

Leicester Speedway

LIONS '79'



"SUNDAY MIRROR"

1979 WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

BRITISH SEMI-FINAL

Staged on behalf of the British Speedway Promoters Association

**TUESDAY
MAY 22nd
7.30 p.m.**

**10th Meeting
27th Season**

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME - PRICE 15p

★ *View Point* by Vic White ★

This evening, for 8 riders there will be delight, for the other 8 disappointment. The aim of all ambitious riders is to be World Champion and while few riders ever achieve that exalted position, it still remains the goal. The top 8 tonight will stay in the competition and will be hopeful of even further progression and for the rest it will be back to the drawing board and the hope that next year will be the one.

The line up tonight is an interesting one with a fine blend of youth and experience which will provide plenty of fireworks. Current British Champion, Michael Lee and former World Champion, Peter Collins head the list along with the experience of riders such as Gordon Kennett, number 2 in the World last year, Doug Wyer, Jim McMillan and Bobby Beaton. Youth is represented by rising stars, Ian Cartwright, Joe Owen, Steve Bastable etc but I think that everyone's eyes will be centred on Halifax's precocious teenager Kenny Carter. In his first full season of British league racing Kenny is making everyone sit up and take notice with some exciting performances wherever he goes and tonight will be no exception.

Welcome to the **Sunday Mirror** our sponsors of this evening's meeting and who have been associated with the World Championship as long as I can remember. They have been a good friend to Speedway over the years and stayed with us when things were a bit on the lean side. A must on Sunday morning is Keith Fisher's up to date column which is always interesting and accurate, which is more than can be said of some, these days. I am sure that they will be well entertained tonight with the track action to come.

Next Tuesday we are staging the postponed Speedway Star Knock out Cup fixture against Cradley for the first leg. The second leg which was also postponed will now take place on Saturday June 16th at Cradley. This year the competition will be staged over 18 heats of racing with no tactical substitutes allowed during the match and no Guests or Rider replacement allowed for missing riders. Also teams will consist of 8 riders instead of the usual 7 with clubs being allowed to recall their loanees for these matches if they so wish.

F.I.M. EMBASSY INTERNATIONALE

Sponsored by W. D. & H. O. Wills

Monday, 28th May, 1979 at 7.45 pm

Wimbledon Speedway,

Plough Lane, Wimbledon, London, SW17

Those invited include:

Previous Winners: **Olsen, Simmons, Jancarz, Collins**

W.T.C. Captains: **Crump, Penhall**

1978 Wembley Finalists: **Kennett, Jessup, Lee, Andersson**

Express Spring Classic Winner: **Autrey**

etc., etc., etc.

and **YOU!!!!**

**THE TOP STARS CHASING THE TOP PRIZE MONEY —
WITH £1000 TO THE WINNER**

NOTE—The Management reserve the right to alter this programme 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 issued at entrances (available for any one of the next three meetings) will become valid. In no circumstances will any moneys be refunded. Rights of admission are reserved. 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 / 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 or ticket holders. Betting is absolutely prohibited at this meeting. The management reserve the right to make alterations or additions to the programme. Vendors will be prosecuted.

PITSIDE BY MIKE HOLT

Having recently had the opportunity to try out the new Knock Out Cup eighteen heat formula, whilst acting as team manager for the Lions at Cradley in a challenge fixture, I feel that certain amendments will be necessary if it is to be successful.

At the moment under the new formula rider replacement is banned, as are tactical substitutes and guest riders, teams use eight riders and not seven as for normal Gulf British League action. Whilst I can understand banning Guests and rider replacement, I feel that not allowing the team managers to use tactical substitutes is rather limiting him, particularly in a one sided contest. Surely the fans have a right to see as even a contest as possible and at the moment the only way a manager can make effective changes is if he happens to have one of his reserves in top form.

I would suggest perhaps that the away team should be allowed to use tactical substitutes and that the home side should not, for at least then the fans in most cases would see a far more interesting meeting, certainly the eight man formula seems to benefit the stronger teams and in my opinion makes the weaker teams look even weaker than they are.

