

**Sunday  
Mirror**

**WORLD  
SPEEDWAY  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

# COMMONWEALTH FINAL



**WIMBLEDON STADIUM  
SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 1980 7.15pm**

**SOUVENIR FINAL  
MAGAZINE  
30p**



# IF YOU'RE EVER IN A JAM HERE I AM.

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# Who will carry Britain's colours?

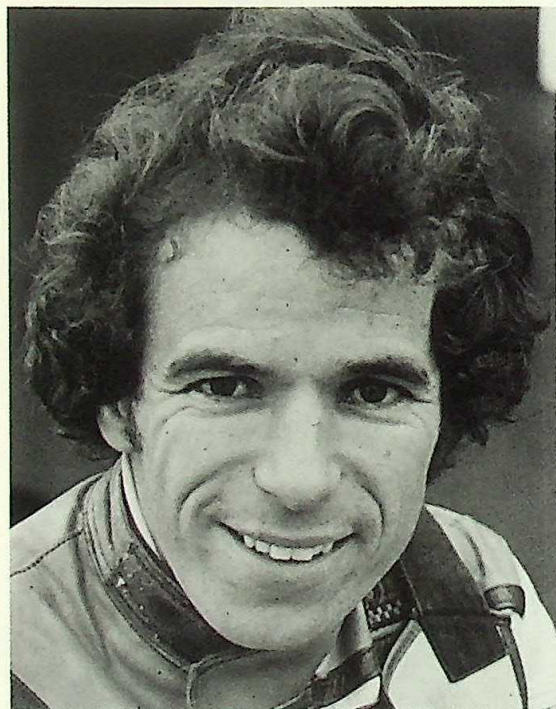
by Norman E. Dixon, OBE

Chairman of the ACU and Vice-Chairman of the SCB



WORLD Champion Ivan Mauger and his five fellow qualifiers from the Australasian Final have waited a long time to discover who their opponents will be in today's Commonwealth Final.

Now they have been joined by the top ten from the British Final held at Coventry on June 4, a meeting which ended with a new British Champion.



DAVE JESSUP

To thousands of British enthusiasts for the sport, today brings about one of the most important meetings of the World Championship other than the ultimate final. Because all of the 16 contestants are familiar to British spectators and those who go forward to the Inter-Continental Final at White City on

August 3 and then, hopefully, to the World Final itself, will carry with them the best wishes and hopes of the great majority of people here today.

Congratulations are due to the new British Champion, intrepid Dave Jessup, of King's Lynn. He defeated his teammate and former champion, Michael Lee, in the final heat of the British Final. And at the other end of the scale, Sheffield's Reg Wilson squeezed into the list of 10 qualifiers with a win over Bobby Beaton, of Hull, in a run-off.

However, to those of us whose job is to ensure the future well-being of the sport, the most encouraging thing about the Commonwealth Finalists is that their names emphasise the great overall strength of British speedway today, strength in depth.

Indeed, one could select a team from the NON qualifiers which would give any team in the world a battle — Malcolm Simmons, Doug Wyer, Roger Johns, Alan Molyneux, Steve Bastable and Jim McMillan were all British finalists last year.

A great struggle is in prospect and I hope you will all enjoy every minute of it.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our overseas officials and visitors and express the thanks of the Speedway Control Board to the Sunday Mirror, the management of Wimbledon Speedway, the Promoters' and Riders' Associations, the RAC and everyone else who has contributed towards the arrangements for the Commonwealth Final.



# of the Sunday Mirror writes:

SPEEDWAY with its traditional thrills and superb catch-me-if-you-can track skills reaches another high point of the season with the **SUNDAY MIRROR** Commonwealth Final.

Last year saw the inauguration of this special event in the Speedway calendar.

And everybody who witnessed the excitement at London's White City knows that the occasion quickly endeared itself to the fans — the lifeblood of our great sport.

The Commonwealth Champion in 1979 was Michael Lee — another mighty step in the meteoric career of the young King's Lynn star.

The stage now moves on to Wimbledon's plush Plough Lane bowl — a track that has become synonymous with Speedway's big events. And deservedly so.

May I, on behalf of the **SUNDAY MIRROR**, extend a warm welcome to you all on what promises to be an evening enriched with action.

It seems only yesterday that the preliminary stages of this year's world championship were getting underway at tracks such as Ellesmere Port, Milton Keynes and Peterborough.

Now, so quickly it seems, we are all set for the crunch with this evening's Commonwealth Final followed by the Inter-Continental Final in August deciding the entry for this year's grand spectacular at Gothenburg, Sweden on Friday, September 5.

And, while our hearts go out to those riders who fell by the wayside, there is now the buzz of optimism and expectancy at what is in store.

Which brings me on to one man whose charisma over the past decade has been worth the admission money alone. Who else but the one and only Ivan Mauger?

You can bet your last £1 note that the coolest man in

London town today — where others, perhaps understandably, fret and frown — is the 40-y-o- Kiwi general.

Let's get it right. Mr. "Ice Eyes" remains the man they all have to conquer — physically and psychologically — if they want to step up to the winner's rostrum in Gothenburg.

It's testimony to the dedication and sheer professionalism of the guy they all love to hate.

Last September, in Poland, Mauger confounded the critics — me included — when he took his sixth world crown in the heat of a Katowice afternoon.

He not only won it in style — leaving everybody choking in his dust — he did it, perhaps most important of all — with a broad grin on his face.

He admitted later: "I realise there are not too many years left for me in Speedway — now I just want to enjoy the rest of my career."

