## PETERBOROUGH

### SPERIOWAN

**EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND** 

### Sunday Mirror

HOME OF THE



PANTHERS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11th at 7.30 p.m.

# World Championship Qualifying Round

SPONSORED BY THE SUNDAY MIRROR

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR PROGRAMME 20p

11TH SEASON

2nd MEETING

#### PETERBOROUGH SPEEDWAY

COWLEY SPEEDWAY PROMOTIONS LTD.
PROMOTERS: DANNY DUNTON & LEE DUNTON
EAST OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND, PETERBOROUGH, NORTHANTS
Tel: Peterborough 233481 race days only or Peterborough 234451



**Tonights Referee** Mr. S. Green Announcer/Timekeeper Mick Holt Clerk of the Course Geoff Buck Team Manager Brian Clark Hon, Medical Officer Dr. J. Beaton Starting Marshal Malcolm Watson Pit Marshall Tony Cawthorne Colour Marshal Paul Ellingworth Machine Examiner Ken Greer Track Manager Tim Newell Track Electrician Alan Britten P.R.O. **Bob Rawlings** Soke First Aid Nursing Team in Attendance SCB Licence No. 80/2 Rights of Admission Reserved Baron Security in

#### Teack Details

Attendance

Length 347.5 metres Track Record 65.8 secs Track Record Holders: Ian Clark 25/6/76 Steve Finch 29/7/79

Meetings held under the Speedway Regulations of the Speedway Control Board.

> BETTING STRICTLY PROHIBITED

#### PANTHER PATHER

Good Evening.

Well quite an opening meeting, plenty of good racing, an abundance of passing, all marvellously engineered and breathtakingly carried out.

The Fen Tigers were worthy winners on the night, although their twelve point leeway would have been slightly lesser had we not suffered our usual routine mechanical failures when favourably placed, still thats speedway and you've got to take the rough with the smooth. Rye House really, were a two man show but those two really gave us some exciting racing and they will be out for revenge in the other two legs.

There was a change for the match at Mildenhall and Rye House — lan Barney, who showed great pace and skills on Friday replacing Steve Popely who as of yet hasn't got going, although I'm sure that this rivalry between all the youngsters is good for the team, no-ones place is

safe and the competitiveness makes them that much keener.

Our thanks go to the evening's sponsors the Peterborough Standard. The idea of running contests in the paper in conjunction with the speedway is a pleasing one and after their first success they have decided to run the contest with the winners receiving their autographed photographs monthly. So if you want to be a winner look out for the Peterborough Standard Photo Competition in the paper on Fridays. The Standard will also be presenting Trophies to the Rider of the Year and Runners Up at the end of the season.

If there are any persons or firms who wish to know about sponsorship of any form, contact the speedway office and discuss the matter with

Danny and Lee.

Tonight's visitors all bar one are from Southern clubs, odd rider out is Nicky Allott from Sheffield. Six of the riders are from British League Clubs and all bar one of these have ridden at the Showground at some time during their careers, odd one out being Martin Ashby. So tonight there are no pre-meeting favourites, everyone has an equal chance, the track is renowned for being fast and fair and whosoever climbs upon the rostrum this evening will thoroughly deserve it and obviously we here at Peterborough are hoping for a Panthers 1-2-3.

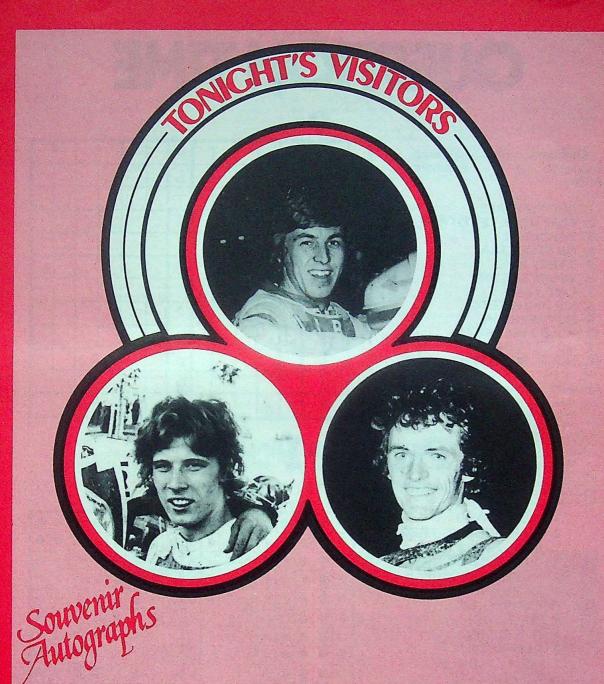
The Supporters Club opened their account last week and gave out twenty gallons of Castrol racing oil, a great gesture and the first of many handouts. They have many good ideas, so turn to page 11 for

