

1972 NATIONAL

*Official
Programme*

Trade Supported

10p

BATTLE OF NEWBURY MOTO-CROSS

**Fox & Hounds Circuit
NEWBURY**

By kind permission of
Captain J. S. Fairhurst

**Sunday,
12th March,
1972**



First Race 12.30 p.m.

**PROMOTED BY THE NEWBURY & DISTRICT
MOTOR CLUB**

IN AID OF LOCAL CHARITIES



present the
National - Trade Supported
500
BATTLE OF NEWBURY
MOTO-CROSS

A National Competition for Solos and Sidecars including the first round of the 1972 British Sidecar Championships. The first round of the 1972 Shell "Under 21" Series.

Held under the General Competition Rules of the Auto Cycle Union

Permit No. A.C.U. 432 T.O.C. 462

OFFICIALS OF THE MEETING

STEWARDS:

Appointed by the A.C.U.: T. E. HUBBUCK

Appointed by the Southern Centre: J. M. BUSSELL

Appointed by the Promoting Club: D. RICHARDSON, R. TARRY

Clerk of the Course: JOHN STANLEY

A.C.U. Noise Meter Operator: K. GALE

Machine Examiners: D. HUNTLEY, R. TUCKER

Chief Marshal: ALAN KEANE

Judge and Finish-of-Race Recorder: P. B. RYALL

Announcer DAVE JOYCE

Club Doctor: Dr. G. WOODFINE

Secretary of the Meeting: Mrs. S. JOYCE,
 18 Hedgeway, Newbury, Berks. Tel. Newbury 4065.

WARNING!

MOTOR RACING IS DANGEROUS

You are present at this Meeting entirely at your own risk and admission is subject to the conditions that all persons having any connection with the promotion and/or organisation and/or conduct of the meeting, including the owners of the track and the drivers and owners of the vehicles and passengers in the vehicles, are absolved from all liability in respect of personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise) to you or damage to your property howsoever caused.

Spectators are requested to keep off the course. Also the public are requested not to damage the property, cause fires or leave litter.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR LITTER
:: AWAY WITH YOU ::

