



ISSUE #12

RED CAR

AGILIA

BEARS

VS EASTBOURNE EAGLES

4th **AUGUST** 2019
2pm £2.50



CHARLES WRIGHT BRITISH CHAMPION 2019



SEE MORE ON PAGES 6&7

REDCAR AGILIA BEARS 2019 SEASON SPEEDWAY

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PROMOTER'S POST

BY JITENDRA DUFFILL

It's Tuesday morning and I'm sat on a beach in Mallorca as I write this with a very sore head. I have to admit to getting a little excited and carried away last night after witnessing our very own Charles Wright become British Champion. WOW! It's absolutely amazing to have a Bear become British Champion and nobody could deserve it more. He is one of the most dedicated, determined and hard working riders you are likely to meet and he has rightly reaped the rewards for that.

I often have moments as a promoter where I question why I do this. It can be quite demoralising at times giving over 40 hours a week to a voluntary role which often brings little reward and a lot of criticism. Then a moment like last night happens and although it's not something that I personally or the club have achieved, it still feels like a victory for all of us. I felt like I'd won the lottery last night and it's moments like that which remind me very quickly why I do this. I love this club, it's been my biggest passion since childhood and I'm incredibly proud of our captain.

Today we pay a warm welcome to the Eastbourne side, their promotion, management and supporters. They will have had a very early start to get here for the first meeting we have staged on a Sunday and I'm sure they will be wanting to make it worthwhile. We are starting early today out of respect for our neighbours Newcastle, as some of you attend both clubs fixtures and we also share a member of staff.

This is obviously a rearranged fixture as the original staging was washed out by the weather as we were last week. I was pretty gutted last Friday as we had to call the meeting off pretty late; it ended up costing us dearly financially and I'm very sorry that several riders and supporters had wasted journeys. We were forecast heavy rain on the afternoon but the Met Office had been completely wrong with their predictions the fortnight prior; so I couldn't make a call early in the day as the forecasts have been so unreliable lately. We had a very heavy downpour for about an hour around 5 o'clock and the track was completely sodden. We decided to make a call at 6 o'clock and knew that any more rain would take the surface beyond repair. Unfortunately that rain came bang on 6 o'clock and we had no option other than to call it there. I had a right little rant about weather forecasters on social media after as I can't think of any other career where you can be wrong so often and still keep your job.

At the time of writing I'm still waiting on a reply from Sheffield regarding the re-staging date. I'm afraid it won't be on a Friday as we are racing every Friday from now until mid September so it looks likely we will race them on a Saturday and will be having two fixtures here within a week. Not ideal but we don't have any other choice. I hope that you will all support us on that and I will see if we can run a little offer for people wanting to attend both.

Thanks again for your continued support and I'm very grateful for the lovely messages of confidence I've been receiving via social media. I do see them and it means a lot!

TEAM TALK

BY JADE MUDGWAY



Welcome to today's meeting against the Eastbourne Eagles. I'm hoping that you are reading this after we have had two very successful meetings away at Glasgow and Berwick. We are aiming for at least one away win and will be doing our upmost to bring home 8 points.

But firstly, let's look back a couple of weeks to our meeting against Birmingham. It was a meeting we were definitely going in to hoping for a good home win, but it is easy to be complacent in speedway - things have a habit of coming to bite you, so we set off like we do every week to get stuck in early doors and fight for every point we could. I think the fact that the weather was closing in and forcing us to

leave the track slicker maybe played into their hands, but we still managed a 51-39 win. The stars of the meeting for me had to be Kasper and Jordan, who fully deserved their heat 15 when they took another heat advantage.

The Eagles will be another tough meeting with riders who like the Redcar track, most notably Richard Lawson. He has definitely shown that he knows his way around the Media Prima Arena, albeit when the track wasn't as pristine as it is now.

We welcome Erik Riss to his first home fixture tonight, so please give him a big Bears' welcome. Now we have our full team, every match is a must-win, and you can be sure that the Bears are digging in to get us into our first playoffs.



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BRITISH CHAMPION 2019

The current British Champion rides for Redcar! How good does that sound?!

The Bears skipper Charles Wright continued his excellent form this season by winning the showpiece event at the National Speedway Stadium on Monday night in fine style. Wright went into the meeting as a bit of an underdog, but anyone who has watched him for Redcar or Peterborough this season knows what he is capable of.

Supported by a good number of Redcar fans, Charles started the meeting well with a win in heat 1 and a solid second behind former champion Danny King in his second heat. He returned to winning ways in his third ride with a win over another former champion Scott Nicholls. There was controversy in his fourth ride however as Wright was excluded after a clash with Glasgow rider Paul Starke on the back straight. TV replays showed that Wright was ahead at the time of the clash and on the racing line - with many thinking the exclusion was very harsh.

Wright did not let that affect him however, and with the pressure on he won his final heat, defeating ex-Champion and Team GB star Craig Cook in the process to book his place in the Semi Final. In that Semi Final Wright again made a good gate and headed wide in search of grip. This briefly allowed Chris Harris and Steve Worrall to pass him, but a superb move around the outside of Harris and the inside of Worrall down the back straight and into the third bend saw Wright out in front and he never looked back to seal his place in the final.

Up against three former champions in the final in Cook, Harris and King the Bears skipper again made an electric start and headed for the outside around bends 1 and 2. Cook snuck round the inside to take the lead but left just enough room for a hard charging Wright to go around the outside down the back straight to take the lead. Once out in front he looked superbly quick and never looked like being caught!