news of functions.

Next week the Panthers take on the Swedish Touring side. The Swedes have slipped in recent years as a most formidable team to one who do not figure in World domination. The land of the lakes is famed for its past champions the names of Ove Fundin, Gote Nordin, Bjorn Knuttsson, Anders Michanek, the late Tommy Jansson, have proved themselves, others like Toby Harryson, Bernie Persson, and Bengt Jansson have figured very highly in world speedway and the young lads here next week aim to be every bit as famous. Swedish authorities also think they are the ones most likey to, so we will watch with interest, so come and see, maybe you'll be watching the next Ove Fundin.

Well on to tonight, we welcome the supporters from far and wide and

hope your evenings racing will be a spectacular one.



Tonight's Visitors: Trevor Geer, Colin Richardson & Robert Henry.

All photographs appear by courtesy of the following:

Mick Suttersby, Fotospeed [Kevin Goodacre and David Cornwell], P'Boro Evening Telegraph,

P'Boro Standard, Keith Lawson.

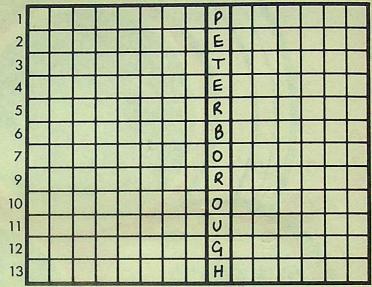
# QUESTION TIME

0

Complete the following anagrams of Ex Panthers Riders:

- 1. CUP POOR ALE
- 2. FAST NEON TEETH ROY
- 3. TAWN TAIL
- 4. ON STEEP TEA
- 5. TARRY ROE
- 6. VEERS BOSTON
- 7. LIVE YONG
- 8. SIR DREW TETCH
- 9. ROY JEPHSON
- 10. YULED WANED M
- 11. GO GET WHO ED
- 12. H.R.H. RON JAYH

Answers next week.



### Puzzle Poser

**ANSWERS TO PUZZLE POSER APRIL 4TH** 

- 1. YES IN HAND.
- 2. DO HAVE A MOD REG
- 3. M.W. TAKES THEN.
- 4. REG. R. KEEN.
- 5. HUGE OP TREBOR.
- 6. MAT LANE FLING.
- 7. PAT. A PULP
- 8. TIM H LOCK
- 9. IT WELL MEN.
- 10. PEEVES TO PLY.
- 11. I GRAB SLOW B.
- II. I GRAD SLOW
- 12. NUDE ELTON.
- 13. WATCH RONNY TOE.
- 14. RUSH GO DOWN.
- 15. DRAW CUB KEN.
- 16. RAIN BLACK R.
- 17. KEEP SPRINT.



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TREVOR GEER - 26 year-old. Had his first rides at East-bourne's training school in 1970, and made his debut for the Eagles in 1971. Joined Oxford in 1974 and moved to White City in 1976 when the Oxford licence was transferred. Won a league championship medal the following year. Now rides for Eastbourne. Young England international. 1979 CMA =

MALCOLM CORRADINE - 26 year-old. Has the shortest trip of all contestants, down the A1 from Grantham. Allround motorcyclist who regularly races on the continent. Started in Div.2 with Doncaster in 1970, and also ridden for Birmingham, Long Eaton, Stoke, Oxford, Weymouth and Teesside, where he finished with a CMA of 8.20 last year. Young England international.

BARNEY KENNETT — 25 year-old Canterbury rider who captained Canterbury to the National League Championship in 1978. Has also ridden for Hackney and Newport. Young England international. 1979 CMA = 7.26.