LIST OF COMPETITORS — SOLO DRIVERS

No.	Name	Machine	C.C.	Hometown	Nat. Lic. No.
1	DAVE HICKERS	C.Z.	250/400	Ipswich	1153
2	VIC EASTWOOD	A.J.S.	250/410	West Malling	1338
3	ALAN CLARKE	A.J.S.	250/410	Eckington	0916
4	ROGER HARVEY	A.J.S.	250/410	Brereton	3102
5	BRYAN GOSS	Maico	400	Sherborne	1467
6	IVAN MILLER	Husky	400	Richmond	1966
7	TERRY DYER	Greeves	250/380	Eastbourne	1057
8	TOM LEADBITTER	Maico	250	Longdon	3103
9	PAUL SQUIBBS	A.J.S.	250/410	Bradford-on-Avon	1942
10	BOB WRIGHT	Greeves	250	Sabden	2878
11	DICK CLAYTON	Greeves	380/250	Wigan	2605
12	FREDDIE MAYES	C.Z.	250	West Wrating	1588
13	MIKE GEORGE	Maico	250/400	Ashford	1134
14	DAVE NICHOLL	B.S.A.	500	Newport	0873
15	JIMMY AIRD	Husky	250	Barnard Castle	0002
16	BRYAN WADE	Husky	250	Nailsworth	2897
17	KEITH HICKMAN	Husky	400	Grove	2494
18	ANDY LEE	B.S.A.	500	Shepreth	0146
19	MALCOLM DAVIS	Bultaco	250/400	Gloucester	7221
20	VIC ALLAN	Bultaco	250	Tollworth	2794
21	ARTHUR BROWNING	Bultaco	250	Birmingham	016
22	KEN HEANES	B.S.A.	500	Fleet	3076
23	JIM CONNER	Husky	250/400	Feltham	1606
24	ROBERT GAPPER	Maico	400	Yeovil	1485
25	MIKE JONES	Husky	250	Wimborne	1185
26	RICHARD HUGHES	Montesa Husky	250 400	Maldon	1941
27	ALAN GIBBONS	Husky	250/400	Ipswich	0148
28	GILROY STEPHENS	B.S.A.	500	Fleet	0666
29	TONY STRATTEN	Husky	250/400	Corfe Mullen	0518
30	MIKE HANN	Maico	400	Yeovil	0232
31	ALAN ARNOTT	Husky	400	Tickworth	1560
32	LEN NEVE	Husky	400	London, S.W.9.	2602
33	JOHN PENGELLY	Bultaco Husky	250 400	Surbiton	2230
34	MALCOLM DEARN	B.S.A.	500	Charwood	2608
35	DENNIS SMITH	Husky	400		3182
36	ADRIAN YALLOP	A.J.S.	250/410	Ipswich	1498
37	JOHN PEASE	Greeves	250/380	Braintree	2527
38	ERNIE SPARKES	Maico	400	Abingdon	3113
39	NIGEL WITHERS	B.S.A.	475	Fairoak	1113
40	TONY BAILEY	C.Z.	400	Botley	1625
41	MICHAEL BARTON	Husky	400	N/Wanborough	0284
42	GRAHAM BARTON	Greeves	250	" "	0283
43	DAVE HARRIES	A.J.S.	410	Slough	0361
44	KEDRICK FERRIS	Husky	400	Highworth	0209
45	ANDY NURDEN	A.J.S.	250/410	Malmsbury	1463
46	IAN DONALDSON	Husky	400	Basingstoke	1631
47	ROB DONALDSON	Husky	400	Basingstoke	1630
48	BRIAN HARVEY	Greeves	250	Henfield	0637
49	PETE DESBOROUGH	A.J.S.	250	Elsworth	1003
50	DAVE DESBOROUGH	Maico	400	Elsworth	0549
51	ROBIN WICKS	Maico	400	Hartley Wintney	1795
52	LEWIS DELVE	Maico	250/400	Exeter	714
53	WAYNE JONES	Husky	400	Bridgend	2726
54	STEPHEN LOUTH	Bultaco	250	Portsmouth	972
55	ANDY AINSWORTH	Maico	400	Blackburn	1126
56	DAVID DRAKE	Husky	400	Ashton-by-Doxey	1752
57	ROGER HOARE	Cheney	500	Wootton Bassett	1676

SOLO DRIVERS (continued)

No.	Name	Machine	c.c.	Hometown	Nat. Lic. No.
58	RAY PATTEMORE	Husky	400	Merriott	0340
59	CHRIS TYE	Metisse	500	Colchester	2477
60	KEVIN RICHARDSON	C.Z.	400	Thatcham	0975
61	GEOFF CHURCHILL	Husky	400	Sherborne	1829
62	BARRY SYKES	C.Z.	360	Woodley	0973
63	TOMMY JURGENS	A.J.S.	410	Cheltenham	1691
64	DAVID BROWN	A.J.S.	410	Tyherington	1399
65	PAUL ARBON	C.Z.	250	Stowmarket	1634
66	MIKE GREY	Greeves	250/380	Maidenhead	0006
67	STEPHEN SHARP	Husky	360	Woodley	1046
68	DAVID MILLER	Greeves	250/380	Hartley Wintney	2022
69	GEOFFREY MAYES	C.Z.	380	Cambridge	0417
70	RAY SKINNER	C.Z.	360	Stroud	1899
71	DAVID WATSON	Bultaco	250	Brampton	1939
72	GEOFF HILL	Greeves	380	Compton	1680
73	PHILLIP BULL	Husky	250/400	Waterbeach	0912
74	NIGEL MILLER	Greeves	250	Hazeley Heath	0942
		Husky	410		
75	ROBERT HOOPER	A.J.S.	410	Rugeley	1651
76	RICHARD RIDEOUT	Husky	250/400	Broadston	2544
77	JAMES BROWN	A.J.S.	410	Tyherington	1400
78	LES LLOYD	Sheehan	400	Steventon	1510
79	COLIN MAUNDER	Husky	400	Hayling	0648
80	MIKE CHURCH	Fowler	250	Marshfield	2075
		A.J.S.	410		
81	JOHN MAY	Maico	400	Godalming	2050
82	KEITH BAKER	Maico	400	East Meon	0222
83	PETE MATHIA	Maico	250	Northwich	2550
84	MARTIN DAVIS	A.J.S.	250	Marshfield	1029
85	JAMES REIMLER	A.J.S.	250	Ipswich	2992
86	ROB TAYLOR	Maico	250/400	Bristol	0655