It was a superb night for Charles - and all of us at Redcar Speedway are incredibly proud of him. As well as the honour of being British Champion, he of course will now also take his place at the British Grand Prix in Cardiff in front of 40,000 fans!

I'm sure you will all give him a great ovation on his return to the Media Prima this afternoon.



KEITH McGHIE'S

RIDERREVIEW



ERIKRISS



This afternoon, weather and other unforeseen circumstances permitting, Erik Riss will make his eagerly but long-awaited home debut.

Erik's arrival, over a month ago, has already helped the Bears to hitherto hard to come by away wins at both Sheffield and Birmingham, in addition to dumping highly fancied Glasgow out of the Knock-out Cup (and all this before anything they might have achieved on the road at Glasgow and Berwick in the league during the last 48 hours!).

But due to a combination of international commitments and the famously unpredictable British weather, our new German favourite has yet to ride at the Media Prima Arena this year.

Delayed debuts are nothing new to the twice World Longtrack Champion as, despite boasting the richest of racing pedigrees, Erik was a surprisingly late starter to racing motorcycles competitively.

The Doncaster-based 23-year old, who also races for King's Lynn in the Premiership, admits:

"If it hadn't have been for my dad (record eight times World Longtrack king Gerd Riss) I never would have started speedway or longtrack. I always went racing with him when I was a kid but didn't really try either sport until I was 17."

Racing is in the blood and Erik has proved a fast learner with natural aptitude.

"That was when my dad finished his career - until then there was never a thought of me racing. I did a bit of motocross but otherwise was just an ordinary kid going to school."

"My older brother Mark was more into it than me at first."

Originating from a town about an hour outside of Munich, Erik wasted no

PHOTOS: TAYLOR LANNING



time in emulating his father with a brief but absolutely brilliant career on the up to 1000-metre tracks of central Europe, taking the title himself in both 2014 and 2016.

"The last time I won was three years ago and after that I said that I'm done with it and want to concentrate on improving my speedway."

Good to his word he has done just one longtrack meeting since claiming his second title, while rapidly progressing on the shorter shale tracks through spells at Edinburgh, King's Lynn and Leicester.

"Having achieved my Longtrack goals, I now have new ambitions in speedway.

"I naturally want to get into Grand Prix's, in everything, my mentality is always wanting to be the best - there's just one way to aim and that is always up!"

A broken collarbone earlier this year briefly halted this season's progress but since his return to the saddle, Erik's

form, including a faultless 15-point maximum in the 53-37 success at Perry Barr, has been one among the main reasons for Redcar's recent rise.

"The collarbone is fine," he reports: "It's not fully healed yet as I can still feel it but more after races.

"But when I'm on the bike I don't notice which is the most important thing."

Erik has slotted seamlessly into the Bears way of life and explains:

"I know Michael Palm-Toft and Jordie Stewart quite well as we live close by each other but the most important reason to come to Redcar was that I've always enjoyed racing here and done well on the track in the past."

I won't be alone in wishing Erik a continuing happy relationship with the Media Prima Arena and know that you will give him a rapturous welcome when he appears on parade today.



EDWARD DAVID KENNETT

AVE. AT MPA;
7.84 from 5 meetings

DOB: 28/08/1986
POB: HASTINGS, SUSSEX

Twice British U21 Champion (2005/2007) Eddie comes with quite a speedway pedigree. He follows his father Dave Kennett in riding for Eastbourne. His uncles Brian (known as Barney) and Gordon also both rode for Eastbourne (amongst others). Gordon famously finished 2nd behind Ole Olsen in the 1978 World Championship (you know that thing they had before the GP's) I think I may have actually been there to witness this but at my age who knows? Eddie has ridden in 3 GP's and 7 World Cup meetings for GB scoring 30 points. Has only ridden for Rye House and Berwick at the MPA.

ONE TO WATCH



RICHARD LAWSON

AVE. AT MPA;
8.23 from 39 meetings

DOB: 14/02/1986
POB: WHITEHAVEN, CUMBRIA

My stats have ex-Bear Richard as the 9th best rider around the MPA and as these include many years as a reserve rider I think he may end up even higher than that (though he's still nearly 1/2 a point behind James Grieves and Jason Lyons). The son of ex-rider Steve Lawson, Richard made his speedway debut for the Redcar Cubs in 2008 in what was then the Conference League. (Note: Hope that bit's right?) He will be riding for his 5th club here at the MPA tonight.



LEWIS JAMES KERR

AVE. AT MPA;
5.59 from 12 meetings.

DOB: 25/03/1990
POB: SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

We are all very fortunate to be seeing Lewis still riding after his horrific accident in 2015 (Sorry Lewis, I won't mention it again). The fact that he is currently riding better than ever - and you only had to witness his excellent performance in Ben Barker's Testimonial which opened our season to know that, is testament to a lot of hard work and determination. As with everyone else tonight will be making his first appearance here for Eastbourne.



KYLE NEWMAN

AVE. AT MPA;
4.00 from 11 meetings.

DOB: 14/12/1991
POB: POOLE, DORSET

The fourth time I've had to write programme notes for Kyle so apologies if I repeat myself. When I wrote the British Semi Final notes Kyle was unattached but prior to that meeting Kyle was snatched up by Eastbourne to cover for the injuries to the very unlucky Tom Brennan. He finished in 2nd place (along with Charles Wright/Nathan Greaves) in the Julie Lewis Memorial Pairs section here in May.