I was pleased to see that early press reports that Hackney's Keith White had broken his thigh at Birmingham recently, were not correct and that Keith had suffered only a broken ankle, bad enough on its own but certainly not anywhere as serious as a broken thigh. I wonder sometimes how the press get some of these stories. It was like the report put out last week by Radio Leicester about our Four Team event, it contained so many inaccuracies that by 7.30 a.m. the station had received well over a hundred calls from irate fans complaining about it and it seems to prove that reporters need to know quite a bit about our sport in order to report accurately upon it.

I was very impressed by Birmingham's Andy Grahame in their round of the Four Team event, he is the younger brother of Cradley's Alan and is currently on loan to National League Milton Keynes. The way he picked up 10 points suggests however that it will not be long before he becomes a regular at Perry Barr.

KEITH FISHER (*Sunday Mirror*) writes . . .

Good Evening Friends,

The Sunday Mirror extends a warm, warm welcome to you all on an evening when, unashamedly, the pulses race a little bit faster. And why not?

Yes, its British semi-final night and what a time is in store for the sixteen riders who parade before you.

For eight lucky lads who qualify for the British Final at Coventry on June 20 there will, undoubtedly, be relief that another important hurdle has been overcome. . . .

For the eight who don't, there's only the sad realisation of what might have been, what went wrong and why.

Their only glory will be of taking part in what has become one of the most prestigious nights in British Speedway. They warrant an extra cheer.

The Sunday Mirror is delighted to be associated with this meeting. . . our record is second to none in sponsoring the world championship since 1958.

After tonight, we move on to the British Final, then the Commonwealth Final at London's White City on July 1, climaxed by the real big crunch fixture of the domestic calendar—the star-spangled Inter Continental Final again at White City on August 5.

And it surely goes without saying that we all want to cheer home another English rider in the race for the biggest prize of all the world individual championship which, this year, is being staged once again in Poland on September 2.

It was in Poland that Belle Vue's Peter Collins, great competitor that he is, had us all leaping out of our seats at the mastery and excellence he showed in Katowice in 1976.

Tonight's proceedings will go a long way to showing English Speedway supporters just which of our likely lads is making early, sustained progress towards that ultimate honour . . . the crowning moment in any riders' career.

But whatever happens in Poland, bank on one thing . . . the Sunday Mirror will be there to record all the drama, emotion and heartbreak of that long, winding road to fame and fortune.

Yes, we'll be there.

RUN-OFF TO DECIDE LAST QUALIFYING PLACE WINNER RIDING AT NUMBER 12

Event 1	Rider	Club	Result	Helmet Colour	Points
	Tom Owen	Newcastle		Red	
Time	Neil Middleditch	Poole		White	

Riders' Individual Scores						
	1	2	3	4	5	T
1 Joe Owen (Hull)						
2 Ian Cartwright (Halifax)						
3 Bobby Beaton (Hull)						
4 Doug Wyer (Sheffield)						
5 Kenny Carter (Halifax)						
6 Vic Harding (Hackney)						
7 Gordon Kennett (Eastbourne)						
8 Alan Molyneux (Coventry)						
9 Michael Lee (Kings Lynn)						
10 Nicky Allott (Sheffield)						
11 Steve Bastable (Cradley)						
12						
13 Jim McMillan (Wolves)						
14 Peter Collins (Belle Vue)						
15 Mike Lanham (Ipswich)						
16 Alan Grahame (Cradley)						
17 Chris Turner (Leics.) Res.						
18 Res.						

