

**Motor  
Cycle  
News**

# ISLE OF MAN GRASS TRACK SPECTACULAR

**7th JUNE**

**STARTS  
7pm**



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## ISLE OF MAN GRASS TRACK SPECTACULAR

Presented by Isle of Man ACU Centre

Organised by World Champions Speedway Series (CI) Ltd and the Ramsey Motor Cycle Club under the regulations of the ACU.

Permit No: ACU

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Appointed by:		Timekeeper	To be appointed
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Deputy Clerk of the		Assistant Secretary	
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### WARNING! MOTOR RACING IS DANGEROUS

You are present at this meeting at your own risk, and tickets of admission are issued subject to the conditions that all persons having any connections with the promotion and/or conduct of this meeting including the owners of the land and drivers and owners of 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.

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WCSS (CI) Ltd reserves the right to postpone, abandon or cancel the meeting or any part thereof should circumstances warrant such action.

### FLAG SIGNALS

YELLOW — Caution, danger ahead. RED — Stop at once.  
YELLOW with BLACK DIAGONAL STRIPE — Last lap.  
BLACK and WHITE CHECKS — Finish.

### “Welcome” says BARRY BRIGGS

*NO MATTER whether you race motor bikes professionally, or for fun, or even just enjoy watching them in one form or another, the Isle of Man has a magic ring about it. I've been included in Six-Day events on the Island, been over to watch the road-racing, and it has always been an ambition of mine to bring my type of motorcycle racing to the Isle of Man.*

*At present there is no suitable site for a speedway meeting. But grasstrack racing . . . that's a different proposition. I came to the Island late last year and with Guy Reid of the Tourist Board visited many possible venues for a grasstrack meeting.*

*At the end of a long day we came to the conclusion that the only suitable and practical site is the King George V Playing Fields. Once we were given the go-ahead to*

*use the ground the various other pieces of the jig-saw came together.*

*With the help and enthusiastic co-operation of the Ramsey Motor Cycle Club, the Isle of Man Centre, the Tourist Board, and with the backing of the ACU, we have been able to put together this evening's meeting . . . the first national grasstrack meeting ever to be held on the Isle of Man.*

*We have brought over a top class field, including the current World Speedway Champion Ivan Mauger, Peter Collins, Michaël Lee, Don Godden, Chris Baybutt and many more.*

*The stage is set and even if we expect to be working on the final touches right up to the last minute I'm confident we have a show worthy of the occasion and a place in TT week on the Isle of Man.*