SIDECAR DRIVERS

No.	Name	Machine	c.c.	Hometown	Nat. Lic. No.
1	JOHN ELLIOTT (pass. Bob Stanbridge)	Husky-Wasp	450	Caversham	1199
2	ROGER MARTIN (pass. Chris Warren)	B.S.A.	500	Emsworth	2526
3	MARTIN PEDDAR (pass. Peter Martin)	Wasp	750	Cheshunt	1066
4	DAVE FOX (pass. Brian Andrews)	Weslake-Wasp	750	Margate	0502
5	BRYAN AYRES (pass. Eddie Ayres)	Wasp	750	Peltham	1166
6	ANTHONY HALL (pass. Vernon Pratt)	M.H./B.S.A.	500	Petersfield	0317
7	JOHN HUGHES (pass. Andy Greenhorn)	Rat-Wasp	750	East Bedfont	0926
8	MICHAEL HOLLOWAY (pass. D. A. Simms)	F.T.W.	660	Sydenham	334
9	KIM LOGAN (pass. Peter Logan)	Norton-Wasp	750	Rolands-Gill	0242
10	NICK THOMPSON (pass. Dave Beavis)	Heanes-Wasp	750	Bognor Regis	2461
11	MIKE GUILFORD (pass. John Seffron)	Wasp	650	Stockbridge	2866
12	ANDY WILKINS (pass. Nick Wilkins)	W.B.S.	650	Reading	1355
14	EDDIE CHANDLER (pass. B. Nutley)	Wasp	650	Reading	2219
15	PAUL COOPER (pass. John Cooper)	Wasp	650	Royston	0888
16	JOHN TURNER (pass. Mike Meredith)	Wasp	650	Reading	2353
17	GERRY SQUIRREL (pass. Richard Doy)	Wasp	650	Woodbridge	0419

SIDECAR DRIVERS (continued)

No.	Name	Machine	c.c.	Hometown	Nat. Lic. No.
18	BRYAN HOLLISTER (pass. Tony Carter)	Wasp	650	Bucklebury	1679
19	GEOFF WAYLAND (pass. Jim Shrubbs)	Metisse	540	Chessington	1915
20	EDWARD KEER (pass. Dave Dinsey)	Pegleg	650	Watford	0842
21	T. FIELD (pass. R. Field)	Wasp	750	Chelmsford	1840
22	DAVID POYNTER (pass. Elow Clark)	Wasp	650	Newbury	2046
23	ROGER EGGLETON (pass. Trevor Giles)	Wasp	650	Didcot	1677
24	RUFUS ROSE (pass. Chris Lees)	Triumph	650	Wimborne	0600
25	FRED RESTRICK (pass. George Fowles)	Triumph	650	Reading	1646
26	PETER BRINSDEN (pass. John Johnson)	Triumph	650	Reading	2256
27	ROGER MAYNE (pass. John Longland)	Triumph	650	Chichester	0955
28	BRYAN MAYNARD (pass. Joe Ford)	Heanes-Wasp	750	Fleet	1116
29	PETER WHITE (pass. Brian Warwick)	Wasp	650	Reading	1369
30					
31	RAY GERRISH (pass. Dave Wyeth)	Wasp	650	Reading	2327
32	M. J. CAMDEN (pass. R. Marchant)	Wasp	650	Swindon	2340
33	DAVID METCALF (pass. John Anderson)	Wasp	750	Tiptree	2601
34	DAVE NEWWEY (Res.) (pass. Michael Ripper)	Wasp	750	Fareham	1790