Heat Time	Rider	Substitute	Col	Pts
1	1 Joe Owen 2 Ian Cartwright 3 Bobby Beaton 4 Doug Wyer		R B W Y/B	
2	5 Kenny Carter 7 Gordon Kennett 6 Vic Harding 8 Alan Molyneux		R B W Y/B	
3	10 Nicky Allott 11 Steve Bastable 9 Michael Lee 12		R B W Y/B	
4	15 Mike Lanham 14 Peter Collins 16 Alan Grahame 13 Jim McMillan		R B W Y/B	
5	13 Jim McMillan 1 Joe Owen 5 Kenny Carter 9 Michael Lee		R B W Y/B	
6	14 Peter Collins 10 Nicky Allott 2 Ian Cartwright 6 Vic Harding		R B W Y/B	
7	11 Steve Bastable 15 Mike Lanham 7 Gordon Kennett 3 Bobby Beaton		R B W Y/B	
8	4 Doug Wyer 8 Alan Molyneux 12 16 Alan Grahame		R B W Y/B	

"SUNDAY MIRROR" 1979 WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH SEMI-FINAL

★ ★ ★ ★
WINNER RECEIVES £200 + MEDAL
RUNNER-UP RECEIVES £100 + MEDAL
THIRD RECEIVES £50 + MEDAL

LEICESTER SPEEDWAY



Promoters: DISOFAST LTD

Directors: R. A. V. Fearman, V. H. White

THE STADIUM

BLACKBIRD ROAD, LEICESTER

Telephone:

Leicester 354335 and 353136

(Race days only)

Track length: 347.5 metres

Official 4-lap Record: 64.0 secs.

John Titman 12/9/78

Starting positions are: Red—Gate 1. Blue—

Gate 2. White—Gate 3. Yellow/Black—Gate 4.

Points: 1st—3, 2nd—2, 3rd—1, 4 laps.

Clutch Start

Held under the Regulations of the Speedway

Control Board

S.C.B. Licence No. 79/2

OFFICIALS

Clerk of the Course

A.C.U. Referee

Timekeeper

Announcer

Team Manager

Machine Examiner

Starting Marshal

Pit Marshal

Medical Officers

Mike Holt

C. E. A. Todd

W. Daff

John Doyle

Vic White

L. Smith

T. Aitken

C. Raven

Dr. J. W. Craig

St. John Ambulance in attendance

Time Heat	Rider	Substitute	Col	Pts
9	16 Alan Grahame 6 Vic Harding 1 Joe Owen 11 Steve Bastable		R B W Y/B	
10	12 5 Kenny Carter 15 Mike Lanham 2 Ian Cartwright		R B W Y/B	
11	8 Alan Molyneux 9 Michael Lee 3 Bobby Beaton 14 Peter Collins		R B W Y/B	
12	13 Jim McMillan 4 Doug Wyer 10 Nicky Allott 7 Gordon Kennett		R B W Y/B	

Interval (Time Permitting)

Time for Refreshments, Drinks, etc.

13	7 Gordon Kennett 12 14 Peter Collins 1 Joe Owen		R B W Y/B	
14	2 Ian Cartwright 13 Jim McMillan 8 Alan Molyneux 11 Steve Bastable		R B W Y/B	
15	16 Alan Grahame 3 Bobby Beaton 10 Nicky Allott 5 Kenny Carter		R B W Y/B	
16	9 Michael Lee 6 Vic Harding 4 Doug Wyer 15 Mike Lanham		R B W Y/B	
17	1 Joe Owen 8 Alan Molyneux 15 Mike Lanham 10 Nicky Allott		R B W Y/B	
18	9 Michael Lee 2 Ian Cartwright 7 Gordon Kennett 16 Alan Grahame		R B W Y/B	
19	3 Bobby Beaton 12 13 Jim McMillan 6 Vic Harding		R B W Y/B	
20	5 Kenny Carter 14 Peter Collins 11 Steve Bastable 4 Doug Wyer		R B W Y/B	

"PAWS" FOR THOUGHT

Tonight we welcome the 16 British riders who have their sights set on the World Title, with their next goal the British Final at Coventry on June 20. In the line-up we have a man who has already reached the dizzy heights of being World Champion, Peter Collins, and the present British Champion, Michael Lee. But a look at the rest of the field shows just how tough it can be to achieve those titles. All have had to fight their way through tough qualifying stages, and some cases not only against their fellow countrymen, but, due to the Grand Prix/World Championship combined rounds, have also had to meet the top men from other countries. No easy task. Some have even fought through from the preliminaries and caused some raised eyebrows in the process. It's on the cards that those eyebrows could be raised even higher tonight. We wish the best of luck to all competitors, and may the gremlins stay away.

