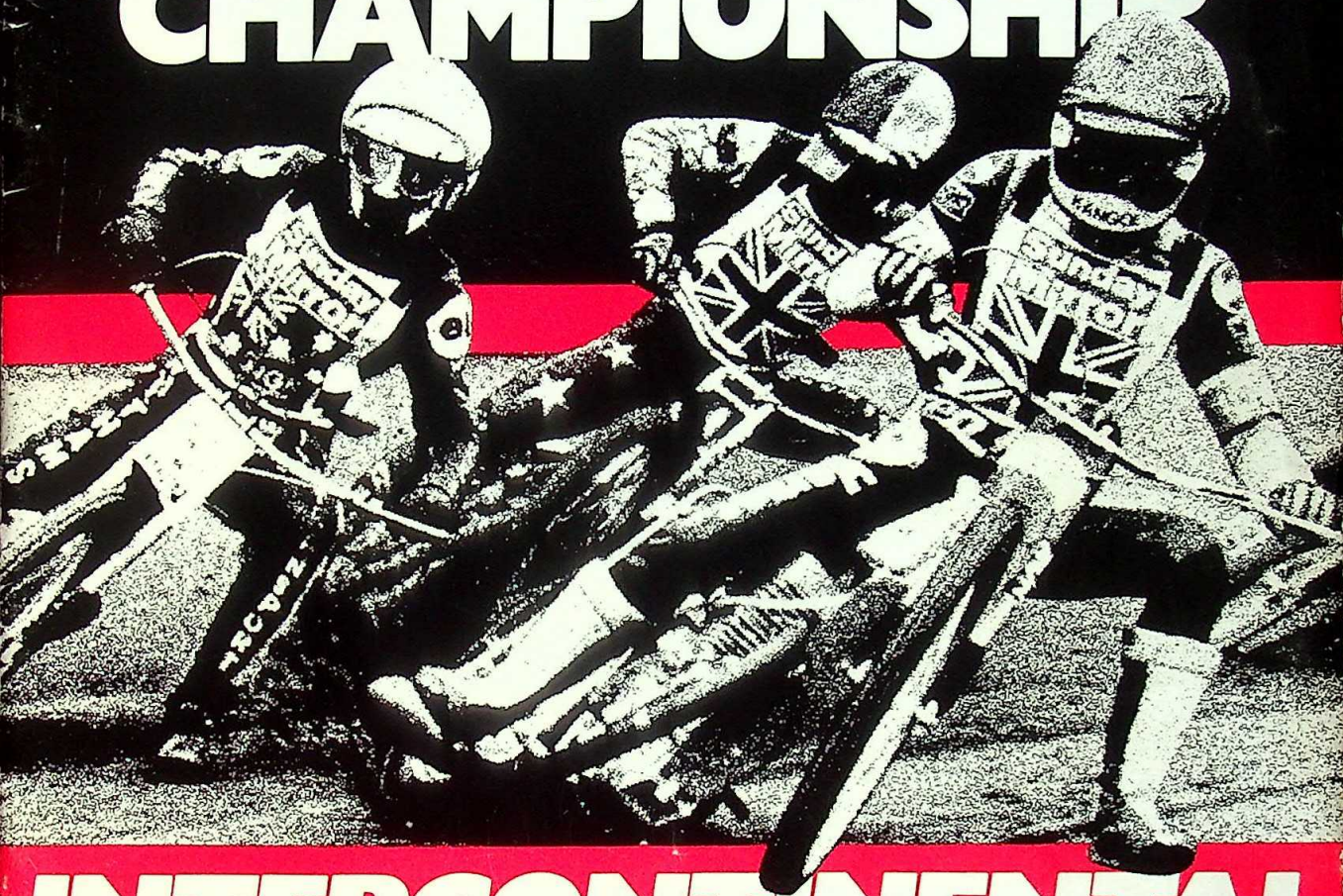


**Sunday
Mirror**

WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP



INTERCONTINENTAL FINAL

**LONDON WHITE CITY
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 1980. 3.45p.m.
SOUVENIR FINAL MAGAZINE 50p**

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TODAY'S MEETING OFFICIALS

FIM STEWARD/DELEGATE... Wladislaw Pietrzak (Poland)
FIM REFEREE... Tore Kittilsen (Norway)
CLERK OF THE COURSE... Harry Louis (England)
MEETING SECRETARY... Dick Bracher (England)
JUDGE-TIMEKEEPER... John Homer (England)
TECHNICAL STEWARD... Ernest Woods (England)
START MARSHAL... Jack Rackett
FLAG MARSHAL... Paul Johnson
PIT MARSHAL... Alf Carter
MACHINE EXAMINER... Viv Harwood
MEDICAL OFFICER... Dr. Morris Hayes

Ambulance and first aid personnel provided by the St. John Ambulance Brigade London (Prince of Wales') District, 345 a/N Division.

Track maintenance carried out by Peter Jarman with equipment supplied by Kellands (Plant Sales) Ltd.

Press Representation by Peter Oakes Management.

Meeting conducted under the control of Messrs. Wally Mawdsley and Danny Dunton.

Track Licence Number 015. IMN 40/15.

HOW THEY QUALIFIED

...from AMERICA

The American Final of the World Championship was staged at Anaheim, California, on November 16, 1979, when the top two riders qualified for today's Inter-continental Final.

Results were: BRUCE PENHALL 14, SCOTT AUTREY 13, Dennis Sigalos 13, Ron Preston 13, Shawn Moran 10, Gene Woods 10, Mike Faria 9, John Cook 8, Bobby Schwartz 5, Alan Christian 5, Denny Pyeatt 5, Duane Yarrow 5, Brad Oxley 4, John Santana 4, Dan McNeill 3, Kelly Moran 1, Larry Kosta 0.

...from AUSTRALIA

A series of State qualifying competitions and finals were organised and sixteen riders met in the Australian Final from which the top nine qualified for the Australasian Final at Christchurch, New Zealand, on February 16, 1980. The eight Australian representatives were: Billy Sanders, Phil Crump, John Titman, Steve Koppe, Mike Farrell, Phil Herne, Glyn Taylor, Glenn McDonald and Keith Wright.

...from NEW ZEALAND

A series of qualifying rounds were staged from which the top seven qualified for the Australasian Final. New Zealand's Australasian Finalists were: Larry Ross, David Bargh, Tony Briggs, Graeme Stapleton, Mitch Shirra, Wayne Brown and Mike Fullerton.

...from AUSTRALASIA

The sixteen Australasian Finalists met at Christchurch, New Zealand, on February 16, 1980 — chasing the five vacant spots in the Commonwealth Final. Results of the Australasian Final were: Billy Sanders 15, John Titman 13, Larry Ross 12, Mitch Shirra 12, Phil Crump 11, Tony Briggs 11, Mike Farrell 10, Phil Herne 8, Steve Koppe 7, Glyn Taylor 5, Glenn McDonald 5, Graeme Stapleton 3, Keith Wright 2, David Bargh 2, Mike Fullerton 2, Wayne Brown 1.

...from BRITAIN

Qualifying rounds were hosted by National League tracks Milton Keynes, Nottingham, Ellesmere Port, Peterborough and Rye House and the top sixteen scorers went into a quarter final at Halifax from which the top eight joined 24 seeded riders in the semi-final draw and rode at either Poole or Sheffield.

The top eight from each semi-final qualified for the British Final at Coventry on June 4, 1980, from which the leading ten scorers went forward to the Commonwealth Final. British Final results were: Dave Jessup 15, Mike Lee 14, Phil Collins 11, Peter Collins 10, Gordon Kennett 10, John Louis 9, John Davis 8, Chris Morton 7, Melvyn Taylor 7, Reg Wilson 6, Bobby Beaton 6, Ian Cartwright 5, Dave Morton 4, Kevin Jolly 4, Peter Prinsloo 4, Mike Lanham 0.

...from the COMMONWEALTH

The top ten scorers from the British Final and the top five scorers from the Australasian Final were joined at the Commonwealth Final at Wimbledon on June 29, 1980, by the

seeded defending World Champion Ivan Mauger. Commonwealth Final results — with the top nine qualifying for today's meeting — were DAVE JESSUP 14, JOHN LOUIS 13, IVAN MAUGER 12, JOHN DAVIS 11, BILLY SANDERS 10, CHRIS MORTON 9, MIKE LEE 9, MITCH SHIRRA 9, PETER COLLINS 7, Gordon Kennett 6, Larry Ross 6, Phil Collins 5, John Titman 4, Melvyn Taylor 3, Phil Crump 2, Reg Wilson 0.

...from DENMARK

Denmark staged its own qualifying round but reserved the right to nominate four riders from that meeting to join Ole Olsen and Hans Nielsen, both seeded to the Scandinavian Final. Leading scorers in the Danish Final were Bo Petersen 15, Preben Eriksen 13, Bent Rasmussen 12, Finn Jensen 12, Finn Thomsen 10 and Mike Lohmann 8. Petersen, Eriksen, Rasmussen and Thomsen were nominated for the next round with Jensen being named as reserve.

...from SWEDEN

Sweden staged three qualifying rounds and then a Swedish Final — again staged over three separate meetings — and the overall top-scorer Jan Andersson was seeded direct to the World Final and the next four highest scorers qualified for the Scandinavian Final...Anders Michanek, Bernt Persson, Bengt Jansson and Tommy Johansson.

...from NORWAY

Norway staged a domestic final and Reidar Eide, Rolf Gramstad and Ove Olsen were nominated for the Scandinavian Final.

...from FINLAND

Riders Kai Niemi, Ila Teromaa and Veijo Tuorieniemi were nominated to compete in the Scandinavian Final.

...from SCANDINAVIA

The Scandinavian Final was held at Skien, Norway, on June 15, 1980, from which the top five scorers qualified for today's meeting. Results were: HANS NIELSEN 15, OLE OLSEN 14, FINN THOMSEN 13, BENT RASMUSSEN 12, KAI NIEMI 11, Ila Teromaa 9, Bo Petersen 8, Hasse Danielsson 7, Tommy Johansson 7, Preben Eriksen 6, Rolf Gramstad 5, Veijo Tuorieniemi 4, Bernt Persson 4, Ove Olsen 3, Reidar Eide 1, Bengt Jansson 0. Danielsson replaced the non-arriving Anders Michanek.

All results taken from official FIM sources.

STATISTICS

TRAXCITEMENT... SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

BRITISH LEAGUE

BELLE VUE: Zoological Gardens, Hyde Road, Manchester M12 5PT. Tel: 061-223-1331. Seasoned speedway buffs will tell you that Belle Vue is the home of speedway racing as we know it. Certainly it's a track with a history that none can match and not even Hitler's stormtroopers could close. It is the only track that has staged racing every year, and that included during the war. Today the Aces track a spearhead as good as any — 1976 World Champion Peter Collins and fellow English test star Chris Morton. It's big, sweeping bends makes an ideal track for high-speed racing.