Our NEXT EVENT on this Circuit

Sunday, July 23rd, 1972

INTERNATIONAL MOTO-CROSS

THE BRITISH ROUND — 1972

750 c.c. F.I.M. CUP

EUROPEAN

SIDECAR CHAMPIONSHIP

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MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 8 a.m.—8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY: 8.30 a.m.—1 p.m. SATURDAY: 8.30 a.m.—6 p.m.

H.P. and PART EXCHANGES ARRANGED

Denton Lane, Garsington,
OXFORD

Tel. Garsington 237

RACE 1

HEAT 1 (3 laps)

1st ROUND 1972 BRITISH MOTO-CROSS SIDECAR CHAMPIONSHIPS

No.	Name	Passenger	No.	Name	Passenger
1	J. ELLIOTT	Bob Stanbridge	19	G. WAYLAND	Jim Shrubbs
3	M. PEDDAR	Peter Martin	21	T. FIELD	R. Field
3	B. AYRES	Eddie Ayres	23	R. EGGLETON	Trevor Giles
7	J. HUGHES	Andy Greenhorn	25	F. RESTRICK	George Fowles
9	K. LOGAN	Peter Logan	27	R. MAYNE	John Longland
11	M. GUILFORD	John Seffron	29	P. WHITE	Brian Warwick
15	P. COOPER	John Cooper	31	R. GERRISH	Dave Wyeth
16	J. TURNER	Mike Meredith	33	D. METCALFE	John Anderson
17	G. SQUIRRELL	Richard Doy			

FIRST 8 TO FINAL (RACE 4)

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... Time.....

RACE 2

HEAT 2 (3 laps)

No.	Name	Passenger	No.	Name	Passenger
2	R. MARTIN	Chris Warren	20	E. KEER	Dave Dinsey
4	D. FOX	Brian Andrews	22	D. POYNTER	Eiow Clark
6	A. HALL	Vernon Pratt	24	R. ROSE	Chris Lees
8	M. HOLLOWAY	D. A. Simms	26	P. BRINSDEN	John Johnson
10	N. THOMPSON	Dave Beavis	28	B. MAYNARD	Joe Ford
12	A. WILKINS	Nick Wilkins	30		
14	E. CHANDLER	Colin Allen	32	M. J. CAMDEN	R. Marchant
18	B. HOLLISTER	Tony Carter	34	DAVE NEWAY	Michael Ripper

FIRST 8 TO FINAL (RACE 4)

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... Time.....

RACE 3

SUPPORTING RACES

(5 laps)

(Solos up to 500 c.c.) (Races 3 and 12)

No.	Name	No.	Name
41	MICHAEL BARTON	63	TOMMY JURGENS
42	GRAHAM BARTON	64	DAVID BROWN
43	DAVE HARRIES	65	PAUL ARBON
44	KEDRICK FERRIS	66	MIKE GREY
45	ANDY NURDEN	67	STEPHEN SHARP
46	IAN DONALDSON	68	DAVID MILLER
47	ROBERT DONALDSON	69	GEOFFREY MAYES
48	BRIAN HARVEY	70	RAY SKINNER
49	PETER DESBOROUGH	71	DAVID WATSON
50	DAVID DESBOROUGH	72	GEOFF HILL
51	ROBIN WICKS	73	PHILLIP BULL
52	LEWIS DELVE	74	NIGEL MILLER
53	WAYNE JONES	75	ROBERT HOOPER
54	STEPHEN LOUTH	76	RICHARD RIDOUT
55	ANDREW AINSWORTH	77	JAMES BROWN
56	DAVID DRAKE	78	LES LLOYD
57	ROGER HOARE	79	COLIN MAUNDER
58	RAY PATTEMORE	80	MIKE CHURCH
59	GEOFF CHURCHILL	81	JOHN MAY
60	CHRIS TYE	82	KEITH BAKER
61	KEVIN RICHARDSON	83	PETE MATHIA
62	BARRY SYKES	84	MARTIN DAVIS
		85	JAMES REIMLER

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... Time.....