* * *

The gremlins certainly haven't stayed away from the Lions' camp. There's the skipper still trying to sort out his aggravation. He thought he'd succeeded, then stripped teeth from a cog in his engine saw him have to pull out of the meeting at Cradley. Not having the necessary spare, he then had to travel all the way up to Halifax on the Sunday night to get another to enable him to get his engine ready for the trip to Birmingham. All that 'aggro' and still no end result!

* * *

John Titman was finding everything going just great here last week in the Four-Team, with three wins under his belt. Then he found traces of metal in the oil, and not wishing to press his luck and "blow" his engine, he switched to his second machine. But his last ride saw him make a diabolical gate and when he came back to the pits his clutch was hot enough to cook anything you care to name in seconds. That meant "Tito" had to burn the midnight oil to get set up for the Midland Riders' Final at Coventry the following night.

* * *

Last Tuesday John McNeill still wasn't happy with his engine. "Still no steam there", said John. The previous night at Birmingham he'd been the Lions' top scorer, and I thought he'd cracked his problem. But the secret of his success was that he'd borrowed brother Greg's engine. "But he was up early the next morning to whip it out of my bike and put it back in his ready for the meeting at Milton Keynes", said John. John is now weighing up all sorts of devious plans to get his hands on Greg's engine. "That might end my problems", cracked John. I don't think Greg would support that idea.

Ila's trip to the Continent proved worthwhile. He qualified for the World Final of the grass track event. "It took me seven years to reach a speedway World Final . . . but only one to reach this Final", a very pleased Ila told me. But he wasn't so jubilant over his new Jawa that he'd just taken delivery of and tried out after last Tuesday's meeting. "It kept dying on me", he said. Looks like J.B., Tom and Ila will have to have a few words with Ole Olsen. His certainly motors!

* * *

Or they could take a tip from young Kenny Carter of Halifax, who is programmed tonight, who had the same sort of problems, hastily switched back to Weslake, and has caused quite a stir in the process including notching those 35 points that got him here tonight.

* * *

And lets hope things are well and truly sorted for Saturday's trip to Belle Vue. It's a tough one, but it would do everyone the world of good to see the lads give a good account of themselves. It's time that the potential on paper showed itself in the reality of points scored.

* * *

An expensive time for John Titman in the course of his grass tracking exploits. Down in Devon recently he was doing very nicely, having notched 11 points, when his engine "blew" when he was going full bore and coming up to the tight turn. "The rod came straight through the front of the engine", said John. "Never seen one like it." Just how bad it was John discovered when he went to put another engine in. "The rod had not only come through the engine, but had bent the front of the frame more than two inches and in no way could we get the other engine in", added John. It was also a very dicy moment for "Tito", for he had no means of slowing when he went into that turn, for there was only a tiny piece of the rod flopping around on the crank. "There was nothing for it but to bale out", cracked John.

