

1957 SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD



FINAL



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21ST 1957 AT 7.45 P.M.

EMPIRE STADIUM

WEMBLEY

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME • ONE SHILLING



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EVERY FRIDAY

THREEPENCE

RIDERS FROM EIGHT NATIONS ARE CHASING WORLD CROWN

By TOM STENNER

(Speedway Correspondent, "Sunday Dispatch")

THE SUNDAY DISPATCH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL, THE GREATEST EVENT OF THE SPEEDWAY YEAR, IS THE CLIMAX OF A COMPETITION WHICH BEGAN ON THE CONTINENT IN MAY. ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SIX STARS FROM FIFTEEN NATIONS ENTERED. FIFTEEN OF THEM, REPRESENTING EIGHT COUNTRIES—A RECORD—HAVE FOUGHT THROUGH TO JOIN OVE FUNDIN, "SEED" AS THE 1956 WINNER, ON THE TRACK TONIGHT.

Four first-round eliminators in the European Zone at Lahti (Finland), Oslo, Warsaw and Abensberg (Germany) were followed by semi-finals at Oslo and Vienna. Leading eight in each went on to Vaxjo, Sweden, to battle for five places at Wembley.

The qualifiers were Rune Sormander (Sweden) 14 out of a possible 15 points, Peo Söderman (Sweden) 13, Josef Hofmeister (Germany) 12, Olle Nygren (Sweden) 11 and Aage Hansen (Norway) 11. Dan Fcrsberg (Sweden) substitutes for Nygren tonight.

In Britain semi-finals were introduced for the first time, and produced terrific racing at Belle Vue and Coventry following nine first-round meetings. At both semi-finals there was a dead-heat on points for the *Sunday Dispatch* award—a £75 cheque.

Swindon Surprise

Victor of the Belle Vue run-off was Peter Craven, from Ron Johnston, while Bob Roger triumphed at Coventry by keeping a wheel in front of Ken McKinlay. Biggest surprise was the success of Swindon's men. For, in addition to Roger, George White and Ian Williams reached the Final.

The top ten, from the semi-final stage as a whole, qualified. They were: Bob Roger, Ken McKinlay (14 points each); Peter Craven, Ron Johnston, Barry Briggs (13 each); Ian Williams, George White (12 each); Jack Geran, Aub Lawson and Ron How (11 each).

Finishing level on the 10 mark for the two reserve berths were Brian Crutcher, Jack Biggs and Ken Middleditch. The decider went to Crutcher, from Biggs.

Fact that Wembley this year is a neutral course—Finalists were given a practise spin last Tuesday to try out starts and gear ratios—adds to the element of uncertainty tonight.

Finalists meet each other once, make five appearances each, and are paid at the rate of £2 10s. a start and £5 for every point gained.

Real "Plums"

But the *Sunday Dispatch* prizes of £500 to the winner, £200 to the runner-up, £100 to the third, are the real plums. If the new Champion goes through unbeaten he will receive £587 10s.—in other words £87 10s. basic pay plus that £500—for less than six minutes actual racing time.

Altogether the *Sunday Dispatch* puts up £1,175 in prize money—and every penny goes to the riders.

In 1949 the World Championship was revived after an eleven-year break by the *Sunday Dispatch* which sponsored the British Riders' Championship in the immediate post-war years. And this revival sparked off a speedway boom on the Continent.

For Bob Roger, George White, Ian Williams, Jack Geran, Aage Hansen, Josef Hofmeister, it is a first Final; Ken McKinlay, Peo Söderman, Rune Sormander, Ron Johnston, Ron How are in their second Final; Peter Craven, Ove Fundin, Barry Briggs, in their fourth; Aub Lawson in his sixth.

Past winners: 1936—Lionel van Praag (Australia and Wembley); 1937—Jack Milne (U.S.A. and New Cross); 1938—"Bluey" Wilkinson (Australia and West Ham); 1949—Tommy Price (England and Wembley); 1950—Fred Williams (Wales and Wembley); 1951—Jack Young (Australia and Edinburgh); 1952—Jack Young (Australia and West Ham); 1953—Fred Williams (Wales and Wembley); 1954—Ronnie Moore (New Zealand and Wimbledon); 1955—Peter Craven (England and Belle Vue, Manchester); 1956—Ove Fundin (Sweden).

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Members of the Speedway Control Board, Promoters, Riders and Supporters throughout the country, we extend our grateful thanks to the *Sunday Dispatch* for once again so generously sponsoring this Speedway Championship.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. Walter Hayes, Editor of this great newspaper, and it is with pleasure that we welcome executives of the *Sunday Dispatch* here this evening.

