like a duck to water and it is a far cry from the unsettled New Zealander of just over 18 months ago when it appeared that he wanted away from Plough Lane.

"A lot has happened since then," says Larry. "The role as captain of the Dons is an honour to me especially when I think of some of the great captains this club has had.

"I just hope I can carry on the tradition and hopefully we win something and soon. We have a great squad of riders here and I think we can emerge successfully.

"Colin and Stefan are already better riders than last year and it is up to the rest of us to maintain our progress and then I am convinced we'll win something."

It is pleasing on the eye to see Larry team-riding his partners home and on more than one occasion this has been evident with Stefan, though the way he has been riding he barely needs aiding!

Colin Richardson was full of praise for his captain when he said: "He's very much for the team and it was with his help that I scored my first full maximum in British League racing against Birmingham and he is always trying to help his team partners home as Stefan will no doubt testify."

Larry is becoming something of a bonus king and Stefan added to what Colin had said by saying: "It is good to ride with someone like Larry and, like Colin, I have him to thank for helping me score my first maximum of any description against Birmingham and my first

full 12 pointer against Sheffield. Larry is a good captain and team man and I hope we will score many points together."

Certainly the form of Stefan is something of a revelation and some of this can be attributed to the help he has received on-track from Larry, though a huge chunk of it is Stefan himself. He really is looking star material these days.

There was a time when Larry would roar off into the night with barely any thought for his team partner, but not now. As he has made progress into becoming one of today's top speedway stars, so his team-riding exploits have blossomed and, for someone like myself, who much prefers team racing to individual meetings, it is a pleasure to watch, and brings the memories of the legendary Ronnie Moore in action, flooding back.

Cyril too has nothing but praise for his 24-year-old captain: "Already in the short time since he took over the captaincy from Mick Hines, Larry has shown he has the capabilities of a true leader in typical Wimbledon fashion. He's very much a team man as can be seen by the number of bonus points he's knocking up. I think we are very lucky to have found yet another good captain and to say I'm pleased with his performances so far, is putting it mildly. I'm overjoyed."

The team spirit throughout the squad has never been better with everyone anxious to help everyone else and again this can only be to the good of Wimbledon as a whole.

"I don't mind what we win," says Larry, "the Gold Cup, the Knock-Out Cup, the Gulf British League or all three, just so long as we are successful."

WIMBLEDON SPEEDWAY

WIMBLEDON STADIUM LTD.

Plough Lane, London, S.W.17. Tel: 01-946 5361

Meeting held under the direction of John E. Cearn - Anthony R. James
 Speedway Manager Cyril Maidment
 Clerk of the Course Jack Rackett
 Chief Pits Marshall Alf Carter
 Starting Marshall Frank Lawrence
 Machine Examiner Viv Harwood
 Announcer Ken Tozer
 Medical Officer always in attendance. Merton Division of the St., John Ambulance
 Brigade in attendance with Supt. F. G. Tucker, M.B.E.

All meetings held under the Speedway Regulations of the Speedway Control Board.

Four Lap Race: 1,234 yards Track Record: 58.2 secs, Scott Autrey - 27.4.78

Programme designed by Mick Hooker, photographs by Mike Patrick and Trevor Meeks (Speedway Star) and Alf Weedon (Speedway Mail) and printed by G.R.A. Property Trust Limited.

**BETTING IS ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITED AT ALL SPEEDWAY MEETINGS
 UNAUTHORISED VENDORS WILL BE PROSECUTED**

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 gave 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

DAILY Mirror

with Graham Baker

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. Their qualifying points will count towards the Final total.

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

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 share the sentiment. I hope you all feel the same way.

BERGER GRAND PRIX

(in association with the DAILY MIRROR)

Qualifying round for the 1979
SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD
SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

No.	RIDER	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1.	Michael Lee <i>England & King's Lynn</i>						
2.	Edward Jancarz <i>Poland & Wimbledon</i>						
3.	Kelly Moran <i>USA & Hull</i>						
4.	Mick Hines <i>England & Mildenhall</i>						
5.	Barry Thomas <i>England & Hackney</i>						
6.	Stefan Salomonsson <i>Sweden & Wimbledon</i>						
7.	Roger Johns <i>England & Wimbledon</i>						
8.	Bruce Cribb <i>New Zealand & Wolves</i>						
9.	Nigel Boockock <i>England & Canterbury</i>						
10.	Colin Richardson <i>England & Wimbledon</i>						
11.	Bruce Penhall <i>USA & Cradley</i>						
12.	Larry Ross <i>New Zealand & Wimbledon</i>						
13.	Vic Harding <i>England & Hackney</i>						
14.	Brian Kennett <i>England & Canterbury</i>						
15.	Hans Nielsen <i>Denmark & Wolves</i>						
16.	Billy Sanders <i>Australia & Birmingham</i>						
17.							
18.							

