

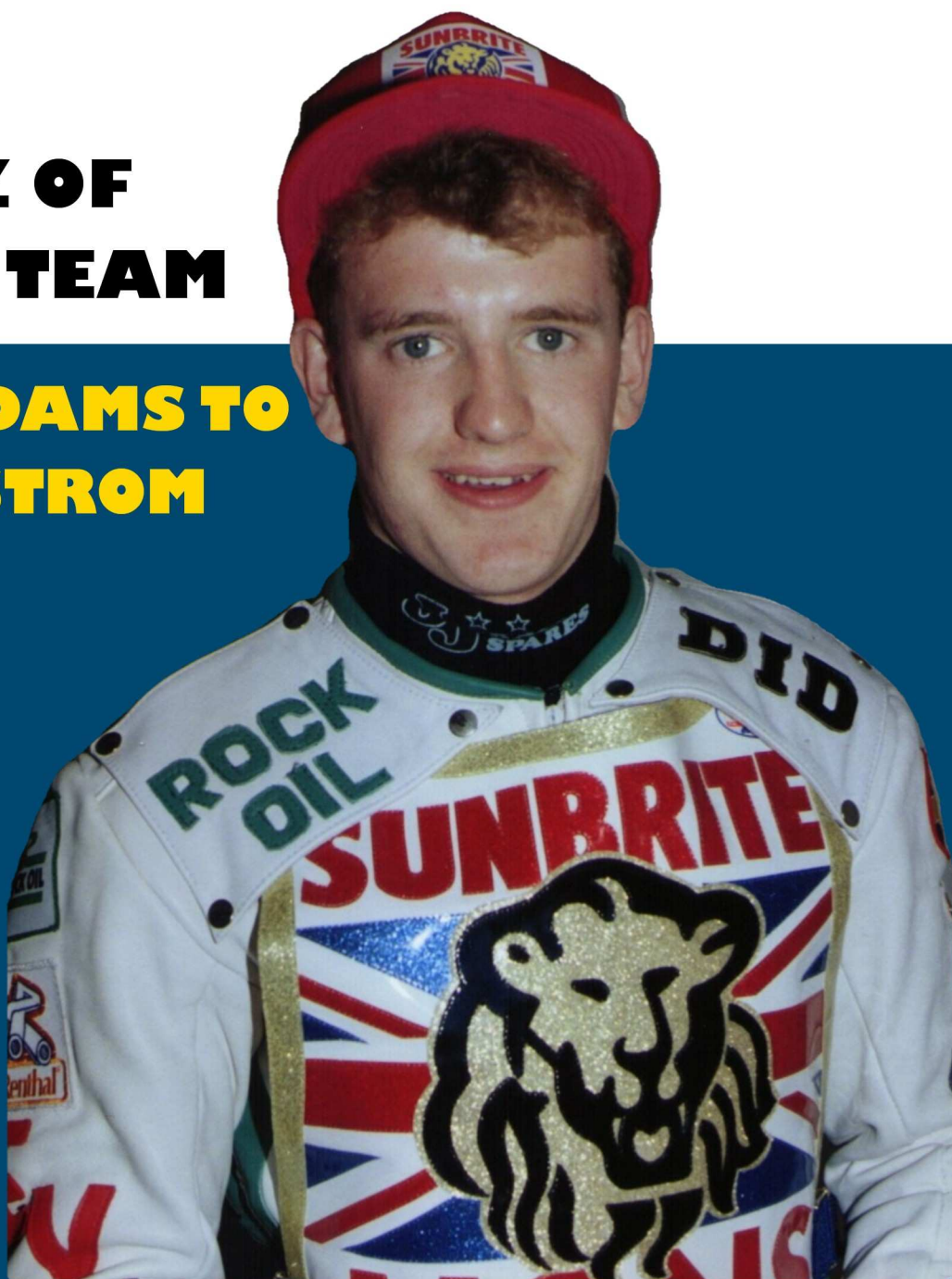
THE FANS'

FAVOURITES

**THE A-Z OF
DREAM TEAM**

**FROM ADAMS TO
ZETTERSTROM**

**FREE
eBOOK**



speedwayplus.com

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to this FREE speedway e-book, the first of its kind as far as we're aware.

This book collates the memories and impressions of riders that we've received for our 'Dream Team' feature on the *Speedway Plus* website. This book runs from Adams to Zetterstrom giving the supporters' opinions on many riders from the past and present.

The comments were made between 2000 and 2007, therefore if you find a comment suggesting that a 27 year old Premier League second string is a stick-on to be World Champion, it's likely to be one of the older contributions.

This book differs from any other as it's written entirely by a cross section of supporters, from virtually every track in the land and with varying experiences of speedway. If a rider isn't listed, it's because nobody has chosen them as one of their seven favourite all time riders. Similarly if a little known rider has been included, it's because they've made sufficient impression on someone to be nominated. A definite case of democracy in action.