A warm welcome to the Empire Stadium is also extended to the thousands of Speedway Racing Supporters who have made the journey from all parts of the country to cheer on their favourite riders; and, in particular, we should like to greet a contingent of visitors from the continent who are here to encourage their compatriots.

We trust that all present will have a pleasant and memorable evening at Wembley.

TONIGHT'S FINALISTS

BARRY BRIGGS (*Wimbledon and New Zealand*)

Skipper of the Dons, is making his fourth Final appearance. Best effort so far—third in 1955. His flat-out full-bore methods suggest he may do even better this time. Twenty-two years of age is a great scrambles and grass track enthusiast. Started his career at Christchurch, New Zealand, in 1951 on a borrowed machine, joined Wimbledon a year later and soon hit stardom. Married a Surrey girl at the end of last season. Also a great favourite in South Africa where he holds a crop of track records.

PETER CRAVEN (*Belle Vue and England*)

1955 World Champion and very unlucky last year when a dropped valve cost him vital points in the sixth heat. Present Match Race Champion, was taught the art of bike-slinging on the sands at Ainsdale. Nicknamed the "Mighty Midget"—he's just over 5 ft. and scales 112 lb.—Peter always wears striped pyjamas under his riding leathers! Wimbledon first round winner, Craven was also successful in the Belle Vue semi-final round after a run-off for the £75 winner's cheque.

OVE FUNDIN (*Sweden*)

The present champion of the world who, under F.I.M. rules governing the competition, was "seeded" into tonight's Final. His fourth Wembley Final, this 25-year-old red-headed flyer won't relinquish his grip on the trophy without a terrific scrap. A lightning starter, who believes in a big handful of throttle at the first corner, is rightly dubbed the firebrand of the Continent. One of speedway's globetrotters, has appeared at racing centres throughout the world. Slimly built, is particularly keen on photography.

JACK GERAN (*Leicester and Australia*)

Blond Aussie from Melbourne who first came to this country in 1952 on the recommendation of ex-Racer, Ken Walsh. Has a marked preference for the larger circuits, but should do well in this his first Wembley Final. A "kingpin" at Exeter for a number of years, will have the assistance of his old team colleague, Neil Street, in the pits tonight. Stockily built, Jack never rides without a St. Christopher medallion. Will it bring him luck this time? Geran won the Oxford first round championship meeting.

AAGE HANSEN (*Norway*)

Twenty-two years of age, began riding in 1954 and is the present Norwegian track champion. Fourth in the Nordic championship in Stockholm last year, also won six heats for Norway against Poland in Poland. On a recent visit to Sweden, outpaced Rune Sormander and Peo Söderman in an international event. Rides for Norsk Motor-Klubb, Oslo—same team as Basse Hveem and Henry Andersen. Is a mechanic by trade. Fifth in European Final.

JOSEF HOFMEISTER (*Germany*)

The first German to appear in a World Championship Final. Twenty-three years of age, is champion of his country. Much-travelled racer, holds 20 track records in South Africa, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and his own country. His father acts as his mechanic and adviser. Josef works in his father's garage at Abensberg, a small town in Bavaria. Third in European Final.

RON HOW (*Wimbledon and England*)

Rode in the Wembley Final five years ago and finished sixteenth! Is a farmer at Great Missenden Bucks, and is one of the few English riders of international class not to have travelled abroad in search of further honours. Ron has an unorthodox style—he crouches well forward over the handlebars, but gets there just the same. Was a stalwart of the old Haringay side and is now equally popular at Plough Lane. Married, with two children.

RON JOHNSTON (*Belle Vue and New Zealand*)

Has appeared in only one previous World Final—in 1955—when he collected six points and finished joint tenth. Scored a brilliant maximum of 15 points in the first round of the championship at Coventry earlier this year and then narrowly lost the £75 winner's cheque to Peter Craven in the Belle Vue semi-final round. A Manchester stalwart for seven years, poker-faced Ron has made numerous international appearances. Married, is a partner in a road haulage business.

1st RESERVE

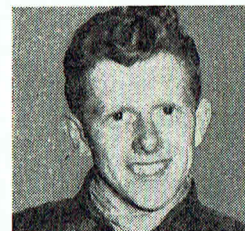
BRIAN CRUTCHER (*Southampton and England*)

Joined Wembley from Poole in 1953 for a £2,500 fee. Moved to Southampton at start of this season and has continued his amazing run of big scores. But his failure to obtain sufficient points to take him into tonight's Final proper was the sensation of the Belle Vue semi-final round.