Eastbourne are a top heavy team with three very well established heat leaders at this level. They will be looking for double points from all 3 if they are to trouble the Bears this afternoon. Richard Lawson has spent plenty of time in Bears colours and always performs well at the STMP but Eddie Kennett can be very hit and miss away from the tricky Eastbourne circuit. The Eagles made a seemingly strange move to swap Ben Morley for the inexperienced Jason Edwards recently and I'm not sure how that will pan out for them, but they ran Glasgow very close away from home last week so deserve a lot of respect this afternoon.

EASTBOURNE EAGLES

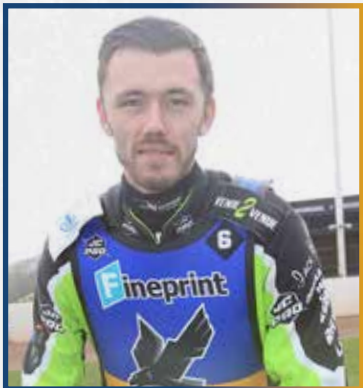


ALFRED (ALFIE) BOWTELL

AVE. AT MPA;
1.00 from 1 meeting

DOB: 23/01/1997
POB: CHELMSFORD, ESSEX

Alfie rode a short spell at Newcastle in 2017 but didn't make his debut at the MPA until riding for Lakeside last year. Also signed for the Isle of Wight team in 2018 where he finished the season at No. 1 with an impressive 9.28 average. Finished 2nd in run off with Ben Morley (who until last week was a team mate at Eastbourne) to decide the 2018 NLRC.



GEORGIE WOOD

AVE. AT MPA;
1.50 from 2 meetings

DOB: 08/09/1993
POB: MAIDSTONE, KENT

Georgie has had 2 meetings at the MPA both for Sheffield. Since his debut in 2015 he has been involved in NL Trophy, NL KOC (4 times!) and a NL Championship win – all with Eastbourne, so his move back there in the Championship isn't all that surprising. Was a member of Sheffield's 2017 Championship winning team as well.



JASON EDWARDS

AVE. AT MPA;
1.33 from 1 meeting

DOB: 14/09/2002
POB: BILLERICAY, ESSEX

Although he has made the majority of his appearances at the MPA riding for Sheffield, Kyle has also represented Edinburgh and Workington here. Top scored for Sheffield in our Championship Shield match back in April with 11 points from 5 rides. Bizarrely suspended for a few days earlier this year after a drug test showed inconclusive results. Was cleared shortly after it was confirmed that it was co-codamol which had caused him to fail the test. Very worrying and extremely unfair on Kyle!



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TRACKSIDE TEASERS

Can you unravel the anagrams to reveal the names of the riders...

1 FRONT BORDER BRA

2 JETHRO PIPE

3 RAILS CLINK NOW

4 SHAVE A JERK CRAG

5 TREE ALMS

6 ROUGH DESK HIM

7 CLUNK RAGE

8 LEVEL TIN KIT

9 URIAH EMU AIR STREET

10 MASH CANOE TUSK

ANSWERS BOTTOM OF PAGE 20

EASTBOURNE EAGLES 1969-2019

BY PETER BALDWIN



A long time Sunday Training Track* Eastbourne joined British League Division 2 in 1969 and went on to establish themselves as one of the more powerful teams over the next decade, becoming league champions in 1971 and 1977 and winning the Knock Out Cup in 1975, 1977 and 1978. They were rarely placed outside the top three and in those ten seasons proved to be particularly formidable at home where they lost only six occasions.

In 1979 the White City Rebels left their home in London and moved into Arlington to become Eastbourne Eagles in the first division, but after six seasons in the lower echelons of this league they reverted to the second tier in 1985. Winning the Knock Out Cup was the highlight that year as the Eagles managed only a mid-table finish in the league. However, in 1986 and 1987 normal service was resumed with the Eagles becoming league champions and Knock Out Cup winners.

The Eagles remained at this level until 1991 when Wimbledon left their Plough Lane stadium after just two meetings and moved to Eastbourne in early June and the Eagles became the Dons for one season in the First Division. Resuming as Eagles in 1992 Eastbourne spent twenty one of the next twenty three seasons in the top flight; in 1995 and 1996 the first and second divisions combined to form the Premier League. During that time they were league champions in 1995 and 2000 and, although they finished on top again in 2002, they lost the first ever play off final to Wolverhampton, and suffered a similar fate in the 2011 final when they were defeated by Poole. However, additional success was achieved when they won the Knock Out Cup in 1994, 1997, 2002, and 2008.

Due to financial constraints the Eagles dropped down to speedway's third tier, the

National League in 2015, where they have been a dominant force over the last four years; play off champions in 2018, runners-up in 2016 and 2017, Gold Cup winners in 2015, and undefeated in the Knock Out Cup competition.

Eastbourne once had a proud reputation for discovering fresh new talent, having unearthed, at one time, more riders than any other track in the country. Three of these discoveries have made their mark on the World Championships: Gordon Kennett, World Final runner up at Wembley in 1978, Dave Jessup, fourth in the same meeting, where a first race engine failure when clear leader possibly cost him the World Crown, (he scored eleven points from his remaining rides, the first heat win would have given him fourteen, one more than eventual winner Ole Olsen. He did, however, finish runner up in Gothenberg in 1980), and also Martin Dugard who won the British Grand Prix at Coventry in 2000.