FOR ALL  
THE SPORT

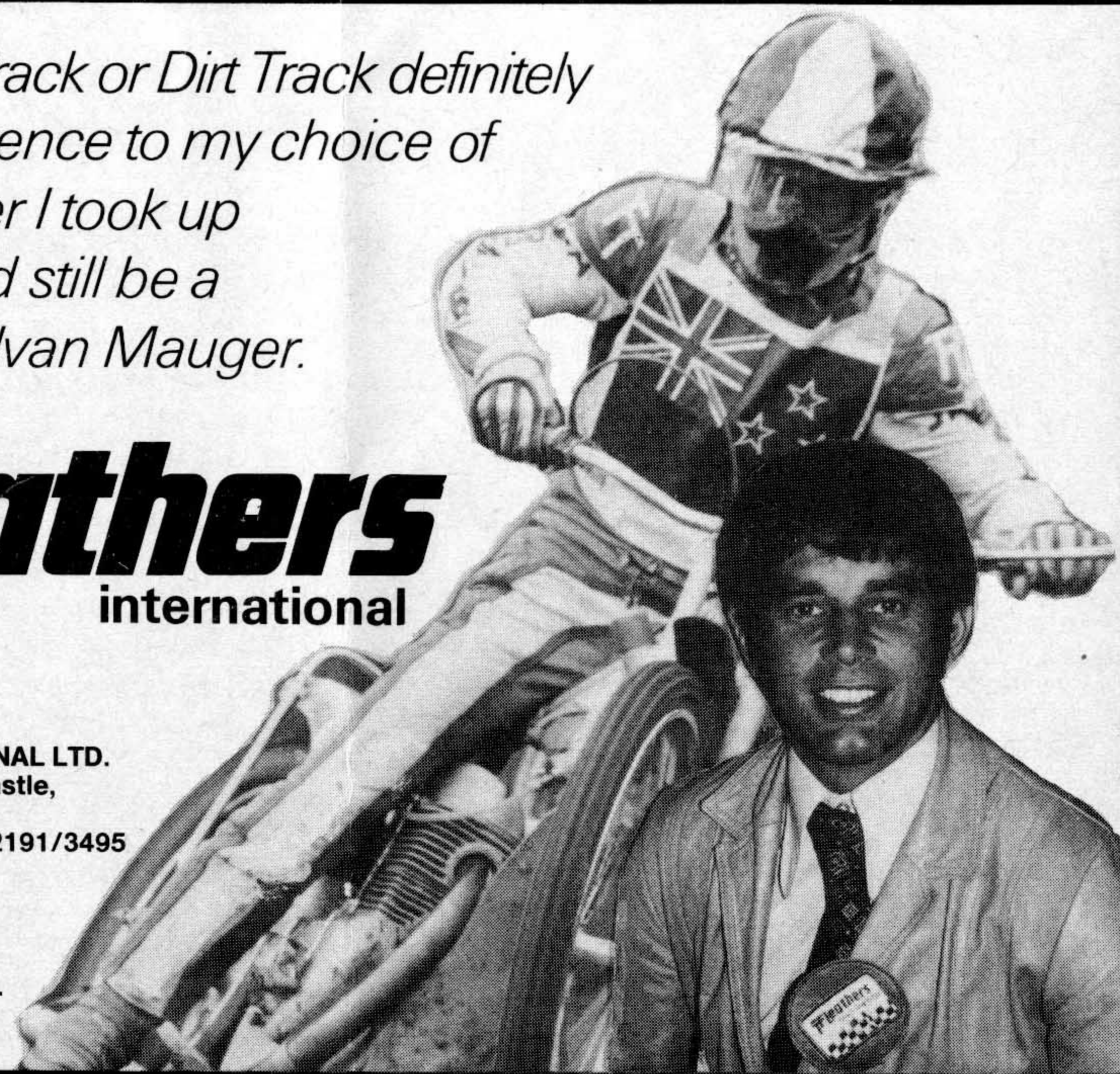
every wednesday

*"Riding Grass Track or Dirt Track definitely makes no difference to my choice of leathers – if ever I took up Road Racing I'd still be a TT man", says Ivan Mauger.*

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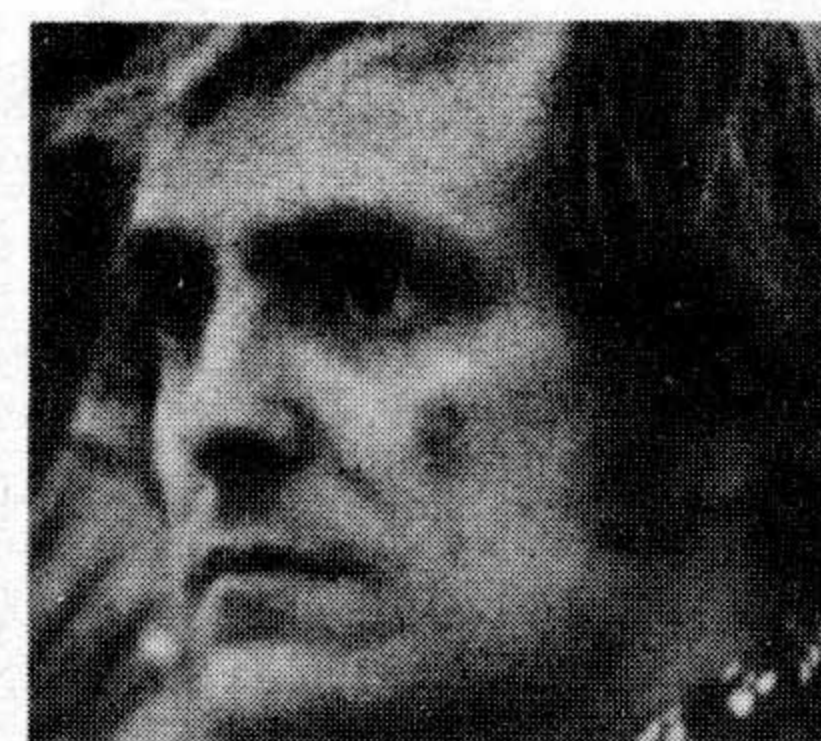


# Meet the riders



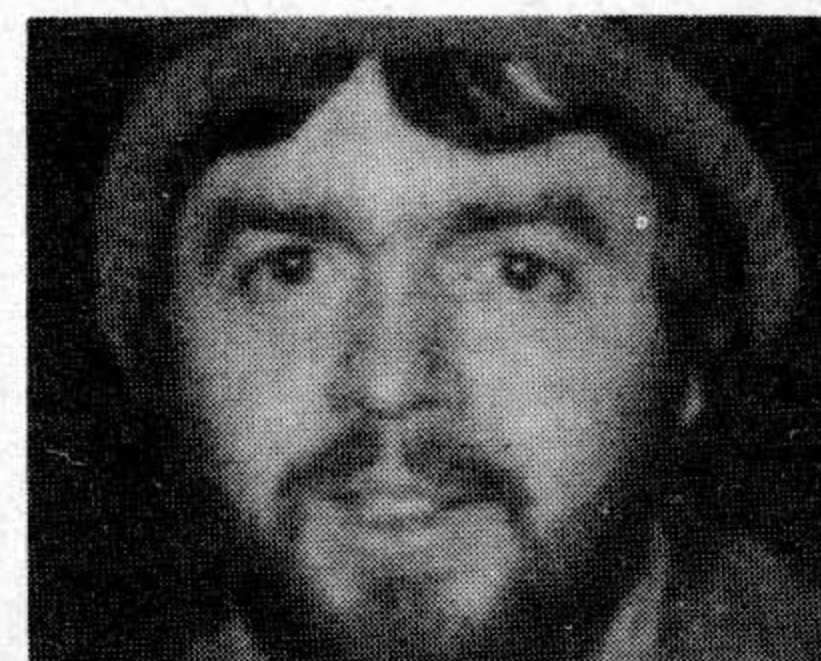
## IVAN MAUGER

The current World Speedway Champion and the only man to have won eight individual World titles – five speedway and three longtrack. Won his first three speedway crowns in successive years (68, 69, 70) in different countries (Sweden, England and Poland). Champion again in '72 and '77. Vast list of individual and team achievements to his credit. Has won British, New Zealand, European, Australasian and Inter-Continental titles. Now riding with Hull in the British League after spells with Newcastle, Exeter and Belle Vue. But was originally with Wimbledon.



## BERNIE LEIGH

This son of Southampton is one of the most experienced and respected grasstrackers around. He won the 1973 500cc Southern Centre championship, is a trials expert and has also done ice-racing. Has spent the whole of his distinguished speedway career with Reading, joining the Racers when they were a Second Division team in 1969 and progressing through to the first division in 1971. Tall, very likeable personality and a skilled mechanic who has done a great deal to further the cause and image of his profession.