Heat No.	RIDER	Substitute or Remarks	Helmet Colour	Finishing Position	Points
1	1 Michael Lee		Red		
Time	2 Edward Jancarz		Blue		
	3 Kelly Moran		White		
	4 Mick Hines		Y & B		
2	5 Barry Thomas		Red		
Time	7 Roger Johns		Blue		
	6 Stefan Salomonsson		White		
	8 Bruce Cribb		Y & B		
3	10 Colin Richardson		Red		
Time	11 Bruce Penhall		Blue		
	9 Nigel Boockock		White		
	12 Larry Ross		Y & B		
4	15 Hans Nielsen		Red		
Time	14 Brian Kennett		Blue		
	16 Billy Sanders		White		
	13 Vic Harding		Y & B		
5	13 Vic Harding		Red		
Time	1 Michael Lee		Blue		
	5 Barry Thomas		White		
	9 Nigel Boockock		Y & B		
6	14 Brian Kennett		Red		
Time	10 Colin Richardson		Blue		
	2 Edward Jancarz		White		
	6 Stefan Salomonsson		Y & B		

Heat No.	RIDER	Substitute or Remarks	Helmet Colour	Finishing Position	Points
7	11 Bruce Penhall		Red		
Time	15 Hans Nielsen		Blue		
	7 Roger Johns		White		
	3 Kelly Moran		Y & B		
8	4 Mick Hines		Red		
Time	8 Bruce Cribb		Blue		
	12 Larry Ross		White		
	16 Billy Sanders		Y & B		
9	6 Stefan Salomonsson		Red		
Time	16 Billy Sanders		Blue		
	1 Michael Lee		White		
	11 Bruce Penhall		Y & B		
10	12 Larry Ross		Red		
Time	5 Barry Thomas		Blue		
	15 Hans Nielsen		White		
	2 Edward Jancarz		Y & B		
11	8 Bruce Cribb		Red		
Time	9 Nigel Boockock		Blue		
	3 Kelly Moran		White		
	14 Brian Kennett		Y & B		
12	13 Vic Harding		Red		
Time	4 Mick Hines		Blue		
	10 Colin Richardson		White		
	7 Roger Johns		Y & B		

Referee: L. D. Stripp

Interval

Timekeeper: Keith Brown

13	7 Roger Johns		Red		
Time	12 Larry Ross		Blue		
	14 Brian Kennett		White		
	1 Michael Lee		Y & B		
14	2 Edward Jancarz		Red		
Time	13 Vic Harding		Blue		
	8 Bruce Cribb		White		
	11 Bruce Penhall		Y & B		
15	16 Billy Sanders		Red		
Time	3 Kelly Moran		Blue		
	10 Colin Richardson		White		
	5 Barry Thomas		Y & B		
16	9 Nigel Boockock		Red		
Time	6 Stefan Salomonsson		Blue		
	4 Mick Hines		White		
	15 Hans Nielsen		Y & B		
17	1 Michael Lee		Red		
Time	8 Bruce Cribb		Blue		
	15 Hans Nielsen		White		
	10 Colin Richardson		Y & B		
18	9 Nigel Boockock		Red		
Time	2 Edward Jancarz		Blue		
	7 Roger Johns		White		
	16 Billy Sanders		Y & B		
19	3 Kelly Moran		Red		
Time	12 Larry Ross		Blue		
	13 Vic Harding		White		
	6 Stefan Salomonsson		Y & B		
20	5 Barry Thomas		Red		
Time	14 Brian Kennett		Blue		
	11 Bruce Penhall		White		
	4 Mick Hines		Y & B		

21	Red Blue White Y & B
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22	Red Blue White Y & B
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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 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 re-sprayed 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, Matchbox 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.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

MONDAY, MAY 7th
at 7.45 p.m.

DONS versus SWINDON
Gulf British League

THURSDAY, MAY 10th
at 7.45 p.m.