Now back in the Championship the Eagles have put together a very useful side which includes two former Bears, Richard Lawson and Ben Morley, the very experienced Edward Kennett, who always goes well at the MPA, as does Lewis Kerr, one of the six qualifiers for the British Final from the recent semi-final at Redcar, and promising youngsters, George Wood and Alfie Bowtell. The loss of the very talented Tom Brennan for the rest of the season has been a setback but his replacement, Kyle Newman, has adequately filled the gap. Almost certainly the Eagles will prove to be a handful for the Bears this afternoon.

*Eastbourne were members of the Sunday Dirt Track League in 1938. National League Division 3 Champions in 1947, and members of the Southern Area League 1954 -57, and 1959.

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MAJOR EVENTS DATES AND VENUES

BRITISH UNDER-21 FINAL: WINNER Robert Lambert

CHAMPIONSHIP FOURS: WINNERS Somerset

BRITISH FINAL: Belle Vue, Monday July 29

BRITISH UNDER-19 FINAL: Redcar, Thursday August 15

CHAMPIONSHIP RIDERS' INDIVIDUAL: Sheffield, Sunday September 1

CHAMPIONSHIP PAIRS: Somerset, Friday September 20

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOURS: WINNERS Stoke

NATIONAL LEAGUE PAIRS: Sheffield, Sunday August 25

NATIONAL LEAGUE RIDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP: Leicester, Sunday September 22

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	RIDER	SUBSTITUTE	AVE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	POINTS	BONUS
1	Erik Riss		8.76									
2	Kasper Andersen		4.97									
3	Michael Palm Toft		6.80									
4	Jordan Stewart		5.47									
5	Charles Wright (Capt)		8.55									
6	Tom Woolley		2.00									
7	Nathan Greaves		4.17									
8												

SPONSOR	HEAT	NO.	RIDERS	SUBSTITUTE	GATE	PTS	H	A
Hartburn Garage 01642 582102	1	1	Erik Riss		3	4		
		2	Kasper Andersen		1	2		
		1	Edward Kennett		4	3		
		2	Georgie Wood		2	1		
Acklam Maintenance Services Ltd	2	6	Tom Woolley		2	1		
		7	Nathan Greaves		4	3		
		6	Alfie Bowtell		1	2		
		7	Jason Edwards		3	4		
John and Val Chilton	3	3	Michael Palm Toft		3	4		
		4	Jordan Stewart		1	2		
		3	Kyle Newman		2	1		
		4	Lewis Kerr		4	3		
The Hart Inn, Sandsend, 01947 893304	4	5	Charles Wright		3	4		
		7	Nathan Greaves		1	2		
		5	Richard Lawson		4	3		
		7	Jason Edwards		2	1		
VIP Supporters Club	5	3	Michael Palm Toft		2	1		
		4	Jordan Stewart		4	3		
		1	Edward Kennett		3	4		
		2	Georgie Wood		1	2		
Darrell Aspery	6	1	Erik Riss		1	2		
		2	Kasper Andersen		3	4		
		5	Richard Lawson		2	1		
		6	Alfie Bowtell		4	3		
S. Swales & Son	7	5	Charles Wright		2	1		
		6	Tom Woolley		4	3		
		3	Kyle Newman		1	2		
		4	Lewis Kerr		3	4		
Geoff and Judith Bailey	8	2	Kasper Andersen		4	3		
		7	Nathan Greaves		2	1		
		2	Georgie Wood		3	4		
		7	Jason Edwards		1	2		

INTERVAL AFTER HEAT 10 TIME PERMITTING



The main meeting consists of 15 heats (races) - each heat is run over four laps with a clutch start. Points awarded are as follows: 1st = 3 pts, 2nd = 2 pts, 3rd = 1pt, 4th / non finisher = 0 pts.
 FLAGS: Red = Race Stopped, Yellow/Black = Last Lap, Black and White Chequered = Finish of Race.
 The Bears wear Red and Blue helmet colours, the away team wear White and Yellow helmet colours.

	RIDER	SUBSTITUTE	AVE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	POINTS	BONUS
1	Edward Kennett (Capt)		8.93									
2	Georgie Wood		3.78									
3	Kyle Newman		5.35									
4	Lewis Kerr		7.87									
5	Richard Lawson		8.40									
6	Alfie Bowtell		2.84									
7	Jason Edwards		2.00									
8												

HEAT	NO.	RIDERS	SUBSTITUTE	GATE	PTS	H	A	SPONSOR
9	3	Michael Palm Toft		4	3			In Memory of Norman Willis and Harry Porter
	4	Jordan Stewart		2	1			
	5	Richard Lawson		1	2			
	6	Alfie Bowtell		3	4			
10	1	Erik Riss		4	3			Simpson Racing UK
	2	Kasper Andersen		2	1			
	3	Kyle Newman		3	4			
	4	Lewis Kerr		1	2			
11	5	Charles Wright		1	2			MACS Mewps & Cherry Picker Services
	6	Tom Woolley		3	4			
	1	Edward Kennett		2	1			
	2	Georgie Wood		4	3			
12	3	Michael Palm Toft		1	2			Graham Alderson
	7	Nathan Greaves		3	4			
	3	Kyle Newman		4	3			
	6	Alfie Bowtell		2	1			
13	1	Erik Riss		2	1			The Acklam 64 Club
	5	Charles Wright		4	3			
	1	Edward Kennett		1	2			
	5	Richard Lawson		3	4			
14	4	Jordan Stewart		3	4			In Memory of Jaime Lou Parker
	6	Tom Woolley		1	2			
	4	Lewis Kerr		2	1			
	7	Jason Edwards		4	3			
15				2	1			Erimus Insurance
				4	3			
				1	2			
				3	4			

Eligibility for Heat 15 is any of the top three points scorers from programmed rides as well as any of the top five averaged riders in the team.