You either love or loathe the "big" man — but there's no denying that the galloping Mauger, more than anybody, has helped provide Speedway with the identity it deserves in this sporting island.

The bare facts on tonight's meeting are that nine riders qualify for the Inter Continental Final at White City in August.

That detail, cold and so very much to the point, masks the tightrope tension that will be so apparent in the pits.

Speedway followers have a very simple maxim: It is to give everybody a big, big cheer.

And it is, simply and succinctly, Speedway's biggest recommendation in an era of mounting sporting fanaticism and ill-feeling.

Speedway is proud of its image. So, too, is the **SUNDAY MIRROR**.

Good evening and welcome!



*World Champion Ivan Mauger with Mike Lee, and Zenon Plech*

**The F.I.M. Steward for today's meeting is Charles Ringblom, Sweden.**

Tonight's Souvenir Programme was compiled by Philip Rising with photographic contributions from Alf Weedon (Speedway Mail), Trevor Meeks and Mike Patrick (Speedway Star) and statistics courtesy of the 1980 Daily Mirror Speedway Yearbook. Printed and designed by Duplex Litho Press Ltd., Duplex House, Quay Terrace, Newton Abbot. Tel: Newton Abbot 66263/62131.



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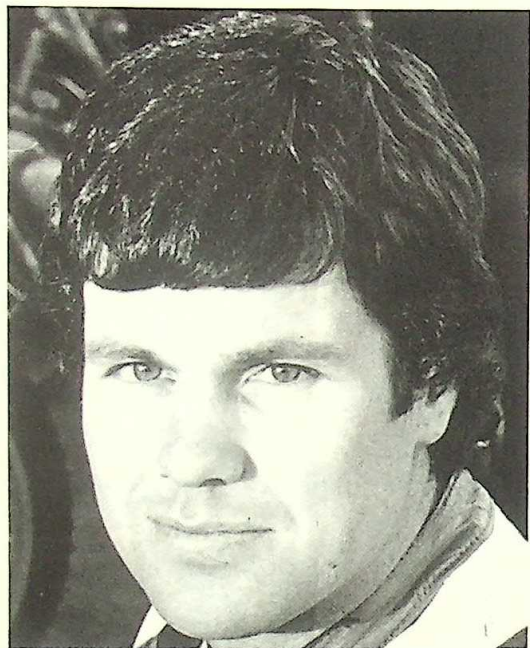
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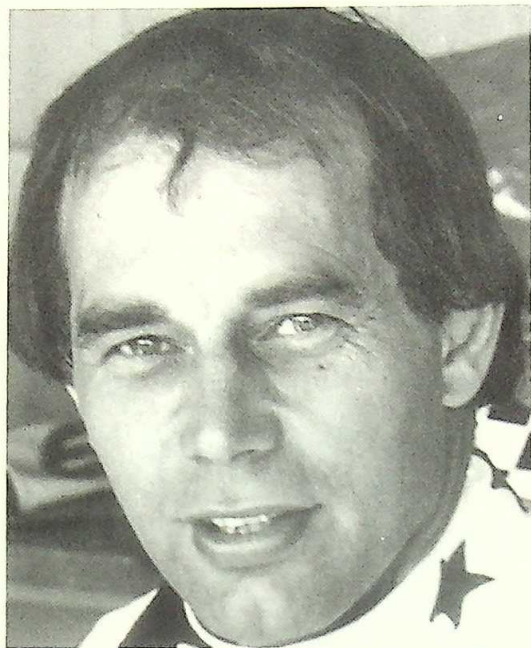
**1. LARRY ROSS**

New Zealand & Wimbledon



**3. IVAN MAUGER**

New Zealand and Hull



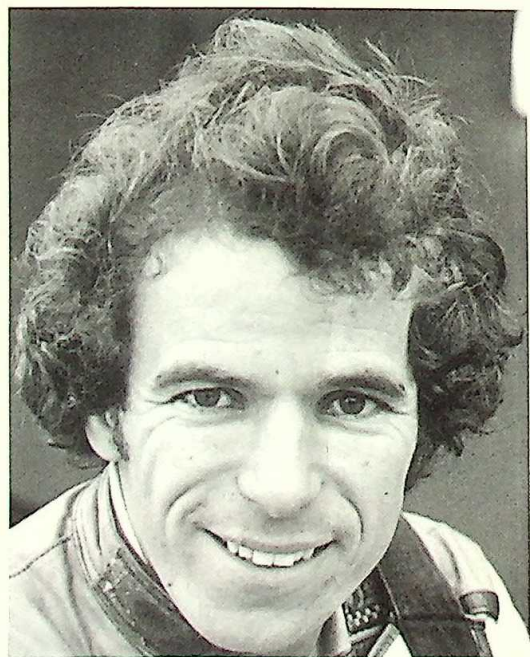
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**2. DAVE JESSUP**