ALAN SAGE — 26 year-old. Actually made his debut for

Panthers in 1970, riding one meeting. Rode for West Ham in 1970-71 and then moved to Ipswich until 1974. Joined Crayford at the beginning of 1975 and has been a stalwart ever since. Vastly underrated. Broke a leg last year, and was sidelined for some time. 1979 CMA = 8.18. Young England international.

ANDY HINES — 23 year-old. On loan to Peterborough from Ipswich and now in his fourth year with Panthers. Made his debut in second-halves at Ipswich and went on loan to Scunthorpe from 1974-1976. Young England International.

1979 CMA = 7.36.
TONY DAVEY — 29 year-old, whose entire career has been spent with Ipswich, where he began in 1970. Capped at both senior and junior level. 1978 was his best season so far, when he reached the Grand Prix Final. Last season was cut short by a broken thigh received at Leicester. 1979 CMA = 6.78.

NICKY ALLOTT — 25 year-old. First rode at Sheffield in 1970 has since ridden for Hull, Ellesmere Port and Stoke. Has started off this season with high scores, top scoring for Sheffield at Belle Vue. Young England international. 1979

CMA = 4.57

STEVE NAYLOR - 20 year-old, on loan to Crayford from Eastbourne. Number one at London Road last year and remains there this year although Eastbourne wanted him full time. 1979 CMA = 9.12.

DAVE GOODERHAM — 27 year-old now in his third season after moving to Alwalton from Ipswich, where he started in second-halves in 1972. Formerly with Canterbury. Started off at Peterborough with three successive maximums. Young England international. 1979 CMA = 7.28.

BERNIE LEIGH — Fast gating 35 year-old who was granted a testimonial last year with Reading. All-round motorcyclist who has also ridden for Rayleigh and Swindon. Last rode at Alwalton in 1970, his only previous appearance. 1979

CMA = 6.25.

ROBERT HENRY — 25 year-old skipper of league champions Mildenhall. Been with them since 1975, after riding second-halves at Exeter in 1974. Joined Leicester last year, but remained on loan. Fen Tigers recently paid a big fee to buy him back. Young England international. 1979 CMA = 8.74.

COLIN RICHARDSON - 21 year-old Wimbledon rider, who began riding at Eastbourne in 1975. Became a top National League star, and holder of the Silver Helmet, taking over from Brian Clark, in 1977. Picked up league and cup winners medals the same year. Young England international. 1979

NIGEL FLATMAN — 20 year-old from Felixstowe. Made his Peterborough debut in 1977, on loan from Ipswich. Finished as Panthers number one last year. Rode in Australia during the winter. Young England international. 1979 CMA = 8.64. KELVIN MULLARKEY — 29 year-old who first rode for King's Lynn. Moved on to Rye House via Hull, Crewe and Weymouth. Joined Poole in 1978 and rode on loan for Rye House last year. Hard-riding Young England international.

1979 CMA = 8.62.

MARTIN ASHBY — Born in Marlborough. 36 years old.

One of Englands most capped riders with over 80 appearances for England to his credit. Been with Swindon since 1961 except for 1968-70 when with Exeter. Highlights include two World Cup Winners medals in 1968 and 1975, and a World Final appearance at Gothenburg in 1968. Makes his first Alwalton appearance tonight. 1979 CMA = 5.88.

MARTIN YEATES - 26 year-old. Moves back to Weymouth this season from Poole. Began riding in 1973 at Stoke and has also ridden for Eastbourne and Oxford. Young England international. Third in the National League averages in 1978 and runner-up in the NLRC. 1979 CMA = 4.38.



**BERNIE LEIGH** 



**KELVIN MULLARKEY** 

Sunday Mirror

## World Championship Qualifying Round

**AWARDS** 

Winner — Gold Medal; 2nd — Silver Medal; 3rd — Bronze Medal.