Track Length: 271 metres
 Track Record: 52.2 seconds
 Track record holder: Chris Harris (22/10/2009)

GATE STATISTICS

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	TOT
1																
2																
3																
4																



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NORTHERN JUNIOR LEAGUE

ERIMUS CUBS - GAVIN PARR

Name	1	2	3	TOT	BP
Elliot Kelly					
David Pye					
Callum Gill					
William Hocianuk					

Heat	Col	Rider	G	Pts	Home	Away
1		Elliot Kelly	4			
		David Pye	2			
TIME		Harry McGurk	3			
		Mason Watson	1			
2		Callum Gill	4			
		William Hocianuk	2			
TIME		Luke Harrison	3			
		Freddie Fox-Baron	1			
3		Elliot Kelly	3			
		David Pye	1			
TIME		Harry McGurk	4			
		Mason Watson	2			

BERWICK ACADEMY - GARY FLINT

Name	1	2	3	TOT	BP
Harry McGurk					
Mason Watson					
Luke Harrison					
Freddie Fox-Baron					

Heat	Col	Rider	G	Pts	Home	Away
4		Callum Gill	3			
		William Hocianuk	1			
TIME		Luke Harrison	4			
		Freddie Fox-Baron	2			
5		Elliot Kelly	2			
		David Pye	4			
TIME		Harry McGurk	1			
		Mason Watson	3			
6		Callum Gill	2			
		William Hocianuk	4			
TIME		Luke Harrison	1			
		Freddie Fox-Baron	3			

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ROY'S RANTS



BY ROY CLARKE

Good Afternoon and Welcome to the HOME of the NEW British Champion and Cardiff GP Wild Card, your very own Captain Courageous CHARLES WRIGHT!

What a meeting, what a rider, what a man, as Charles showed he has what it takes to win things, even when he was cruelly disqualified from his fourth ride, when the Ref made a mistake. The Skipper then came back out and reeled off three wins, to pick up the title for the first time.

What makes it even more remarkable is Charles had to re-group back in 2010 as he returned to the then Conference League with Buxton Hitmen. From then on Charles has gone on from strength to strength, as this quiet man who does all his talking on track, now stands proud at the top as THE CHAMP of the British Isles.

Charles will now go onto Cardiff, backed by the Bears Army of Fans, to show the world stage exactly what he is made of, Grit, Guts and bucket load of Talent. Can he go out and now win a GP, well why not, it won't be for the lack of effort.

It's also a welcome to the Management, Riders and Supporters of the Eastbourne Eagle in league action, on a rare Sunday afternoon meeting. This is also a dress rehearsal for the upcoming KO Cup Semi Final, which is next month, so both teams will want to perform very well today, so they have the bragging rights for the upcoming cup matches.

The Eagles have recently changed their line-up, with former Bear Ben Morley being replaced by the talented young rising star Jason Edwards. Also, in the youthful talent section of the Eagles side are Alfie Bowtell, who is making a name for himself recently as a no-nonsense type of rider and Georgie Wood who has made the jump from the National League to the Championship.

But it's the top end that has all the experience, the four men who also rode in last weeks British Final. Edward Kennett is a vastly experienced rider, who is back to his very best, after an injury hit season in 2018. Lewis Kerr and Kyle Newman are two all action riders who have shown up very well here recently. Last and certainly not least is the former Bears No.1 Richard 'The Law' Lawson and you don't need me to tell you how good Richard is around here.

So, get ready for the first of four very important meetings between the Bears and the Eagles, which are going to be classics.

Moving onto other things in the Championship and once again the speedway merry go round has been on full speed recently, but before I move onto that here's a question for you, which club in the Championship has made no team changes this year (as I write this).

Last week the Fun Fare of team changes stopped off at the Oak Tree Arena, Somerset, with Valentin Grobauer and Henry Atkins stepping down and Todd Kurtz being a victim of the dreaded points limit. In comes former Rebels No.1 Nick Morris, Welshman Nathan Stoneman and 20-year-old Londoner Luke Harris.

This is a real gamble by the Rebels promotion in my eyes they've made there side very top heavy now and there four big hitters will have to do that in every meeting. Mind you with the top four of Morris, Chris Harris, Rory Schlein and Nico Covatti they may well have a four who can do that.

The Bears have been on there travels the last two days, so hopefully Keith and I will have some good news for you from the matches at Glasgow and Berwick (the only club not to make a team change, YET).

- Quiz answers:
1. ROBERT BRANFORD
 2. THEO PIPPER
 3. CARL WILKINSON
 4. JACK HARGREAVES
 5. LEE SMART
 6. HUGH SKIDMORE
 7. LUKE CRANG
 8. KEVIN LITTLE
 9. MATTHEW TRESARIEU
 10. TOMAS SUCHANEK
 11. ARLO RUJEGA
 12. BEN MORLEY
 13. DAN GIFFARD
 14. SIMON NIELSEN
 15. MARK GREGORIC



LAST FORTNIGHT IN FOCUS

BY JAMES BOOTHBY

BIRMINGHAM AT REDCAR

Redcar Agilia Bears defeated a spirited Birmingham side 51-39 at the Media Prima Arena.