## DAVE MORTON

Happily well on the road to recovery after suffering a badly broken leg in 1977. Was then riding for Hackney in the British League but during the winter was transferred to Wolverhampton. The elder of the two Morton brothers – Chris is at Belle Vue. Dave was beginning to make a name for himself on the grasstrack and longtrack circuits of Europe when injury intervened but his inclusion in tonight's event is testimony to his ability and potential.



## SIMON WIGG

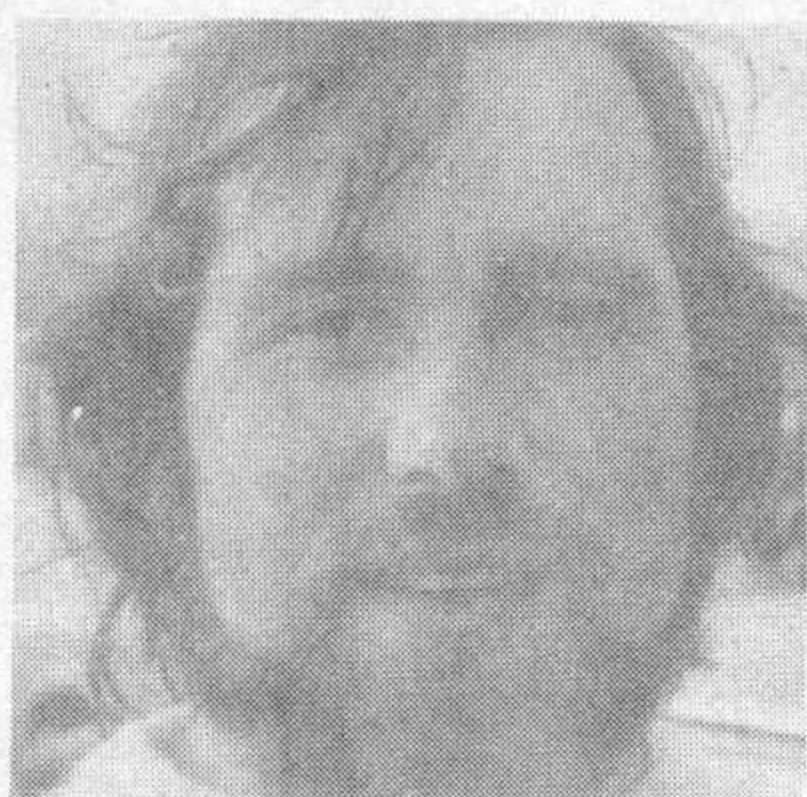
Simon Wigg, at just seventeen, has been the sensation of 1978. Last year, while still at school, he took some very senior scalps but broke an ankle towards the end of the season. Now, on a Hagon LTR Weslake and sponsored by Windsor Comp Shop, Wigg is himself becoming the man to beat. Pleasant, incredibly enthusiastic but still not fully aware of the impact he might have on the sport Simon is beginning to match big brother Julian's success. A few years of schoolboy competition has put an experienced head on young shoulders.

# Meet the riders



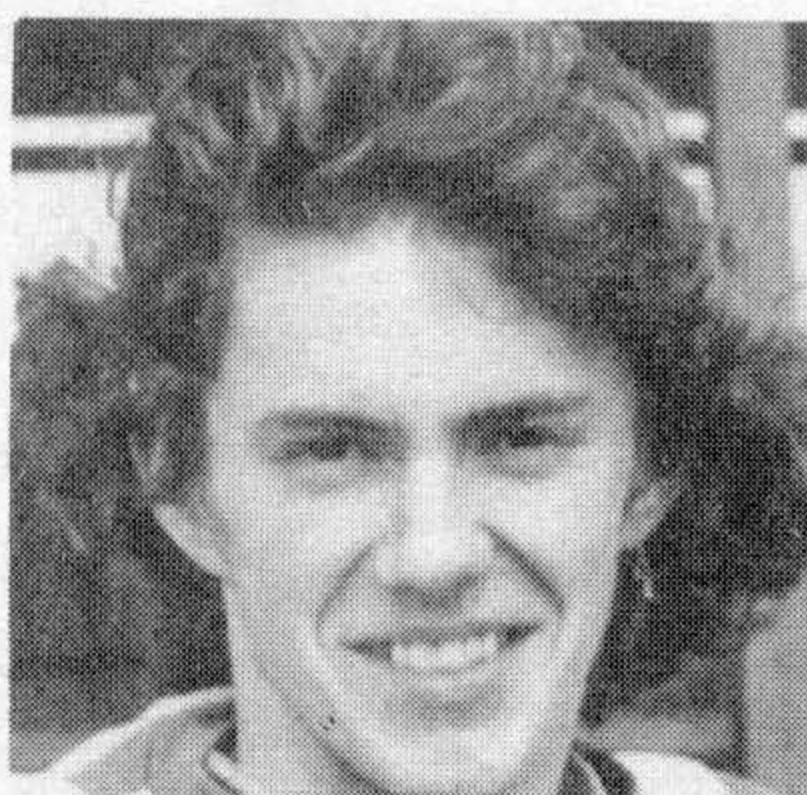
## JOHN BRITCHER

Big John Britcher had to wait 12 years for his first British grass track title, the 500cc back in 1975. But since then he's made it a habit, taking the 350 in 1976 and 1977. One of the tallest men in the game, at 6ft. 2in., Britcher is a tree feller in Kent. He races abroad whenever he can and has an easy style that sometimes hides just how fast he's really travelling. Virtually self-supporting, Britcher at 30 is still a great force in the senior class on Weslake machinery. He is married, with two daughters, and lives near Sittingbourne.



