

# WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

AUSTRALASIAN FINALS OF THE WORLD  
SPEEDWAY MOTOR CYCLE CHAMPS



**Ruapuna Park** CH. CH.



**1980**



**SATURDAY FEB 16th**

**Souvenir Programme 50c**

Promoted by  
**THE CHCH SPEEDWAY ASSN**  
**1979-80 SEASON**

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**SPEEDWAY OFFICIALS OF THE MEETING**

**F.I.M. Referee:** Mr G. Sorber (Germany)  
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**Judge:** Terry Wright  
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**Commentator:** Tom Clarke  
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**Pit Marshalls:** Kevin Gardiner  
Syd Harrison  
Ted Lambert  
**Chief Flag Marshall:** David Lorimer  
**Measurer:** Bob Densom

St John Ambulance in Attendance.

This event held under the International Sporting Code of the F.I.M.

*Speedway Racing is Dangerous — Persons attending the meeting  
do so at their own risk.*

**FLAG CONTROL SIGNAL**

**Green Flag** — Start of race.  
**White Flag** — Last Lap.  
**Chequered Flag** — Finish of Race.  
**Yellow Flag or Flashing Amber Light** — Caution.  
**Black Flag** — Competitors MUST withdraw immediately.  
**Red Flag or Light** — Danger, Stop Race.  
**Black Board with White Diagonal Strip** — Competitor Under Protest.

## Editorial

*The Australasian Final of the World Speedway Championship comes to Ruapuna Park Speedway, Christchurch. Tonight's meeting brings all the excitement, tension and drama of a World Final itself as the top 9 Aussies and 7 Kiwis battle for those 5 all important qualifying spots to go forward to the European rounds of the 1980 Championship.*

*The Christchurch Speedway Association is proud to have been entrusted with the running of such a prestigious meeting and all the efforts of a number of members now comes to fruition.*

*Christchurch has an unenviable record in World Championship Finals with a local rider in the first three on 22 occasions of the last 27 Championships. The most number of wins from any city, let alone country, with Ronnie Moore's 2, Barry Briggs' 4 and Ivan Mauger's record breaking 6, but let's not forget the first Christchurch rider to gain a placing, Geoff Mardon who came 3rd in 1953 while riding for a 3rd division team in England — a magnificent performance which as mentioned started the regular appearance of Christchurch riders on the presentation dias. We look forward to our up and coming stars Larry Ross and the young Tony Briggs to perhaps carry on and with Ivan seeded through as reigning champion, even add to that total.*

*The Association extends a welcome to our Australian riders here tonight and we know from the calibre of the contestants they are going to provide stern opposition.*

*To you our public we thank you for your support, and a special welcome to those from other parts of New Zealand and overseas and trust you enjoy the competition and your stay in Christchurch.*

*We also would like to thank our advertisers (listed elsewhere) whose help is greatly appreciated, and without whom our task would be so much harder.*

*Finally, to all the riders may we say good luck and may the best men win.*

*Christchurch Speedway Association*

The Christchurch Speedway Association thanks the following advertisers who have given us their support throughout the season:

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SUZANNE O'MALLEY,

*Australian Representative to Speedway Mail, London*

## **The Australasian Final Ruapuna Park, Christchurch, N.Z.**

Tonight is a great night in the history of Christchurch speedway — for New Zealand speedway in fact — this is the first ever Australasian Final to be held in our home town, very proudly referred to, as the 'Home of the Champions'.

For me personally, tonight is even extra special and very nostalgic as it brings to mind many memories of my early days in sport, when I followed my hero, Ronnie Moore, who took me to England and tutored me to follow in his footsteps as World Speedway Champion. In turn took another Kiwi, Larry Ross, who has made me very proud with his progress, and who I hope is in line for World Championship honours also.

In the meantime of course, another son of Christchurch, Ivan Mauger has kept New Zealand at the top of the speedway tree with an incredible six World Championship wins — bringing New Zealand to an unequalled 12 World Titles — a fantastic achievement, especially as all these were by riders from Christchurch . . . not bad for our little town . . . and now we have a string of young riders, including my own son Tony, who are doing their best to keep this 'The Home of the Champions' and to add some more titles to that World Championship record.