It was a perfect start for the Bears, with Lewis Kerr and rider of the night Kasper Andersen getting a 5-1 in heat 1. After 5 heats, the Bears had raced into a 8 point lead and never looked back. There was some entertaining racing on the night though, on a track a bit slicker than normal due to the weather forecast.

It was a solid effort from the Bears, with 6 of the 7 riders recording a win. Captain Charles Wright, only declared fit in the afternoon after dislocating his shoulder riding for Peterborough on Monday night, top scored with 10+1, with Jordan Stewart getting 10 and rider of the night Andersen 9+2.

It was a battling performance from Birmingham however, with Proctor scoring 11 and Ostegaard 10+1. Paco Castagana also battled hard to a good 9 points.

PHOTOS: COLIN POOLE





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NIGEL PEARSON

BTSPORT, SKY SPORTS, TALKSPORT BROADCASTER

REGULAR readers of my waffle will know I have stated on more than one occasion that promoting this sport has become harder than ever.

I've also pointed out financial troubles at Football clubs – you only have to look below the glitter of the Premier League to see not all is rosy, just as Notts County and Bolton fans (although a happy ending appears to be near for Notts) will tell you.

In Rugby League we've seen major difficulties for massive clubs like Bradford and Widnes as crowds dwindled.

I had some people responding to my sympathy for promoters saying I'm only writing that because I earn money from the sport.

So I had a wry smile when I saw an interview with Northwestern American Football Head Coach Pat Fitzgerald about a downfall in attendances in the NCAA (college football). He blames phones!

"I think phones and technology have caused a decline in attendance," he said. "Watching young people today, their heads are down looking at phones rather than sitting upright.

"I went out for a meal last night and two couples at other tables were just looking at their phones. I wanted to be like a Dad and say 'give me your phones and actually talk to each other'. It was really, really pathetic.

"It's changed the way a lot of younger people and younger fans carry out their lives. Their information intake is now all through technology, through their phone.

"You watch a concert and everyone is holding their phone up. That means they can't be concentrating on the concert properly.

"So I think the way young people are now, living their life on their phones, I think that's the main cause (of a decline in attendances).

"Fans that grew up going to the games early and taking in the stadium, the surroundings, are all growing older and the young fans are different. They would rather have 12 TV screens in their games room than go to the games and experience what it's all about.

"We need to look at this as a brand, College Football, and we need to work out how to get young people to the games."

Wise words, Mr Fitzgerald. It immediately struck a chord with me because this is a problem Speedway has – at all levels. SGP, SEC and domestic level, every promoter has to work harder than ever to get new fans through the turnstiles.

And next time you hear someone say back in the day the sport was better with big crowds, remember this. The sport was not better back in the day, the racing wasn't as good in the 70s and 80s as it is now – and the crowds were bigger because there was not so much for kids to do – no phones, no ipads, no PS4, no Xbox, no Switch etc etc.

That's why I respect every single promoter or club owner who has their own money invested in the sport. It's tough, getting tougher, but for a youngster there is still nothing quite like the thrill of live speedway. That hasn't changed since the day my Dad took me when I was six.



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A SECOND CLASS SPEEDWAY NATION?



BY PETER BALDWIN

Were the comments from Scott Nicholls and Tai Woffinden during BT Sport's coverage of Sunday's Speedway of Nations Final on the standard of speedway in Britain fair? True, our performance was very disappointing but not unexpected after the crash which effectively put Robert Lambert and Craig Cook out of the two day event. Had it been a less prestigious meeting, the pair of them would, quite understandably, have withdrawn. However, both soldiered on with the help of Chris Harris to complete the meeting. We will never know how well they might have done had the crash not occurred but they would most certainly have pushed some of the lower finishing pairs.

Speedway in Britain is very different from that in other parts of Europe as we have a much greater diversity of tracks, some big ones like Berwick and Sheffield and small ones like Wolverhampton and Edinburgh, and the riders have to regularly adapt to both. They don't have the luxury of 'Belle Vue' type tracks which are a common feature in Europe. Consequently, the Poles, Germans, Swedes, and Danes are much more familiar with the bigger, faster tracks, and, therefore, have a head start over the British counterparts.

What we must try to evaluate how well European riders have performed and currently perform here. None of them is really dominating the sport in Britain, in fact, several reputable Polish riders have been and gone over the past few seasons without making any impact. It has been well known that German riders, in particular, almost unbeatable on their own circuits, have struggled here. How interesting it would be to see how Zmarzlik, Dudek and Co would cope in Britain today. Their peer, Tai Woffinden, last rode a full season here in 2014, his average was only 7.73, (in 2016 he rode in six late season meetings for Wolverhampton finishing with a 9.10 average) and he refuses to ride here because the standard isn't high enough.

It was furthermore suggested that British riders should go to Poland to ride if they are to reach world class standard. Haven't a number been already and failed to gain a regular team berth? Also travel from Britain is not quite as straightforward as travelling across continental Europe not to mention the added financial burden to up and coming young riders. Perhaps one way to help develop our own riders to world class standard would be offer regular training sessions at Belle Vue!