1957 CHAMPIONSHIP PICTORIAL



BARRY BRIGGS
(*Wimbledon & New Zealand*)



PETER CRAVEN
(*Belle Vue & England*)



OVE FUNDIN
(*Filbyterna & Sweden*)



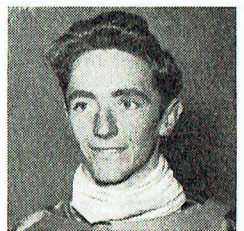
JACK GERAN
(*Leicester & Australia*)



AAGE HANSEN
(*Norsk & Norway*)



JOSEF HOFMEISTER
(*Germany*)



RON HOW
(*Wimbledon & England*)



RON JOHNSTON
(*Belle Vue & New Zealand*)



KEN MCKINLAY
(*Leicester & Scotland*)



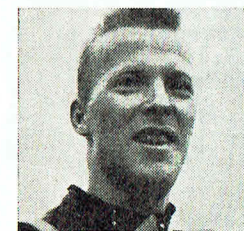
AUB LAWSON
(*Norwich & Australia*)



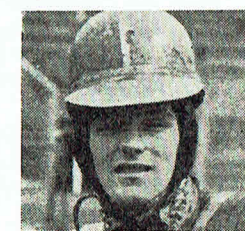
DAN FORSBERG
(*Sweden*)



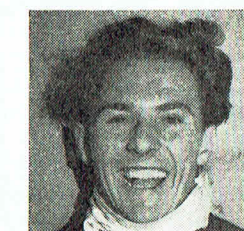
BOB ROGER
(*Swindon & England*)



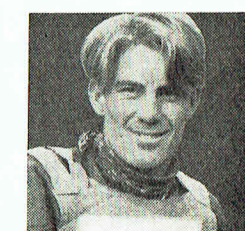
PEO SÖDERMAN
(*Filbyterna & Sweden*)



RUNE SORMANDER
(*Dakarna & Sweden*)



GEORGE WHITE
(*Swindon & England*)



IAN WILLIAMS
(*Swindon & Wales*)

(1st RESERVE)



BRIAN CRUTCHER
(*Southampton & England*)



JACK BIGGS
(*Oxford & Australia*)

(2nd RESERVE)

why YOU should drink LUCOZADE

In the event . . .

. . . you're bound to use up an excessive amount of energy and work up a healthy thirst. And have you noticed that when tiredness sets in you don't feel much like eating?

That is why Lucozade is important to the speedway rider and motor cyclist. Drink it before and after an event. Lucozade replaces lost energy . . . you need that. Lucozade refreshes . . . you'll appreciate that. Lucozade stimulates the appetite . . . you'll be all the better for that.

Watching the event . . .

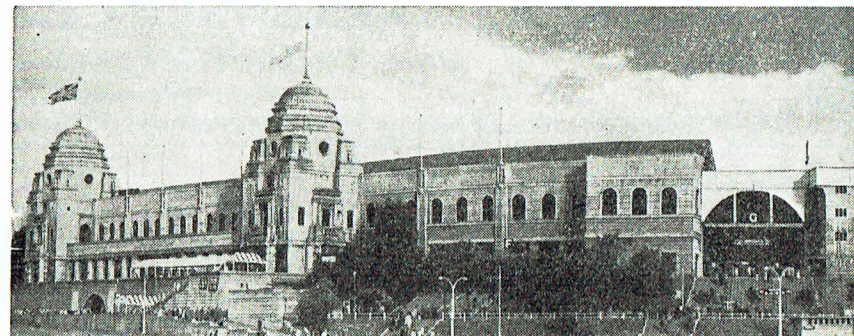
Watching is thirsty work, too. And an hour or two of it uses up plenty of energy as well. So keep a supply of Lucozade handy, ready to replace lost energy, swiftly . . . ready to quench your thirst, deliciously.

You can buy Lucozade everywhere you go, in canteens, clubs, chemists, grocers, restaurants and hotels. You can buy it in small 6 oz. bottles for the pocket and in large 26 oz. bottles to take home.



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REPLACES LOST ENERGY



OFFICIALS

F.I.M. Steward of the Meeting : HERR EMIL VORSTER (Germany)
A.C.U. Referee : MAJOR C. C. MASON
A.C.U. Judge : C. AUDREY
Clerk of the Course : E. A. SIMCOCK
Medical Officer : D. H. CAMPBELL, M.B., CH.B.
A.C.U. Machine Measurer : F. A. LOWE
Announcer : J. TETLOW
Meeting held under the International Sporting Code of the Federation Internationale Motorcycliste and the Speedway Regulations of the Auto-Cycle Union

Permit No. S.P. 218

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 7.00 p.m. THE MASSED BANDS OF THE GREEN JACKETS
to BAND OF THE 2nd Bn. THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS
7.40 p.m. (By permission of Lt.-Col. J. F. C. Mellor, D.S.O.)
Conductor : Bandmaster R. F. Rodgers, A.R.C.M.
BAND OF THE 1st Bn. THE RIFLE BRIGADE
(By permission of Lt.-Col. P. A. D. Boden, M.C.)
Conductor : Bandmaster D. Snowden, A.R.C.M.
7.45 p.m. INTRODUCTION AND GRAND PARADE OF RIDERS LED BY THE
1956 WORLD CHAMPION, FOLLOWED BY THE EUROPEAN
COMPETITORS AND BRITISH RIDERS IN ORDER OF QUALIFYING