Our hopes this year are with Larry Ross, who made it to last year's World Championship as Reserve and is determined that this will be his big year. Snapping at his heels, we have Auckland's Mitch Shirra, who together with Ivan, Larry and Bruce Cribb of Palmerston, successfully brought the World Team Cup to New Zealand for the first time. A great triumph for our little country and I might add, a great shock to some of the 'big guns' . . . the English and the Danes were favourites but the eventual stars were New Zealand followed by the Americans.

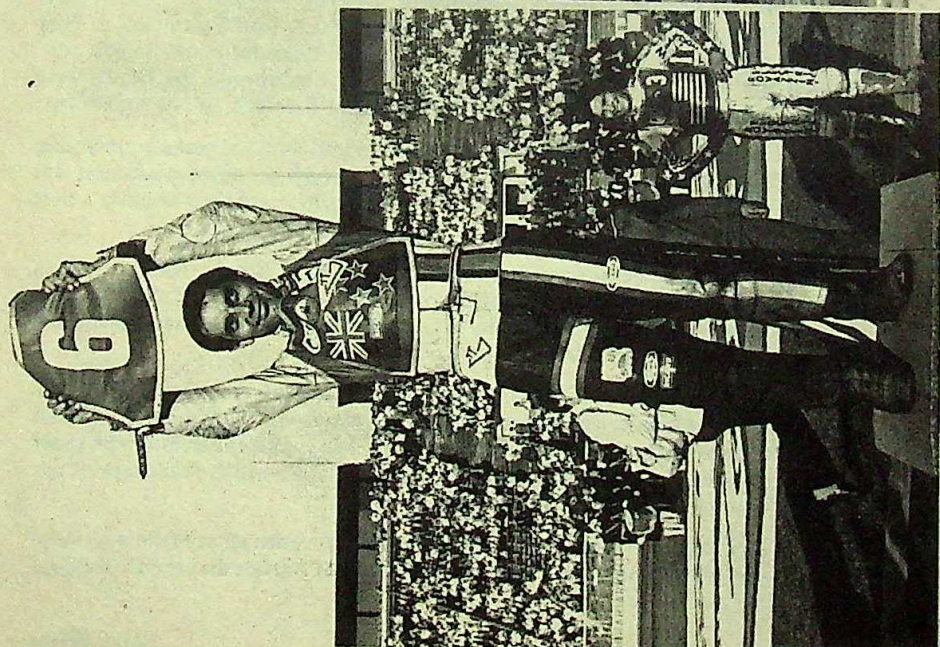
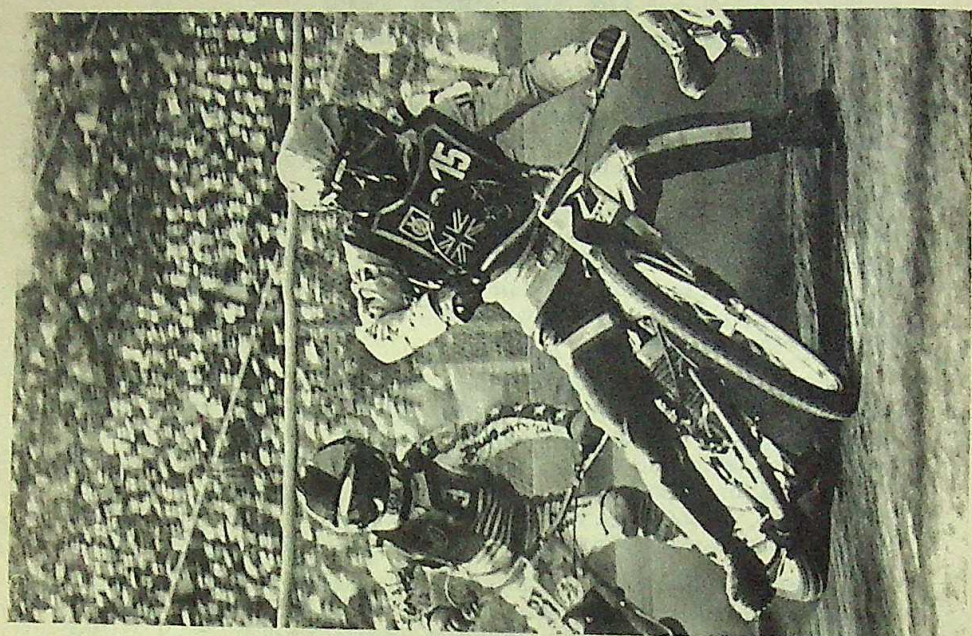
We welcome our buddies from Australia tonight, but hope that our young Kiwis are going to show them the way home. We won't get any favours and will have to fight for every place against the Aussies — these are their country's best and are all out to prove it.

