

Milton Keynes Speedway

The Knights Castle

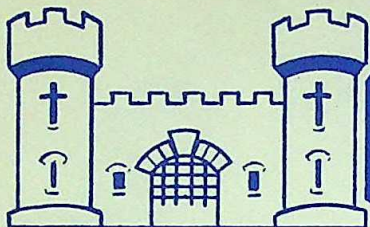


8th APRIL 1980
THE
1980 **WORLD**
CHAMPIONSHIP
QUALIFYING
ROUND

Sponsored By
THE
SUNDAY
MIRROR

Official
Programme

25p



Welcome to the Knights Castle

**THE GROVE WAY STADIUM,
MILTON KEYNES,
BUCKS.**

Telephone Race Day 670150

Promoter RON WILSON

OFFICIALS

Clerk of the course:

BERNARD HOLLIMAN

A.C.U. Referee:

J. EGLESE

Announcer:

ALAN RUDD

Timekeeper:

PETER TAVENER

Pit Marshall:

JIM SANFORD

Machine Examiner:

JOHN BALLARD

Start Marshal:

KEITH KERSHAW

Publicity and Advertising

Manager: **KEN SPENCER**

Medical Officers:

DR. A. B. MORPHY'S Practice

British Red Cross in attendance

Held under the Speedway Control

Board Regulations

S.C.B. Licence No. 79/29

Track Record: **62.6 seconds**

BOB HUMPHREYS (Milton
Keynes) 13/8/78.

Track length 324 yards



After a favourable weather forecast last Tuesday we were totally optimistic that our first meeting against Oxford would run to schedule. Well, April Fools day played its prank on us and we were all losers by it but we can survive and our 'postponed' Season opener gets under way tonight with an Event par Excellence!

This week sees the start of the British Qualifying rounds of the World Championship 1980 and Grove Way has its first ever taste of the excitement tonight. We have an amazing line-up of track talent — a **big 16** all trying for three top places to move up into the next round.

For the first time we see British League riders here; — Poole's *Neil Middleditch*; *Mike Lanham* from Ipswich; *Dave Kennett* of Eastbourne and Sheffield's *Eric Broadbelt*. Alongside them the battling National League boys who have become familiar faces to us. Stoke's *Billy Burton* and *Ian Gledhill* (don't forget he's N.L. Champion); *Rob Hollingsworth*, long time favourite at Boston and Mildenhall's point grabber *Ray Bales*. Edinburgh's *Steve Lomas* rides Grove Way well and we expect young *Mark Courtney* (Middlesbrough) to cause some major upheavals. But what about the 'magical' names here tonight. *Mike Sampson*, our first individual winner, in Nottingham's colours. In his new Exeter livery one of the greatest ever English riders, *Nigel Boocock*; and two personality-plus lads who will be trying extra hard tonight. Swindon's *Malc 'Mad Wellie' Holloway* and Kings Lynn's *'Super Ted' Derek Harrison*. Welcome back from injury the undisputed National League No.1 Newcastle Skipper *Tom Owen* and wait a minute, that's fifteen riders. Who have we missed out? Our own, our new Scots funster, the irrepressible Tartan Terror *Bert Harkins*.

A big welcome to you all and a big hello to all our Grove Way fans who have waited just one extra week to get the 1980 Season under way. Next week we move into our league schedule with a visit from the Nottingham Outlaws. After sizing up our circuit tonight *Mike Sampson* will be looking for league victory backed up by flying Aussie *Glen Macdonald*, *Arther Price* and *Craig Featherby*.



Our Skipper, *Bob Humphreys* is 'over the Moon' at becoming a full Knight having been transferred completely from Reading. His charming wife and daughter now well settled in their new house in the City are 100% behind Bob who is determined to see that we finish the season at the top end of the table.



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'BERT'S BIT' or 'THE HAGGIS EYE VIEW'

Hello Folks, This is your new "Scottish Knight" welcoming you to the 1980 season at Milton Keynes!

First of all, I must say that I am really pleased to have joined the Clan at the Knights' Castle, especially as Skipper Bob is now a full time Knight, having been bought by Ron Wilson from the Reading Racers.

Naturally, I was sorry to leave my old club, Edinburgh Monarchs, but, after three years of driving 400 miles for a home meeting, it will be nice just to nip a mere 40 miles up the M1 every Tuesday! Mind you, I may have trouble steering my car off the motorway at junction 14, especially as it has got so accustomed to heading north for 6 hours before turning off into Edinburgh! I must remember to disconnect the "Automatic Pilot"!

Now then, what have we got in store at Groveway this season? Derek and Andy have moved on from last year's team, and Hurricane Harry McLean has returned north of the border.