BIRMINGHAM: Ladbroke Stadium, Walsall Road, Birmingham, B42 1BY. Tel: 021-356-9883. Colourful, extrovert Dan McCormick recently took over the promoting rights at Perry Barr....and promises to turn the BRMB Brummies into the most talked-about team in the land. He's certainly got the characters under his wing, including extrovert American Kelly Moran (fourth in the world last year) and top Czechoslovakian Zdenek Kudrna.

COVENTRY: Coventry Stadium, Rugby Road, Brandon, near Coventry, CV8 3GJ. Tel: Wolston 542395. Home of the Bees — and the defending British League champions. A spick-and-span organisation headed by leading administrator Charles Ochiltree whose signing of Great Dane Ole Olsen turned the once struggling Bees into the most powerful and consistent side in the land. Aiming for their third successive title win this year.

CRADLEY HEATH: Cradley Heath Stadium, Dudley Wood Road, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 0DH. Tel: Cradley Heath 69008. Home of the most partisan fans in the country. Since the now departed Dan McCormick took over they've spent heavily in the transfer market (Phil Collins cost a reported £14,000) and raided America and Denmark to snap up colourful personalities Bruce Penhall and Erik Gundersen.

EASTBOURNE: Arlington Road, Nr. Hailsham, Eastbourne, Sussex. Tel: Hailsham 841641. Youngest team in the British League, having taken over from White City in 1979 after a star-studded career in the National League. Country track with big ideas and a massive rebuilding programme that saw the opening of a £200,000 glass fronted stand.

HACKNEY: Hackney Stadium, Waterden Road, London, E.15. Tel: 01-985-9822. Surprise team of the season — having experienced a complete change of racing fortune. Bottom of the British League last season — early season pacesetters this. Len Silver's perseverance has paid off and in Danish international Bo Petersen he has discovered a rider who is virtually unbeatable around his home track. One of the few promoters who puts on a major individual meeting when his own team is racing away — that's next Friday night's Superama (8 p.m.) when Inter-continental Finalists Chris Morton, John Louis, Billy Sanders and Mitch Shirra meet again. Others in the field include brothers Phil and Les Collins, Larry Ross, Edward Jancarz, Phil Crump, Ron Preston and Erik Gundersen.

HALIFAX: The Shay Ground, Halifax, West Yorkshire. Tel: Halifax 62201. The big, steeply banked track makes for exciting racing and in teenager Kenny Carter the Dukes have one of England's brightest prospects for years. Promoter Eric Boothroyd, an ex-World Finalist, has gambled heavily on the youngest side in the track's history....and he's reaping the rich rewards.

HULL: Boulevard Stadium, Airlie Street, Hull. Tel: Hull 23101. Home of the defending World Champion Ivan Mauger — a good enough reason to pay a call to the Yorkshire track. Throw in riders of the calibre of Americans Dennis Sigalos and Shawn Moran and it is little wonder the Vikings were finalists in last year's Speedway Star Knock-out Cup and runners-up in the British League.

IPSWICH: Ipswich Stadium, Foxhall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. Tel: Ipswich 623640. Promoter John Berry set new standards in professionalism when he took Ipswich into the British League — and his modern-day presentation still ranks among the best in the land. Cup experts Ipswich are currently chasing their third British League championship in six seasons and little wonder with a top two of John Louis and Billy Sanders, both on parade today. This coming week there are two important matches at Foxhall Heath — Thursday night's British League encounter with Belle Vue (7.45 p.m.) and then, next Sunday, a chance to pay tribute to a brave warrior in the Tony Davey Testimonail (3.30 p.m.).

KING'S LYNN: Saddlebow Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE34 3AG. Tel: King's Lynn 3753. It's a tribute to the go-ahead foresight of the Stars promotion that their track was chosen to host this year's UK qualifying round of the Gauntlet World Team Cup — and that three of their riders are seeking a World Final place tonight. Mike Lee and Dave Jessup form an all-powerful spearhead and few tracks have as accomplished a second string on their books as Denmark's Bent Rasmussen.

LEICESTER: Leicester Stadium, Parker Drive, Leicester, LE4 0JE. Tel: Leicester 354335. There are times when a man who doesn't score a point on the track can be more important than any rider. That's been the case this year at Leicester where Martin Rogers took over an ailing circuit and pumped fresh blood into the team. He's plunged heavily in the transfer market — but gone for virtually untested talent... and picked a string of winners like Les Collins, Rolf Gramstad, Andrzej Huszcza and new British Junior Champion Mark Courtney.

POOLE: The Stadium, Wimborne Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 2BP. Tel: Poole 81145. Big spending Poole was one of the busiest clubs in the winter market signing up Czechoslovakian Vaclav Verner and Peter Prinsloo (from Zimbabwe) to augment a squad already headed by ex-World number two Malcolm Simmons and 1979 European Junior Champion Ron Preston. Injuries and illnesses have hampered the Pirates' hopes of scuttling the opposition — but the bright, breezy promoting talents of Reg Fearman and Terry Chandler have brightened up practically everything down on the South Coast.

READING: Reading Stadium, Bennet Road, Smallmead, Reading, Berkshire, RG2 0JL. Tel: Reading 863161. Nothing's too outrageous for new Reading chief Dave Lanning who was probably born with a Barnum & Bailey poster in his mouth. He's tried running races the wrong way round....hurling frisbees into the crowd....having toddlers crashing through hoops of fire....and at the same time built up a side that is challenging strongly for the British League Championship. Lanning's motto (Speedway's fun) ensures there's never a dull moment at smiling Smallmead.

SHEFFIELD: Owlerton Sports Stadium, Penistone Road, Sheffield, S6 2DE. Tel: Sheffield 343074. Youth is the key to new promoter Ray Glover's philosophy designed to take Sheffield into the eighties. He's insisted on bringing on his own talent and after a roller-coaster beginning the Tigers are beginning to climb again behind the consistent scoring of their two English test stars Reg Wilson and Doug Wyer.

SWINDON: Abbey Stadium, Blunsdon, near Swindon, Wiltshire. Tel: Blunsdon 723038. The winter signing of top American Scott Autrey — third in the world the last time he competed in the World Championship — was nullified by Phil Crump's late return to Britain but in recent weeks the Robins have raced through to the semi-finals of three cup competitions.

WIMBLEDON: Wimbledon Stadium, Plough Lane, London, SW17 0BL. Tel: 01-946-5361. Best appointed stadium in speedway with a fine restaurant overlooking the home straight. Smallest track in the British League and regular venue for top-class meetings. Current squad boasts New Zealand Champion Larry Ross and veteran Polish World Finalist Edward Jancarz.

WOLVERHAMPTON: Monmore Green Stadium, Bilston Road, Wolverhampton. Tel: Wolverhampton 51935. Ole Olsen won his first World title when riding for the Wolves — and they reckon that this year another Danish youngster will make it to the very top....high-scoring Hans Nielsen. A winter deal saw Goodyear tyre company move in with a big sponsorship deal for the Wolves.

FOOTNOTE: See page ten for the week's racing calendar.

AN INTRODUCTION TO SPEEDWAY

If you are a newcomer to speedway — welcome to Britain's most popular sport.

Speedway is proud of its reputation as a family sport and while at first the system of identification and programme marking may seem difficult it is quickly explained.

If you are in any trouble do not hesitate to ask the person next to you in today's London White City crowd — if he is a regular speedway follower he will quickly guide you through the race-chart which appears on pages 16, 17 and 18 of this match magazine.

Today's meeting is the last qualifying round before the World Final at Gothenburg, Sweden, on Friday, September 5, and brings together the finest riders from three Continents.

The sixteen on parade this afternoon have raced their way through a series of qualifying rounds as far apart as sunny California, scorching Perth, wintry Stockholm and bustling Coventry.

Today's field represents the cream of speedway talent from America, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and Britain — and the aim for all sixteen is a place in the top ten....and a guaranteed berth in the World Final itself.

The line-up includes several household names like the current World Champion Ivan Mauger, England's Peter Collins and Denmark's Ole Olsen. But when the tapes go up on the first race reputation will count for nothing.

On the race-chart pages the scoring system is explained in detail and to aid you plot the progress of each individual rider the announcer Graham Hambly will guide you through each race result.

Additionally you will be able to hear the riders' views — in a series of exclusive pits interviews conducted by well-known commentator Bob Radford.

The television cameras are also with us today — recording material for inclusion in World of Sport and for transmission to millions of homes in America — as further evidence of the global appeal of speedway.

TEN FOR THE TOP



by Norman Dixon

Although this is the Intercontinental Final, our linguistic abilities will not be overstrained for, in the same language, I can say 'Welcome' to six Englishmen, two New Zealanders, two Americans and a lone Australian. Which leaves four Danes and a Finn. But since we have some foreign officials as our guests and newspapermen from all over the speedway world I will play safe and add, "Velkommen", "Valkomna", "Willkommen", "Witaj", "Tervetuloa", "Vitati", "Bienvenux", "Benvenuti", "Dobro Pozhalovat" and "Welkom".

Someone once made the criticism to me that the type of Final we are seeing today with ten of the sixteen riders going through lessens the effort and the quality of competition. At this stage of the Championship I doubt that it is true. The real point is that six of the riders will NOT qualify for the Final. In the early stages of the competition it might be that you could look at the list of riders and pick out at least three or four who were not in the class of the rest.

I doubt if you could do that with today's line-up.

Three World Champions, the past and present British Champions, the captain of Australia and the two greatest Americans since the great days of the Milne Brothers and Wilbur Lamoreaux, there and the rest are riders of the top quality and there is not one of them who will lightly surrender the right to participate in Gothenburg on 5th September.

I look forward to some great racing and I hope you will be rewarded for coming here by some wonderful sporting entertainment. My thanks to you all; to the promoters and riders; the White City authorities; the local police; all the officials, honorary and otherwise; and not least our sponsors, the Sunday Mirror. I stand open to correction but I do not believe that any newspaper has shown such long and continuous loyalty and support to any one sport as the Mirror Group has shown to speedway. We all owe them our gratitude.

NORMAN DIXON is chairman of the Auto-Cycle Union and vice-chairman of the Speedway Control Board Limited.

YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW...

DENMARK has only had three World Finalists — Morian Hansen, Ole Olsen and Finn Thomsen.

ENGLAND has had 81 World Finalists but six of those did not ride in the final itself. Of England's six Inter-Continental Final qualifiers only John Davis has not ridden in a World Final although he was reserve in 1977.

NEW ZEALAND had had seven former World Finalists but Mitch Shirra has not been among them.