Larry Ross, Graeme Stapleton, Mitch Shirra, Wayne Brown, Mike Fullerton and David Barch all have British League experience, which will hold them in good stead for tonight's meeting, and Tony Briggs, whilst lacking in experience has the guts and I hope talent, to hold his own.

On paper, New Zealand is again starting to look good — our hopes for the future in international speedway are with these youngsters . . . Wayne Brown and David Barch are exceptional and together with Tony, and the help of the older experienced Kiwis, should bring home the success to follow in the footsteps of our current World Champion, Ivan Mauger.

Good luck boys, I shall be rooting for you, together with all my fellow Kiwis in the pits, and wishing you success on the long road to Europe and the Championship of the World.

**Barry Briggs**



## Winners of the World Individual Speedway Championship

- 1936 Lionel Van Praag (Australia) 1, Eric Langton (England) 2, "Bluey" Wilkinson (Australia) 3.
- 1937 Jack Milne (U.S.A.) 1, Wilbur Lamoreaux (U.S.A.) 2, Cordy Milne (U.S.A.) 3.
- 1938 "Bluey" Wilkison (Australia) 1, Jack Milne (U.S.A.) 2, Wilbur Lamoreaux (U.S.A.) 3.
- 1949 Tommy Price (England) 1, Jack Parker (England) 2, Louis Lawson (England) 3.
- 1950 Fred Williams (Wales) 1, Wally Green (England) 2, Graham Warren (Australia) 3.
- 1951 Jack Young (Australia) 1, Split Waterman (England) 2, Jack Briggs (Australia) 3.
- 1953 Fred Williams (Wales) 1, Split Waterman (England) 2, Geoff Mardon (New Zealand) 3.
- 1954 Ronnie Moore (New Zealand) 1, Brian Crutcher (England) 2, Olle Nygren (Sweden) 3.
- 1955 Peter Craven (England) 1, Ronnie Moore (New Zealand) 2, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 3.
- 1956 Ove Fundin (Sweden) 1, Ronnie Moore (New Zealand) 2, Arthur Forrest (England) 3.
- 1957 Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 1, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 2, Peter Craven (England) 3.
- 1958 Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 1, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 2, Aub Lawson (Australia) 3.
- 1959 Ronnie Moore (New Zealand) 1, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 2, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 3.
- 1960 Ove Fundin (Sweden) 1, Ronnie Moore (New Zealand) 2, Peter Craven (England) 3.
- 1961 Ove Fundin (Sweden) 1, Bjorn Knutsson (Sweden) 2, Gote Nordin (Sweden) 3.
- 1962 Peter Craven (England) 1, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 2, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 3.
- 1963 Ove Fundin (Sweden) 1, Bjorn Knutsson (Sweden) 2, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 3.
- 1964 Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 1, Igor Plechanov (U.S.S.R.) 2, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 3.
- 1965 Bjorn Knutsson (Sweden) 1, Igor Plechenov (U.S.S.R.) 2, Ove Fundin (Sweden) 3.
- 1966 Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 1, Sverre Harrfeldt (Norway) 2, Antoni Woryna (Poland) 3.
- 1967 Ove Fundin (Sweden) 1, Bengy Jansson (Sweden) 2, Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 3.
- 1968 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 2, Edward Jancarz (Poland) 3.
- 1969 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 2, Soren Siosten (Sweden) 3.
- 1970 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Pawel Walozek (Poland) 2, Antoni Woryna (Poland) 3.
- 1971 Ole Olsen (Denmark) 1, Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 2, Bengt Jansson (Sweden) 3.
- 1972 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Brent Persson (Sweden) 2, Ole Olson (Sweden) 3.
- 1973 Jerry Sckoil (Poland) 1, Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 2, Zenon Plech (Poland) 3.
- 1974 Anders Michaner (Sweden) 1, Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 2, Soren Sjosten (Sweden) 3.
- 1975 Ole Olson (Denmark) 1, Anders Michaner (Sweden) 2, John Louis (England) 3.
- 1976 Peter Collins (England) 1, Malcolm Simmons (England) 2, Phil Crump (Australia) 3.
- 1977 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Peter Collins (England) 2, Ole Olson (Denmark) 3.
- 1978 Ole Olson (Denmark) 1, Gordon Kennett (England) 2, Scott Autrey (U.S.A.) 3.
- 1979 Ivan Mauger (New Zealand) 1, Zenon Plech (Poland) 2, Michael Lee (England) 3.