England & King's Lynn



**4. CHRIS MORTON**

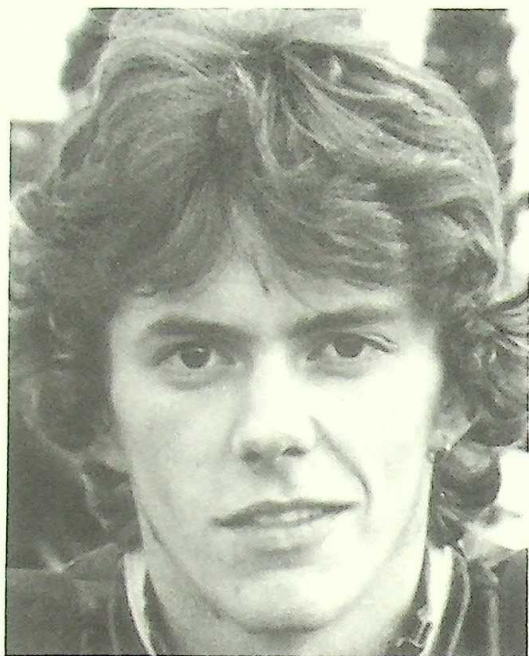
England & Belle Vue





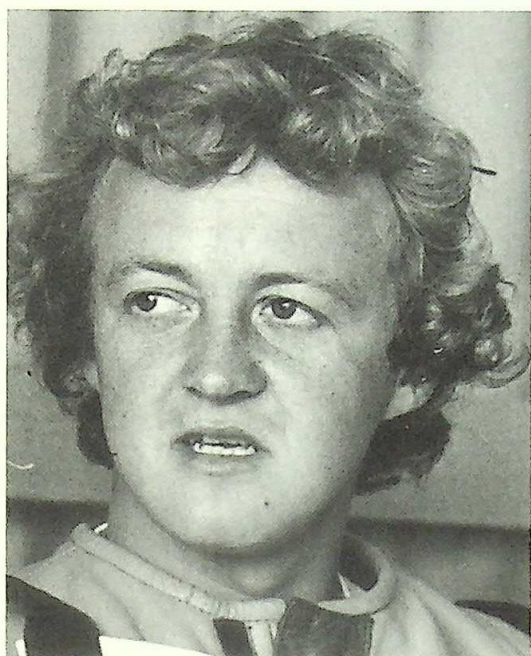
**5. MICHAEL LEE**

England & King's Lynn



**7. MITCH SHIRRA**

New Zealand & Coventry



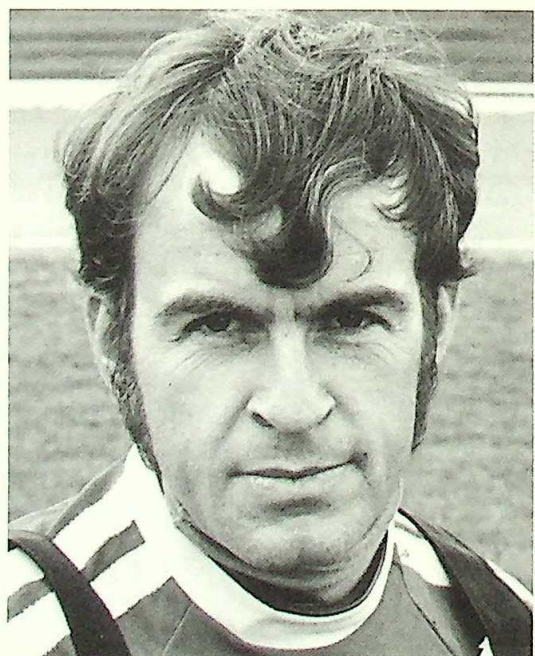
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**6. JOHN TITMAN**

Australia & Leicester



**8. JOHN DAVIS**


England & Reading







**'TIS CHAMPION  
PINT.**

A Whitbread beer 





# FROM THE MANAGER'S CHAIR

By CYRIL MAIDMENT

Wimbledon Stadium is steeped in Speedway History, probably more so than any other track, but the staging of the 1980 Commonwealth Final represents yet another first for us.

This will be the most important World Championship Event ever held here; a track that has held many of the sport's most prestigious meetings during its 52 year run in Speedway.

The management of Wimbledon Stadium are both proud and delighted to be presenting this meeting on a track that is a little different than usual this evening to comply with FIM regulations. We like to think that Wimbledon is a fair track — one which allows plenty of passing, inside and out, and does not put too great an emphasis on gating.

The Commonwealth Final was originally scheduled for the London White City, but when that track was ruled out Wimbledon stepped into the breach.

To those who ask why we are holding this meeting in the evening and not the afternoon, the answer is a simple one: the capacity of the Stadium is something of an unknown quantity. We think it is around 15,000 and we would not like to see more than that number inside. If we had started this afternoon there would have been a real chance of more than 15,000 people arriving, in which case the doors would have been shut with many fans left outside. By staging tonight we probably cut down the potential attendance, but will be able to accommodate everyone in the style that is associated with Wimbledon.

On behalf of the Wimbledon management I would like to welcome our many guests of this evening, including dignitaries from the F.I.M., the A.C.U., the S.C.B. and the B.S.P.A. Mr. Charles Ringblom is the FIM Steward today and it is nice to see him back at Plough Lane.

Good evening also to our friends from the Sunday Mirror, Sponsors of the meeting, and their Speedway writer Keith Fisher. In fact, we have a considerable number of journalists here from National and Provincial Newspapers, Magazines and Broadcasting. It would be impossible to mention everyone, but if I say welcome to SWAPA — The Speedway Writers'

and Photographers' Association — that will embrace them all.

This is the third major individual event to be held at Wimbledon this season. John Davis won the Daily Express Spring Classic in March, while Dave Jessup took the Embassy Internationale in May. Both will be competing this evening, of course, along with the defending Commonwealth Champion Michael Lee.

World Champion Ivan Mauger will be making his first appearance of the year at Wimbledon, but as he began his British career here many moons ago I am sure that won't be a handicap. Good Luck to him and all the competitors, especially Wimbledon's own Larry Ross.