FINLAND has had only one former World Finalist — Ila Teromaa.

AMERICA has had three post-war World Finalists, Wilbur Lamoreaux, Ernie Roccio and Scott Autrey. The last time the U.S.A. had two riders in a World Final was in 1938 (Cordy Milne, Jack Milne, Lamoreaux and Benny Kaufman).

BARRY BRIGGS (New Zealand) has appeared in more World Finals than anyone else in speedway history 18 times.

IF Peter Collins qualifies for his seventh World Final he closes the gap on Peter Craven (10), Nigel Boocock (10), Ron How (9) and Brian Crutcher (8). Because of injury and non-riding roles as reserve Boocock has ridden in only 8 Finals, How in eight and Crutcher in six.

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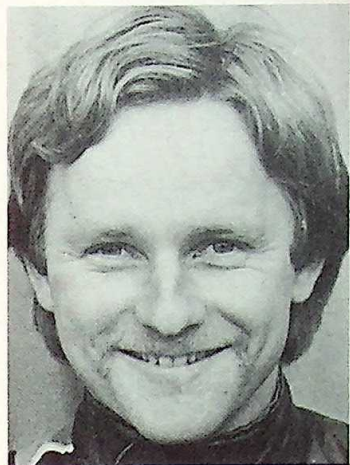
ARE GOING TO SWEDEN!

Details From: Danny Leno, Warnersports, 25 Euston Centre, London. NW1 3JN.
Telephone 01 387 9257/8/9

WarnerSports



A Photographer's Guide to Today's Finalists



SCOTT AUTREY (Swindon & U.S.A.)



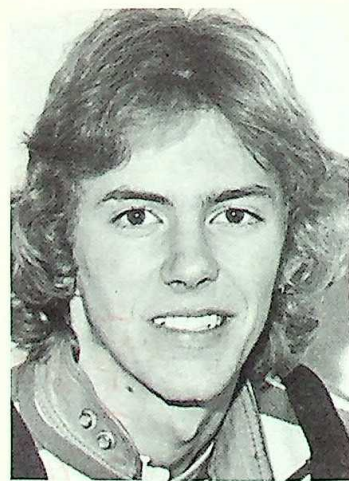
PETER COLLINS (Belle Vue & England)



JOHN DAVIS (Reading & England)



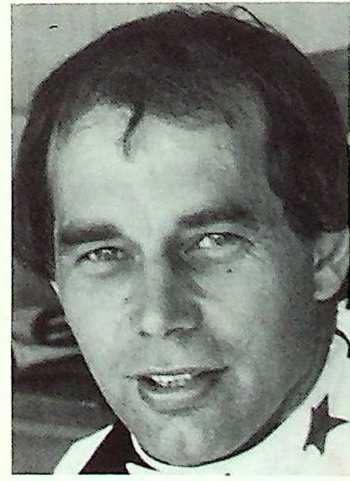
DAVE JESSUP (King's Lynn & England)



MIKE LEE (King's Lynn & England)



JOHN LOUIS (Ipswich & England)



IVAN MAUGER (Hull & New Zealand)

In Camera

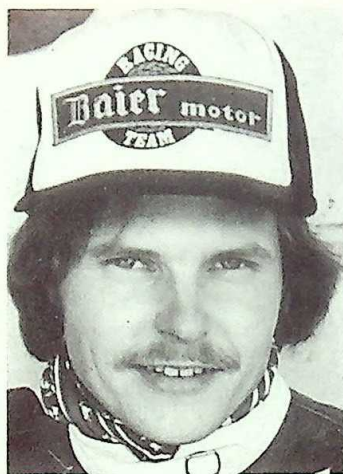
A Photographer's Guide to Today's Finalists



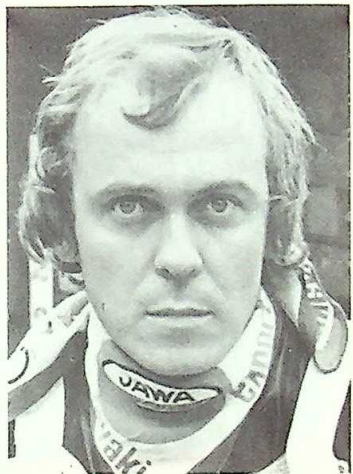
CHRIS MORTON (Belle Vue & England)



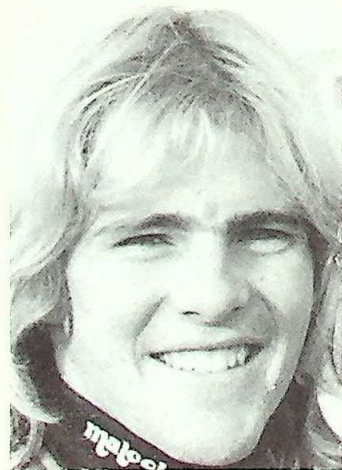
HANS NIELSEN (Woives & Denmark)



KAI NIEMI (Eastbourne & Finland)



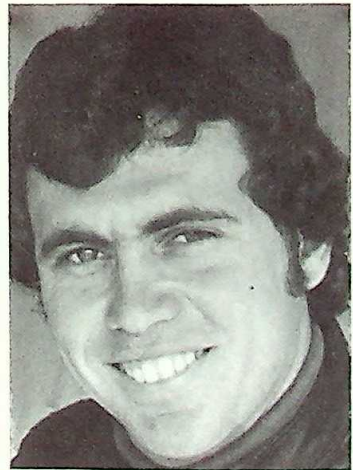
OLE OLSEN (Coventry & Denmark)



BRUCE PENHALL (Cradley & U.S.A.)



BENT RASMUSSEN (K.Lynn & Denmark)



BILLY SANDERS (Ipswich & Australia)

A Photographer's Guide to Today's Finalists



MITCH SHIRRA (Coventry & N. Zealand)



FINN THOMSEN (Hackney & Denmark)



ILA TEROMAA (Cradley & Finland)



GORDON KENNETT (E'bourne & England)

THEIR CONTINENTAL RIVALS

Hackney's Polish international Zenon Plech, runner-up in last year's World Final, heads the Continental challenge in the World Final.

Last week-end Plech finished as the new champion in the Continental Final of the World Championship at Lonigo, Italy.

He headed the five-qualifiers for next month's World Final at Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg, where Reading's Jan Andersson has already been seeded as the nomination of host nation Sweden.

Joining Plech in the World Final are the four riders who finished directly behind him in the Lonigo meeting — Reading's Jiri Stancl, Sheffield's transfer-listed Ales Dryml, unattached West German Egon Muller and Wolverhampton's 1980 signing Petr Ondrasik.

Three of the qualifiers — Stancl, Dryml and Ondrasik — help provide Czechoslovakia with the most powerful East European challenge and a feature of the first World Final of a new decade is that the Soviet Union will not be represented in the last sixteen.

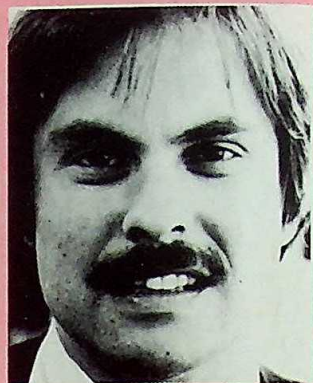


DENNIS SIGALOS (Hull & U.S.A.)



ZENON PLECH (Hackney & Poland)

KEITH FISHER WRITES



DRAMA! SPECTACLE! EXCITEMENT!

Okay so it sounds like a trailer for the blockbuster at your local cinema.

But what nobody, surely, can deny is that by approximately six o'clock tonight we'll have gone through every imaginable emotion as tonight's star-studded Inter-continental Final of the World Championship tugs at the heartstrings like a Borg-McEnroe showdown.

It's what speedway is all about. And we wouldn't want it any other way. June's Commonwealth Final at Wimbledon's plush Plough Lane bowl enabled nine riders to qualify for tonight's proceedings.

There were some pundits before that meeting who suggested that, because of the high number of qualifiers, it would take away all the snap and snarl from the evening's commitments.

Just ask Peter Collins if HE felt that way.

The Belle Vue bomber, a glorious World Champion in 1976, scraped home with seven points and a sigh of relief could be heard all the way to Manchester.

Just ask Eastbourne's Gordon Kennett, one of the bright young hopes of English speedway, how HE felt as he saw his ambitions dim and vanish like a puff of smoke.

Gordon was one of seven notable casualties who failed to make it for this confrontation at London White City where TEN riders battle like demons for the ultimate accolade in speedway....

A coveted World Championship spot in the cauldron that will certainly be the Ullevi Stadium, in Gothenburg, Sweden, on Friday, September 5.

So the fascination is not just about guessing the ten who will go through — but the six of the best who will, definitely, fall by the wayside.

And with the likes of Mauger, Olsen, Lee, Jessup, Autrey, Penhall and Sanders etc, etc straining every inch of the way, tonight's Sunday Mirror line-up makes an even more impressive read that the World Championship field itself.

Quite simply in an event as highly strung as this, anything can happen — and usually does.

There's no doubting where the bookies stand — on the shoulders of pint-sized Dave Jessup, the cockney sparrow who has just about cleaned up this season.

British Champion, Commonwealth Champion, tonight is the night when Dave — so often speedway's nearly man in what has been a chequered career — must, psychologically at least, ram home his marvellous season as an ominous prelude to an even greater, more rewarding time next month.

Let's get one thing right. Speedway is all about the riders. Glory-glory boys YOU cheer all the way.

We don't cheer promoters, team managers, track staff and stewards — and I'm not belittling the immensely important background job they do — but speedway, overall, is about the man who risks life and limb in an unquestionable quest for distinction.

And, as sixteen riders line up and hold their breath in readiness for the off, the feeling, surely, must be parallel to that of soccer and it's F.A. Cup semi-finals.

How must it feel for six lads tonight when it's all over bar the shouting to have ridden so far — and then see a million dreams blow up in your face?

It doesn't need me to provide a curtain raiser for this event. Far from it.

Sixteen of the world's biggest speedway stars....the significance of it all....the buzz of optimism and expectancy. It says it all.

Good evening and welcome. Have a smashing time.

THE SUNDAY MIRROR IS DELIGHTED YOU'RE HERE WITH US.

**Sunday
Mirror**

KEITH FISHER is speedway columnist for the Sunday Mirror and writes a regular weekly column for the paper as well as covering all the main speedway events.