## RICHARD MOORE

Richard Moore is a classic example of under-exploited talent. When settled with the right machinery he has proved capable of beating the best there is. Unfortunately, Richard's career has been plagued by on-off support and injury. In 1976 he was hotly tipped for 500 and 350cc British titles, riding Weslake and a savage TR2 Yamaha. Again a crash put him out. More recently he has starred on the Meriden 750cc Triumph half-milers and is now developing their Yamaha equivalent. Twenty-seven years old and a protege of triple champion Brian Maxted.



## MICHAEL LEE

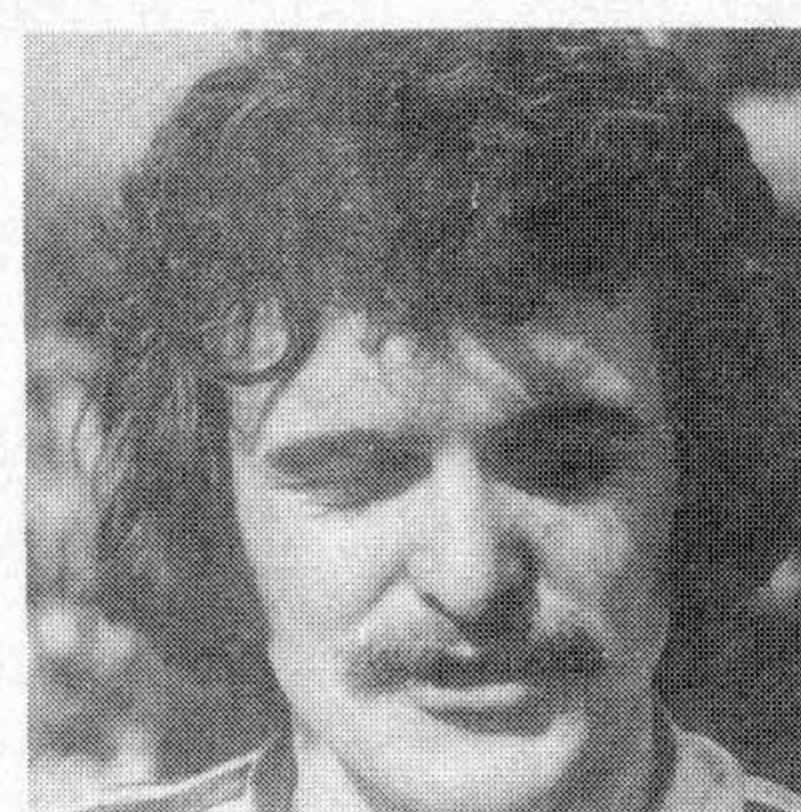
Few riders have enjoyed the sort of impact in their first year as that achieved by Michael Lee. Made his first public appearances during the intervals of King's Lynn meetings when aged just 14. Rode competitive speedway as soon as he was old enough (16) with Boston and King's Lynn. Reached his first World Final in 1977, finishing fourth. But before that he was crowned British Champion at Coventry in July. Son of international moto-cross star Andy Lee, Michael is relatively inexperienced on grass but he is such a natural talent that he readily adapts to any form of racing.



## GRAHAM HURRY

Runner-up to Chris Baybutt in the 1977 British 500cc grass track championship, Graham Hurry is another member of the Kent elitist group. The South East of England regularly turns up top class performers and Hurry combines business with pleasure by working in Don Godden's competition department, building machines. Racing since the mid-1960s, Graham has done much to help develop Godden frames. His only bad seasons have been when he chose to compete mainly within his centre. When he's following the circus the many times South Eastern champion is always a front runner.

# Meet the riders



## CHRIS BAYBUTT

In economic terms, Chris Baybutt is the best value for money available today. The reigning British 500cc grass champion is exciting to watch and will ride well anywhere, anytime and under any conditions. A 25-year-old surveyor in the family business, Chris is one of the two Wigan Wonder brothers who have shared eight national titles. Dave is now semi-retired. Chris is a pure grass man, with many continental wins to his credit, and this year rides Hagon Weslakes prepared by long-serving influence Colin Saunders. Married, he lives at Standish, near Wigan.