# AUSTRALASIAN FINAL 1980 WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

## AUSTRALASIAN FINAL — RIDERS' SCORE CHART

No.	Rider	Country	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	John Titman	Brisbane, Australia	3	3	2	3	2	13
2	Mitch Shirra	Auckland, New Zealand	2	2	3	3	2	12
3	Steve Koppe	Townsville, Australia	0	2	2	1	2	7
4	Paul Crump	Mildura, Australia	1	2	2	3	3	11
5	Glen McDonald	Sydney, Australia	1	2	2	0	1	6
6	Mike Farrell	Brisbane, Australia	3	1	1	2	3	10
7	Tony Briggs	Christchurch, New Zealand	2	3	1	2	3	11
8	Mike Fullerton	Auckland, New Zealand	1	0	0	1	0	2
9	David Bargh	Wellington, New Zealand	1	EF	1	EF	EF	3
10	Billy Sanders	Sydney, Australia	3	3	3	3	3	15
11	Glyn Taylor	Perth, Australia	2	1	0	2	2	7
12	Wayne Brown	Wellington, New Zealand	1	1	EF	0	EF	3
13	Keith Wright	Perth, Australia	0	1	0	0	1	2
14	Phil Herne	Sydney, Australia	2	2	3	1	2	10
15	Graeme Stapleton	Christchurch, New Zealand	1	0	EF	1	1	3
16	Larry Ross	Christchurch, New Zealand	3	3	3	2	1	12
17	Roger Wright	Christchurch, New Zealand						
18	Max Brown	Christchurch New Zealand						

## SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD

### 1980 AUSTRALASIAN FINAL

All Races Four Laps Clutch Start — Winner Decided on Race Points 3, 2, 1

Riders identified by Numbers and Helmet Covers

Starting Positions — Red 1 — Blue 2 — White 3 — Y & B 4

Heat No.	No.	RIDER	COUNTRY	Helmet Colour	Points Scored
1	1	John Titman	Australia	Red	3
74-5	2	Mitch Shirra	New Zealand	Blue	2
Time	3	Steve Koppe	Australia	White	0
	4	Phil Crump	Australia	Y & B	1
2	5	Glen McDonald	Australia	Red	2
74-4	7	Tony Briggs	New Zealand	Blue	3
Time	6	Mike Farrell	Australia	White	3
	8	Mike Fullerton	New Zealand	Y & B	1
3	10	Billy Sanders	Australia	Red	3
74-6	11	Glyn Taylor	Australia	Blue	2
Time	9	David Bargh	New Zealand	White	0
	12	Wayne Brown	New Zealand	Y & B	3
4	15	Graeme Stapleton	New Zealand	Red	1
74-4	14	Phil Herne	Australia	Blue	3
Time	16	Larry Ross	New Zealand	White	0
	13	Keith Wright	Australia	Y & B	0
5	13	Keith Wright	Australia	Red	1
74-9	1	John Titman	Australia	Blue	2
Time	5	Glen McDonald	Australia	White	2
	9	David Bargh	New Zealand	Y & B	2

Heat No.	No.	RIDER	COUNTRY	Helmet Colour	Points Scored
6	14	Phil Herne	Australia	Red	2
73-2	10	Billy Sanders	Australia	Blue	3
Time	2	Mitch Shirra	New Zealand	White	0
	6	Mike Farrell	Australia	Y & B	1
7	11	Glyn Taylor	Australia	Red	1
74-0	15	Graeme Stapleton	New Zealand	Blue	3
Time	7	Tony Briggs	New Zealand	White	0
	3	Steve Koppe	Australia	Y & B	2
8	4	Phil Crump	Australia	Red	2
74-0	8	Mike Fullerton	New Zealand	Blue	1
Time	12	Wayne Brown	New Zealand	White	1
	16	Larry Ross	New Zealand	Y & B	1
9	6	Mike Farrell	Australia	Red	1
74-0	16	Larry Ross	New Zealand	Blue	2
Time	1	John Titman	Australia	White	0
	11	Glyn Taylor	Australia	Y & B	0
10	12	Wayne Brown	New Zealand	Red	2
75-0	5	Glen McDonald	Australia	Blue	2
Time	15	Graeme Stapleton	New Zealand	White	0
	2	Mitch Shirra	New Zealand	Y & B	2
11	8	Mike Fullerton	New Zealand	Red	0
75-4	9	David Bargh	New Zealand	Blue	3
Time	3	Steve Koppe	Australia	White	0
	14	Phil Herne	Australia	Y & B	3
12	13	Keith Wright	Australia	Red	0
73-6	4	Phil Crump	Australia	Blue	3
Time	10	Billy Sanders	Australia	White	0
	7	Tony Briggs	New Zealand	Y & B	1