**Sunday
Mirror**

LATER THIS WEEK

BRITISH LEAGUE

Birmingham v Wolverhampton (4)
Reading v Cradley Heath (4)
Hull v Swindon (6)
Poole v Sheffield (6, 7.45)
Ipswich v Belle Vue (7, 7.45)
Sheffield v Poole (7)
Wolverhampton v Hackney (8)
Belle Vue v Ipswich (9, 7.00)
Coventry v Reading (9)
Cradley Heath v Wolverhampton (9)
Halifax v Hackney (9)

King's Lynn v Wimbledon (9, 7.45)
Swindon v Birmingham (9)

INDIVIDUAL

Elf Golden Gauntlets (at Leicester, 5)
Tommy Jansson Memorial Trophy (at Wimbledon, 7, 7.45)
Superama (at Hackney, 8, 8.00)
Tony Davey Testimonial (at Ipswich, 10, 3.30)

NATIONAL LEAGUE K.O. CUP

Oxford v Middlesbrough (6, 7.45)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Exeter v Milton Keynes (4)
Newcastle v Glasgow (4)
Scunthorpe v Peterborough (4, 7.15)
Stoke v Rye House (4, 7.45)
Crayford v Rye House (5, 7.45)
Milton Keynes v Canterbury (5)
Weymouth v Oxford (5)
Nottingham v Canterbury (6, 7.45)
Middlesbrough v Boston (7)

Edinburgh v Boston (8, 7.15)
Elesmere Port v Glasgow (8)
Workington v Crayford (8)
Berwick v Crayford (9, 7.00)
Canterbury v Nottingham (9, 7.00)
Boston v Mildenhall (10, 6.45)
Rye House v Edinburgh (10, 4.30)
Stoke v Crayford (10, 3.30)

All meetings start at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated. First figure after fixture indicates the date.

MAUGER- A LEGEND IN HIS OWN LIFETIME

There are few records left for Ivan Mauger to chase.

He's already won the World Championship more times than anyone in history (six times).

He's the only rider ever to win three successive finals. He was the first rider to win a World Final behind the Iron Curtain. And he broke his own record as the oldest man in history to take the world crown in Poland last September only 38 days short of his fortieth birthday.

Yet astonishingly records still remain that could come under the spell of this magician on two wheels.

Tonight, by the time the last race has been run, the Christchurch-born New Zealander, whose on-track exploits in more than a dozen countries brought him the ultimate accolade of the M.B.E. in the 1976 New Year's Honours, could be that little closer to the only real World Championship record that still eludes him.

It is one jealously guarded by his close friend, business associate, fellow countryman and former rival — Barry Briggs.

It took the always-popular Briggo until 1972 to achieve it — and tragically it ended with him being taken to a local hospital to have a finger amputated in a heat five crash with Russian Valerij Gordeev just coming out of the tight first turn in front of an 80,000 near full house at Wembley.

Few people in that vast crowd realised as Briggo was stretchered off that they were witnessing a little slice of history as Mauger — who had been the first rider to rush out of the pits to talk to Barry as he was carried out of the arena — crushed Bernt Persson in a title run-off.

It was to be Briggs' last World Final appearance. His eighteenth in a big night career that had started with a nine-point tally and a joint fifth place with colourful Split Waterman in the 1954 Wembley final.

Today Mauger has fourteen consecutive World Finals behind him. By this evening he could be ready to make it fifteen in a row....still tantalisingly four seasons away from what would, at the end of his career, be his most remarkable World Championship record of all....nineteen straight finals!

HIS WORLD FINAL RECORD

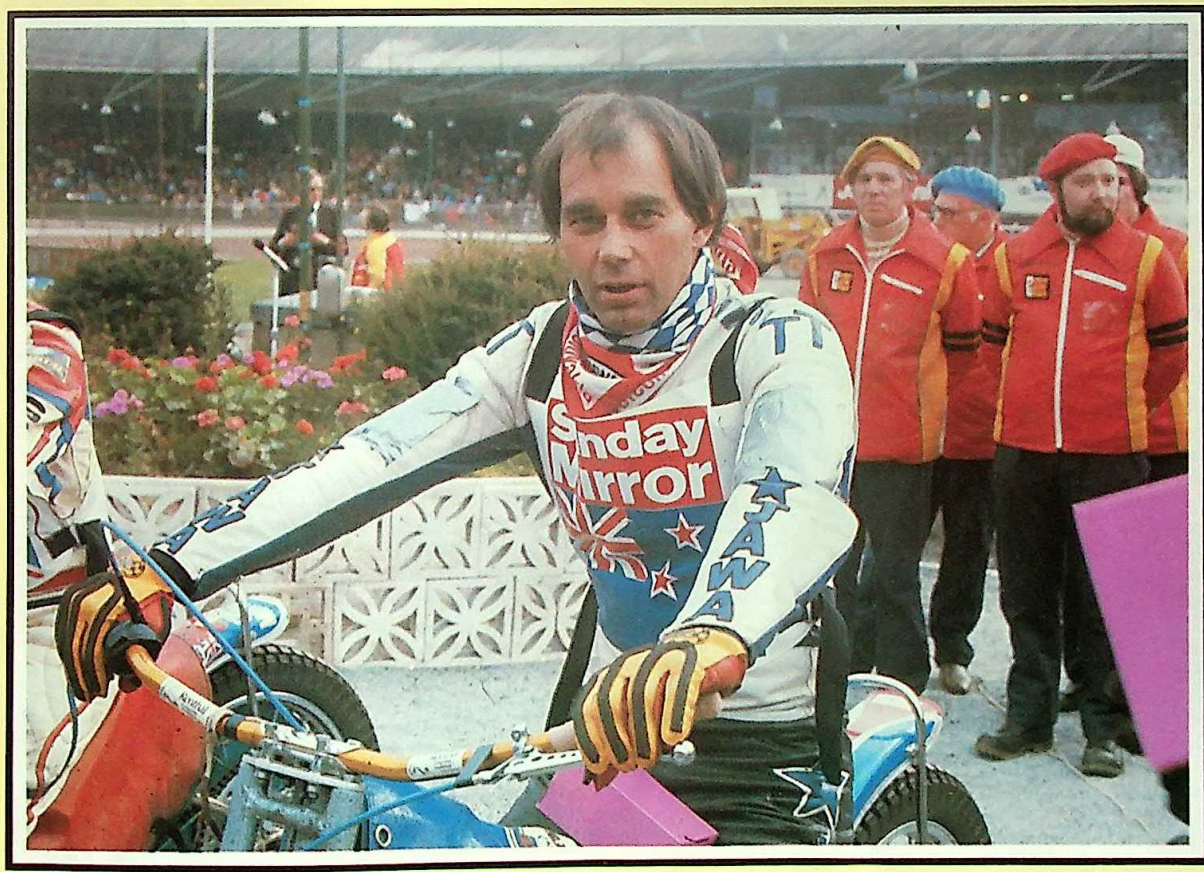
1966	11 pts	Fourth
1967	13 pts	Third
1968	15 pts	Champion
1969	14 pts	Champion
1970	15 pts	Champion
1971	12 pts	Runner-up
1972	13 pts	Champion
1973	13 pts	Runner-up
1974	11 pts	Runner-up
1975	12 pts	Fourth
1976	11 pts	Fourth
1977	14 pts	Champion
1978	8 pts	Eighth
1979	14 pts	Champion

*Venues:

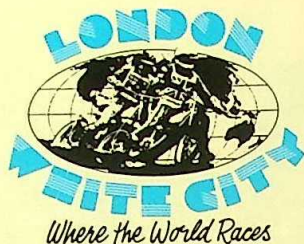
Sweden (1966, 1968, 1971, 1974, 1977).

England (1967, 1969, 1972, 1975, 1978).

Poland (1970, 1973, 1976, 1979).



Ivan Mauger in New Zealand colours.



BRITAIN'S T

A TRIO OF C

The record books spell out the story in all too vivid style.

The year was 1962 and speedway was only just picking itself up after the traumas of the fifties when the sport slumped to its lowest-ever post-war level as television denuded the terraces of family support.

The Provincial League, a brave child of many of today's successful promoters, was beginning to bring a new flush to the speedway face but still all the big boys rode in the truncated National League.

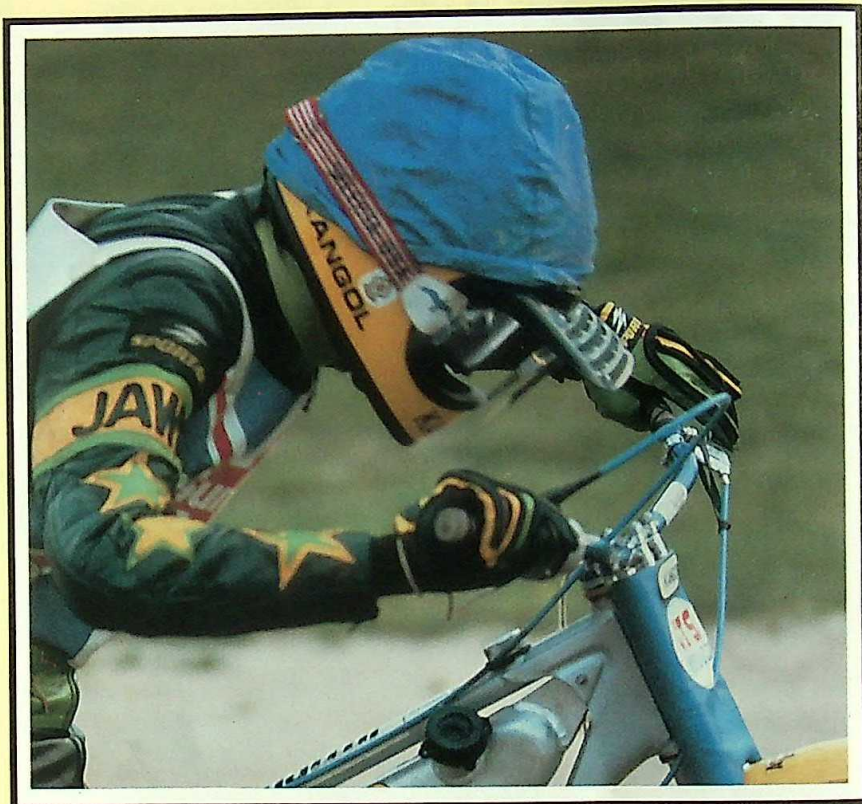
One of them was cheery Liverpudlian Peter Craven, an ambassador without pretence or vindictiveness, who bridged a seven-season gap by winning his second World Championship on the then customary World Final home at Wembley.

He dropped his only point to arch rival Barry Briggs in heat six but as Briggo had already finished third in his opening ride knew that he only needed to win his remaining three races to be the new World Champion.

Two years later, on a sad night at Edinburgh's old Meadowbank Stadium, Peter received the fatal injuries that saw him succumb in hospital. But his memory remains today. Not only through the pages of the reference books but clearly, vividly to those who knew him.