<i>Riding Number</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Country and Track</i>
4	OVE FUNDIN (Holder)	Sweden and Filbyterna
3	RUNE SORMANDER	Sweden and Dakarna
11	PEO SÖDERMAN	Sweden and Filbyterna
7	JOSEF HOFMEISTER	Germany
9	DAN FORSBERG	Sweden
14	AAGE HANSEN	Norway and Norsk Motor-Klubb
15	BOB ROGER	England and Swindon
1	KEN MCKINLAY	Scotland and Leicester
2	PETER CRAVEN	England and Belle Vue
13	RON JOHNSTON	New Zealand and Belle Vue
10	BARRY BRIGGS	New Zealand and Wimbledon
12	GEORGE WHITE	England and Swindon
8	IAN WILLIAMS	Wales and Swindon
6	JACK GERAN	Australia and Leicester
5	AUB LAWSON	Australia and Norwich
16	RON HOW	England and Wimbledon
<i>Reserves</i>		
17	BRIAN CRUTCHER	England and Southampton
18	JACK BIGGS	Australia and Oxford

Betting is prohibited



1957 Speedway Championship of the World—Final

For the Gold Medal and Championship Diploma of the F.I.M. and the "Sunday Dispatch" Trophy

Points will be awarded: 3—1st; 2—2nd; 1—3rd. Individual Score Chart on page 10.

Riders starting positions are indicated by their helmet colours. Red number 1 position, Blue number 2, White number 3, and Yellow number 4, counting from the inside.



Event	No.	Helmet Colour	RIDERS	Result	Event	No.	Helmet Colour	RIDERS	Result
1st Race HEAT ONE	1	Red	Ken McKinlay (Scotland)	1st 4	11th Race HEAT ELEVEN	8	Red	Ian Williams (Wales)	1st 3
	2	Blue	Peter Craven (England)	2nd 2		9	Blue	Dan Forsberg (Sweden)	2nd 2
	3	White	Rune Sormander (Sweden)	3rd 2		3	White	Rune Sormander (Sweden)	3rd 2
	4	Yellow	Ove Fundin (Sweden)	Time		14	Yellow	Aage Hansen (Norway)	Time
2nd Race HEAT TWO	5	Red	Aub Lawson (Australia)	1st 5	12th Race HEAT TWELVE	13	Red	Ron Johnston (New Zealand)	1st 10
	7	Blue	Josef Hofmeister (Germany)	2nd 8		4	Blue	Ove Fundin (Sweden)	2nd 4
	6	White	Jack Geran (Australia)	3rd 2		10	White	Barry Briggs (New Zealand)	3rd 13
	8	Yellow	Ian Williams (Wales)	Time 2		7	Yellow	Josef Hofmeister (Germany)	Time
3rd Race HEAT THREE	10	Red	Barry Briggs (New Zealand)	1st 10	13th Race HEAT THIRTEEN	7	Red	Josef Hofmeister (Germany)	1st 1
	11	Blue	Peo Söderman (Sweden)	2nd 12		12	Blue	George White (England)	2nd 14
	9	White	Dan Forsberg (Sweden)	3rd 11		14	White	Aage Hansen (Norway)	3rd 12
	12	Yellow	George White (England)	Time		1	Yellow	Ken McKinlay (Scotland)	Time
4th Race HEAT FOUR	15	Red	Bob Roger (England)	1st 13	14th Race HEAT FOURTEEN	2	Red	Peter Craven (England)	1st 11
	14	Blue	Aage Hansen (Norway)	2nd 15		13	Blue	Ron Johnston (New Zealand)	2nd 2
	16	White	Ron How (England)	3rd 16		8	White	Ian Williams (Wales)	3rd 13
	13	Yellow	Ron Johnston (New Zealand)	Time 16		11	Yellow	Peo Söderman (Sweden)	Time
5th Race HEAT FIVE	13	Red	Ron Johnston (New Zealand)	1st 5	15th Race HEAT FIFTEEN	16	Red	Ron How (England)	1st 10
	1	Blue	Ken McKinlay (Scotland)	2nd 13		3	Blue	Rune Sormander (Sweden)	2nd 5
	5	White	Aub Lawson (Australia)	3rd 7		10	White	Barry Briggs (New Zealand)	3rd 2
	9	Yellow	Dan Forsberg (Sweden)	Time 7		5	Yellow	Aub Lawson (Australia)	Time 3
6th Race HEAT SIX	14	Red	Aage Hansen (Norway)	1st 6	16th Race HEAT SIXTEEN	9	Red	Dan Forsberg (Sweden)	1st 4
	10	Blue	Barry Briggs (New Zealand)	2nd 16		6	Blue	Jack Geran (Australia)	2nd 15
	2	White	Peter Craven (England)	3rd 2		4	White	Ove Fundin (Sweden)	3rd 16
	6	Yellow	Jack Geran (Australia)	Time 2		15	Yellow	Bob Roger (England)	Time 16
7th Race HEAT SEVEN	11	Red	Peo Söderman (Sweden)	1st 3	17th Race HEAT SEVENTEEN	1	Red	Ken McKinlay (Scotland)	1st 10
	15	Blue	Bob Roger (England)	2nd 11		8	Blue	Ian Williams (Wales)	2nd 10
	7	White	Josef Hofmeister (Germany)	3rd 15		15	White	Bob Roger (England)	3rd 15
	3	Yellow	Rune Sormander (Sweden)	Time 15		10	Yellow	Barry Briggs (New Zealand)	Time
8th Race HEAT EIGHT	4	Red	Ove Fundin (Sweden)	1st 4	18th Race HEAT EIGHTEEN	9	Red	Dan Forsberg (Sweden)	1st 2
	8	Blue	Ian Williams (Wales)	2nd 16		2	Blue	Peter Craven (England)	2nd 16
	12	White	George White (England)	3rd 12		7	White	Josef Hofmeister (Germany)	3rd 9
	16	Yellow	Ron How (England)	Time 12		16	Yellow	Ron How (England)	Time
9th Race HEAT NINE	6	Red	Jack Geran (Australia)	1st 1	19th Race HEAT NINETEEN	3	Red	Rune Sormander (Sweden)	1st 3
	16	Blue	Ron How (England)	2nd 16		12	Blue	George White (England)	2nd 13
	1	White	Ken McKinlay (Scotland)	3rd 6		13	White	Ron Johnston (New Zealand)	3rd 16
	11	Yellow	Peo Söderman (Sweden)	Time 6		6	Yellow	Jack Geran (Australia)	Time
10th Race HEAT TEN	12	Red	George White (England)	1st 2	20th Race HEAT TWENTY	5	Red	Aub Lawson (Australia)	1st 4
	5	Blue	Aub Lawson (Australia)	2nd 15		14	Blue	Aage Hansen (Norway)	2nd 5
	15	White	Bob Roger (England)	3rd 5		11	White	Peo Söderman (Sweden)	3rd 11
	2	Yellow	Peter Craven (England)	Time 5		4	Yellow	Ove Fundin (Sweden)	Time