1980 looks like being a really exciting year, with Mike Blaynee joining us from Birmingham and the various opportunities we will have to train new riders for the Knights.

Already, promoter Ron has entered a Knights' side in the Anglia Junior League and with new team manager, Pete Seaton on hand, our riders will not be short of a word of advice or a helping hand.

Our pre-season practices ran into weather problems, as did our first meeting last Tuesday and as I write, we have still to turn a wheel in earnest on the track. Bob was hoping to run a training school before the season got underway, so we will just have to wait until the rain machine is switched off!

Enjoy your Speedway and let our Knights hear you cheering them on the track!

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FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

APRIL 15th Milton Keynes v Nottingham Outlaws (N.L.)
plus The Willowdene Motors Trophy

APRIL 22nd Milton Keynes v Boston Barracudas (N.L.)
plus The O.K. Services Trophy

APRIL 29th Milton Keynes v Glasgow Tigers (N.L.)
plus The Camden Motor Cycles Trophy

B.S.P.A. SPECIAL EVENTS

JULY 19th National League Pairs Championship at
Halifax

JULY 27th National League Four Team Tournament
Finals at Peterborough.

SEPT. 27th National League Riders Championship at
Wimbledon.

No.	RIDER	TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	T
1	Nell Middleditch	Poole	2	1	1	1	2	7
2	Malc Holloway	Swindon	3	1	3	3	1	11
3	Nigel Boocock	Exeter	0	3	0	1	1	5
4	Ian Gledhill	Stoke	1	2	2	0	1	6
5	Derek Harrison	Kings-Lynn	2	3	2	2	2	11
6	Ray Bales	Mildenhall	0	2	2	2	3	9
7	Steve Lomas	Edinburgh	1	2	3	2	0	8
8	Mike Sampson	Nottingham	3	1	2	2	3	11
9	Dave Kennett	Eastbourne	3	2	1	3	3	12

HEAT	No	RIDER	SUBSTITUTE	COL	PTS
1	1		Nell Middleditch	R	2
	2		Malc Holloway	B	3
64.6	3		Nigel Boocock	W	0
	4		Ian Gledhill	Y & B	1
2	5		Derek Harrison	R	2
	7		Steve Lomas	B	1
66.0	6		Ray Bales	W	0
	8		Mike Sampson	Y & B	3
3	10		Mark Courtney	R	0
	11	Dave Brewer	Eric Broadbent	B	1
67.0	9		Dave Kennett	W	3
	12	Geoff Pusey	Tom Owen	Y & B	2
4	15		Bert Harkins	R	2
	14		Mike Lanham	B	3
64.5	16		Rob Hollingworth	W	1
	13		Billy Burton	Y & B	FELL
5	13		Billy Burton	R	0
	1		Nell Middleditch	B	1
64.7	5		Derek Harrison	W	3
	9		Dave Kennett	Y & B	2
6	14		Mike Lanham	R	0
	10		Mark Courtney	B	0
64.1	2		Malc Holloway	W	1
	6		Ray Bales	Y & B	2
7	11	Dave Brewer	Eric Broadbent	R	0
	15		Bert Harkins	B	1
66.2	7		Steve Lomas	W	2
	3		Nigel Boocock	Y & B	3
8	4		Ian Gledhill	R	2
	8		Mike Sampson	B	1
65.5	12	Geoff Pusey	Tom Owen	W	0
	16		Rob Hollingworth	Y & B	3
9	6		Ray Bales	R	2
	16		Rob Hollingworth	B	3
65.2	1		Nell Middleditch	W	1
	11	Dave Brewer	Eric Broadbent	Y & B	FELL
10	12	Geoff Pusey	Tom Owen	R	1
	5		Derek Harrison	B	2
64.1	15		Bert Harkins	W	0
	2		Malc Holloway	Y & B	3
11	8		Mike Sampson	R	2
	9		Dave Kennett	B	1
64.0	3		Nigel Boocock	W	0
	14		Mike Lanham	Y & B	3

The SUNDAY MIRROR

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1980

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND

NEXT TUESDAY
15th APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

'THE KNIGHTS'

starring

Bob Humphreys

Mick Blayney

Chris Robins

Bert Harkins

Nigel Sparshott

Barry Allaway

and Robbie Vigus

Versus

NOTTINGHAM 'OUTLAWS'

starring

Mike Sampson

Craig Featherby

John Homer

Glenn McDonald

Arthur Price

Mark Collins

The First Home League Battle!