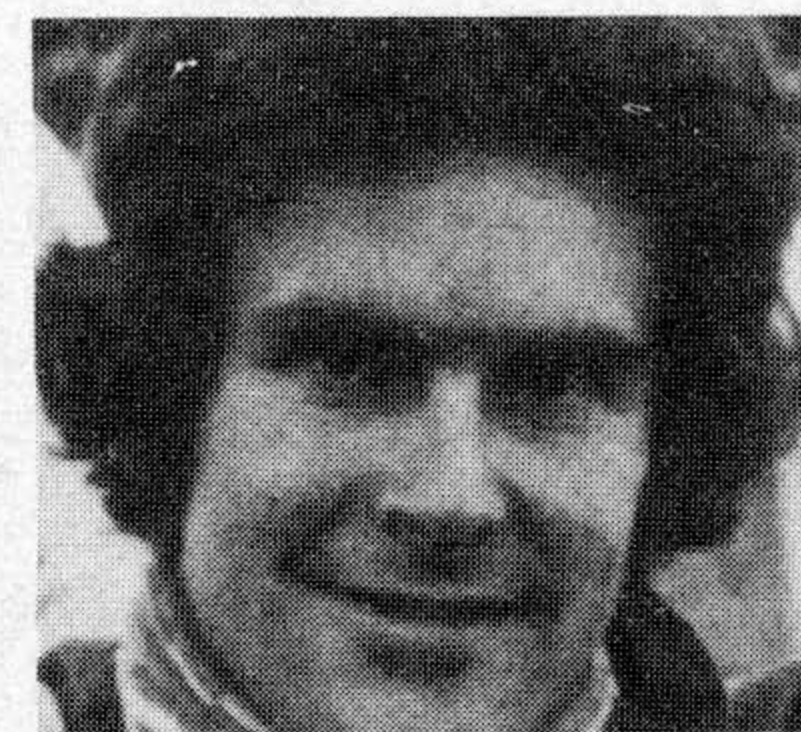
## TOM LEADBITTER

Former moto cross champion and first division speedway skipper Tom Leadbitter is one of motor cycling's greatest characters. Now at 33, the versatile semi-professional is in his fifth season of grass track and the sole survivor of a Strongbow sponsored team. If he has any speciality, it's superb gating. After a spectacular start, he fizzled out last year by trying to do too much. This season he's back with a vengeance and pursuing an almost obsessional ambition to reach the very top of at least one sport.



## JOE HUGHES

Nowadays, Joe Hughes is better known on the Continent than in England. He spends much of the season across the Channel, combining riding with a competition parts service. As long ago as 1968 Hughes was third in the British 250cc championship behind Chris Stewart and Gerry Goodwin. He went on to speedway and was a great favourite at second division Peterborough for some years. Sadly under rated, because he has never taken one of the sport's prestige titles Hughes is a tough and tenacious competitor.



## TOM OWEN

Comes from Ormskirk in Lancashire, Tom has enjoyed considerable success on grass. Winner of the North West Centre championship (500cc) in 1970 and '71 and was Warwickshire Centre champion (500cc) in 1970. Took to speedway at Crewe in 1971, then joined Barrow and Newcastle in 1974. Has remained a mainstay of the Newcastle team ever since. His younger brother Jow was with him for a spell before joining first division Hull but Tom has preferred to stay where he is.

# ISLE OF MAN

## GRASSTRACK SPECTACULAR

	1	2	3	4	5	S	F		1	2	3	4	5	S	F
1 Ivan Mauger								11 Joe Hughes							
2 Bernie Leigh								12 Tom Owen							
3 Dave Morton								13 Mike Beaumont							
4 Simon Wigg								14 Les Collins							
5 John Britcher								15 Don Godden							
6 Richard Moore								16 Gerald Short							
7 Michael Lee								17 John Davis							
8 Graham Hurry								18 Peter Collins							
9 Chris Baybutt								18 Adrian Moss							
10 Tom Leadbitter								20 Graeme Stapleton							

Scoring in heats: 1st 4pts; 2nd 3pts; 3rd 2 pts; 4th 1 pt.															
Heat	Start	Rider/Substitute	Pts	Heat	Start	Rider/Substitute	Pts								
1	1	1 Ivan Mauger		7	1	10 Tom Leadbitter									
	2	2 Bernie Leigh			2	7 Michael Lee									
	3	3 Dave Morton			3	1 Ivan Mauger									
	4	4 Simon Wigg			4	8 Graham Hurry									
	5	5 John Britcher			5	14 Les Collins									
	6	6 Richard Moore			6	16 Gerald Short									
2	1	7 Michael Lee		8	1	4 Simon Wigg									
	2	8 Graham Hurry			2	17 John Davis									
	3	9 Chris Baybutt			3	5 John Britcher									
	4	10 Tom Leadbitter			4	3 Dave Morton									
	5	11 Joe Hughes			5	13 Mike Beaumont									
	6	12 Tom Owen			6	18 Peter Collins									
3	1	18 Peter Collins		9	1	9 Chris Baybutt									
	2	13 Mike Beaumont			2	6 Richard Moore									
	3	15 Don Godden			3	11 Joe Hughes									
	4	14 Les Collins			4	12 Tom Owen									
	5	16 Gerald Short			5	15 Don Godden									
	6	17 John Davis			6	2 Bernie Leigh									
4	1	2 Bernie Leigh		10	1	6 Richard Moore									
	2	1 Ivan Mauger			2	11 Joe Hughes									
	3	4 Simon Wigg			3	10 Tom Leadbitter									
	4	9 Chris Baybutt			4	13 Mike Beaumont									
	5	10 Tom Leadbitter			5	1 Ivan Mauger									
	6	8 Graham Hurry			6	4 Simon Wigg									
5	1	3 Dave Morton		11	1	7 Michael Lee									
	2	16 Gerald Short			2	14 Les Collins									
	3	7 Michael Lee			3	17 John Davis									
	4	6 Richard Moore			4	2 Bernie Leigh									
	5	14 Les Collins			5	5 John Britcher									
	6	5 John Britcher			6	15 Don Godden									
6	1	15 Don Godden		12	1	8 Graham Hurry									
	2	12 Tom Owen			2	3 Dave Morton									
	3	18 Peter Collins			3	12 Tom Owen									
	4	11 Joe Hughes			4	18 Peter Collins									
	5	17 John Davis			5	16 Gerald Short									
	6	13 Mike Beaumont			6	9 Christ Baybutt									