World Champion Ivan Mauger



1. LARRY ROSS, New Zealand & Wimbledon	10. PETER COLLINS, England & Belle Vue
1 1 1 1 2 6	1 - 3 2 1 7
2. DAVE JESSUP, England & King's Lynn	11. MEL TAYLOR, England & King's Lynn
3 2 3 3 3 14	F - 2 1 - 3
3. IVAN MAUGER, New Zealand & Hull	12. PHIL COLLINS, England & Cradley
2 3 1 3 3 12	2 1 - - 2 5
4. CHRIS MORTON, England & Belle Vue	13. PHIL CRUMP, Australia & Swindon
- 3 2 2 2 9	1 - - - 1 2
5. MICHAEL LEE, England & King's Lynn	14. JOHN LOUIS, England & Ipswich
3 2 2 1 1 9	2 3 2 3 3 13
6. JOHN TITMAN, Australia & Leicester	15. GORDON KENNETT, England & Eastbourne
- 1 3 - E/F 4	3 1 1 1 - 6
7. MITCH SHIRRA, New Zealand & Coventry	16. REG WILSON, England & Sheffield
2 2 1 2 2 9	- - - - - 0
8. JOHN DAVIS, England & Reading	17. PHIL HERNE, Australia & Birmingham
1 2 3 2 3 11	
9. BILLY SANDERS, Australia & Ipswich	18. BOBBY BEATON, Scotland & Hull
3 3 - 3 1 10	

Steward: E.A. Woods.

Referee: J. Dorscheus.

Timekeeper: J.D. Homer

### INTERVAL AFTER HEAT 12

Ht/Time	No. Rider	Replacement	Col.	Result	Points
59.4	1 Larry Ross		Red		1
	2 Dave Jessup		Blue		3
	3 Ivan Mauger		White		2
	4 Chris Morton		Yellow		-
58.6	5 Michael Lee		Red		3
	7 Mitch Shirra		Blue		2
	6 John Titman		White		-
	8 John Davis		Yellow		1
59.6	10 Peter Collins		Red		1
	11 Mel Taylor	FEL EX	Blue		-
	9 Billy Sanders		White		3
	12 Phil Collins		Yellow		2
59.6	15 Gordon Kennett		Red		3
	14 John Louis		Blue		2
	16 Reg Wilson		White		-
	13 Phil Crump		Yellow		1

5	13 Phil Crump 1 Larry Ross 5 Michael Lee 9 Billy Sanders		Red Blue White Yellow		- 1 2 3
59.3					
6	14 John Louis 10 Peter Collins 2 Dave Jessup 6 John Titman		Red Blue White Yellow		3 - 2 -1
59.7					
7	11 Mel Taylor 15 Gordon Kennett 7 Mitch Shirra 3 Ivan Mauger		Red Blue White Yellow		- 1 2 3
60.0					
8	4 Chris Morton 8 John Davis 12 Phil Collins 16 Reg Wilson		Red Blue White Yellow		3 2 1 -
59.8					
9	6 John Titman 16 Reg Wilson 1 Larry Ross 11 Mel Taylor		Red Blue White Yellow		3 - 1 2
60.0					
10	12 Phil Collins 5 Michael Lee 15 Gordon Kennett 2 Dave Jessup		Red Blue White Yellow		- 2 1 3
59.0					
11	8 John Davis 9 Billy Sanders 3 Ivan Mauger 14 John Louis		Red Blue White Yellow		3 - 1 2
59.3					
12	13 Phil Crump 4 Chris Morton 10 Peter Collins 7 Mitch Shirra		Red Blue White Yellow		- 2 3 1
59.8					
13	7 Mitch Shirra 12 Phil Collins 14 John Louis 1 Larry Ross		Red Blue White Yellow		2 - 3 1
59.6					
14	2 Dave Jessup 13 Phil Crump 8 John Davis 11 Mel Taylor		Red Blue White Yellow		3 - 2 1
59.4					
15	16 Reg Wilson 3 Ivan Mauger 10 Peter Collins 5 Michael Lee		Red Blue White Yellow		- 3 2 1
59.9					
16	9 Billy Sanders 6 John Titman 4 Chris Morton 15 Gordon Kennett		Red Blue White Yellow		3 - 2 1
60.1					
17	1 Larry Ross 8 John Davis 15 Gordon Kennett 10 Peter Collins		Red Blue White Yellow		2 3 - 1
60.2					
18	9 Billy Sanders 2 Dave Jessup 7 Mitch Shirra 16 Reg Wilson		Red Blue White Yellow		1 3 2 -
60.0					
19	3 Ivan Mauger 12 Phil Collins 13 Phil Crump 6 John Titman		Red Blue White Yellow	EE	3 2 1 -
61.1					
20	5 Michael Lee 14 John Louis 11 Mel Taylor 4 Chris Morton		Red Blue White Yellow		1 3 - 2
61.1					



## IN THE EVENT OF A TIE FOR NINTH PLACE

	GORDON KENNETT	Red	1st	
	LARRY ROSS E/C	Blue		
		White	2nd	
		Yellow		

## IN THE EVENT OF A TIE FOR FIRST PLACE

		Red		
		Blue		
		White		
		Yellow		

## IN THE EVENT OF A TIE FOR SECOND OR THIRD PLACE

		Red		
		Blue		
		White		
		Yellow		

If, after this evening's 20 races, there is a tie for first, second, third, ninth or tenth place these shall be a run-off between the riders involved in the tie. All other placings shall be decided on heat wins, second and third places and if riders cannot be separated then by ballot.

The first nine riders qualify for the Inter-Continental Final of the World Championship to be held at the London White City on Sunday, July 27, where they will be joined by two American riders (Bruce Penhall and Scott Autrey) and five qualifiers from the Nordic Final.