## INTERVAL

13	7	Tony Briggs	New Zealand	Red	2
74-6	12	Wayne Brown	New Zealand	Blue	0
Time	14	Phil Herne	Australia	White	3
	1	John Titman	Australia	Y & B	3
14	2	Mitch Shirra	New Zealand	Red	3
75-3	13	Keith Wright	Australia	Blue	2
Time	8	Mike Fullerton	New Zealand	White	0
	11	Glyn Taylor	Australia	Y & B	2
15	16	Larry Ross	New Zealand	Red	2
73-6	3	Steve Koppe	Australia	Blue	3
Time	10	Billy Sanders	Australia	White	0
	5	Glen McDonald	Australia	Y & B	0
16	9	David Bargh	New Zealand	Red	2
74-8	6	Mike Farrell	Australia	Blue	3
Time	4	Phil Crump	Australia	White	0
	15	Graeme Stapleton	New Zealand	Y & B	1
17	1	John Titman	Australia	Red	2
73-4	8	Mike Fullerton	New Zealand	Blue	0
Time	15	Graeme Stapleton	New Zealand	White	3
	10	Billy Sanders	Australia	Y & B	3

Heat No.	No.	RIDER	COUNTRY	Helmet Colour	Points Scored
18	9	David Bargh	New Zealand	Red	269
75-5	2	Mitch Shirra	New Zealand	Blue	3
	7	Tony Briggs	New Zealand	White	7
Time	16	Larry Ross	New Zealand	Y & B	7
19	3	Steve Koppe	Australia	Red	2
75-8	12	Wayne Brown	New Zealand	Blue	2
	13	Keith Wright	Australia	White	1
Time	6	Mike Farrell	Australia	Y & B	1
20	5	Glen McDonald	Australia	Red	2
75-1	14	Phil Herne	Australia	Blue	2
	11	Glyn Taylor	Australia	White	2
Time	4	Phil Crump	Australia	Y & B	3

#### Heats for runs off if required

21	FOR 5th PLACE	B.R.L. 545	Red	Crump
		CRUMP	Blue	
Time	74-0		White	
22	SHIRRA	F.O.R. 330	Red	Ross
	ROSS		Blue	
Time	75-6		White	

#### PRESENTATION OF TROPHIES

### Australasian Finals To Date

- 1976 at Western Springs, Auckland 4 qualifiers  
J. Boulger, P. Crump, W. Sanders, I. Mauger.
- 1977 at Sydney Showgrounds 4 qualifiers  
I. Mauger, P. Crump, W. Sanders, J. Boulger.
- 1978 at Western Springs, Auckland 5 qualifiers  
I. Mauger seeded to the Inter Continental Final plus 4 from meeting — M. Shirra, J. Titman, J. Boulger, Farrell.
- 1979 at Adelaide 5 qualifiers  
W. Sanders, S. Koppe, J. Titman, P. Crump, I. Mauger.
- 1980 Ruapua Park, Christchurch

Australasia have been allocated another qualifier with Ivan Mauger being seeded to the Commonwealth Final plus 5 to come from this meeting.

### **1 JOHN TITMAN (Queensland)**

Finished third on equal score of 12 points after a run-off in the recent Aust. Title. 1977 Australian Title-holder and dual World Finalist at Wembley (78) and again last year in Poland, John is 3 times Queensland State Champion and would be one of the most dedicated, best respected Australian representatives ever to captain the Kangaroos on International duty. Appeared at Brisbane Exhibition in 1968 and wasted no time in jetting into England and professionalism in 1972 when he was contracted to First Division Halifax, 1975 transferred to Exeter and in 1978 to Leicester where he finished with a 9 point average. Married, John celebrated his 29th on the night of the Australian Final, January 26th.