It was to be another fourteen years before England could again salute a World Speedway Champion. There were many similarities. The same initials. The same wizardry of balance. Even the same club jacket worn so honourably throughout the season.

The largest-ever speedway audience — a sell-out 120,000 thronged the impressive Slaski Stadium at Katowice, Poland — witnessed England's renaissance with Peter Collins, then only 22, heading the first English 1-2 since



Concentration at the tapes from World number three Mike Lee.

1949 a point clear of runner-up Malcolm Simmons.

That was England's only individual success of the seventies despite a domination of world affairs at both team and pairs level.

The time, surely, has come when the nation that has played such a leading part in speedway's golden fifty-odd years, is ready to hail another world leader.

Over the years English-born champions have been too few and too far between.

Any student of the sport can reel them off with scarcely a second's pause. Tommy Price in 1949. Peter Craven in 1955 and 1962. Peter Collins in 1976. Perhaps a half share in the triumphs of Welsh-born Freddie Williams who mastered Wembley — and fifteen opponents — in both 1950 and 1953.

Other than that only near misses to record. Runners-up like Jack Parker, Wally Green, Split Waterman, Brian Crutcher and, of more recent times, Malcolm Simmons, Peter Collins and Gordon Kennett.

Third place men who might, with a little bit of extra luck, have gone two better. Louis Lawson. Bob Oakley, Arthur Forrest. Peter Craven, John Louis. And Mike Lee.

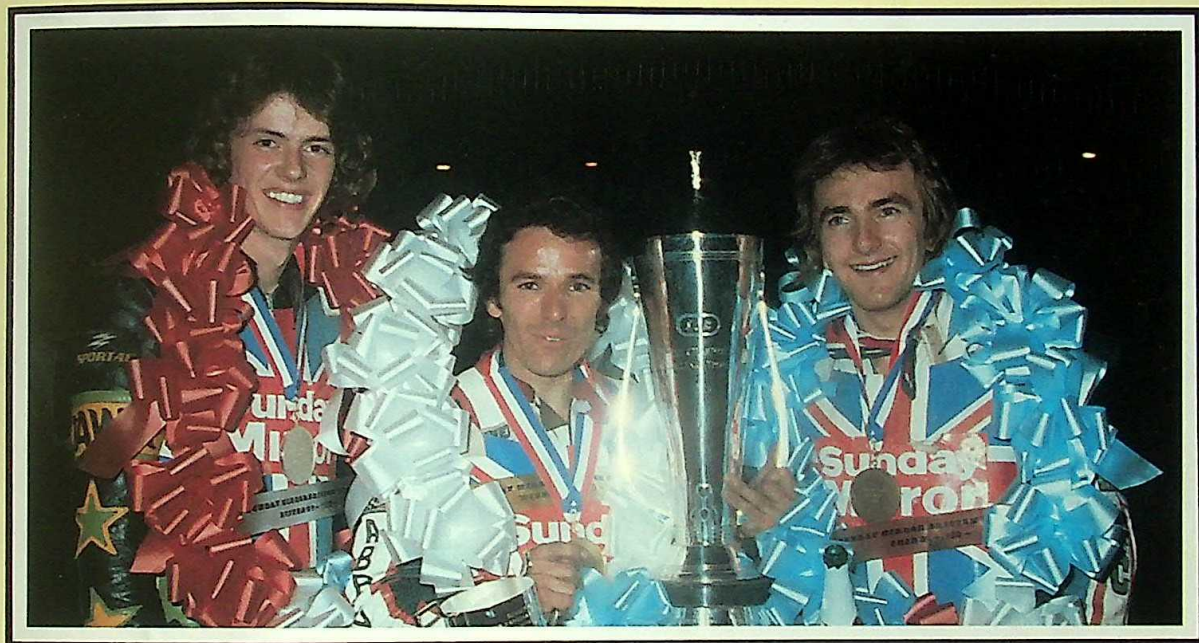
Today there are six riders born in England in the sixteen strong Inter-continental Final line-up. A seventh, Gordon Kennett, is reserve.

Among them is there the 1980 World Champion?

The bookmakers reckon that man could be the diminutive Dave Jessup who has conquered so many setbacks in his career that he has now acquired the steel to do it when it matters most.

TITLE KINGS

CHAMPIONS



One-two-three in this year's British Final at Coventry: Mike Lee, Dave Jessup and Phil Collins.

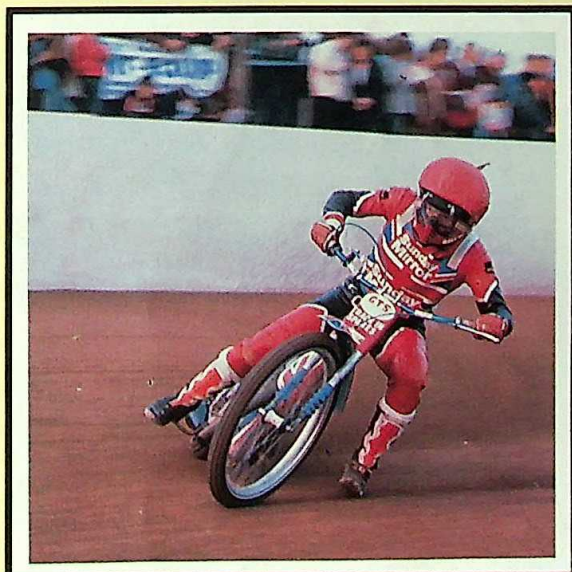
He's already taken out most of the major meetings this season.

There are others though with equal claims, if not matching records, this summer. Peter Collins, maybe fortified by an enforced rest to nurse a broken collar bone, has done it all before.

Mike Lee, still only 22, and maturing rapidly. John Davis, golden boy one moment, tarnished idol the next. John Louis, the spritely veteran whose career seemed all but over less than 12 months ago but who is now approaching his peak once more. Chris Morton, a fence-scraping thrill merchant who has dramatically acquired the confidence to hold his own in exalted company.

All line-up at the grid this afternoon with two goals in mind. Qualification for next month's World Final. And, more important than that, the chance of becoming only England's fourth World Champion in history.

They could have no greater incentive.



The thrilling style of England's last World Champion Peter Collins.

● **TODAY'S MATCH MAGAZINE** was produced for the Inter-Continental Final by Sportdata, 1, Piermont Place, Dawlish, Devon, and edited by Peter Oakes.

All colour transparencies were supplied by the Speedway Mail chief photographer Alf Weedon and black and white photographs are from the lens of Alf Weedon, Mick Kilby, Mike Patrick and Trevor Meeks.

All statistics reproduced in this match magazine are courtesy of the Daily Mirror 1980 Speedway Yearbook and World Speedway Final: A History from 1929.

This match magazine was printed by Duplex Litho Press Ltd., 22, Quay Terrace, Newton Abbot, Devon, and front cover design supplied by The Mirror Group Newspapers Ltd art studio, Holborn Circus, London, E.C.4.

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A 15-point maximum in the 1971 World Final (only his second appearance) saw Denmark's flag flying aloft for the first time in history and since then the Great Dane has added two further crowns and seven final appearances to his personal roll of honour.

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SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP

INTER-CONTINENTAL FINAL

London White City, Sunday, August 3rd, 1980

No	Rider	Track & Country	Q	WFA	1	2	3	4	5	Total	Pos
1	CHRIS MORTON	* Belle Vue & England	CF	1	2	1	3	3	3	12	1
2	PETER COLLINS	* Belle Vue & England	CF	6	0	3	2	2	0	7	10
3	KAI NIEMI	* Eastbourne & Finland	NF	0	3	2	2	1	3	11	4
4	HANS NIELSEN	* Wolverhampton & Denmark	NF	0	1	1	EX	3	3	8	9
5	BRUCE PENHALL	* Cradley Heath & U.S.A.	AF	0	3	3	1	3	2	12	2
6	MITCH SHIRRA	Coventry & New Zealand	CF	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
7	OLE OLSEN	Coventry & Denmark	NF	9	1	1	2	1	1	6	RES.
8	DAVE JESSUP	* King's Lynn & England	CF	3	2	3	EX	3	1	9	6
9	JOHN DAVIS	* Reading & England	CF	*	1	2	3	1	2	9	8
10	BENT RASMUSSEN	King's Lynn & Denmark	NF	0	0	0	EX	EX	5	0	
11	SCOTT AUTREY	Swindon & U.S.A.	AF	2	3	0	2	0	1	6	
12	JOHN LOUIS	Ipswich & England	CF	4	2	0	0	0	1	3	
13	MICHAEL LEE	* King's Lynn & England	CF	3	3	0	3	1	2	9	6
14	IVAN MAUGER	Hull & New Zealand	CF	14	0	2	1	2	0	5	
15	BILLY SANDERS	* Ipswich & Australia	CF	2	1	3	3	2	2	11	3
16	FINN THOMSEN	* Hackney & Denmark	NF	2	2	2	1	3	2	10	5
Reserves											
17	DENNIS SIGALOS	Hull & U.S.A.	AF	0							
18	ILA TEROMAA	Cradley Heath & Finland	NF	0							
19	GORDON KENNETT	Eastbourne & England	CF	1					0		
20											
21											

WHAT THE SCORE-CHART TELLS YOU.....

Riders will wear the number indicated on the far left of the above score-chart on the back of their race-jackets throughout the meeting and these numbers are indicated throughout the heat details that follow. The column headed Q shows from which qualifying final the competitors reached today's meeting - CF=Commonwealth Final; NF=Nordic Final; and AF=American Final. Should any of these riders withdraw before completing his first race then his place will be taken by the reserve who qualified from the SAME National Final. The figures under WFA indicate previous World Final appearances with the riders who have qualified as reserve BUT not ridden denoted by *.

All riders shall have five rides and will score 3 points for a win; 2 points for a second place; 1 point for third place; and no points for fourth place or if he fails to finish for any reason. The TEN riders with the highest number of points after all races have been completed will qualify for the World Final at Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg, on Friday, September 5, 1980 and the eleventh highest scorer shall be World Final reserve.

Starting positions are indicated by helmet colours - red (inside), blue (lane two), white (lane three) and yellow/black (outside). Reserves numbered 17-19 can take over all programmed rides of a rider who withdraws before his first race and if he does so can qualify for the next round. Once all riders have completed one ride these reserves cannot qualify for the next stage of the competition even if they are then nominated as local track reserves.

There will be a short break after heats 4, 8 and 16 and an interval after heat 12. All races are clutch start from the tapes and over four full laps of the track. A yellow flag with a black cross will indicate riders are entering their final lap and the finish of a race will be signalled by a black and white chequered flag. Results will be announced over the public address system.

Details of run-offs are given overleaf.