The winner of tonight's meeting will become the 1980 Commonwealth Champion and receive the Sunday Mirror Trophy, a gold medal and a cheque for £750. The runner-up will receive a silver medal and a £400 cheque; and the third highest scorer a bronze medal and a £200 cheque.

# WIMBLEDON SPEEDWAY

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Meeting held under the direction of ..... John E. Cearns - Anthony R. James  
 Speedway Manager ..... Cyril Maidment  
 Clerk of the Course ..... H.W. Louis  
 Chief Pits Marshall ..... Alf Carter  
 Starting Marshal ..... Frank Lawrence  
 Machine Examiner ..... Viv Harwood  
 Announcer ..... Ken Tozer

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

Four Lap Race: 1,165 metres.

SCB Licence No. 80/21

Track Record: 58.2 secs., Scott Autrey — 27.4.78.

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.

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

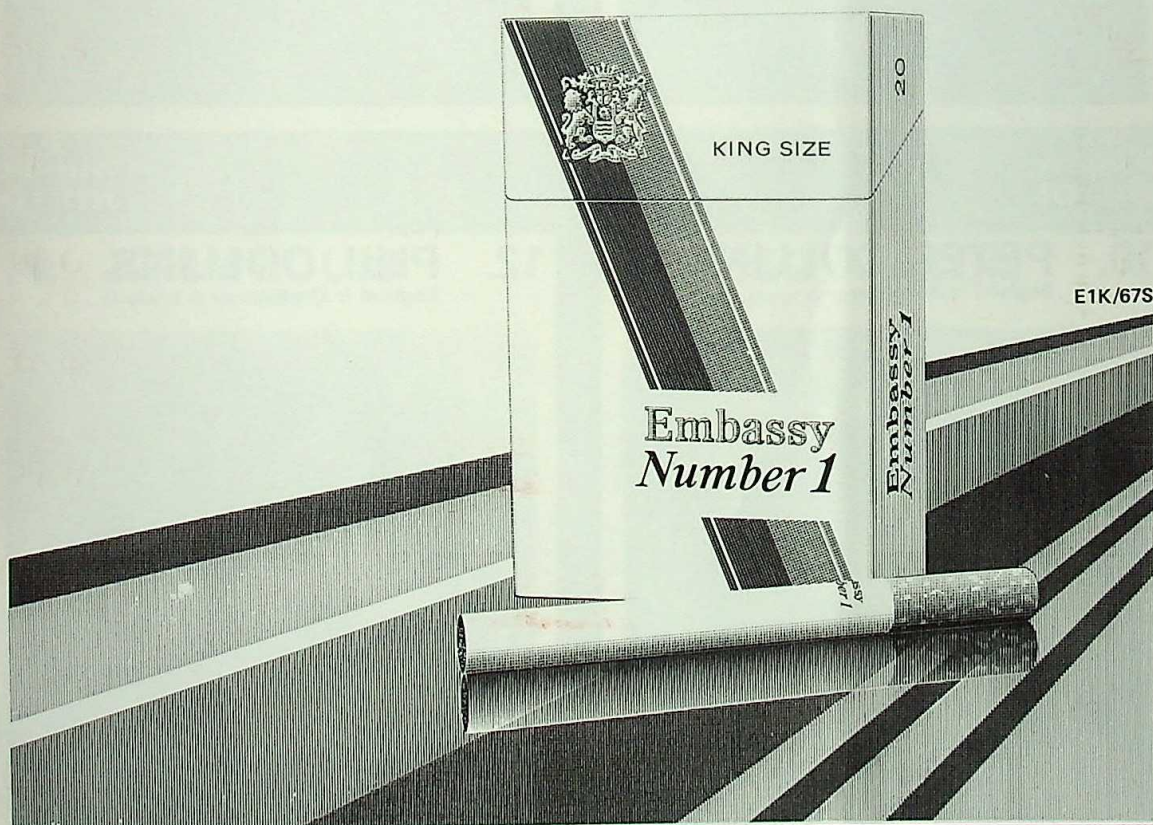
# FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

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 at 7.45p.m.  
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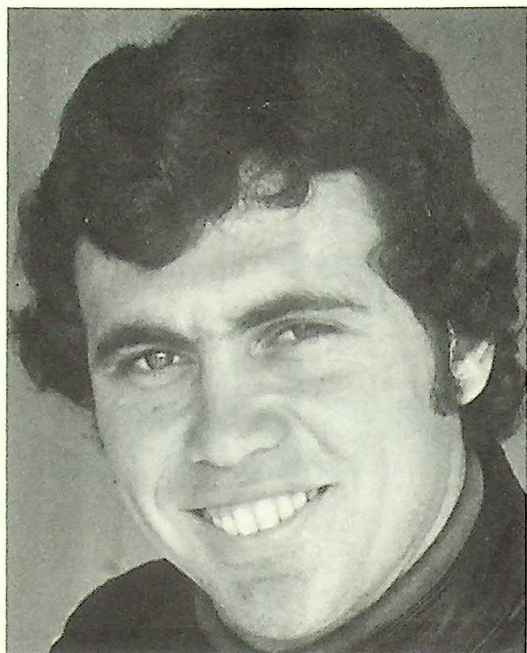
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H.M. Government Health Departments' WARNING:  
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH