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### **2 MITCH SHIRRA (Auckland)**

Pint sized flier with years of experience that belie his youth. Caused a sensation when he started racing at the tender age of 14 and when found out was banned until he reached the age of 17. Commenced his English racing in second division during 1975 and then moved up to Coventry. Truly an international born of a Scottish father in New Zealand and raised in Australia has ridden as an Aussie for a number of years but now races as a Kiwi and indeed was a member of New Zealand's successful team in the 1979 World Team Cup competition. An exciting rider to watch.

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### **3 STEVE KOPPE (Queensland)**

Fifth on the National rostrum with 10 points, enjoyed a taste of early success when he took out the North Queensland Championship at the ripe old age of 16. Made the long haul to England in 1976 when he joined National League Canterbury, on loan to First Div Exeter for two seasons and was promoted to full time Pro League last year with Exeter. Won the National League Riders' Championship at Wimbledon in 1978 in fine form, and subsequently announced his planned rise to Division One. Like Titman, Steve is a mechanic by trade and one of the quiet men of the racing set. 27 next April and married, the name Koppe has made quite an impression on the International racing scene.

10 point Average — 1979 Second Div.

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### **4 PHIL CRUMP (Victoria)**

Ex Australian Title-holder and undoubtedly one of the Big Three Down Under, Phil holds the One, Four and Six lap records at his home track Mildura and the Three lap record at Sydney Showgrounds. Runner-up in the recent Australian Title on 12 points, won on a run-off with Titman. Holds the 1975 and 1979 National Title, finished third in the 1976 World Final in Poland and shared in Australia's 1976 World Team Cup victory. At the 1977 Australasian Final in Sydney, Phil drew for first place along with Mauger and Boulger, all on 14 points and forcing a 3 way run-off, finished second to Mauger. Ex cricket pro, Phil commenced riding for Second Division Crewe in 1971 and quickly progressed to Div One King's Lynn the following year, Newport in 1974 and captained Bristol inn 1977, currently signed to Swindon. Twenty seven year old Phil is married with two children.

10 point average (1979)

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**5 GLENN McDONALD (New South Wales)**

Toted 9 points in the Australian Final but lost valuable points when he fell in his opening ride. Relatively new to the solo racing scene, a former Double State Short circuit champion in 1978 who commenced racing at Sydney Showgrounds the same year. Made a successful tour of the North in 1978 and was snatched up for English duties when he was signed by Second Division Nottingham. Made quite an impression at his initial launching but fell victim to injury shortly after, following a bad crash at Newcastle (UK). Glenn is blessed with total dedication to the sport, despite his misfortune in injury and finished third in his NSW qualifying round. He is 23 and married, a draftsman by trade.

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**6 MIKE FARRELL (Queensland)**

Also finishing on 10 points, Mike Farrell hails from Townsville, as does Koppe and has also enjoyed several seasons of pro speedway in the jet set of Australia. Former Moto cross rider who was spotted by British Lions Team Manager, Wally Mawdsley, in 1974 who immediately signed him to race for First Division Exeter the following year, with only two season's riding to his total racing career. Prior to his U.K. move he reigned as Queensland Junior Champion and Barrier Reef Senior Champion, both in 1974 and was runner-up to Titman in the Queensland State title just prior to Xmas. Highly respected for his fiery determination, Mike is a mechanic by trade, 24 and married.

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**7 TONY BRIGGS (Christchurch)**

17 year old boy wonder, son of the legendary Barry Briggs, M.B.E. four times World Champion. Last year he wintered over in U.S.A. where he raced with many successes gaining valuable experience before entering the hurly burly of English league racing. A fine third place in the recent New Zealand Championship only 2 points behind the experienced Larry Ross augers well for his future. Under dad's watchful eye he will be out to impress tonight.

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**8 MIKE FULLERTON (Auckland)**

One of New Zealand's top riders for a number of seasons can always be relied on to give a good account of himself. Has been racing in England for a number of seasons and knows well the importance of tonight's meeting. Mike comes from a family with a very long association in Speedway racing and administration.