	Rider	Track	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Pos
No	TREVOR GEER	[Eastbourne]	3	1	2	1	3	10	
2	MALC CORRADINE	[Weymouth]	1	E.F	EF.	0		1	
Carlo	BARNEY KENNETT	[Canterbury]	2	2	3	2	2	1/	4
3	ALAN SAGE	[Crayford]	0	1	0	1	0	2	
4	ANDY HINES	[Peterborough]	3	3	3	3	3	15	
5	TO SECURE A SECURE ASSESSMENT OF THE PARTY O	[lpswich]	1	2	1	2	1	7	
6	TONY DAVEY	[Sheffield]	2	3	3	3	3	14	2
7	NICKY ALLOTT	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	0	0	E.F.	7	2	3	E EXTE
8	STEVE NAYLOR	[Crayford]			Z	3	2	3	
9	DAVE GOODERHAM   BARNE		0	0	-			-	
10	BERNIE LEIGH	[Reading]	2	3	1	E.F.	1	-	
11	ROBERT HENRY	[Mildenhall]	1	1	3	2		9	
12	COLIN RICHARDSON	[Wimbledon]	3	3	2	2	0	10	
13	NIGEL FLATMAN	[Peterborough]	3	2	2	3	3	13	3
14	KELVIN MULLARKEY	[Rye House]	1	1	1	0	1	4	
15	MARTINASHBY A. BOCK	[Reading]	0	0	1	0	EXC	1	
16	MARTIN YEATES	[Weymouth]	2	2	0	1	1	6	
17	Res: IAN BARNEY A PERPER	[Peterborough]					0		
18	Res: ANDREW BUCK A SKIKH	[Peterborough]	1.778						
19	S.Res:								
20	S.Res:			DE T					
			5 4754	1476					

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		3	W	Barney Kennett	Service of		2	401
		4	Y	Alan Sage	70.58		C	1
		5	R	Andy Hines			3	
	2	7	В	Nicky Allott			2	1.1 /-
	_	6	W	Tony Davey			- 1	66.6
		8	Y	Steve Naylor			0	2 2 2
		10	R	Bernie Leigh	1		2	
	3	11 B Robert Henry				1001		
	J	9	W	Dave Gooderham	In the second	1. BARNEY	0	68.6
		12	Y	Colin Richardson			2	
		15	R	Martin Ashby	STYES:	A.BUCK.	0	
	4	14	В	Kelvin Mullarkey			1	141
		16	W	Martin Yeates			2	67.6
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		9	Y	Dave Gooderham		1 BARNEY	D	
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		6	Y	Tony Davey			2	10
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	11	R	Robert Henry			1 11			
7	15	В	Martin Ashby	A. BULK		0			
7	7	W	Nicky Allott			3 2	68.0		
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16	6	В	Tony Davey			7	69.2		
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	16	Y	Martin Yeates						
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10	12	В	Colin Richardson			2	69.0		
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RUN-OF	F [for	r first	or second place]						
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#### RUN-OFF [for third place]

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#### Kevin Brown

Reporter for the Evening Telegraph writes:

### JOHN DAVIS LOOKING BACK

READING and England international John Davis will never forget his stay at Alwalton which put him on the road to fame and fortune.

Glamour boy Davis got his first big break into speedway with Panthers and his dashing skills and courage made him the darling of Alwalton..... especially with the female fans!

In fact Dorset-based John was a firm favourite wherever he went and when he left Peterborough for the First Division scene his presence was sorely missed.

But John, despite all his success and popularity, still recalls his Panthers days with great affection. "I think what I remember most is captaining England for the first time while in my last season at Peterborough.

'That was a great honour and I also enjoyed getting 17 points, or a similar big score, against the Swedes - I think," Davis said.

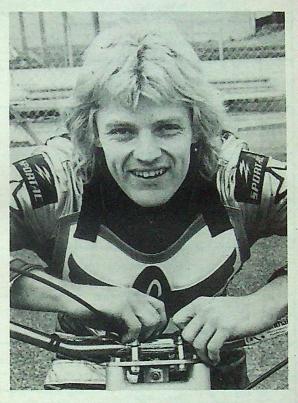
He went on: "Thinking back, other highlights for me was my winning of the Silver Helmet and the friendship I formed with Dickie Greer. Brian (Clark) was a good team guy and a good friend."