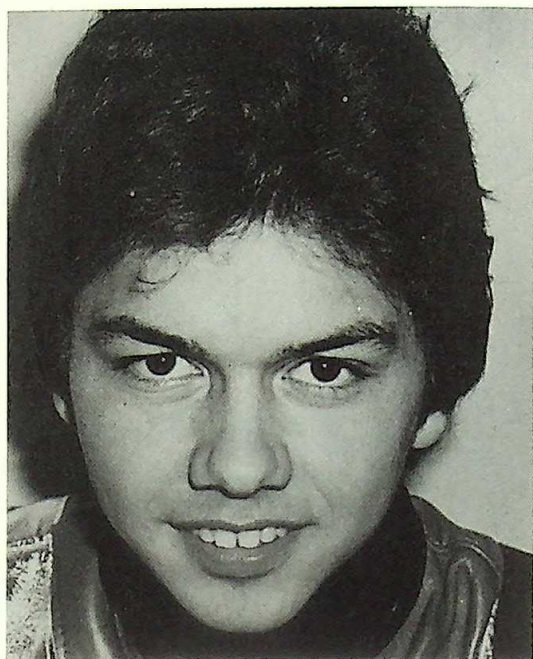
**9. BILLY SANDERS**

Australia & Ipswich



**11. MEL TAYLOR**

England & King's Lynn



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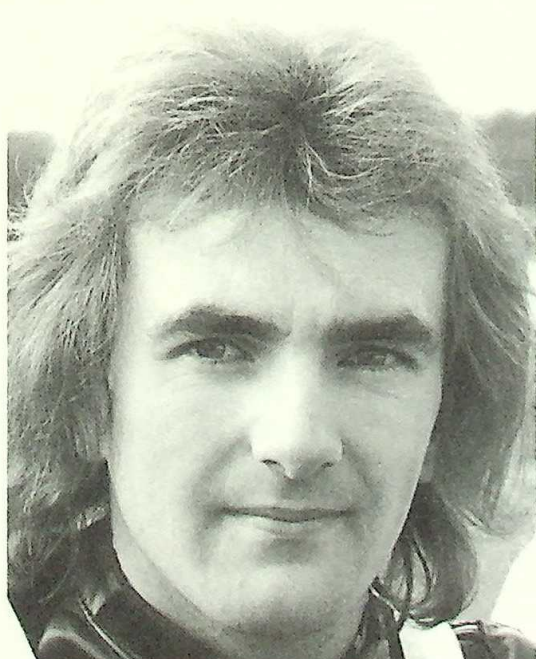
**10. PETER COLLINS**

England & Belle Vue



**12. PHIL COLLINS**

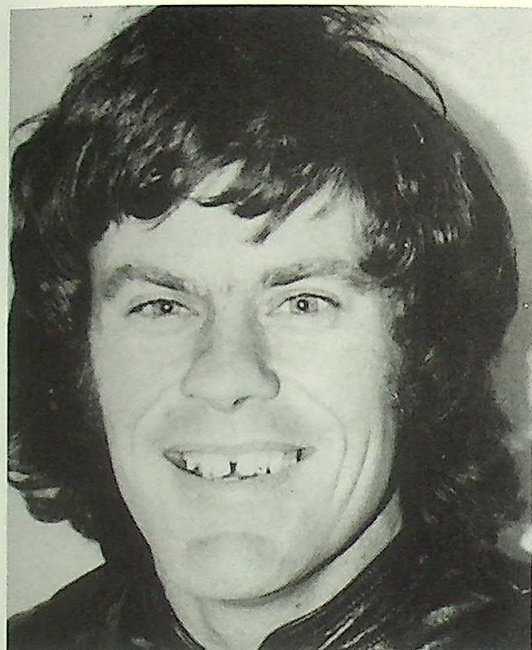
England & Cradley





**13. PHIL CRUMP**

Australia & Swindon



**15. GORDON KENNETT**

England & Eastbourne



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**14. JOHN LOUIS**

England & Ipswich



**16. REG WILSON**

England & Sheffield





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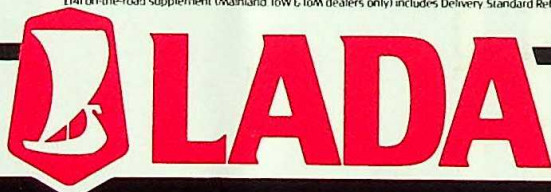
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# Rising to the Occasion

by Philip Rising, Editor, *Speedway Star*

The race for the 1980 World Championship intensifies this evening but already a number of notable contenders have fallen by the wayside.

Riders have been bidding for places in Gothenburg on September 5 since as long ago as November 1979. That was when America staged its round of the competition at the magnificent Anaheim Stadium in Southern California.

There was controversy, argument, accusation and counter-accusation about the track but few would dispute that the two qualifiers — Bruce Penhall and Scott Autrey — are the cream of the American speedway talent.

But riders like Dennis Sigalos, Bobby Schwartz and Ronnie Preston went out — 10 months before the final. This is not the platform to campaign for a different routing system, a scheme that enables more of the best riders to reach the final, but the loss of pedigree men so early does nothing to enhance the championship.

After the American rounds came those in Australia and New Zealand. Few surprises there, with current World Champion Ivan Mauger seeded through to this evening's event. Neither country is rich in world class talent at present, though the Kiwis have some fine youngsters coming through and the Australian pipeline appears to be bubbling again.

However, the five qualifiers from the Australasian Final — Billy Sanders, Phil Crump, John Titman, Larry Ross and Mitch Shirra — were predictable enough.

Europe began next, with qualifying rounds being staged in some unlikely places and being contested by riders with barely pronounceable names. The continental route is a meandering one but so far most of the big names have managed to survive.

The Soviet Union also suffers from a paucity of genuine talent at present and it is difficult to pull a real contender out of a mediocre bunch. But Michael Starostin, who gave a good account of himself in the 1979 Final, is still there, though to the Continental Final being held in Lonigo, Italy, on July 27.