£8 £6 £4 £3 £2 £1

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RACE 4

FINAL

(20 minutes plus 1 lap)
(plus 1 lap)

1st Round 1972 British Sidecar Championships

1st....	2nd....	3rd....	4th....	5th....	6th....	Time.....
		£50	£30	£20	£15	£10
						£5

RACES 5 & 11

(20 minutes plus 1 lap)
(plus 1 lap)

BATTLE OF NEWBURY MOTO-CROSS (2 legs)

.(Invited Solo's up to 500 c.c.)

Races

- 1 DAVE BICKERS
- 2 VIC EASTWOOD
- 3 ALAN CLARKE
- 4 ROGER HARVEY
- 5 BRYAN GOSS
- 6 IVAN MILLER
- 7 TERRY DYER
- 8 TOM LEADBITTER
- 9 PAUL SQUIBBS
- 10 BOB WRIGHT
- 11 DICK CLAYTON
- 12 FREDDIE MAYS
- 13 MIKE GEORGE
- 14 DAVE NICOLL
- 15 JIMMY AIRD
- 16 BRYAN WADE
- 17 KEITH HICKMAN
- 18 ANDY LEE
- 19 MALCOLM DAVIS
- 20 VIC ALLAN
- 21 ARTHUR BROWNING

22 KEN HEANES
23 JIM CONNER
24 ROBERT GAPPER
25 MIKE JONES
26 RICHARD HUGHES
27 ALAN GIBBONS
28 GILROY STEPHENS
29 TONY STRATTEN
30 M. HANN
31 ALAN ARNOTT
32 LEN NEVE
33 JOHN PENGELLY
34 MALCOLM DEARN
35 DENNIS SMITH
36 ADRIAN YALLOP
37 JOHN PEASE
38 ERNIE SPARKES
39 NIGEL WITHERS
40 TONY BAILEY
85 ERNIE SPARKES
86 ROB TAYLOR

RACE 5 RESULT

1st Leg 'BATTLE OF NEWBURY MOTO-CROSS'

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... 9th.... 10th....

Time.....

£50 £30 £20 £10 £8 £6 £4 £3 £2 £1

Today's PUBLIC ADDRESS

by

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RACE 6

HEAT 1 (3 laps)

SIDECAR SCRATCH RACE

No.	Name	Passenger
2	R. MARTIN	Chris Warren
4	D. FOX	Brian Andrews
6	A. HALL	Vernon Pratt
8	M. HOLLOWAY	D. A. Simms
10	N. THOMPSON	Dave Beavis
12	A. WILKINS	Nick Wilkins
14	E. CHANDLER	Colin Allen
18	B. HOLLISTER	Tony Carter
19	G. WAYLAND	Jim Shrubbs
21	T. FIELD	R. Field
23	R. EGGLETON	Trevor Giles
25	F. RESTRICK	George Fowles
27	R. MAYNE	John Longland
29	P. WHITE	Brian Warwick
31	R. GERRISH	Dave Wyeth
33	D. METCALFE	John Anderson

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th....

Time.....