			18	FIRST SEMI-FINAL	
13	1	13 Mike Beaumont		1	.....
	2	6 Richard Moore		2	.....
	3	2 Bernie Leigh		3	.....
	4	1 Ivan Mauger		4	.....
	5	3 Dave Morton		5	.....
	6	7 Michael Lee		6	.....
14	1	12 Tom Owen	19	SECOND SEMI-FINAL	
	2	5 John Britcher		1	.....
	3	14 Les Collins		2	.....
	4	17 John Davis		3	.....
	5	4 Simon Wigg		4	.....
	6	8 Graham Hurry		5	.....
15	1	11 Joe Hughes	20	2nd USA 750cc Dirt Track 750cc Yamahas	
	2	18 Peter Collins		Points: 1st 3pts; 2nd 2pts; 3rd 1pt.	
	3	9 Chris Baynutt		Winner of Yamaha races is the rider with highest aggregate total over both races.	
	4	15 Don Godden		1	23 Michael Lee
	5	16 Gerald Short		2	22 Peter Collins
	6	10 Tom Leadbitter		3	21 Richard Moore
Top 12 scorers go into semi-finals. Scorers 1-3-5-7-9-11 into first-semi final. Scorers 2-4-6-8-10-12 into second semi-final. First four in each semi-final go into Grand Final. Winner of Grand Final is Winner of meeting.					
1st USA 750cc Dirt Track 750cc Yamahas Points: 1st 3 pts; 2nd 2pts; 3rd 1pt.			21	GRAND FINAL 4 LAPS	
16	1	20 Barry Briggs		1	.....
	2	21 Richard Moore		2	.....
	3	22 Peter Collins		3	.....
	4	23 Michael Lee		4	.....
17	Consolation Race 6 non-semi finalists plus two reserves			5	.....
	1	.....	6	.....	
	2	.....	7	.....	
	3	.....	8	.....	
	4	.....	Presentation of the Bert Payne Memorial Trophy		
	5	.....			
	6	.....			
	7	.....			
8	.....				

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# **speedway star**

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# **speedway star**

SUPERTRACKER is a new word in the vocabulary of the British grass track fan but it's a word we're likely to hear more and more in future seasons. It's the description coined to christen a new breed of European grass track racing machine...big, fast and mean machines based on the 750cc bikes used on the American Grand National Championship dirt-tracks.

These American-styled bikes first appeared in Britain last year in a demonstration event at the British Long Track Grand Prix at Hereford where Yamaha-powered racers owned by Anglo-American race promotions company, Trippe,Cox Associates, clashed with a team of factory-entered Triumph 750 twins.

Bruce Cox, prime mover behind the introduction of Supertrack racing into Europe, had flown in four genuine American flat-track racers. They comprised a 750cc twin that was a replica of the machine that Kenny Roberts used to win his last American Championship in 1975, two brand new monoshock-chassis 750 twins similar to Roberts own 1977 factory machines and finally, the fearsome mile-track racer that Roberts used in 1975 at certain events....a TZ750 four-cylinder road race engine in a dirt-track frame! This bike proved so fast and unpredictable that the American Motorcycle Association banned it after only four months racing!

Two former World Speedway Champions straddled the Yamaha Supertrackers at Hereford. Barry Briggs rode the conventional 750cc twin while Peter Collins gamely agreed to thrill the crowds with a "demo" on the fearsome four.

Briggs simply ran away and left the Triumph team eating his dust with only forceful grass-track racer, Richard "Chippy" Moore keeping him in sight. And Collins got to grips with the near-unmanageable four-cylinder beast so effectively that he finished in third spot despite never getting the monster out of second gear!

After Hereford, Chippy Moore swapped camps to the Yamaha team and immediately won a round of the British National Sand Racing Championship with the same bike that Briggs had used at Hereford.

All three front-runners in the Hereford race will be riding the Trippe,Cox Yamaha Supertrackers in a special event at tonight's Meeting. Barry Briggs, Peter Collins and Chippy Moore will be joined by young speedway superstar, Michael Lee and they will all be riding the new monoshock racers similar to Kenny Roberts' 1977 American team machines.

This will be the first appearance of the monoshock racers on the grass in England. They were not developed enough to run at Hereford but Chippy Moore has spent an intensive winter's development and testing to

# **SUPER TRACKERS**



**Supertracker Superstar! Kenny Roberts.** especially prepare them for British grass track racing....vastly different from the smooth American flat-track ovals.

For 1978, Trippe,Cox have put together a Supertracker Series in Britain which will run in conjunction with five major grass track events. These are, the Western Winner on July 2nd, the European Grass Track Championship Finals at Hereford on July 23rd, the Sandford Super on August 20th, the Astra MC event at Rochester on September 17th and the British Championship Finals at Evesham on September 24th. Here the Trippe,Cox, Yamaha squad will clash with other 750 twins powered by as diverse engines as Triumph and BSA twins and even the Weslake twins that are so successful in grass track sidecar racing.

So tonight's Supertracker event is a taste of things to come!

# Meet the riders



## MIKE BEAUMONT

Yorkshire hasn't produced many international class grass track riders, but Mike Beaumont is one of them. Up to 1976 Beaumont was something of a Mr. Average. That year he attempted a new philosophy — establish a new image and then live up to it. By April he had beaten Ivan Mauger — only the third defeat for the maestro on grass in 12 months. Since then Beaumont has been a regular international grass and long track runner for Britain with Godden Weslakes. He likes to put on a show and takes a poor day as a great personal tragedy.



## LES COLLINS

It's never easy following the footsteps of a famous father or brother but Les Collins is carving out his own identity in a sport which is dominated by brother Peter. Les has followed the time honoured traditions in the Collins family of coming up through the grasstrack scene and taking to speedway like a duck to water. Brother number three — Phil — is now established too and there are Neil and Ian still to come through. Les also rides for Belle Vue and has been undertaking a number of German bookings this year.