Heat	No	Col	Rider	Pts	Replacement	Pts	Time
1	1	R	Chris Morton	2		2	71.0
	2	B	Peter Collins	1		1	
	3	W	Kai Niemi	1		1	
	4	Y	Hans Nielsen	1		1	
2	5	R	Bruce Penhall	2		2	70.6
	7	B	Ole Olsen	1		1	
	6	W	Mitch Shirra	1		1	
	8	Y	Dave Jessup	1		1	
3	10	R	Bent Rasmussen	2		2	71.4
	11	B	Scott Autrey	1		1	
	9	W	John Davis	1		1	
	12	Y	John Louis	1		1	
4	15	R	Billy Sanders	2		2	71.1
	14	B	Ivan Mauger	1		1	
	16	W	Finn Thomsen	1		1	
	13	Y	Michael Lee	1		1	

Heat	No	Col	Rider	Pts	Replacement	Pts	Time
5	13	R	Michael Lee	2		2	70.4
	1	B	Chris Morton	1		1	
	5	W	Bruce Penhall	1		1	
	9	Y	John Davis	1		1	
6	14	R	Ivan Mauger	2		2	71.4
	10	B	Bent Rasmussen	1		1	
	2	W	Peter Collins	1		1	
	6	Y	Mitch Shirra	1		1	
7	11	R	Scott Autrey	2		2	70.8
	15	B	Billy Sanders	1		1	
	7	W	Ole Olsen	1		1	
	3	Y	Kai Niemi	1		1	
8	4	R	Hans Nielsen	2		2	70.5
	8	B	Dave Jessup	1		1	
	12	W	John Louis	1		1	
	16	Y	Finn Thomsen	1		1	
9	6	R	Mitch Shirra	2		2	70.5
	16	B	Finn Thomsen	1		1	
	1	W	Chris Morton	1		1	
	11	Y	Scott Autrey	1		1	
10	12	R	John Louis	2		2	70.6
	5	B	Bruce Penhall	1		1	
	15	W	Billy Sanders	1		1	
	2	Y	Peter Collins	1		1	
11	8	R	Dave Jessup	2		2	71.2
	9	B	John Davis	1		1	
	3	W	Kai Niemi	1		1	
	14	Y	Ivan Mauger	1		1	
12	13	R	Michael Lee	2		2	70.7
	4	B	Hans Nielsen	1		1	
	10	W	Bent Rasmussen	1		1	
	7	Y	Ole Olsen	1		1	

INTERVAL

13	7	R	Ole Olsen	2		2	71.2
	12	B	John Louis	1		1	
	14	W	Ivan Mauger	1		1	
	1	Y	Chris Morton	1		1	
14	2	R	Peter Collins	2		2	70.8
	13	B	Michael Lee	1		1	
	8	W	Dave Jessup	1		1	
	11	Y	Scott Autrey	1		1	
15	16	R	Finn Thomsen	2		2	71.2
	3	B	Kai Niemi	1		1	
	10	W	Bent Rasmussen	1		1	
	5	Y	Bruce Penhall	1		1	
16	9	R	John Davis	2		2	71.9
	6	B	Mitch Shirra	1		1	
	4	W	Hans Nielsen	1		1	
	15	Y	Billy Sanders	1		1	
17	1	R	Chris Morton	2		2	71.3
	8	B	Dave Jessup	1		1	
	15	W	Billy Sanders	1		1	
	10	Y	Bent Rasmussen	1		1	
18	9	R	John Davis	2		2	71.6
	2	B	Peter Collins	1		1	
	7	W	Ole Olsen	1		1	
	16	Y	Finn Thomsen	1		1	
19	3	R	Kai Niemi	2		2	71.3
	12	B	John Louis	1		1	
	13	W	Michael Lee	1		1	
	6	Y	Mitch Shirra	1		1	
20	5	R	Bruce Penhall	2		2	72.1
	14	B	Ivan Mauger	1		1	
	11	W	Scott Autrey	1		1	
	4	Y	Hans Nielsen	1		1	

THE SHOW GOES ON

In the event of a tie on points for any of the first three places or for the tenth or eleventh qualifying positions there shall be a run-off over four laps of the track with a clutch start from the tapes.

Gate positions will be drawn by ballot in any run-off and they shall take place in the following order:-

RUN-OFF for tenth or eleventh qualifying position (to determine last World Final qualifier or World Final reserve)..

No	Col	Pos.	Riders	Pts	Time
	R		C. MORTON	3	
	B				
	W		B. PENHALL	2	
	Y				

RUN-OFF for third place (to determine medal, cash awards and World Final starting position only)

No	Col	Pos.	Riders	Pts.	Time
	R		K. NIEMI	2	
	B				
	W		B. SANDERS	3	
	Y				

RUN-OFF for first or second place (to determine Inter-continental Champion or runner-up, medal, cash awards and World Final starting position)....

No	Col	Pos.	Riders	Pts.	Time
	R		S. HATLEY	2	
	B				
	W		O. OLSEN	3	
	Y				

TIME TO REJOICE - TODAY'S AWARDS.....

The winner of today's meeting shall become the 1980 Inter-continental Champion and will receive a £1,000 cheque, a gold medal and trophy, all presented by the Sunday Mirror.

The runner-up in today's meeting shall receive a £500 cheque and silver medal presented by the Sunday Mirror.

The third-placed rider in today's meeting shall receive a £250 cheque and bronze medal presented by the Sunday Mirror.

Riders who finished first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth shall automatically qualify for the World Final of the 1980 World Speedway Championship at Ullevi Stadium, Gothenburg, Sweden, on Friday, September 5th.

The rider who finished eleventh will qualify as reserve for the World Final.

All tonight's presentations of trophies and awards will be conducted by representatives of Mirror Group Newspapers Limited, publishers of the Sunday Mirror and officials of the Speedway Control Board Limited and British Speedway Promoters' Association.

Moët & Chandon have kindly supplied the champagne for the new Inter-continental Champion.

FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT.....

Pre-meeting entertainment will be provided by Tower Hamlets and City of London Corps of Drums (The Redcoats) under the direction of J.R. Mander. The Corps will also play for you during the interval.

Today's announcer is Graham Hambly and presentations, introductions and pit-side interviews will be conducted by Bob Radford and Tony Millard.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...THE TRACK RECORD

The official length of the London White City track is 385 metres. The width of the straights are 9.3 metres and the width of the bends 13.5 metres. The existing track record is 70 seconds set up by Gordon Kennett (Eastbourne) during last year's Commonwealth Final on Sunday, July 1, 1979. Full list of officials appears on page three.

NOTICE TO PATRONS

Motor sports are dangerous and all persons attending this meeting do so at their own risk. It is a condition of admission that all persons having connections with the promotion and/or conduct of the meeting including the owners and lessee of the stadium and the competitors and officials are absolved from all liability arising out of accidents causing damages or personal injury to spectators or ticket holders.

The organisers of this meeting reserve the right to alter this programme without notice. Should it be necessary through any cause to abandon this meeting prior to the start of the sixth race in the programme re-admission tickets will be issued at the entrances and these should be available for the re-staging of this meeting on one of the publicised re-staging dates of Monday, August 4 (7.30 p.m.) or Wednesday, August 6 (7.30 p.m.), 1980. Tickets, whether advanced or issued at the turnstiles will be valid only for the re-staging of this meeting. Monies will not be refunded under any circumstances.

The only official programme for this meeting will contain the above information and can be bought from official sellers only. Beware of pirate publications. Officially-sanctioned souvenirs are available from inside the stadium only.



ON PARADE

SCOTT BRIAN AUTREY...born at Maywood, California, U.S.A. on July 9, 1953 (aged 27)...third in the World Final at Wembley in 1978 but barred from last year's competition by the American authorities because of a long-standing dispute over qualification methods...returned to favour this year and captain of the American side that beat England in a 5-match series...moved from Exeter to Swindon during the winter...current holder of the Daily Mirror-Berger Grand Prix and several other major championships...runner-up in last November's American Final of the World Championship...featured in new cinema film currently being shot in Britain following a rider's season...in the Guinness Book of Records as speedway's fastest rider...first joined Exeter in 1973 and now approaching 300 league and cup matches...19 caps for U.S.A....World Finalist in 1976 and 1978.

PETER SPENCER COLLINS...born at Urmston, Manchester, March 24, 1954 (aged 26)...England's only ex-World Speedway Champion since the sixties...won title in Poland in 1976...began career at Rochdale in 1971 on loan from parent club Belle Vue...celebrating his testimonial this summer...World Pairs Champion in 1977...World Team Cup gold medallist in 1973, 1974, 1975 and 1977...ex-British Champion (1979), European Champion (1974) and Inter-continental Champion (1976 and 1977)...six-times World Finalist and double World Long Track Finalist...broke collar bone a month ago and fought desperate fitness battle, making track return only a week before the Inter-continental Final...in sight of his 100th England cap.

JOHN HARRY DAVIS...born at Oxford, November 10, 1954 (aged 25)...yet to ride in the World Final even though he qualified as reserve in 1977...still has painful memories of that season's Inter-continental Final when a controversial exclusion cost him a place in the last sixteen...has matured considerably in the last 18 months...has one year of a long-term contract to run at Reading — but reportedly anxious to join his local club Poole...valued at £100,000 by Reading boss Dave Lanning in current transfer market...one of few top riders using a Godden engine...had ridden for Peterborough, Poole and Oxford before joining Reading...suffered shoulder injury earlier this summer which kept him out of two tests...40 caps for England.

DAVID JOHN JESSUP...born at Ipswich, Suffolk, on March 7, 1953 (aged 27)...1980 British, and Commonwealth Champion aiming for hat-trick of World Championship successes...cost record £20,000 fee when King's Lynn bought him from Reading at the beginning of 1979...England's top scorer in all internationals this season...having best-ever season with string of big meeting wins and top of British League averages until recently...usually scorns practice to play a round of golf at local club...made World Final debut in 1974 and further appearances in 1978 and 1979...a breakdown might have cost him the 1978 Golden Jubilee title as he took eleven points from remaining four rides...65 England caps.

MICHAEL ANDREW LEE...born at Cambridge, December 11, 1958 (aged 21)...British Champion in 1977 and

1978...defending Inter-continental Champion...third in last year's World Final (his third appearance)...one of the youngest captains in the British League having taken over as King's Lynn skipper last summer...survived series of horrifying crashes without too serious injury in the last twelve months...spent several weeks in hospital after hitting the fence at the Indoor meeting at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre earlier this year; and escaped with cuts and bruises in recent Inter League Team Championship at Wolverhampton...former British Junior Champion (1976) and Commonwealth Champion (1979)...won gold medal with England in 1977 World Team Cup...one of few top riders under contract to Czechoslovakian company Jawa...41 England caps.