INTERVAL—

MARCHING DISPLAY BY THE MASSES BANDS AND BUGLERS OF THE 2nd Bn. THE KING'S ROYAL RIFLE CORPS AND 1st Bn. THE RIFLE BRIGADE—Bugle Major J. McQuaid, K.R.R.C.

PRESENTATION OF TROPHY AND AWARDS

THE DRAW FOR THE HEATS AND STARTING POSITIONS WAS MADE IN ADVANCE BY THE SPEEDWAY CONTROL BOARD.

SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE WORLD—FINAL—continued.

Event	No.	Helmet Colour	RIDERS	Result
21st Race	To be run only if two or more riders tie for First place.	Red	.....	1st
		Blue	.....	2nd
		White	.....	3rd
		Yellow	.....	Time
22nd Race	To be run only if two or more riders tie for Second or Third places.	Red	.....	1st
		Blue	.....	2nd
		White	.....	3rd
		Yellow	.....	Time

RIDERS' INDIVIDUAL SCORE CHART

RIDERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Tot.	RIDERS	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Tot.
1 K. McKINLAY...	-	-	3	3	2		10 B. BRIGGS ...	3	2	3	3	3	
2 P. CRAVEN ...	2	1	3	2	3		11 P. SÖDERMAN	1	2	-	3	1	
3 R. SORMANDER	1	3	2	1	3		12 G. WHITE ...	2	1	-	1	-	
4 O. FUNDIN ...	3	3	2	3	3		13 R. JOHNSTON ...	3	2	1	1	2	
5 A. LAWSON ...	3	3	1	2	2		14 A. HANSEN ...	-	2	-	2	-	
6 J. GERAN ...	1	3	1	1	1		15 B. ROGER ...	2	1	2	2	1	
7 J. HOFMEISTER	-	-	-	-	-		16 R. HOW ...	1	2	2	-	2	
8 I. WILLIAMS ...	2	1	-	-	-		17 B. CRUTCHER R.						
9 D. FORSBERG	-	1	-	-	1		18 J. BIGGS R.						