RACE 7

HEAT 2 (3 laps)

No.	Name	Passenger
1	J. ELLIOTT	Bob Stanbridge
3	M. PEDDAR	Peter Martin
5	B. AYRES	Eddie Ayres
7	J. HUGHES	Andy Greenhorn
9	K. LOGAN	Peter Logan
11	M. GUILFORD	John Seffron
15	P. COOPER	John Cooper
16	J. TURNER	Mike Meredith
17	G. SQUIRRELL	Richard Doy
20	E. KEER	Dave Dinsey
22	D. POYNTER	Eiow Clark
24	R. ROSE	Chris Lees
26	P. BRINSDEN	John Johnson
28	B. MAYNAED	Joe Ford
30		
32	M. J. CAMDEN	R. Marchant
34	D. NEWBY	Michael Ripper

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... Time.....

INTERVAL

RACE 8

(20 minutes plus 1 lap)

'SHELL' UNDER-21 RACE (Up to 500 c.c.)

No.	Name	No.	Name
7	TERRY DYER	59	CHRIS TYE
13	MIKE GEORGE	60	KEVIN RICHARDSON
24	ROBERT GAPPER	61	GEOFF CHURCHILL
25	MIKE JONES	62	BARRY SYKES
41	MICHAEL BARTON	63	TOMMY JURGENS
42	GRAHAM BARTON	64	DAVID BROWN
43	DAVE HARRIES	65	PAUL ARBON
44	KENDRICK FERRIS	66	MIKE GREY
45	ANDY NURDEN	67	STEPHEN SHARP
46	IAN DONALDSON	68	DAVID MILLER
47	ROBERT DONALDSON	69	GEOFFREY MAYES
48	BRIAN HARVEY	70	RAY SKINNER
49	PETER DESBOROUGH	71	DAVID WATSON
50	DAVID DESBOROUGH	72	GEOFF HILL
51	ROBIN WICKS	73	PHILLIP BULL
52	LEWIS DELVE	74	NIGEL MILLER
53	WAYNE JONES	75	ROBERT HOOPER
54	STEPHEN LOUTH	76	RICHARD RIDOUT
55	ANDREW AINSWORTH	80	MIKE CHURCH
56	DAVID DRAKE	81	JOHN MAY
57	ROGER HOARE	82	KEITH BAKER
58	RAY PATTEMORE	83	PETE MATHIA
		84	MARTIN DAVIS

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... 9th.... 10th....

Time.....

£25 £18 £12 £10 £7 £5 £4 £3 £2 £1

RACE 9**250 RACE**

(Invited Solo's up to 250 c.c.)

No.	Name	No.	Name
1	DAVE BICKERS	29	TONY STRATTEN
2	VIC EASTWOOD	33	JOHN PENGELLY
4	ROGER HARVEY	36	ADRIAN YALLOP
5	BRYAN GOSS	37	JOHN PEASE
7	TERRY DYER	42	GRAHAM BARTON
8	TOM LEADBITTER	45	ANDY NURDEN
9	PAUL SQUIBBS	48	BRIAN HARVEY
10	BOB WRIGHT	49	PETER DESBOROUGH
11	DICK CLAYTON	52	LEWIS DELVE
12	FRED MAYES	54	STEWART LOUTH
13	MIKE GEORGE	65	PAUL ARBON
15	JIMMY AIRD	66	MIKE GREY
16	BRYAN WADE	68	DAVID MILLER
19	MALCOLM DAVIS	71	DAVID WATSON
20	VIC ALLAN	73	PHILLIP BULL
21	ARTHUR BROWNING	76	RICHARD RIDOUT
23	JIM CONNER	80	MIKE CHURCH
25	MIKE JONES	83	PETE MATHIA
26	RICHARD HUGHES	84	MARTIN DAVIS
27	ALAN GIBBONS		

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... Time.....

£25 £18 £12 £8 £5 £4 £3 £2 £1

RACE 10

(5 laps)

SIDE CAR SCRATCH RACE

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... Time.....

£20 £15 £10 £6 £6 £4

RACE 11

(20 minutes plus 1 lap)

(1 lap)

2nd leg 'BATTLE OF NEWBURY MOTO-CROSS'

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... 7th.... 8th.... 9th.... 10th....

Time.....