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**9 DAVID BARGH (Wellington)**

Another exciting 17 year old who finished on equal points with Larry Ross in the New Zealand Championship only to be beaten in the run off, no disgrace against a rider of Larry's calibre. David has been tutored by the great Ronnie Moore and is obviously a good learner and if he continues with his English league racing the skies the limit.

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#### **10 BILLY SANDERS (New South Wales)**

New 1980 Australian Solo Champion won on a brilliant maximum performance at Sydney Showgrounds. 1978 Title-holder who recently outrode current World Champion Ivan Mauger at home and has, of late, revelled in the acquisition of numerous open meetings featuring many World class riders on tour. Billy finished fifth in last year's World Final at Katowice, Poland and is 4 times N.S.W. Champion. Vastly experienced World Class International, Sanders commenced riding in 1971 and was signed full time to First Division Ipswich in England the following season where he spent the next seven seasons racing, switched to Midlands-based Birmingham last. A former amateur boxer, 24 year old Billy is married with a young son. Would have to be Australia's hope for 1980.

10.3 average (78-89)

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#### **11 GLYN TAYLOR (Western Australia)**

Current Master of Claremont and 2nd in W.A. title. Nine points at the Australian Title, at 26, married with two children and with ten years International globe-trotting on the track, Glyn could almost be classed a Speedway veteran. It's a hard act to follow when you are son of former Australian Champion and World Finalist Chum Taylor but Glyn has followed through admirably. Travelled to England in 1973 and signed for Division Two Crewe, also appeared the same year for Peterborough. Won the W.A. Qualifying round in 1977 and returned to First Division Racing for Reading but was forced to return home several weeks later after a family bereavement. Was runner-up in the 1972 W.A. Championship and finished 4th in the 77-78 Australian Title.

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#### **12 WAYNE BROWN (Wellington)**

Another of the Kiwi young brigade gradually making his name known on the international scene. The only rider to beat Larry Ross at the New Zealand Championship which was no mean feat. With a Kiwi crowd behind him to-night should really make his presence known.

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#### **13 KEITH WRIGHT (Western Australia)**

Seven points saw him scrape through as 9th qualifier, despite a tape exclusion and engine failure in his National outing. Surprise inclusion, at the expense of Mike McKeon, Keith finished Third in the W.A. round behind Moores and Taylor. Has yet to taste the sweet smell of success overseas but hailed as one of the most furious, fastest rising stars the West had produced for some time and maybe for some time to come — tonight will tell. . . . Twenty year old Wright would be one of the youngest to line up for the big one.

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#### **14 PHIL HERNE (New South Wales)**

Notched up 10 points to finish fourth in the Australian Title, drew for equal placing with Koppe and Farrell but won on a countback. . . . Long term buddy to Sanders, Phil also featured in the 1976 World Team Cup victory to Australia along with Crump, Boulger and Sanders. Suffered a major set back in his riding career after a horrific crash at Poole (U.K.) where he sustained

serious back injuries. Former multi National Finalist, Phil has been riding since the age of 17 and experienced his first taste of "The Real Thing" in 1973 when he joined Second Division Birmingham and was subsequently promoted to Newport 1975, Bristol 1977 and back to Birmingham (then Div One) in 1978. Finished fourth in his qualifying round but lined up in Sydney when Guglielmi dropped out with an ankle injury. 24 year old Phil is married and soon a father-to-be.

8.6 Average 1979 Division One.

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#### **15 GRAEME STAPLETON (Christchurch)**

Long serving New Zealand test rider who really knows his way around Ruapuna. An international Moto cross rider with the Bultaco works team in Europe before turning his hand to Speedway he made the transition in rapid fashion. Almost a fixture at the Wimbledon track in England for many seasons and more recently with Newcastle "Stape" is a never say die rider and an expert at the art of teams racing.

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#### **16 LARRY ROSS (Christchurch)**

Current New Zealand Champion and in doing so equalled Ronnie Moores record of four Championships (consecutive). Member of the winning World Team Cup foursome last year, Larry must be New Zealand's number one chance tonight. Another in the long line of Christchurch to race for Wimbledon in England, his professional approach and immaculate preparation are a credit to himself and the sport of Speedway. Only just missing a place in last year's World Final there will be many fans at Ruapuna behind him tonight in his attempt to qualify and make the 1980 Final.

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AUTOGRAPHS

# Coke adds life to living.