JOHN CHARLES LOUIS...born at Ipswich, Suffolk, on June 14, 1941 (aged 39)...one of England's most experienced internationals...did not begin speedway until he was 28 and has only ridden for the one club Ipswich...re-appointed England captain this season...finished third in the 1975 World Final at Wembley...four previous World Finals behind him...won the British League Riders' Championship last October...planned to retire during the winter and join German League club — but persuaded to stay with Ipswich...known as Tiger because of his one-time distinctive striped black and yellow leathers...1976 World Pairs Champion and gold medallist in 1972, 1974 and 1975 World Team Cup Finals...British Champion in 1975...52 England caps.

IVAN GERALD MAUGER...born at Christchurch, New Zealand on October 4, 1939 (aged 40)...probably the greatest rider in speedway history...only man ever to win SIX World Speedway finals (1968, 1969, 1970, 1972, 1977 and 1979)...also 3-times World Long Track Champion (1971, 1972 and 1976)...World Pairs Champion (1969 and 1979)...World Team Cup gold medallist (1968, 1971, 1972 and 1979)...4-times British Champion, 4-times European Champion...only second rider to be awarded M.B.E. — in 1976 New Year's Honours List and ex-New Zealand Sportsman of the Year...first came to Britain to join then National League (First Division) Wimbledon in 1957 but returned home to New Zealand at the end of 1958 disillusioned...spent 5 years racing in Australia and New Zealand before returning to Britain in 1963 to join Newcastle...clubs since then: Belle Vue (1968-72), Exeter (1973-77), Hull (1978-80)...defending World Champion...third in recent Commonwealth Championship...missed early matches with mystery back ailment that confined him to a wheelchair during the winter...skipper of British League Hull...62 New Zealand caps...ex-Great Britain skipper...14 times speedway World Finalist.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN MORTON...born at Davyhulme, Manchester, on July 22, 1956 (aged 24)...fence-scraping racer having his best-ever season...ever-present for England in recent World Team Cup and test matches against America...former British Junior Champion...made only World Final appearance in 1976...asked for winter move from only senior club Belle Vue but persuaded to stay at Hyde Road...ex-National League club was Ellesmere Port (1973)...reached Commonwealth Final last year...33 caps for England.



ON PARADE

HANS NIELSEN...born at Broust, Denmark, on December 26, 1959 (aged 20)...partnered mentor Ole Olsen to success in 1979 World Pairs Championship...current number one at Wolverhampton, a club he joined in 1977...rated number two to Olsen in Denmark...won recent Scandinavian Final of World Championship...yet to make his World Final debut...recent Motor Cycle News Golden Helmet Match-race Championship challenger...15 caps for Denmark.

KAI JUHANI NIEMI...born at Pori, Finland, on September 15th, 1955 (aged 24)...current Finnish National Champion...yet to make his World Final debut...first came to Britain in 1976 when he joined White City, then in the British League...had a nightmare start to his career in this country scoring only nine points in his first seven league matches...by the end of 1978 he was second in the averages...winner of the 1978 Volkswagen-Daily Mirror Grand Prix qualifying round at White City...eliminated in last year's Inter-continental Final, scoring six points...suffered a nasty early season injury at Hull but now fully recovered...now Finland's undisputed number one...12 caps for his country.

OLE OLSEN...born at Haderslev, Denmark, on November 16, 1946 (aged 33)...Denmark's first — and only — motor sport World Champion...three-times World Speedway champion (1971, 1975 and 1978)...World Long Track Champion in 1973...World Pairs Champion in 1979 and World Team Cup gold medallist in 1978...Won 1978 Inter-continental Final...came to Britain in 1967 and joined Newcastle where he prospered under the tutelage of Ivan Mauger...moved to Wolverhampton in 1970 and then after a celebrated transfer saga signed for Coventry as skipper in 1976...led Bees to British League title in 1978 and 1979...now lives in Denmark and commutes to fulfil British commitments...partner in a track at Vojens, Denmark...made World Final debut in 1970 and has qualified every season since except 1976 (nine finals in all)...38 caps for Denmark.

BRUCE LEE PENHALL...born at Anaheim, California, U.S.A. on May 10, 1957 (aged 23)...first American to win the famed Motor Cycle News Golden Helmet Match-race Championship...1979 Master of Speedway...blond, good-looking racer in his third season with Midlands Cradley Heath...won American Final of the World Championship last November...currently number one in Cradley averages...lost both his parents in a plane crash in the seventies, inheriting family demolition business in California...still seeking his first World Final appearance...voted Overseas Rider of the Year by Speedway Writers and Photographers Association last year...22 caps for his country.

BENT RASMUSSEN...born at Herning, Denmark, on July 13, 1957 (aged 23)...shock qualifier for Inter-continental Final, finishing ahead of more-fancied runners in the Scandinavian Final...rejected by Hackney in 1978 after disappointing 18 months in their colours...moved to King's Lynn but still only a second string at the Norfolk track...yet to make his World Final debut and never progressed beyond the Scandinavian Final in the past...2 caps for Denmark.

WILLIAM ROBERT (BILLY) SANDERS...born at Windsor, Sydney, Australia, on September 9, 1955 (aged 24)...current Australian and Australasian Champion, having won both titles on his way to today's Inter-continental Final...fifth in last year's World Final in Poland...first came to Britain in 1972 when he joined Ipswich...moved to Birmingham at the beginning of last season but later returned to Ipswich...missed early weeks of this season because of business interests in Australia but now back with the Witches...made World Final debut in 1977 and qualified for his second final last season...currently experiencing untold mechanical problems and desperately in need of a confidence boost before the final...60 caps for Australia.

MITCHELL OWEN SHIRRA...born at Auckland, New Zealand, on September 27, 1958 (aged 21)...originally banned from riding in Britain because of dispute over his age...spent early childhood in Australia and rode for Aussies before opting for New Zealand international future...ex schoolboy rugby league international...joined Scottish club Coatbridge in 1975 and graduated to British League Coventry...won championship medal with Midlands in 1978 and 1979...yet to make World Final debut...one of the smallest riders in the sport...won gold medal in New Zealand's 1979 World Team Cup success at London White City...8 New Zealand caps.

FINN THOMSEN...born at Arhus, Denmark, on February 16, 1955 (aged 25)...twice World Finalist (1977 and 1979)...current Hackney heat leader...made British debut for Wolverhampton in 1974...spent four seasons at Monmore Green before moving to Hackney in rider exchange deal that took Dave Morton to Wolverhampton...surprisingly left out of Denmark's World Team Cup squad by selectors after 1979 row over appearance monies...father-in-law prepares his engines — reputed to be the fastest in speedway...surprise third in last season's Inter-continental Final at London White City...1980 London Riders' Champion...14 caps for Denmark.

And a World Finalist already... Jan Hakan Andersson.





ON PARADE

ILKKA TEROMAA...born at Tampere, Finland, on September 3, 1953 (aged 26)...known as Ila...Finland's only World Finalist — he scored six points on his one and only appearance in 1978...made debut for British League Leicester in 1975 but joined Cradley Heath last October...reserve from Scandinavian Final...15 caps for Finland.

GORDON WILLIAM KENNETT...born at Bromley, Kent, on September 2, 1953 (aged 26)...former White City captain and leading scorer...current London White City track record holder...runner-up in the 1978 World Final (on his debut)...World Pairs Champion in 1978...a back injury hampered his attempt to qualify for today's meeting in the Wimbledon-staged Commonwealth Final...captain of British League Eastbourne...44 England caps.

ARTHUR DENNIS SIGALOS...born at Garden Grove, California, U.S.A. on August 16, 1959 (aged 20)...lost a run-

off for one of the two American places in last November's American Final...in his second season in British League racing with Hull...one of the world's most improved riders this year having ousted Ivan Mauger at the top of the Hull averages...third in the 1980 European Junior Championship (sic)...ever present in America's 1980 test squad...7 caps for his country.

NOTE: Ila Teromaa is reserve for any of the Scandinavian Final qualifiers who may withdraw from the meeting; Gordon Kennett is reserve for any of the Commonwealth Final qualifiers; and Dennis Sigalos for the two American qualifiers. Riders they may replace are:

Ila Teromaa...Hans Nielsen, Finn Thomsen, Ole Olsen, Kai Niemi and Bent Rasmussen.

Gordon Kennett...Dave Jessup, Mike Lee, Ivan Mauger, John Louis, Billy Sanders, Chris Morton, John Davis, Mitch Shirra, Peter Collins.

Dennis Sigalos...Scott Autrey, Bruce Penhall.

ROLL OF HONOUR

The Inter-continental Final was first introduced to the speedway calendar in 1976. Champions since then have been...

1976 1 **Peter Collins**
1977 1 **Peter Collins**
1978 1 **Ole Olsen**
1979 1 **Mike Lee**

2 **Ivan Mauger**
2 **Ole Olsen**
2 **Ivan Mauger**
2 **Peter Collins**

3 **Phil Crump**
3 **Billy Sanders**
3 **Scott Autrey**
3 **Finn Thomsen**

*Venues: 1976 (Wembley, England); 1977 and 1979 (London White City); 1978 (Fredericia, Denmark).

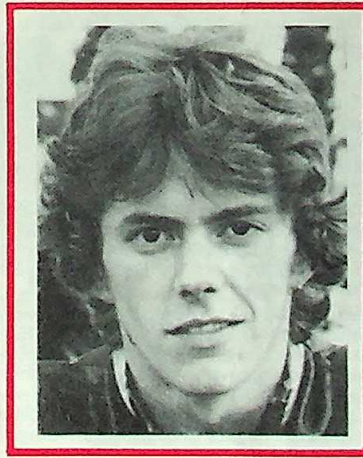
Double Champion
Peter Collins



1978 Champion
Ole Olsen



Defending Champion
Mike Lee



TRAXCITEMENT... SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BERWICK: Shielfield Park, Tweedmouth, Berwick-on-Tweed, Northumberland. Tel: Berwick 6806. The last season at their current track but the Bandits have already been given outline planning permission to build a new stadium in the town. Famed cup-fighters with an impressive record in recent years. Tiny Wayne Brown is one of the big stars of the National League.

BOSTON: Boston Sports and Speedway Stadium, New Hammond Beck Road, Boston, Lincs. Tel: Boston 61175. A flurry of winter activity in the transfer market saw Gary Guglielmi and Rob Hollingworth return and new arrivals in Chris Turner and Steve Lomas. Yet Boston promoter Cyril Crane is still looking for new talent and hopes to have Ian Turner, Carl Glover and Dave Allen in his line-up before too long.

CANTERBURY: Kingsmead Stadium, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury, Kent. Tel: Canterbury 61244. Track chief Maurice Morley has embarked on a deliberate policy of encouraging local teenage talent — but still boasts one of the best riders in the league with Zimbabwe-born Mike Ferreira heading the scorechart. Situated in one of the most beautiful cities in Britain.