£50 £30 £20 £10 £8 £6 £4 £3 £2 £1

RACE 12

(5 laps)

SECOND SUPPORTING RACE (Solo's up to 500 c.c.)

(Competitors as per Race 3)

1st.... 2nd.... 3rd.... 4th.... 5th.... 6th.... Time.....

£8 £6 £4 £3 £2 £1

1972 BATTLE OF NEWBURY MOTO-CROSS**FINAL CLASSIFICATION**

1st.....

2nd.....

3rd.....

4th.....

5th.....

6th.....

Any point 'ties' will be decided in favour of the driver making the best performance in the second Leg (Race 11)

AN EARLIER "BATTLE OF NEWBURY"

As a change from motorcycling, I thought that perhaps spectators might like to read about an entirely different "Battle" from the one which you are enjoying today. This one took place 328 years ago and it was from it and its predecessor that we took the title for our very successful scrambles.

Consequently I managed to persuade a respected member of the Sealed Knot Society of Cavaliers, known as Wilfred de Basyng (Major), Squire at Arms, to compile for us the following account of the events that took place not far from here during that bloody civil war all those long years ago.

PAT TANNER, Press Officer.

THE SECOND "BATTLE OF NEWBURY"

by Wilf Emberton

Chronology

- 22 October, 1644 The forces of Essex, Manchester and Waller (for Parliament) join up at Basingstoke.
- 25 October The Royalists relieve Banbury.
- 27 October The Battle.
- 9 November King Charles again offers battle and withdraws his guns from Donnington Castle.

Brief Description

The armies consisted of:

ROYALIST (under the command of King Charles in person): 9,000 veteran troops and 29 cannon.

PARLIAMENT (Chief commanders: Sir Wm. Waller and the Earl of Manchester, in the absence of the Earl of Essex who was sick): 19,000 troops (8,000 horse and 11,000 foot) and 24 cannon.

On the basis of military probability Charles should have been utterly destroyed, but events proved otherwise. Although no plan exists to show the dispositions it is plain that the Royalists occupied a

triangular position. The Prince of Maurice with the Cornish army held Speen with Blagges brigade (or tertias) in support. Two hundred men were put into Donnington Castle under the command of Sir John Boys. Shaw House, traditionally the King's billet was held by George Lyle's brigade. Astley's brigade held the Lambourne south of Shaw House, while the rest covered the passage of the Kennet near Newbury. The main body of horse (or cavalry) was in reserve in Speenhamland.

The Parliamentary plan was to divide their army and attack simultaneously, west and east. Waller was to march with 12,000 men by night around the north of the Royalist position and attack Speen whilst Manchester with the remainder was to attack Shaw House. To be successful the two attacks needed to be synchronised exactly. To achieve this it was arranged that Manchester should attack when he heard Waller's bombardment of Speen.

About 3 p.m. on October 27, Waller attacked Speen and was master of the village by 4 p.m. He exploited this success by sending in cavalry attacks: two thrusts to his left (between Speen and Donnington) and right (between Speen and the Kennet).

But Manchester hesitated—for what reason it is not known, or can only be guessed—and did not attack Shaw House until about 4.30 p.m. After bitter fighting he was thrown back with heavy losses. Meanwhile the two Parliament cavalry attacks failed and it became a stalemate, with both sides contenting themselves with musket and artillery fire.

However the Royalists knew that with the odds so heavily weighted against them, the morrow might see them ruined, so they planned a withdrawal under cover of darkness. King Charles with his lifeguard arrived at Bath at 4 p.m. on the 28th and the retreat was organised by Prince Maurice and Lord Astley. Apparently the Roundheads were so demoralised by their unexpected repulse that, according to Clarendon, they made no effort to impede the withdrawal.

Reinforced by Prince Rupert, the King returned to Donnington on November 9th to retrieve the guns and valuables he had left there. He did so ostentatiously rather than stealthily and probably due to the fact that the commanders of Parliament were squabbling bitterly about the responsibility for their previous ill success they made no attempt to resume hostilities.

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