John says he still looks out for Panthers results and he stressed that he would like to see them produce a winning side. "The year when Frank Smith, myself and Dickie left, no disrespect to the others, but I think Peterborough went to pieces.

'We had a great team when we reached the KO Cup final and came third in the league. I would like to see Peterborough finish on top.'

John told me that he could not recall any particular race or meeting which stood out in his memory - but he will never forget the Alwalton track, facilities..... and the loyal army band of supporters!

"Without a doubt the track is the best in the country," praised John. "I only wish Panthers had gone First Division. If that had happened, I would not have had to move on.



"The Peterborough fans' are among the best home supporters' in the country. I had a good following myself.....I wish I did not have to leave! But progress is progress," concluded the blonde-bombshell.

F-A

#### ANGLIA JUNIOR LEAGUE FIXTURES

			F-A I		
May	16	Swindon		July 26	Swindon
May :		Mildenhall		Aug. 1	Cradley
June		Wimbledon		Aug. 7	Oxford
June	8	Rye House		Aug. 22	Milton Keynes
June '	13	Crayford		Aug. 28	Ipswich
June :	22	Mildenhall		Sept. 2	Crayford
June :	27	Leicester		Sept. 12	Oxford
July	1	Leicester		Sept. 20	Cradley
July	4	Ipswich		Sept. 23	Milton Keynes
July	17	Wimbledon			

\*Rye House fixture to be arranged.

Home matches in Bold

1980 RECORD FILE	ANDY HINES	NIGEL COUZENS	RICHARD GREER	<b>DAVE GOODERHAM</b>	NIGEL FLATMAN	STEVE POPELY	ANDREW BUCK	IAN BARNEY	ADRIAN PEPPER	IAN SCOTT	ADRIAN SMITH		PETERBOROUGH	OPPONENTS	WINNERISI
NATIONAL LEAGUE Apr. 20 Glasgow A Apr. 21 Nowcastle A Apr. 25 Crayford H Apr. 27 Stoke A May 2 Exeter H May 28 Glasgow (MONDAY) H May 30 Stoke H June 6 Mildenhall H June 14 Conterbury A June 20 Nowcastle H June 29 Boston A June 29 Boston A June 29 Boston A June 30 Scurthorpe A July 4 Barwick H July 11 Ellesmere Port A July 18 Nottingham H Aug. 7 Oxford A Aug. 12 Weymouth H Aug. 7 Oxford A Aug. 12 Weymouth H Sep. 2 Crayford A Sep. 12 Crayford A Sep. 12 Coxford H Sep. 15 Exeter A Sep. 15 Exeter A Sep. 15 Exeter A Sep. 19 Scunthorpe H Sep. 26 Boston H Oct. 3 Meymouth A Sep. 19 Scunthorpe H Sep. 20 Agmid H Sep. 15 Exeter A Sep. 15 Exeter A Sep. 16 Boston H Oct. 3 Canterbury H Oct. 4 Nottingham A Oct. 10 Milton Keynes A Sep. 26 Boston H Oct. 4 Nottingham A Oct. 10 Milton Keynes A															
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INTER-LEAGUE K.O. CUP May 16 SWINDON H															
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June 10 Crayford															
TRIANGULAR TROPHIES Mar 15 Nottingham . A Mar 20 Oxford	9 11 10:1 11 9	1 1 5:1 0 1	10 8 8 3 8	5 9:2 5:1 6 3:1	6:1 8:1 6:1 8:1 11	1 2	6:4 3:1 1 2 0						38 42 35 30 32	N38O32 O30N30 M47RH26 M45RH33 RH44M32	P'boro/Notts Peterborough Mildenhall Mildenhall Rys House
FEN TROPHY Oct. 12 Mildenhall															
CHALLENGE Mar. 16 Boston	12	0	4	5	2	0	4:1						27	51	
OTHER MEETINGS June 27 Reserve KOC															

NOTE: The Management reserves the right to alter this programme. Should it be necessary to abandon the meeting prior to the start of the sixth race in the programme re-admission tickets issued at entrance available for any one of the next three meetings excluding B.S.P.A. and special meetings, will become valid. In no circumstances will any money be refunded. Rights of admission 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 and/or conduct of the meeting including the owners and leasees 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.