HOW THEY REACHED THE FINAL

Full details of the Belle Vue (Manchester) and Coventry World Championship semi-final round meetings were as follows:—

BELLE VUE

The following qualified: Peter Craven (Belle Vue) 13, Ron Johnston (Belle Vue) 13, Ian Williams (Swindon) 12, Aub Lawson (Norwich) 11, Ron How (Wimbledon) 11.

Other scores were: Brian Crutcher (Southampton) 10, Ken Middleditch (Swindon) 10, Bill Bales (Norwich) 9, Les McGillivray (Rayleigh) 7, Gerald Jackson (Wimbledon) 6, Charlie New (Coventry) 5, Brian Hanham (Southampton) 5, Arthur Forrest (Bradford) 3, Maurice McDermott (Rayleigh) 3, Cyril Maidment (Wimbledon) 1, Eric French (Rayleigh) 0.

COVENTRY

The following qualified: Bob Roger (Swindon) 14, Ken McKinlay (Leicester) 14, Barry Briggs (Wimbledon) 13, George White (Swindon) 12, Jack Geran (Leicester) 11.

Other scores were: Jack Biggs (Oxford) 10, Alf Hagon (Wimbledon) 9, Neil Street (Swindon) 7, Eric Boothroyd (Bradford) 6, Ron Mountford (Coventry) 6, Dick Bradley (Southampton) 5, Jim Lightfoot (Coventry) 4, Phil Clarke (Norwich) 4, Peter Moore (Ipswich) 3, Jack Unstead (Rayleigh) 2, Mike Broadbanks (Southampton) 0.

CHAMPIONSHIP PRIZE AWARDS

WINNER £500,

and the "Sunday Dispatch" World Championship Trophy and Replica

SECOND £200

THIRD £100

Heat Prize Money: £5 per point, £2 10s. od. per start

A rider going through unbeaten tonight can thus earn a total of £587 10s. od.

TONIGHT'S FINALISTS

KEN McKINLAY (Leicester and Scotland)

Dubbed the "Flying Scot," this dark-haired Scot did well in last year's Final with a 10-point score. Now 28, was taught speedway whilst serving in the Rhine Army. Signed for White City in 1948 and rapidly developed into a firm favourite with Glasgow crowds. Possesses a great record in this year's event. Won both the Rayleigh and Leicester first round meetings but lost the £75 winner's cheque in the Coventry semi-final to Bob Roger after a run-off. Is certain to be in the thick of it tonight.

AUB LAWSON (Norwich and Australia)

Evergreen Aub, the only pre-war rider in tonight's line-up, has a great World Final record—yet he's never won the sport's blue riband. Rode in the 1949, 1950, 1951, 1953 and 1954 Finals—an injury kept him out in 1955—Aub is now past 40 but he still remains one of the greatest track tacticians of the present day. Began his career in 1937 and for years was the "big noise" at West Ham. Has lost count of his international appearances, but it must be hundreds. Now skips Norwich in what could be his last season before retirement.

DAN FORSBERG (Sweden)

First reserve from the European Final, 22-year-old Dan Forsberg gets his chance at Wembley tonight because of the absence of Olle Nygren. Forsberg is no stranger to Wembley. He was here in the 1953 World Final and in recent years has assisted Birmingham. An ex-bakery assistant, Forsberg is a typical Swedish full-throttle speed merchant and, though called in as a last minute replacement, will be in the thick of it for his country this evening. Rides for the Vargarna club in Stockholm and possesses an excellent record.

BOB ROGER (Swindon and England)

The surprise packet of the present season, dare-devil Bob hails from a great speedway family and fans will be familiar with the track exploits of elder brothers, Cyril and Bert. Bob is 29 and made his racing debut at New Cross in 1951. Scored a great victory in the Coventry semi-final round after a special run-off with Ken McKinlay. Recently Bob had a crack at Peter Craven's Match Race title. Roger's tearaway style is bound to cause a few headaches for his rivals this evening. His first Final.

PEO SÖDERMAN (Sweden)

Created a big impression at Wembley 12 months ago when he finished joint fifth in the World Final at the very first attempt! Stockholm born, is 24 years of age and regularly assists Coventry. Like so many of his Swedish colleagues, is a rough, tough and resolute rider who will steer his machine through the narrowest gap. Was second in the European Final and should do well this evening.

RUNE SORMANDER (Sweden)

Slight of build but terrier-like on the track, is no stranger to Wembley, having ridden for the Lions' League side four seasons ago. Skipped the Swedish National team which whipped England 59-49 at the Empire Stadium in June of last year. Has been champion of his country and rode in the 1953 World Final when he finished eleventh. For winter recreation likes speedway racing on ice! Winner of this year's European Final.