## DON GODDEN

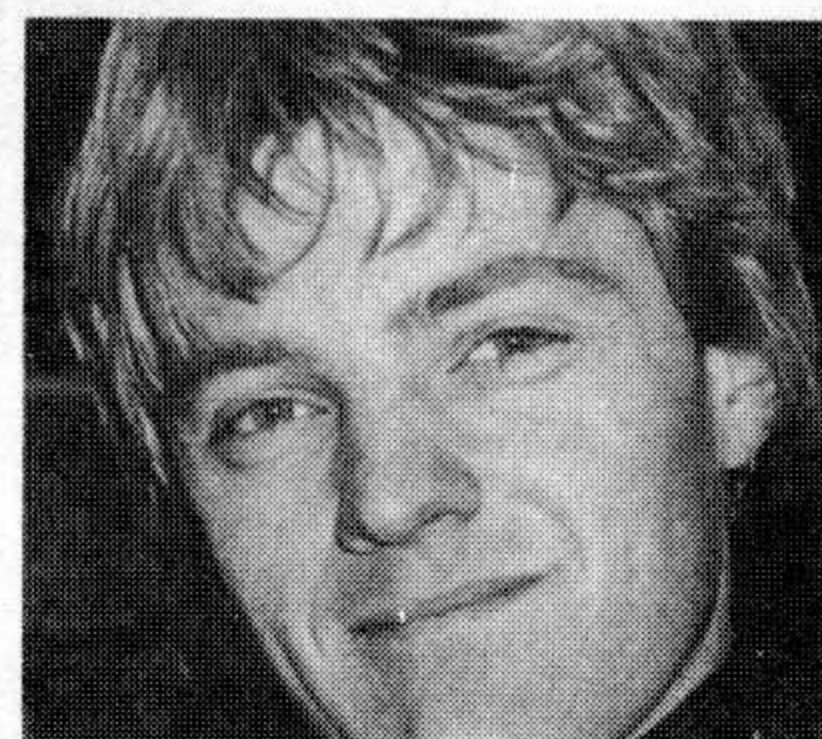
Don Godden, now in his 26th racing season, likes to be known as the "Big Daddy" of grass track. The 41-year-old professional grass and long track ace has won most honours that the sport has to offer, including a European 1,000 metre title in 1969 and ten British championships, the last in 1972. A meticulous approach to racing has brought him over 700 victories in continental events and he still holds the record for the fastest ever lap on grass, 81.04 mph recorded at West Germany's Cloppenburg 800 yards oval in 1976.



## GERALD SHORT

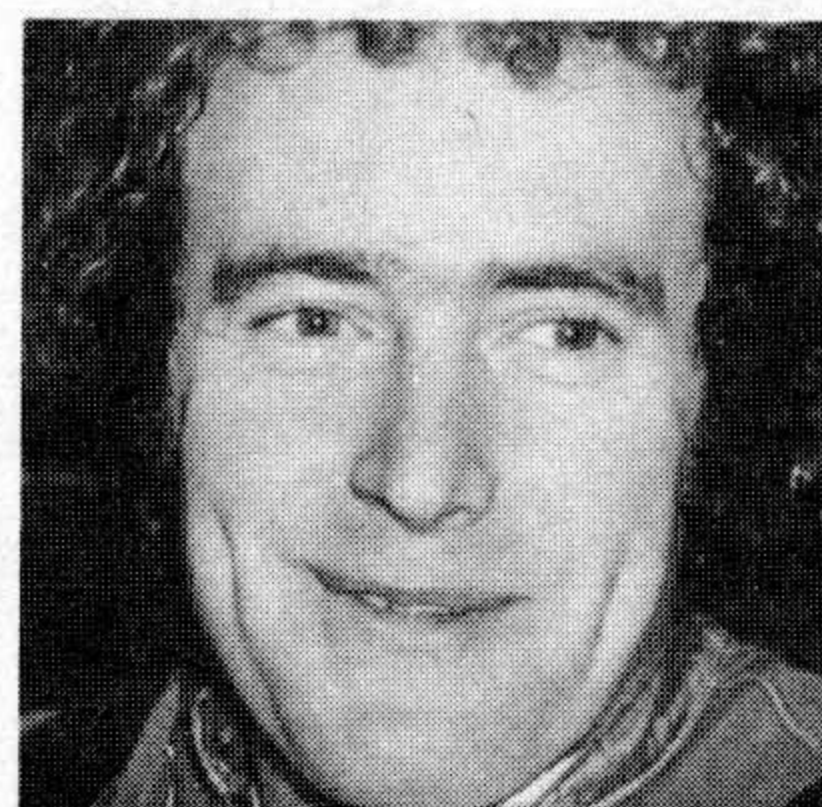
Give Gerald Short a fairly heavy track of around 650 yards and he'll provide you with the most amazing display of grass riding you've ever seen. The novelty never fades of seeing Gerald cornering on his left knee, ice racing style, at almost impossible angles of lean. Under such conditions he IS unbeatable. Short first gained fame as a schoolboy scrambler, winning national titles in two successive years. He successfully switched to grass, taking the British 350 championship in 1974 from Chris Morton.