# Sunday Mirror Keith Fisher Writes Sunday Mirror

It seems only yesterday that Ivan Mauger illuminated a Polish evening to record his sixth world championship win.

Mauger's stunning success last September in Katowice, just a few weeks before his fortieth birthday, will long be cherished as one of Speedway's magic moments.

Now, the world championship wheel spins round again.

Here, tonight, is the beginning of that long, often prickly path to fame and fortune.

A route embroidered with all the emotions for the eventual victor and vanquished.

This year's world championship flag flies mightily over the impressive Ullevi Stadium in Gothenburg, Sweden.

There, on Friday September 5, sixteen of the world's greatest riders will assemble for an unforgettable climax to the 1980 Speedway season.

In between, of course, are squeezed the various qualifying tournaments that lead directly to that heady night's activity.

The Sunday Mirror has stood side by side with Speedway's premier event since 1958.

This year is no different.

The Sunday Mirror is proud to lend its name to ALL the big world championship qualifying rounds right through to the star spangled Intercontinental Final at London's White City on August 3.

We start here. So give the lads an extra big cheer as those first, important tapes go up. There's an awful lot of action to be soaked up between now and September 5.

And we wouldn't miss it for the world.

#### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

#### **NATIONAL LEAGUE SHARED EVENTS 1980**

- WARNERS GRAND NATIONAL Saturday June 21st, at King's Lynn 1979 Winner — Tom Owen (Newcastle) This year being staged under a brand new format.
- 2. NATIONAL LEAGUE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday July 19th at Halifax 1979 Winners Bob Humphreys and Andy Grahame (Milton Keynes)
- NATIONAL LEAGUE FOUR-TEAM TOURNAMENT sponsored by DUREX Sunday July 27th — at Peterborough 1979 Winners — Ellesmere Port.
- 4. NATIONAL LEAGUE RIDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP Saturday September 27th at Wimbledon sponsored by GAULOISES

  1979 Winner Ian Gledhill (Stoke)

### **Next weeks' EXTRAVAGANZA**

INTERNATIONAL CHALLENGE

### Peterborough v Young Sweden

Friday, 19th April, 1980

FEATURING SWEDISH STARS

Tommy Nilsson ★ Tomas Hydling ★ Lennart Bengtsson

Borge Ring ★ Ake Fridell ★ Jerry Karlsson

Ingemar Andersson ★ Tommy Steen ★ Soren Brolin ★ Jan Eriksson



### SUPPORTURS GLUB NIEWS



Good Evening Everyone,

Well we finally saw action here at Peterborough, and what really exciting racing it was. Full credit to all riders for their effort. On this showing we are in for a great season. All the Panthers showed up well especially Richard and Nigel Couzens, until engine trouble caused problems.

Have you bought your raffle tickets tonight? All money goes towards the Riders Equipment fund. Cash prizes are as follows: 1st £10; 2nd £5; 3rd £3. A book of tickets will cost you 20p. So why not stop our sellers and help the Panthers. The draw will take place every week during the season, hopefully on the centre green. Remember: Try your luck — buy a book.

As I mentioned last week membership is now up for renewal. The cost of joining has been increased to Adults 50p, Children 25p. By joining the club you will actually save money because on coaches, Dances etc, members will get good reductions. We really need your support and are aiming to make this year the best ever. The more members we get the better. Call at the office in the interval. Come and join us.

I feel sure that you loyal supporters would want me to wish a "lost" Panther good luck. Of course I am referring to Ian Clark who during the close season took the step up to join the big guns of Division One at Leicester. Ian served Peterborough well in the last 5 years, and I am sure that if it was not for injuries during his time here, would have been in the big league a lot earlier. We all wish him well. But I bet you will still see the popular rider here on race nights in the pits keeping his eye on brother-in-law Andrew. Good luck with the Lions Ian. Also lost to us this year are two more popular men. Both forced to retire from the sport through different reasons. Ken Mathews and Paul Tapp. We wish them well and hope

that they can find time to pop down to Alwalton and see us.