GEORGE WHITE (Swindon and England)

Surprised the experts by qualifying for the Final, 24-year-old "Chalky" is a plumber by trade. Born at Dalston (London), started riding in 1947 and eventually landed a New Cross contract. He then moved on to Yarmouth. But George really came to the front at Swindon where he is a great favourite. Suffered a broken wrist a few years ago and was "on the fence" for almost a whole season. A devil-may-care type of rider, is bound to make a few of the fancied riders sit up. Unmarried, his first-ever Final.

IAN WILLIAMS (Swindon and Wales)

Like Bob Roger, is one of three speedway brothers. Elder brother Fred Williams twice won the World crown and 26-year-old Ian is more than just determined to follow in his footsteps. Skipper of Swindon, Ian is the third member of the "Robins" team to reach the Final—a praiseworthy achievement. Ian has never ridden for any club but Swindon. In 1952 he was voted the "Novice of the Year." Won the Swindon first round championship meeting. Married, lives close to the Swindon track.

2nd RESERVE

JACK BIGGS (Oxford and Australia)

Diminutive Aussie who, for sheer consistency, has few equals. Twelve months ago was 1st reserve at Wembley. Seemed to have the world title in his "pocket" in 1951—won his first four heats, but then finished unplaced in his last ride!

PETER CRAVEN
1955

RONNIE MOORE
1954



OVE FUNDIN
1956



JACK
YOUNG
1951 · 1952

**WORLD
CHAMPIONS
ALL
AGREE
ON**

FREDDIE
WILLIAMS
1950 · 1953



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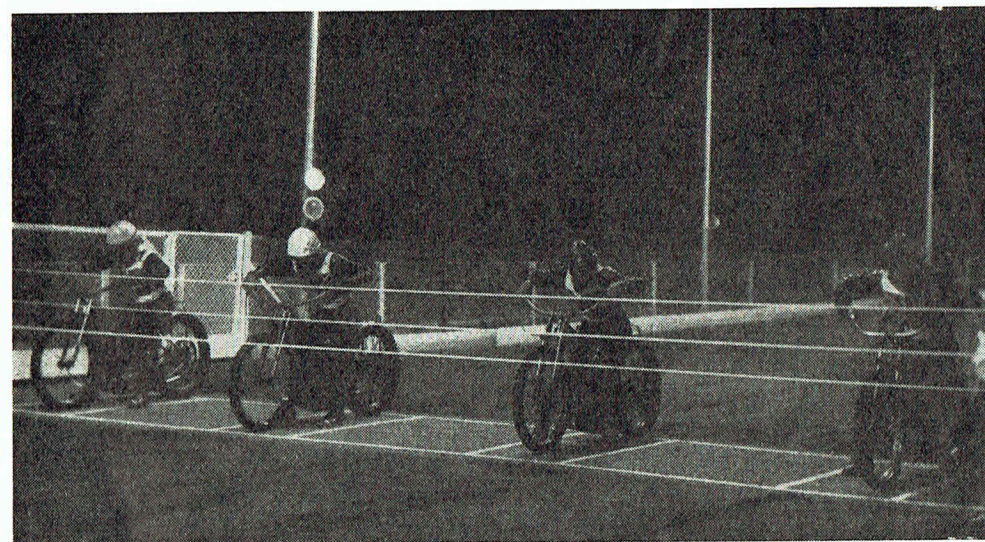
20 for 3/11

FUNDIN'S GREAT WEMBLEY TRIUMPH



The greatest moment in the life of a Speedway rider! An overjoyed Ove Fundin holds aloft the 1956 £500 winner's cheque, and the magnificent Trophy presented by the "Sunday Dispatch"

TENSE MOMENT AT THE TAPES!



[Wembley Stadium Photos

The vast crowd is hushed as the riders prepare to leave the starting gate in the first heat of the World Championship Final. But soon there's a deafening roar as men and machines hurtle to the first corner.

WORLD FLASH-BACKS 1936 - 1957

● TOUGH VAN PRAAG

● PRICE WAS FIRST



Bluey Wilkinson, the 1938 champion of the world, lost his life in a road accident.

Wembley presented the first-ever World Championship Final in 1936. And it was Wembley's tough Australian rider, Lionel Van Praag, who won the crown after a run-off with that great Northern ace, Eric Langton.

* * * * *

In 1937 American riders swept the board. Jack Milne was the winner, second was the great Wilbur Lamoreaux and Cordy Milne, younger brother of Jack, third. Bluey Wilkinson was going well in this 1937 Championship but a broken wrist prevented him from riding at Wembley.

* * * * *

However, the great-hearted Bluey, easily the most popular rider of that era, made sure of the World title in 1938. But what a terrific fight he had in the Final before overcoming Uncle Sam's three smart racers, the Milne brothers and Lammy.