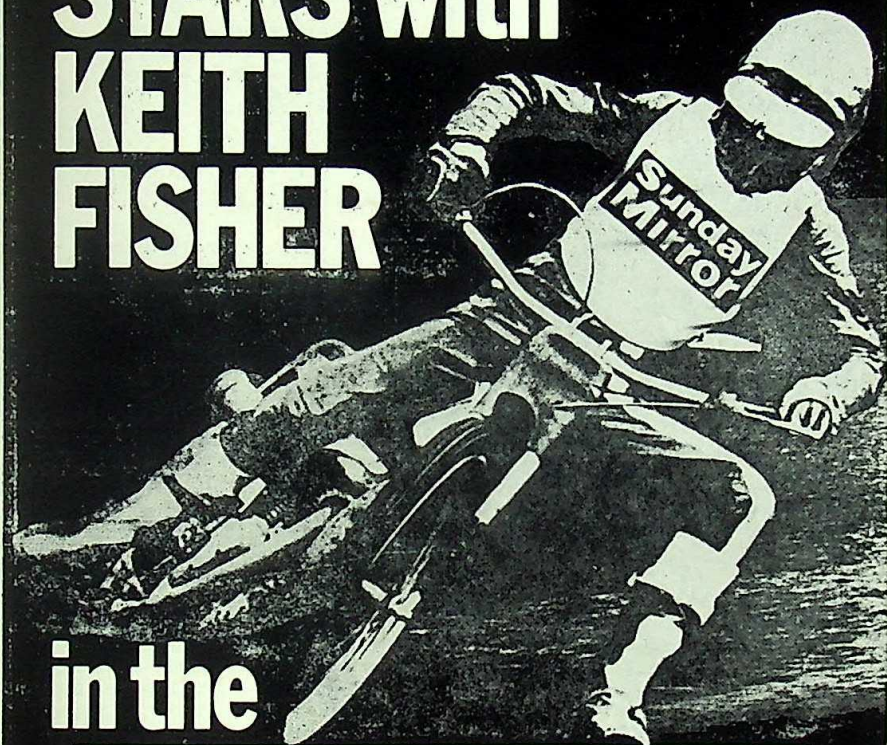
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Mike Farrell was gritting his teeth on Tuesday while putting up a determined effort. His injured hand was proving very painful. "It was O.K. for the first couple of laps, but after that I was more than glad to see that chequered flag", he said. It was great credit to Mike that he stuck at it, and he certainly showed, that once that hand is 100 per cent fit he will be back tighering with the best. And that's going to prove useful with the Lions' League campaign getting under way in earnest.

* * *

Next week we should at last be entertaining Cradley Heath. At least they are programmed to be here. I say "should be here", because if you make definite statements about a visit from Cradley this year the "weather man" goes out of his way to prove you wrong.

TRACK DOWN THE STARS with KEITH FISHER



in the

Sunday Mirror

QUIZ No. 2 — RESULT

Two complimentary tickets are on the way to Paul and Nicola Bedford of 36 Meadow Court Road, Earl Shilton, Leics., whose card was the first correct entry out of the Post Bag.

Quiz Answers:

1. Poole Pirates.
2. Wimbledon Dons.
3. Hackney Hawks.
4. Belle Vue Aces.
5. Eastbourne Eagles.
6. Hull Vikings.
7. Halifax Dukes.
8. Ipswich Witches.
9. Kings Lynn Stars.
10. Exeter Falcons.

Leicester Speedway Fixtures 1979

MARCH				Result
Sat 17	A	Coventry ...	EMB	Rain-off
Tu 20	H	COVENTRY ...	EMB	33-45
Tu 27	H	CRADLEY HEATH	CH	Rain-off
APRIL				
Tu 3	H	CRADLEY HEATH	CH	Rain-off
Tu 10	H	MID. RIDER'S		
Sat 14	A	C'SHIP S/FINAL	IND	P. Crump
Mo 16	A	Swindon ...	GOBL	19-59
Tu 17	H	Cradley Heath	CH	34-44
Mo 17	H	ENGLISH LIONS	TEST	51-57
We 18	A	Poole ...	GOBL	19-59
Tu 24	H	IPSWICH ...	GOBL	36-42
Fri 27	A	Hackney ...	GOBL	36-42
MAY				
Tu 1	H	GRANDE PRIX/ WORLD C'SHIP	IND	Rain-off
Tu 8	H	GRANDE PRIX		M Lee
Sat 12	A	Cradley Heath	CH	33-75
Mo 14	A	Birmingham	4TT	B'ham
Tu 15	H	LEIC/COV/B'HAM		
		/P'BORO ...	4TT	Cov
Fri 18	A	Eastbourne ...	GOBL	
Sat 19	A	Coventry ...	4TT	
Tu 22	H	WORLD C'SHIP		
		SEMI/FINAL	IND	
Sat 26	A	Belle Vue ...	GOBL	
Tu 29	H	CRADLEY HEATH	KOC	
JUNE				
Fri 1	A	Peterborough ...	4TT	
Tu 5	H	OPEN ...		
Tu 12	H	COVENTRY ...	GOBL	
Sat 16	A	Cradley Heath	KOC	
Tu 19	H	Res (WIMBLEDON)	KOC	
Thu 21	A	Res. (Wimbledon)	KOC	
Sat 23	A	Coventry ...	GOBL	
Tu 26	H	POOLE ...	GOBL	
Thu 28	A	Sheffield ...	GOBL	