Egon Muller, not the name that he was, is back in the hunt, too, and a prime candidate for a place in Gothenburg. Jiri Stancel must be the pick of the Czechoslovakian riders with Zenon Plech and Edward Jancarz top of the Poles.

Roman Jankowski, so impressive with Hackney since his arrival in Britain this year, has gone out.

One can argue that if Schwartz, Sigalos, Preston and England's Malcolm Simmons — a premature casualty here — were to contest the Continental Final they would probably qualify, which highlights the dubious nature of the current system.

The Scandinavian rounds have produced some surprises as well. Sweden held three meetings with the top scorer going straight to the World Final. Reading's Jan Andersson finished with the highest aggregate tally and at this stage is the only rider assured of his berth on September 5.

Other Swedes, including World Champion Anders Michanek, then joined riders from Denmark, Finland and Norway in the Nordic Final held in Skien on June 15. Hans Nielsen won that with 15 points, ahead of Ole Olsen, Finn Thomsen, Bent Rasmussen and Kai Niemi.

A good day for the Danes although Bo Petersen, well fancied by many as a World Championship prospect, was eliminated.

All of which brings us back to this evening and a nicely balanced Commonwealth Final. Nine go through to the Inter-Continental Final at the London White City on August 3.

Say it quickly and it doesn't sound too difficult a task for the sort of riders we have on parade. But then ask yourself to name the seven who will go out and whatever permutation you come up with some prize guys will get the axe.

England have 10 riders here and whatever happens one will have to go. But what are the odds of nine Englishmen taking the places up for grabs. Corals would no doubt be pleased to answer....and take your money!

The Australasians are all experienced, top class riders geared up to safely negotiate this hurdle.

No predictions from me — I have fallen on my face too often — but I can assure you that after a dozen races there will be some worried folk in the pits with riders grabbing programmes to work out who can do what, to whom, when, how and so on.

Any man who, at that stage, has managed a hat-trick of wins will be contenting himself in the knowledge that his place is booked. Nine points will certainly be enough.....perhaps even eight or seven. Who knows?





# WORLD FINAL



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# PEN PICS

## **IVAN MAUGER (New Zealand & Hull)**

Born: Christchurch, 4.10.39

World Final appearances: 14

World Speedway Champion: 1968, 69, 70, 72, 77, 79.

World Longtrack Champion: 1971, 72, 76.

World Pairs Champion: 1969, 70.

World Team Cup Champion: 1968, 71, 72, 79.

British teams: Wimbledon 57-58; Newcastle 65-67; Belle Vue 68-72; Exeter 73-77; Hull 78-80.

(Current World Champion)

## **LARRY ROSS (New Zealand & Wimbledon)**

Born: Christchurch, 15.6.1954.

World Final appearances: none.

World Team Cup Champion: 1979.

British teams: Wimbledon 75-80.

## **DAVE JESSUP (England & King's Lynn)**

Born: Ipswich, 7.3.53

World Final appearances: 3

World Team Cup Champion: 1974, 77.

British teams: Eastbourne 69-70; West Ham 69; Leicester 72-75; Reading 76-78; King's Lynn 79-80.

## **CHRIS MORTON (England & Belle Vue)**

Born: Manchester, 22.7.56.

World Final appearances: 1.

British teams: Ellesmere Port 73; Belle Vue 73-80.

## **MICHAEL LEE (England & King's Lynn)**

Born: Cambridge, 11.12.58.

World Final appearances: 3.

World Team Cup Champion: 1977.

British teams: Boston 75; King's Lynn 75-80.

(Current Commonwealth Champion).

## **JOHN TITMAN (Australia & Leicester)**

Born: Brisbane, 26.1.51.

World Final appearances: 2

British teams: Halifax 72-73; Exeter 75-77; Leicester 78-80.

## **MITCH SHIRRA (New Zealand & Coventry)**

Born: Auckland, 27.9.58.

World Final appearances: none.

World Team Cup Champion: 1979

British teams: Coatbridge 75; Coventry 75-80.

## **JOHN DAVIS (England & Reading)**

Born: Oxford, 10.11.54.

World Final appearances: none.

World Team Cup Champion: 1977.

British teams: Peterborough 71-73; Poole 71, Oxford 71-75; Reading 75-80.

## **BILLY SANDERS (Australia & Ipswich)**

Born: Sydney, 9.9.55.

World Final appearances: 2

World Team Cup Champion: 1976

British team: Ipswich 72-80

(Current Australasian Champion)

## **PETER COLLINS (England & Belle Vue)**

Born: Manchester, 24.3.54.

World Final appearances: 6.

World Champion: 1976.

World Pairs Champion: 1977.

World Team Cup Champion: 1973, 74, 75, 77.

British teams: Rochdale 71; Belle Vue 71-80.

## **MEL TAYLOR (England & King's Lynn)**

Born: West Row, 26.4.61.

World Final appearances: none.

British teams: Mildenhall 77-79; Reading 78; King's Lynn 80.

## **PHIL COLLINS (England & Cradley)**

Born: Manchester, 2.6.60.

World Final appearances: none.

British teams: Ellesmere Port 76-78; Cradley 78-80.

## **PHIL CRUMP (Australia & Swindon)**

Born: Mildura, 9.2.52.

World Final appearances: 2

World Team Cup Champion: 1976

British teams: Crewe 71-72; King's Lynn 72-73; Newport 74-76; Bristol 77-78; Swindon 79; 80.

## **JOHN LOUIS (England & Ipswich)**

Born Ipswich, 14.6.41.

World Final appearances: 4.