* * * * *

At the end of the 1938 season Bluey retired to manage Sheffield. Afterwards he lost his life in a road motor cycle accident in Australia.

* * * * *

It's worth noting that Geoff Pymar, who rode in the 1938 Final, is still gathering in the points for Norwich—some 19 years later!

* * * * *

First-ever Englishman to capture the cinders 'blue riband' was Lions' rider, Tommy Price. This was in 1949, when the Parker brothers, Jack and Norman, filled second and fourth placings respectively.

* * * * *

The fabulous Jack Parker won every honour the sport had to offer *except* the world crown. That second in 1949 was his nearest!

* * * * *

Welshman Freddie Williams twice won the title, so did the hard-riding crack from Adelaide, Jack Young. The last-named has one other distinction—he's the only rider from the Second Division to become champion. Young clinched the title in 1951 when with Edinburgh Monarchs.

* * * * *

Tasmanian-born Ronnie Moore has a great world record, so has the Australian star, Aub Lawson, who is riding this evening.

* * * * *

Springbok Doug Davies had to stand down from the 1955 Final because of meningitis. But he fought his way through to the 1956 Final and put up a brave show.

TONIGHT'S REFEREE—MAJOR C. C. MASON

Connected with the A.C.U. and motor cycle sport since 1919-20. Is himself a great rider enthusiast and has vast experience of trials, grass track and hill-climb riding. Has officiated for the A.C.U. in the Isle of Man during T.T. races.

Was first appointed a Speedway Steward in 1931. Has handled Speedway Meetings at some 20 different tracks and has carried out track inspections on behalf of the A.C.U.

Major Mason is one of Speedway's most experienced referees, having officiated at many major meetings over the years.

NEXT SPEEDWAY MEETING IN LONDON

MONDAY NEXT, SEPTEMBER 23rd

AT 7.45 p.m.

AT WIMBLEDON STADIUM

(Best Pairs Supporter's Trophy plus All Star programme)

THE SPEEDWAY CONTROL BOARD

The sport of Speedway Racing in this country is controlled by the Speedway Control Board. The Board consists of independent representatives appointed by the Auto-Cycle Union and the following representatives of the Sport:—Three Promoters from the National League and a Riders' representative. The present constitution of the Board is as follows:—

Chairman

Lt.-Col. R. Vernon C. Brook, O.B.E.

A.C.U. Nominees

G. R. Allan S. T. Huggett C. H. King T. E. Ryan E. A. Simcock

Promoters

A. D. Sanderson

B. R. J. Hearse

G. Parkins

Secretary and Manager

Major W. W. Fearnley

Riders' Representative

Phil Clarke

The following Tracks are licensed by the Speedway Control Board and operate under the jurisdiction of the Auto-Cycle Union:—

Belle Vue (Manchester), Coventry, Ipswich, Leicester, Norwich, Odsal (Bradford), Oxford, Rayleigh, Southampton, Swindon, Wimbledon, Poole, Great Yarmouth and Exeter.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SIR ARTHUR ELVIN, M.B.E., D.L.

WITH the passing of Sir ARTHUR ELVIN, Wembley's Chairman and Managing Director, in the early part of this year, Speedway Racing suffered a grievous loss.

His remarkable enterprise, courage and foresight were of inestimable value in those pioneering days of the late 20's. Throughout the years, right up to the time of his death, Sir ARTHUR gave his whole-hearted support to the sport he grew to love so well.

A member of the Speedway Control Board for many years, those behind the scenes will know only too well the drive and enthusiasm Sir ARTHUR infused into everything he did to popularise Speedway racing, not only at Wembley, but throughout the country.

Speedway will never forget Sir ARTHUR ELVIN—the man who made Wembley the mecca for sportsmen the world over.

SIGNALS IN USE AT THIS MEETING

The Green Lights are used as an instruction to the riders to come up to the tapes for a "gate start." Red Lights—Stop. Yellow Flag with Black Diagonal Cross—One more lap to go. Black Flag.—This is a signal for a particular rider to withdraw. Black and White Check Flag.—Finish.

The coloured lights suspended in front of the starting line indicate disqualification of any rider by the Referee. Coloured lights situated above the pits indicate the winner's colour after each race.

In order that the announcer's remarks may be audible to all, patrons are earnestly requested to maintain silence when the alarm bells are rung, and whilst the green lights on the two flag poles in the arena are showing.

WEMBLEY SPEEDWAY TRACK RECORD

Official Track Measurements: 1 Lap = 378 yards. 4 Laps = 1,512 yards

Four Laps, Clutch Start

SPLIT WATERMAN Time: 68.4 secs. 45.22 m.p.h. August 13th, 1953

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