# Meet the riders



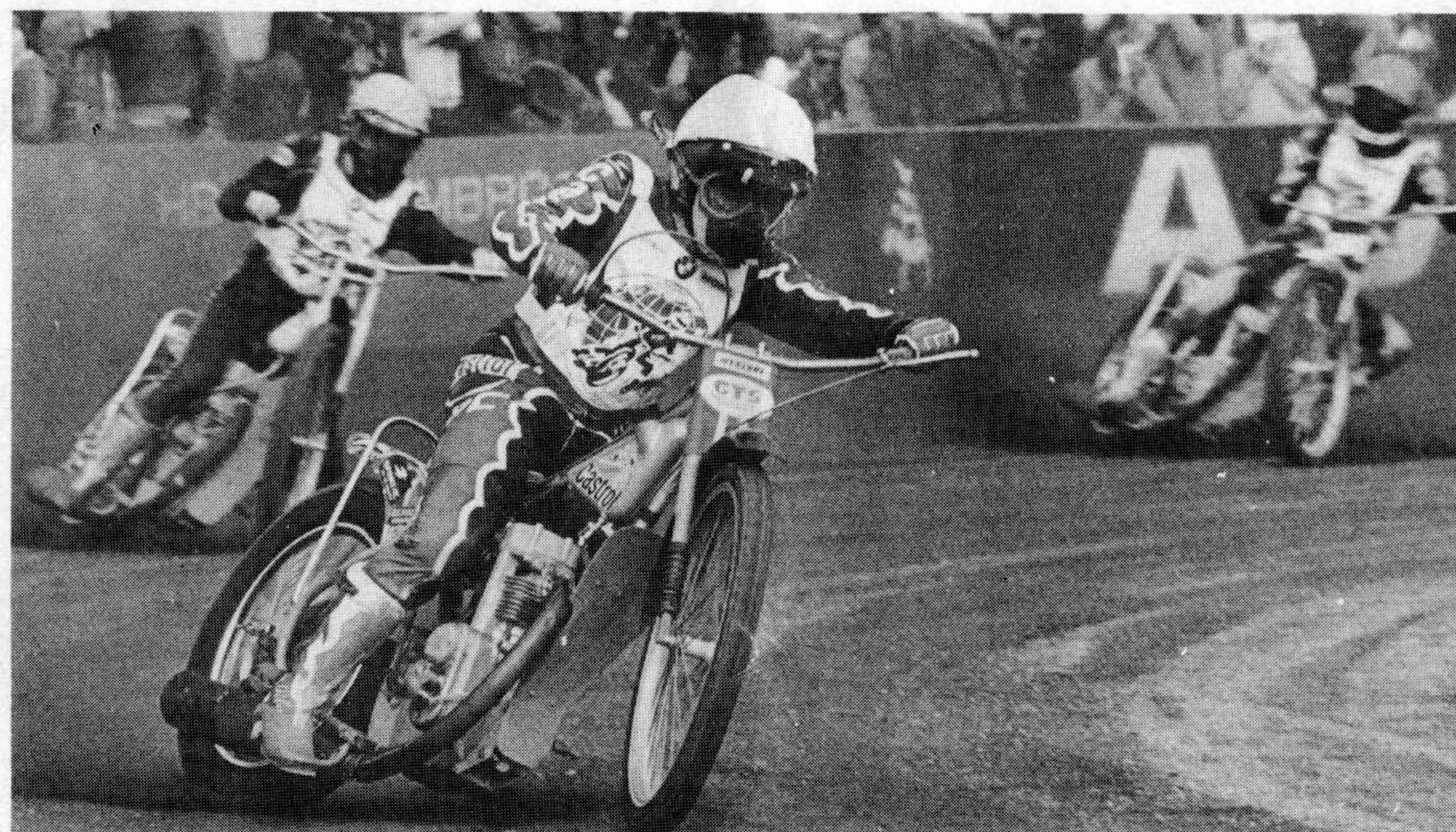
## JOHN DAVIS

Not too well known on the grasstrack circuit but one of the up-and-coming young English speedway stars. Has one simple ambition: to win the world speedway championship. Has yet to make his World Final debut, though he was reserve last year. Spent the winter racing in Australia with the British Lions team. First rode for Peterborough in 1971 but joined British League Reading in 1975. Talented, determined racer who has all the credentials to get to the top. Hails from Oxford, now lives just outside Weymouth.



## PETER COLLINS

Certainly no stranger to grasstrack enthusiasts though Peter is another of the speedway professionals in tonight's line-up. The dreams and ambitions of English speedway were fulfilled by Peter at Katowice in 1976 when he won the World Speedway Championship — the first Englishman to do so for 14 years. But Collins, winner of the European title when aged just 20 in 1974, had to be content with the runner-up spot last year. Won the British Grasstrack Grand Prix at Hereford in 1976 and is a former grasstrack champion.

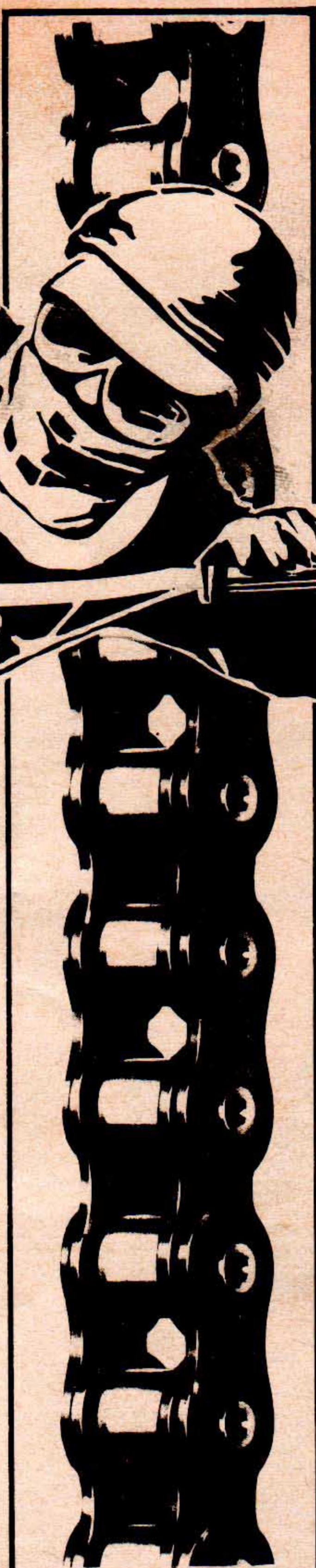


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