DONS versus
HALIFAX (GBL)

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

UNAUTHORISED VENDORS WILL BE PROSECUTED

The Management reserves the right of admission and the right to alter or abandon the programme. Should it be necessary, through any cause, to abandon the meeting prior to the completion of the sixth race, tickets giving free admission to a subsequent meeting will be issued. In no circumstances will any money be refunded.

DONS'79

	R	Pts	Bon	Tot	Ave
EDWARD JANCARZ					
Home	12	30	1	31	10.33
Away	4	7	1	8	8.00
Total	16	37	2	39	9.75

LARRY ROSS					
Home	24	53	6	59	9.83
Away	23	51	4	55	9.56
Total	47	104	10	114	9.70

STEFAN SALOMONSSON					
Home	24	48	6	54	9.00
Away	19	37	4	41	9.63
Total	43	85	10	95	8.83

ROGER JOHNS					
Home	24	42	9	51	8.50
Away	24	33	5	38	6.33
Total	48	75	14	89	7.41

COLIN RICHARDSON					
Home	24	52	7	59	9.83
Away	24	22	1	23	3.83
Total	48	74	8	82	6.83

RUDY MUTS					
Home	21	41	7	48	9.14
Away	21	16	2	18	3.42
Total	42	57	9	66	6.28

RICHARD KNIGHT					
Home	9	9	3	12	5.33
Away	3	3	1	4	5.33
Total	12	12	4	16	5.33

BERGER GRAND PRIX
and World Championship
Qualifying rounds

LARRY ROSS
Wimbledon, Coventry, Belle Vue

EDWARD JANCARZ
Wimbledon, Cradley, Leicester

STEFAN SALOMONSSON
Wimbledon, Swindon, Poole

COLIN RICHARDSON
Wimbledon, Exeter, Cradley

ROGER JOHNS
Eastbourne, Cradley

GAUNTLET GOLD CUP—East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
READING	5	3	0	2	211	178	6
King's Lynn	6	3	0	3	241	227	6
Ipswich	5	3	0	2	193	195	6
Hackney	6	2	0	4	211	256	4

Final match:-
Ipswich v. Reading, Thurs, May 10.

GAUNTLET GOLD CUP—West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WIMBLEDON	6	4	1	1	254	212	7
Eastbourne	5	3	0	2	196	192	6
Exeter	5	2	1	2	200	190	5
Poole	6	1	0	5	206	262	2

Remaining match:-
Exeter v. Eastbourne, Thurs, May 3.



Join the Supporters Club

MEMBERSHIP COSTS JUST 50p



SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS...

PHOTO COMPETITION

Judging from the number of entries received for our little quiz in the programme of April 19th, we shall probably run a few more this year. The riders we asked you to identify in the photo were as follows: Barry Crowson, Trevor Hedge, Ronnie Moore and Terry Betts. Many of you had the right answers but unfortunately there's only one prize. The lucky winner of two admission tickets to Wimbledon Speedway is: Mr. M. Evenden, Glenhorpe Road, Morden.

AWAY TRIPS

After weeks of inactivity our away fixtures come thick and fast. Wimbledon race at Hackney on May 11, Sheffield on May 17 and Birmingham on May 21. We will try and run coaches to Sheffield and Birmingham and also to Reading on May 20 for the U.K. final of the World Team Cup.

There is no speedway here on May 17, so bookings for these trips can only be made tonight, next Monday and Thursday.

EVERYBODY'S DOING IT

You would have thought that gaining a point a Belle Vue so early in the season would have put the "Dons" on the right road to winning that elusive championship. Far from it, we are just one of seven teams all boasting equal or better away successes.

Top of the heap as many predicted is Cradley Heath with convincing wins at Ipswich and Eastbourne, but can they overcome the jinx which has haunted them for so many years? Chasing Cradley with one away win are Coventry, Exeter and Swindon. The "Robins" in fact have netted two wins but lost one at home. Sheffield and Wolverhampton have managed a point on their travels so we have plenty of company, too much for comfort it seems.

In the basement, Birmingham, Hackney and Leicester have picked up where they left off last year, but along with Eastbourne they are in good company with Belle Vue no less who flounder at the very bottom with not a win to their credit. How times have changed.