JULY				
Tu 3	H	MIDLAND		
Th 5	A	PAIRS H'CAP ...	PAIRS	
Tu 10	H	IPSWICH ...	GOBL	
Tu 17	H	SWINDON	GOBL	
Mo 23	A	WOL'HAMPTON	GOBL	
Tu 24	H	Birmingham	GOBL	
We 25	A	KINGS LYNN	GOBL	
Tu 31	H	Hull	GOBL	
		RESERVED	MC	
AUGUST				
Sat 4	A	(Reserved Swindon)	MC	
Tu 7	H	EXETER	GOBL	
Tu 14	H	WIMBLEDON	GOBL	
Mo 20	A	Exeter	GOBL	
Tu 21	H	"STRONGBOW"		
		Golden Gauntlets...	IND	
Mo 27	A	Kings Lynn	GOBL	
Tu 28	H	BELLE VUE	GOBL	
Th 30	A	Wimbledon	GOBL	
SEPTEMBER				
Tu 4	H	CRADLEY HEATH	GOBL	
Fri 7	A	Wolverhampton	GOBL	
Tu 11	H	EASTBOURNE	GOBL	
Sat 15	A	Halifax	GOBL	
Tu 18	H	Reserved FINAL	MC	
Mo 24	A	Reading	GOBL	
Tu 25	H	HACKNEY	GOBL	
Sat 29	A	Cradley Heath	GOBL	
OCTOBER				
Tu 2	H	SHEFFIELD	GOBL	
Tu 9	H	HULL	GOBL	
Tu 16	H	READING	GOBL	

(To be arranged—Leicester v Birmingham GOBL)

Key: GOBL—Gulf Oil British League. EMB—East Midlands Bowl. IND—Individual. MC—Midland Cup. CH—Challenge. KOC—Knockout Cup.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NOTES

Good Evening Supporters,

Welcome tonight to you all and may your favourite Rider be a qualifier tonight. We recently held a Treasure Hunt which was enjoyed by all to such an extent that we have been asked to organize another one in Sept, watch this space for news of it. Our Sponsored Walk will take place in July the venue being Bradgate Park, sponsor forms available at the Main Kiosk, please try to take part. Tonight we are taking Bookings for Belle Vue 26/5/79 Peterborough 1/6/79 Wimbledon 21/6/79 and Coventry 23/6/79. In case of cancelled meetings should you want information of away trips you can contact the following Committee Members, Geoff King on Peatling Magna 608, Pat Evans and Pam Weston on 866989 and Roy Tattersall on 609157. Don't forget Juniors, to qualify for the Christmas Party and Disco, you must be a member of the Supporters Club by 30th. June 1979 so why not join tonight. Plans are going ahead to form a Midland Speedway Darts League for the Close Season, more news on that score later but any enquiries contact Roy Tattersall.

Till next week,
Keep up the support.
Geoff King (Chairman).

NEXT TUESDAY — MAY 29th — 7.30 pm

KNOCKOUT CUP 1st Round — 1st Leg

LEICESTER v CRADLEY

Starring: Bruce Penhall — Bobby Schwartz — Steve Bastable
John Titman — John Boulger — Ila Teromaa, etc.