Something of interest to many of you will be the news that we are running Prize Bingo every Wednesday at Paston Church Hall. Eyes down at 7.30pm. Admission is free and it will cost you 45p for ten games. The prizes are good and the company is good. Call in on a Wednesday and have a game. At our last session Richard "Captain" Greer and Peter Spink called in and also promised to attend on a regular basis. So have a game, meet the riders, and enjoy a night away from the "tele".

We are planning to run a coach trip to Stoke on Sunday, 27th April. Listen out for details tonight. As this is our first coach trip of the season we hope that you will come along and make it a successful one. Prices have still to be confirmed but of course club members will be entitled to reduced fares.

Finally before the action starts can I thank Robin (Dobin) Loakes and Nigel Bellamy for getting me out of a sticky situation at Boston recently. Having locked my car keys in my car, these two gents with the help of a coat-hanger somehow managed to retrieve my keys back. Where was my spare key you may ask, yes, you are right, locked in my car with the others. Thanks again gents.

Don't forget that next week we have an International Challenge against a touring team from Sweden. It should be a cracker. See you then.

Enjoy your speedway. Kevin.

#### LAST WEEK'S RAFFLE WINNERS

1st £10 K.Barker, Polebrook. 3rd £3 Mrs Abbot, P'boro. 2nd £5 M.A.Maslanka, P'boro. 4th £2 M. Sykes, Burnell.



### ERIC RAYNER YOUR VOICE OF SPORT

SPORTS EDITOR, PETERBOROUGH STANDARD

BOSTON supporters and Peterborough supporters are probably among the greatest rivals in the National League. Unfortunately they are one-up on us already this season having well and truly thrashed us in a challenge at New Hammond Beck Road. Still, how does the saying go....he who laughs last, etc.

That trip to Boston did provide one light-hearted moment though. That was when Cyril Crane was introducing his new team to the supporters.

"I know there has been a lot of criticism about not having good enough riders so I have decided to put my money where my mouth is....."

"Crickey! He's richer than we thought," shouted a Boston supporter behind me.

You have got to hand it to Cyril though — he certainly has assembled a team and a half. It will be interesting to see how they fare.

Money is not the key to success in football (ask Malcolm Allison) so perhaps the same is true in speedway.

It is early days yet of course, but already, in the first few weeks of the season, there have been some home reversals for several notable British League sides.

Reading, Hull, Swindon, Wimbledon and Hackney have all failed to win home matches. If this is a sign that racing is getting closer, then I hope it is a trend that will continue.

It is good to see your team win, but not by a mile and it is when an away team is in with a chance that the excitement really builds up. Remember Peterborough v Rye House last season?

Some dates for your diary. Matches in the Durex-sponsored test series between England and the USA have been finalised. They are May 1 at Wimbledon; May 3 at Cradley Heath; May 7 at Hull, May 14 at Poole and May 24 at Swindon.

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Next week Karl Fiala of Rye House begins the defence of his Silver Helmet against Les Rumsey, who is now a Crayford

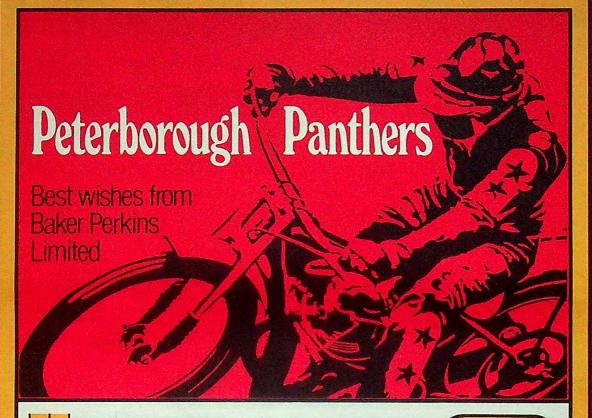
rider.

The first leg is at Crayford on Tuesday with the return at Rye House on April 20. I reckon Rumsey is one of the best riders in the league on his day and I have a feeling he might just pinch the title.

Finally, good luck to the Panthers riders trying for a World Championship place. Let's hear you cheering them on tonight and also spare a thought for Richard Greer, who is in action at Rye House on Sunday.

Also trying to progress at Rye House is lan Clark, now a member of the Leicester Lions team.

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