No.	RIDER	TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	T
10	Mark Courtney	Middlesbrough	0	0	EF	EF	0	0
11	Eric Broadbent	Sheffield						
12	Tom Owen	Newcastle						
13	Billy Burton	Stoke	F	0	1	1	2	4
14	Mike Lanham	Ipawich	2	3	2	3	3	15
15	Bert Harkins	Milton Keynes	2	1	0	1	1	5
16	Rob Hollingworth	Boston	1	3	3	3	2	12
17	Dave Brewer		1	0	0	0	0	1
18	Geoff Pusey		2	0	1	0	0	3

HEAT	No	RIDER	SUBSTITUTE	COL	PTS
12	13		Billy Burton	R	1
	4		Ian Gledhill	B	2
64.2	10		Mark Courtney	W	EF
	7		Steve Lomas	Y & B	3
INTERVAL					
13	7		Steve Lomas	R	2
	12	Geoff Pusey	Tom Owen	B	0
64.6	14		Mike Lanham	W	3
	1		Nell Middleditch	Y & B	1
14	2		Malc Holloway	R	3
	13		Billy Burton	B	1
65.1	8		Mike Sampson	W	2
	11	Dave Brewer	Eric Broadbent	Y & B	0
15	16		Rob Hollingworth	R	3
	3		Nigel Boocock	B	1
65.8	10		Mark Courtney	W	EF
	5		Derek Harrison	Y & B	2
16	9		Dave Kennett	R	3
	6		Ray Bales	B	2
65.4	4		Ian Gledhill	W	0
	15		Bert Harkins	Y & B	1
17	1		Nell Middleditch	R	2
	8		Mike Sampson	B	3
65.6	15		Bert Harkins	W	1
	10		Mark Courtney	Y & B	0
18	9		Dave Kennett	R	3
	2		Malc Holloway	B	1
65.0	7		Steve Lomas	W	0
	16		Rob Hollingworth	Y & B	2
19	3		Nigel Boocock	R	1
	12	Geoff Pusey	Tom Owen	B	0
64.7	13		Billy Burton	W	2
	6		Ray Bales	Y & B	3
20	5		Derek Harrison	R	2
	14		Mike Lanham	B	3
64.4	11	Dave Brewer	Eric Broadbent	W	0
	4		Ian Gledhill	Y & B	1
Reserved for any necessary Tie-Breakers					
21		Rob Hollingworth			R
		Dave Kennett			W
65.3					

SPEEDWAY & THE PRESS

In our first two years at **GROVEWAY** we have had a good working relationship with a local Newspaper, the "*Evening Post - Echo*" at Hemel Hempstead. During 1979 Speedway reporting was covered by Dave Smith who did an excellent job on match reports and general news of the Knights. Perhaps Dave was too good a reporter for he has made the move that all Pressmen dream of — To Fleet Street and a job with the Evening Standard, we wish him well and hope that whoever takes over his chair at the Post-Echo will become another good friend to us here at Milton Keynes.

A newspaper's Sports Editor (and his team) usually have a limited space allocated to them and their job is difficult to please all Sports fans. You out there on our terraces can help by writing to the Editor of the newspaper, thanking the paper for their Speedway coverage, criticising where necessary, making worthwhile, workable suggestions for improved articles, if needed, or requesting more coverage. That way the Editor knows whether or not his Sports Section is being read.

Likewise you can approach the Radio, whether local stations or the Beeb's Radio 1 or 2. D.J.s *David Hamilton*, *Ed Stewart* and *Noel Edmunds* are prime targets for boosting the Milton Keynes Speedway scene. Give them a prod and whilst you are about it, write to Anglia T.V. and thank them for their super match coverage here at Groveway in 1978 and 1979.

Don 't put it off - write now, right now!

Ken Spencer

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M.K's Supporters News & Views

Another first time treat for Knights Supporters, with magician Ron conjuring up a World Final Qualifying round for us. How far will tonight's winner go on the trail to Gothenberg. Please give a warm welcome to any first time visitors to Groveway from tonight's riders.

The full list of planned coach trips is available from the Kiosk and tonight is your last chance to book your seats on the coach to Canterbury on Saturday. Fares and pick-up times will be given to you at the Kiosk. Please remember that you need to show your membership card when booking your seat, so that you pay *Club Members prices*. This way you can recover your membership fee after only two trips, and look what you can save over the season if you are able to travel on all the trips.