But how much do these international events concern us? If the GP series and the Speedway of Nations weren't covered by television how interested would we be? Our sole GP representative is Robert Lambert as Woffinden is injured, and Robert is little more than finding his feet at this level. Our own tracks produce equally good, if not better contests, than some GPs, which provide more processions than races.

Do we miss a British World Champion and is he of any benefit to British speedway? Well, seemingly not. He hasn't ridden here for five years and has no intention of doing so in future because he has to ride in Poland and Sweden 'to keep him up to scratch' with the other GP competitors. Perhaps if he did ride here he could well help to attract and encourage younger riders. Rather surprisingly though former World Champion, Jason Doyle, a great servant to British speedway, continues to grace us with his presence and his form elsewhere doesn't appear to have suffered too badly?

So, we don't compete well at the moment because British riders simply don't have the same conditions as their European rivals. In some respects, speedway here is more demanding because the tracks are so different and this, to a degree, may have a detrimental effect on rider development. We are not second class we are different and to put things into further perspective in the late 60s and early 70s strong British touring teams suffered heavy defeats in Test Matches in Poland.

SGB CHAMPIONSHIP/CHAMPIONSHIP SHIELD/CHAMPIONSHIP KOC TOP 30 AVERAGES 2019

Averages up to and including Sunday 28/07/2019 and are indicative of 2019 season form only

Rider	Team	Mat	Rid	Wins	Sec	Thi	Las	Pnts	Bon	Total	Ave	Av-Bon
Craig Cook	Glasgow	20	100	84	12	2	2	278	5	283	11.32	11.12
Danny King	Sheffield	19	96	48	33	10	5	220	6	226	9.42	9.17
Chris Harris	Somerset	16	81	40	26	12	3	184	12	196	9.68	9.09
Charles Wright	Redcar	18	89	46	26	9	8	199	6	205	9.21	8.94
Adam Ellis	Birmingham	7	37	21	7	5	4	82	0	82	8.86	8.86
Richard Lawson	Eastbourne	21	105	47	37	15	6	230	9	239	9.10	8.76
Edward Kennett	Eastbourne	21	95	45	31	10	9	207	14	221	9.31	8.72
Steve Worrall	Newcastle	17	89	43	22	15	9	188	13	201	9.03	8.45
Rasmus Jensen	Glasgow	19	90	46	15	20	9	188	4	192	8.53	8.36
Rory Schlein	Somerset	18	88	43	20	15	10	184	12	196	8.91	8.36
Richie Worrall	Leicester	16	79	33	27	12	7	165	8	173	8.76	8.35
Nico Covatti	Somerset	13	54	23	16	9	6	110	7	117	8.67	8.15
Lewis Kerr	Eastbourne	21	94	41	26	16	11	191	11	202	8.60	8.13
Scott Nicholls	Leicester	23	108	39	41	19	9	218	24	242	8.96	8.07
Cameron Heeps	Edinburgh	18	86	26	37	16	7	168	8	176	8.19	7.81
Ryan Douglas	Leicester	20	90	36	26	15	13	175	13	188	8.36	7.78
Josh Pickering	Edinburgh	13	55	20	19	7	9	105	5	110	8.00	7.64
Aaron Summers	Berwick	18	89	32	27	20	10	170	14	184	8.27	7.64
Ricky Wells	Edinburgh	17	86	29	30	15	12	162	19	181	8.42	7.53
Claus Vissing	Glasgow	20	80	28	24	18	10	150	13	163	8.15	7.50
Jason Garrity*	Overall	9	42	13	14	11	4	78	6	84	8.00	7.43
Jake Allen	Scunthorpe	15	69	26	18	12	13	126	5	131	7.59	7.30
Josh Auty	Scunthorpe	18	83	23	29	23	8	150	13	163	7.86	7.23
Kyle Howarth	Sheffield	17	88	29	26	20	13	159	15	174	7.91	7.23
Michael Palm Toft	Redcar	19	86	28	23	21	14	151	8	159	7.40	7.02
Matthew Wethers	Newcastle	17	77	21	25	22	9	135	19	154	8.00	7.01
Ben Barker*	Overall	12	61	15	24	13	9	106	9	115	7.54	6.95
Ty Proctor	Sheffield	18	72	19	25	18	10	125	12	137	7.61	6.94
Josh Bates	Leicester	17	61	20	16	12	13	104	8	112	7.34	6.82
Thomas Jorgensen	Newcastle	14	64	18	19	17	10	109	6	115	7.19	6.81

SGB CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE TABLE

Up to and including Sunday 28/07/2019

Team	M	HW3	HD1	HL0	AW4	AW3	AD2	AL1	AL0	F	A	Diff	P
Leicester	14	6	0	0	0	3	0	3	2	655	583	72	30
Glasgow	10	5	0	0	1	3	0	1	0	496	398	98	29
Somerset	12	5	0	1	1	1	0	2	2	562	517	45	24
Sheffield	11	6	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	498	491	7	20
Redcar	9	3	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	408	384	24	16
Eastbourne	12	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	5	547	528	19	15
Scunthorpe	10	3	0	2	0	1	0	1	3	445	453	-8	13
Newcastle	8	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	359	360	-1	12
Edinburgh	9	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	375	425	-50	10
Berwick	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	406	494	-88	10
Birmingham	11	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	433	551	-118	9