THOMAS THE WIT

Otherwise known to his friend as the 'Bionic Toe', fellow committee member Mr Ken Thomas who once commented on the Jancarz and Stangeland pairing that "two Eds are better than one" has been at it again. Following Richard Knight's fall in heat eight of our match with Sheffield, Mr Thomas was heard to ponder aloud whether Richard "Was a hard dazed Knight?" Oj!

Now you know what the loud groan from the pits bend was about. At least he had the decency to wait and see if Richard was okay.

ON SALE AT OUR KIOSKS TONIGHT

1979 "Dons" badges	50p
"Dons" car badges	70p
Jubilee badges	60p
Car stickers (small)	25p
Car stickers (large)	40p
Silk scarves	70p
Wool scarves	£1.50p
Programme boards	80p
Pennants	45p
Flags	30p
Bobble hats	85p
Caps	£1.00
Large bags	£3.00
Small bags	£2.50p
Membership card (with exclusive badge)	50p
... finally don't forget to visit Chris Bacon's stall situated adjacent	

... finally don't forget to visit Chris Bacon's stall situated adjacent to our pits bend kiosk, where you will find a good selection of programmes from other tracks.

On behalf of the Committee,
Alan Graham (Secretary)

JOIN THE CLUB FOR 50p



★ The Dons Fixtures 1979 ★

MARCH

H Thu	15	Eastbourne (GGC)	W44-33
H Thu	22	Poole (GGC)	W48-30
Sat	24	Coventry (GBL)	L24-54
Fri	30	Eastbourne (GGC)	W40-37

APRIL

Mon	2	Exeter (GGC)	D39-39
Wed	4	Poole (GGC)	L34-44
H Thu	5	Birmingham (GBL)	W63-15
Sat	7	Halifax (GBL)	Postponed
H Thu	12	Daily Express Spring Classic (t.v.)	Scott Autrey
Sat	14	Belle Vue (GBL)	D39-39
H BHM	16	Sheffield (GBL)	W56-22
H Thu	19	Belle Vue (GBL)	W44-34
H Thu	26	Exeter (GGC)	W49-29

MAY

H Thu	3	World Championship Grand Prix (QR)	
H BHM	7	Swindon (GBL)	
H Thu	10	Halifax (GBL)	
Fri	11	Hackney (GBL)	
H Thu	17	No Home Meeting	
Thu	17	Sheffield (GBL)	
Mon	21	Birmingham (GBL)	
H Thu	24	King's Lynn (GBL)	
H BHM	28	Wills Internationale (t.v.)	
H Thu	31	Eastbourne (GBL)	

JUNE

Sat	2	Canterbury (4TT)	
Sun	3	Eastbourne (4TT)	
H Thu	7	4-Team Tournament	
Fri	8	Hackney (4TT)	
Mon	11	Reading (GBL)	
Wed	13	Poole (GBL)	

H Thu	14	Reading (GBL)	
Sat	16	Cradley Heath (KOC)*	
Tue	19	Leicester (KOC)*	
H Thu	21	Cradley Heath or Leicester (KOC)	
H Thu	28	Coventry (GBL)	
Sat	30	Swindon (GBL)	

JULY

H Thu	5	Tommy Jansson Memorial Trophy	
H Thu	12	England v Australasia Durex Test Match	
Fri	13	Eastbourne (GBL)	
H Thu	19	Reserved	
Fri	20	Wolverhampton (GBL)	
H Thu	26	Hull (GBL)	

AUGUST

H Thu	2	Skol Southern Challenge	
H Thu	9	Poole (GBL)	
Tue	14	Leicester (GBL)	
H Thu	16	Hackney (GBL)	
Sat	18	Cradley Heath (GBL)	
Wed	22	Hull (GBL)	
H Thu	23	Grand Prix Final	
Sat	25	Ipswich (GBL)	
H BHM	27	Ipswich (GBL)	
H Thu	30	Leicester (GBL)	

SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER fixtures to follow.

Code: GGC—Gauntlet Gold Cup; GBL—Gulf British League; TV—Television; QR—Qualifying Round; 4TT—Four Team Tournament; KOC—Knock Out Cup. *Provisional

★ FIXTURES SUBJECT TO ALTERATION ★

WIMBLEDON STADIUM

Present

SPEEDWAY RACING Thursdays and Bank Holiday Mondays
GREYHOUND RACING Wednesdays, Fridays and many Mondays
CAR RACING Saturdays
SQUASH COURTS Open every day.

INFORMATION AND
RESTAURANT RESERVATIONS

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