Those of you wishing to go to Gothenberg should see Rosemary in the Track Shop for details, as there are different trips to suit your needs. Don't forget the discount schemes arranged for members. These are for your benefit. If you missed the information given earlier, please contact Mick at the Kiosk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

18th & 19th APRIL: Two day trip to Edinburgh and Berwick

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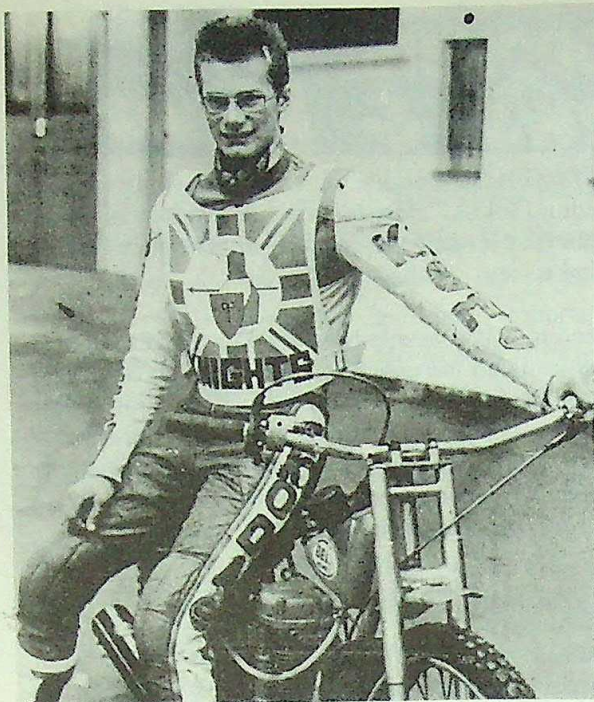
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Ex Knight *Derek Harrison* will be assured of a large following tonight, fans he has gained at Groveway who will wish him good luck at Kings Lynn.



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IT'S a Long Road — — — —

FOR the first time ever, Groveway tonight stages a round of the **World Championship** and this is the start of the 'Road to Gothenberg' for all the riders taking part in tonight's meeting.

The end of the road is the top spot on the rostrum in Gothenberg on September 6th and for once I hope the winner is not over 40, weak at the knees and from the other side of the world.

You'll have to forgive me *Mr. Mauger* but as you have had every accolade bestowed on you during your magnificent career, I hope that one of our own English Lions wrests the title from you.

Coral racing have already opened their book on the World Final and are quite rightly naming *Scot Autrey* as 4-1 favourite. England's bright hope *Michael Lee* is joint second favourite with the 'Great Dane' *Ole Olsen* at 6-1.

The holder, *Ivan Mauger* and Californian whizz-kid *Bruce Penhall* are both 7-1.

At 10-1 you'll get money on *Peter Collins*, *Dave Jessup* and *Billy Sandes*.

Others involved in the betting stakes are: 12-1 *Zenen Plech*; 16-1 *Edward Jarcarz*; 25-1 *Finn Thorsen*, *Jan Andeson*, *John Titman*; 33-1 *Phil Crump*, *Larry Ross*, 50-1 and upwards the rest.

Which brings me very nicely to two well-priced outsiders. Having witnessed the Daily Express Spring Classic at Wimbledon recently I may well be tempted to slap a few pennies on Reading's *John Davis* or the Ipswich flier *John Lousis*. Both provided what little entertainment there was that night.

Having spent most of my early speedway spectating career at Oxford in the days of Ronnie Genz, Rick Timmo, Oyvind S. Berg and Norman Strachan etc., I was privileged to see some great racing — usually from the away side, who normally tore the cheetahs to bits!!!

Passing, re-passing and ever re-re-passing was a weekly occurrence and the fans loved every minute of it. Those at Wimbledon (and their certainly was enough of them) were hardly warmed on a bitterly cold evening by constant processions from the gates.

There are a few probable reasons for this: a) these guys are the best and if they head from the gate, being the best they should not be passed b) they all realised that they have a hard and gruelling season ahead of each of them and they did not want to risk anything at such an early stage of the season. c) After a long winter both riers and machinery were a little out of practice and not at their best (when was the last time Peter Collins scored 4 points in a big individual meeting).

d) That the bread-and-butter of league racing is more entertaining to all of them.

Meetings like this ruin the image of the sport. With the ITV cameras recording the meeting I was greeted with the usual cry from the speedway illiterates at work "Did you see that speedway on TV? What did I tell you ... first one away always wins!"

Well as Knights fans will testify, racing at Groveway is racing and not a lottery. So the next time anybody sees fit to invite me to a so called "classic", don't bother, in my book National League rules O.K!!

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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 of the next three meetings) will become valid. In no circumstances will any money be refunded. Rights of admission reserved. Motor sport 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 damages or personal injury to spectators or ticket holders. Betting is absolutely prohibited at this meeting. The management reserves the right to make alterations or additions to the programme. Vendors will be prosecuted.