REDCAR FIXTURES 2019

7.30PM START UNLESS STATED										
MARCH	OPPONENTS		RES	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SAT 23RD	BEN BARKER TESTIMONIAL 3PM	WINNER REDCAR 'AGILIA' BEARS								
FRI 29TH	NEWCASTLE	TTT	W 51-39	MPT 11 + 1	TB 5	BB 6+1	JS 10+1	CW 13+1	NG 3	JS 3+2
SAT 30TH	LEICESTER	CS	L 57-33	MPT 1+1	TB 6	BB 5+1	JS 4+1	CW 13	NG 3	JS 1+1
SUN 31ST	NEWCASTLE	TTT	W 43-46	MPT 5	TB 5+1	BB 8+1	JS 5+2	CW 13	NG 10+1	LF (G) 0
APRIL										
FRI 5TH	SHEFFIELD	CS	W 49-39	MPT 7	TB 5+1	BB 12+1	JS 8+1	CW 11	NG 2	JS 4+3
SUN 7TH	SHEFFIELD	CS	L 56-34	MPT 5	TB 2	BB 10	JS 3	CW 6	NG 8+1	JS 0
FRI 19TH	LEICESTER	CS	L 41-49	MPT 4	TB 0	BB 6+2	JS 7	CW 16	NG 4+1	JS 4+1
FRI 26TH	SCUNTHORPE	CS	L 49-41	MPT 4	TB 5	BB 7+2	JS 6+1	CW 9	NG 5+1	JS 5+2
MAY										
FRI 3RD	SCUNTHORPE	CS	W 52-38	MPT 13+1	TB 3+1	BB 5	JS 8	CW 14+1	NG 3+2	JS 6
FRI 10TH	SOMERSET	KOC	W 53-36	MPT 7	TB 3+1	BB 8+1	JS 11+1	CW 13	NG 4	JS 7+3
WED 15TH	SOMERSET	KOC	L 46-44	MPT 6	TB 6+1	BB 9+1	JS 5+2	CW 11	NG 6	JS 1+1
FRI 24TH	JULIE LEWIS MEMORIAL		WINNERS - BEN BARKER & DANNY AYRES (TEAM MEDIA PRIMA)							
FRI 31ST	BRITISH SEMI FINAL	NE	1ST CHARLES WRIGHT 2ND RICHIE WORRALL 3RD DANNY AYRES							
JUNE										
FRI 14TH	EASTBOURNE	CL	P-P	POSTPONED DUE TO WATERLOGGED TRACK						
FRI 21ST	EDINBURGH	CL	L 49-41	CW 7	TB 5	UO 5	JS 7+1	MPT 13	NG 3	JS 1+1
SAT 22ND	EDINBURGH	CL	W 53-37	CW 11+1	TB 4+1	UO 4	JS 13	MPT 10	NG 6	JS 5+2
WED 26TH	SOMERSET	CL	L 51-39	CW 13	TB R/R	UO 7	JS 7+2	MPT 8	NG 2+1	JS 2+1
FRI 28TH	LEICESTER	CL	W 48-42	CW 10+1	TB 4	U0 4	BNG 8+1	MPT 12	NG 7+1	JS 3
SAT 29TH	LEICESTER	CL	L 40-32	CW 12	TB R/R	UO 5+1	BNG 0	MPT 2	NG 9+1	JS 4+1
JULY										
TUE 2ND	GLASGOW	KOC	W 51-39	CW 10+1	TB R/R	UO 11	JS 11+1	MPT 10+1	NG 7+2	JS 2+1
FRI 5TH	GLASGOW	KOC	L 46-44	ER 10+1	TB R/R	MPT 11+1	JS 6+1	CW 7+1	TW 0	NG 10
SUN 7TH	SHEFFIELD	CL	W 42-48	ER 9	KA 6+1	MPT 7+1	JS 6	CW 15	TW 1	NG 4
FRI 12TH	SCUNTHORPE	CL	L 43-47	BR 1	CW 11	KA 7+1	JS R/R	MPT 14+1	NG 10+2	TW 0
WED 17TH	BIRMINGHAM	CL	W 37-53	ER 15	KA 5+3	MPT 9+2	JS 6+1	JAG 7+1	TW 1	NG 10+2
FRI 19TH	BIRMINGHAM	CL	W 51-39	LKG 7+1	KA 9+2	CW 10+1	JS 10	MPT 8	TW 1	NG 6+1
FRI 26TH	SHEFFIELD	CL	P-P							
AUGUST										
FRI 2ND	GLASGOW	CL								
SAT 3RD	BERWICK	CL								
SUN 4TH	EASTBOURNE (START 2PM)	CL								
FRI 9TH	NEWCASTLE	CL								
SUN 11TH	NEWCASTLE	CL								
THU 15TH	BRITISH U19 FINAL	NE								
FRI 16TH	SCUNTHORPE	CL								
FRI 23RD	BERWICK	CL								
SAT 24TH	EASTBOURNE	CL								
FRI 30TH	SOMERSET	CL								
SEPTEMBER										
FRI 6TH	EASTBOURNE	KOC								
SAT 7TH	EASTBOURNE	KOC								
FRI 13TH	GLASGOW	CL								
FRI 20TH	RESERVED	PO								
FRI 27TH	RESERVED	PO								
OCTOBER										
FRI 4TH	RESERVED	PO								

KEY:
HOME MEETING
AWAY MEETING

PO PLAY OFF'S
KOC KNOCK OUT CUP
NE NATIONAL EVENT

TTT TYNE TEES TROPHY
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CS CHAMPIONSHIP SHIELD

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