CRAYFORD: Ladbroke Stadium, Crayford Road, Crayford, Kent. Tel: Crayford 522262. Recently set up new record score of 65-12 against Workington — the first time since the formation of the British League in 1965 that any side has provided the first and second rider in every race. Ambitious promotion in one of the tidiest stadia in the country.

EDINBURGH: Powderhall Stadium, Beaverhall Road, Edinburgh. Tel: 031-556-3979. Scotland's best appointed stadium and this year a team to match. Line-up combines the best of experience — George Hunter a seasoned Scottish international — and youth — teenager Neil Collins, younger brother of English internationals Peter, Les and Phil.

ELLESMERE PORT: Ellesmere Port Stadium, Thornton Road, Ellesmere Port, South Wirral. Tel: 051-355-2060. Famed training ground for tomorrow's stars with regular Saturday morning practice sessions having unearthed many big names. Former riders include Chris Morton and Phil Collins. Latest discoveries are Louis Carr and younger brother Peter, both exciting riders with big points potential.

EXETER: County Ground Stadium, St. Thomas', Exeter, Devon. Tel: Exeter 51478. Fastest track in the country. Current line-up includes most capped English international Nigel Boocock and first-season discovery Martin Hewlett who is one of the most exciting newcomers on the scene. First season in National League racing.

GLASGOW: Blantyre Stadium, Glasgow Road, Blantyre, Strathclyde. Tel: Blantyre 828050. Situated within a mile of birthplace of famous explorer Dr. David Livingstone. Tracking one of the youngest sides in the country with emphasis on Scottish-developed talent. Unusual shaped raceway that provides plenty of thrills.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Cleveland Park Stadium, Stockton Road, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire. Tel: Middlesbrough 247381. Recently emerged as serious title challengers after winning at previously unbeaten Boston. Side includes British Junior Champion Mark Courtney who also helped team-mate Steve Wilcock win the National League Pairs Championship for the club.

MILDENHALL: Mildenhall Speedway, West Row Fen, Mildenhall, Suffolk. Tel: Iselham 715784. Current highlight was the discovery of 16-year-old Carl Baldwin, now injured, who turned down a contract from British League Ipswich to join his brother in the Fen Tigers' line-up. Current National League Champions their regular side also boasts the 1979 individual league champion Ian Gledhill. Rural atmosphere with a fine restaurant.

MILTON KEYNES: Groveway Stadium, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Tel: Milton Keynes 670150. Situated in one of Britain's new cities and another track that has adopted a stringent youth policy this year with three experienced riders — former British Junior Champion Graham Plant, Australian international Bob Humphreys and Scottish test rider Bert Harkins providing the top end experience.

NEWCASTLE: Brough Park Stadium, The Fossway, Byker, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Tel: Newcastle-upon-Tyne 658632. One of the all-time great National League sides with a marvellously competitive record. Co-favourites for this year's championship despite the loss of their captain and NL number one Tom Owen. Have a solid side that scores all the way down and defeats have been few and far between this season.

NOTTINGHAM: Long Eaton Stadium, Station Road, Long Eaton, Nottingham. Tel: Long Eaton 2693. In their second season back in speedway as The Outlaws and controlled by that flamboyant, colourful character Dan McCormick. Captaining the side is the experienced Mike Sampson who receives major backing from teenager Craig Featherby — his father used to ride — and Australian international Glenn McDonald.

OXFORD: Cowley Stadium, Cowley Road, Oxford. Tel: Oxford 773641. Another famous speedway venue. The Cheetahs are led by the man who has been top of the National League averages for most of the season — former Cradley Heath regular Dave Perks. In Derek Harrison and John Hack the track also has two of England's most promising prospects.

PETERBOROUGH: East of England Showground, Peterborough. Tel: Peterborough 234451. Another super-fast track situated in the middle of one of the country's most famous show arenas. Under new team management this year a recent acquisition was former Wimbledon skipper and English international Mick Hines who has joined younger brother Andy at Alwalton. Team also includes European Junior Championship finalist Nigel Flatman.

RYE HOUSE: Rye House Stadium, Rye Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. Tel: Hoddesdon 61990. Picturesque track setting on the banks of the River Lea — with a team to match the scenery! Knock-out Cup winners last season and chasing the National League title this season with a side that includes two riders — Kevin Smith and Bob Garrad — who finished in the top four in this season's British Junior Championship.

SCUNTHORPE: Ashby Ville Stadium, Ashby Ville, Ashby, Scunthorpe, South Humberside. Tel: Scunthorpe 51270. Having their best-ever season in only their second year at a new home track. Their splendid away record has been built on the form of the versatile Arthur Browning — he still regularly represents England at trials — Sheffield loanee Phil White and the fast starting Nicky Allott.

STOKE: Newcastle-under-Lyme Stadium, Loomer Road, Chesterton, Staffordshire. Tel: Newcastle (Staffs) 516575. Under the direction of the enthusiastic and youthful Chris van Straaten who has built up a fine young side, most of whom are under 23. Lacks a big name from the past — but boasts several possible stars of the future including Billy Burton, Neil Evitts, Paul Stead and recent recruit Rob Lightfoot, son of a former English international.

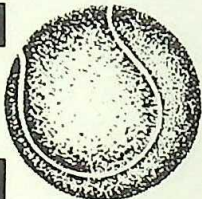
WEYMOUTH: Wessex Stadium, Radipole Lane, Weymouth, Dorset. Tel: Weymouth 74137. Holiday resort track that operates every Tuesday evening with flair and spirit. The Wildcats track an experienced and expensive line-up — number one Martin Yeates set up a new National League transfer record when he moved from British League Poole — that includes former British Under-23 captain Chris Pusey, a spectacular Liverpoolian.

WORKINGTON: Derwent Park, Workington, Cumbria. Tel: Workington 64790. Promoter Eddie Thornborrow has scorned big money signings and declared his policy of trying to find a side for the future. As a result have suffered many heavy defeats this season but Mr. Thornborrow believes that he will gain in the long-term. Best known rider is Ian Hindle although Mark Dickinson, a former track raker, and Des Wilson have shown promise in odd meetings. Strengthened by the recent loan signing of Stoke's Ian Robertson.

FOOTNOTE: See page ten for the week's racing calendar.

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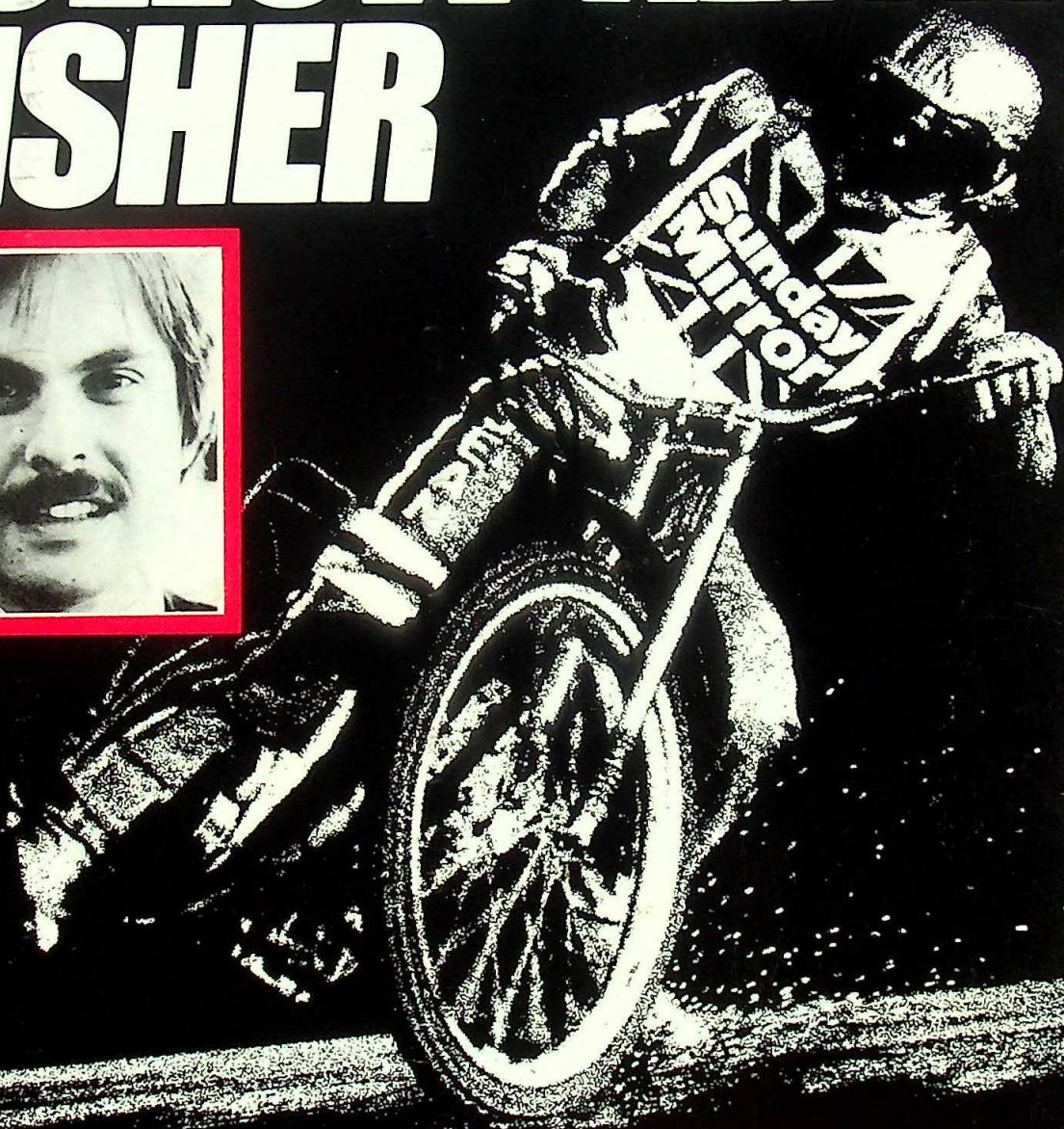
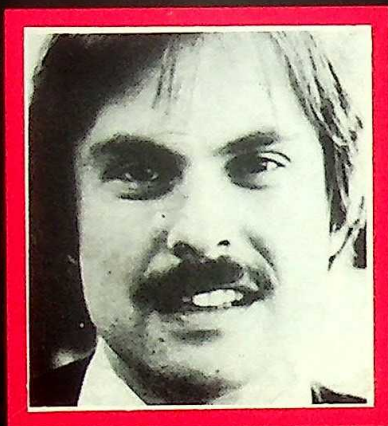
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