World Pairs Champion: 1976.

World Team Cup Champion: 1972, 74, 75.

British teams: Ipswich 70-80.

## **GORDON KENNETT (England & Eastbourne)**

Born: Bromley, 2.9.53.

World Final appearances: 1.

World Pairs Champion: 1978.

British Teams: Eastbourne 70-72; Oxford 72-75; White City 76-78; Eastbourne 79-80.

## **REG WILSON (England & Sheffield)**

Born: Sheffield, 28.1.48.

World Final appearances: none.

British teams: Doncaster 69; Workington 70; Hull 71; Sheffield 69-80.

## **BOBBY BEATON (Scotland & Hull)**

Born: Blantyre, 14.5.52.

World Final appearances: none.

British teams: Glasgow 68-72; Coatbridge 73; Hull 74-80.

## **PHIL HERNE (Australia & Birmingham)**

Born: Ballina, 27.3.55

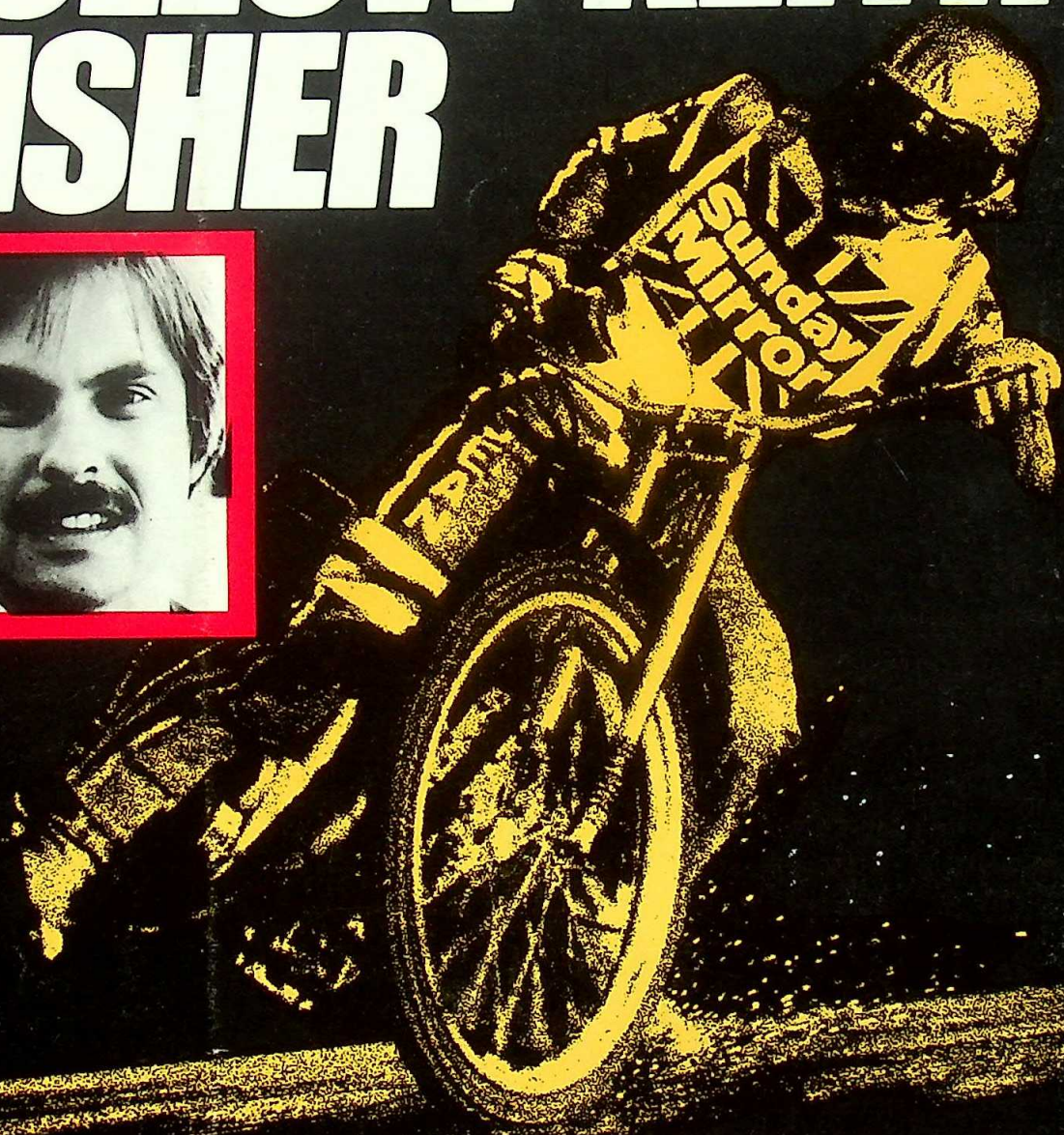
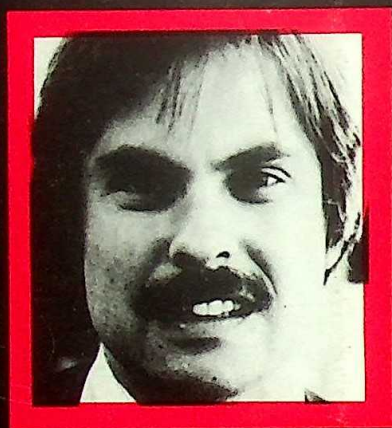
World Final appearances: none.

World Team Cup Champion: 1976.

British teams: Birmingham 73-74; Newport 75-76; Bristol 77; Birmingham 78-80.



# **FOLLOW KEITH FISHER**



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