Clearly, given that the comments were all written in this present century, the majority of the riders are from the British League era (1965 onwards). However, there are a number of vintage favourites in there also.

If you want your own personal favourites to feature in any subsequent editions then fill in our 'Dream Team' submission form on the website.

We hope you enjoy the book.

The Fans' Favourites

Photographs courtesy of Ian Adam, Steve Hone and Tony McDonald.

Cover Photograph courtesy of Ian Adam

First Edition - Published 2007

Published by

speedwayplus.com



Leigh Adams

The rock around which our (Arena Essex) 1st division side was built. Looking back it seems strange to think that the Hammers were once one of the glamour sides - but we were and Leigh was a big part of that. Brilliant to watch and an absolute superstar - both then and now! (*Midge Taylor*)

Currently top of Elite League averages. From same small town as Crumphy. Renowned for armchair riding style. Has been exceptional this campaign carrying Robins with 18 point maximums. (*Keith Cross*)

I picked Leigh Adams as he is an icon to me and I would love to progress as far as he has and would also love to ride for the Robins. (*Stephen Champion*)

Leigh looks like he's possibly be going to be one of, if not the greatest rider never to win an individual world championship. Always smooth, quick and fair, he's been the Elite League's 'Mr Consistency' for so long. I'd love to see him finally string together a season of GP's where he rides as well as he does in the league. (*Chris Backhouse*)

The greatest rider ever to come out of Mildura and Australia in my opinion. Leigh is the most professional rider in speedway. Leigh's has done it all in speedway other than the World Title, which he will achieve one day. Leigh has always been so smooth and fast on the bike it is poetry in motion when he rides a round a speedway track especially round our home track at Mildura. He is the ideal number one rider in any speedway team you are always guaranteed at least ten and over points from him every time he rides and he is also a great team man. (*Ryan Sedgmen*)

My all time favourite rider. Immaculate and absolutely effortless style. I have watched and followed him since his very first race at the Abbey. (*Simon Colven*)

Class. Has been a Swindon asset for many years and has sometimes single-handedly carried the team. Probably the smoothest rider ever in the history of the sport. I can remember seeing him in one of his first matches and thinking he was too small and flimsy for a bike that size...how wrong can you be! (*Steve Rayner*)

A genuinely nice guy (probably a bit too nice in racing terms) with that lovely laid back style. Leigh rode for me at King's Lynn and he was an absolute pleasure to work with - always immaculately prepared machinery and a genuine team man. I would love to see him win the World Championship soon. (*Mike Western*)

This guy can ride anywhere, any time and win. He rides around Mildura with the handle bars touching the ground. If there was a World Final at Mildura then he would be World Champion. There is no-one in the world that would want a world title more than Leigh. You just wait, I think 2007 is the year of Leigh Adams - I can feel it. The 9 times Aussie champion will be world Champion in 2007 - 4 sure! (*Justin Sedgmen*)

A really good rider to watch with his laid back, armchair style. A really good league rider and it is a shame he never managed to convert that into the world championships. He always seems to leave Foxhall with clean bikes because he almost always scores a maximum. (*Liam Grimwood*)

Robin Adlington

This little ozzy was a real hero in the '70s at Berwick. Could only ride Shielfield but boy could he go. He was also a really lovely guy. (*Barry Forrest*)

Brett Alderton

Unfortunately died after an accident in his second season as a "Knight" - perhaps the most talented teenage rider I've ever seen! (*Martin Clark*)

Gary Allan

Mr consistency! Only one season at swindon. Who could ever forget that stunning pass on the last lap of the 1993 cup semi final to put us in the final? Enough said! (*Simon Colven*)

Oliver Allen

Rode for Mildenhall in 1998, and looked back then every bit the fantastic rider he is turning out to be. Piled in some big scores, in a fairly short spell with the club. (*Neil Weston*)

Improving all the time, will be a world champ one day... I'm sure of it. (*Leanne Sampson*)

Frank Andersen

Very much under rated rider. Frank lived with us for a while whilst at Peterborough and I spannered for him and drove him around the country to meetings. Great sense of humour but totally dedicated to the sport and his machinery was always immaculate. Was plagued with injuries but thrilled the crowds wherever he rode. I remember his first trip to Arena Essex where in his first ride on the track he did a 180 degree turn in the middle of the first bend! (*Norman Pell*)

Hans Andersen



(Picture courtesy of Steve Hone)

Hans may have only become the quality rider he is today after leaving the Pirates, but during his time at Poole his talent and potential was clear for all to see. He always gave his all in every race and never gave up. It was a great shame that Hans left Poole when he did as he could have become a legend at Wimborne Road. (*Rob Wickham*)

From the first time I saw Hans in the 1999 World U-21 Final at Vojens, I knew I was watching a potential great. I was delighted when he was signed by Poole and was privileged to see him develop into a real force. *(Alun Chapple)*

Jan Andersson

I remember going to my first meeting and seeing his name in the program with R/R next to it. People kept saying how good he was and it took another couple of months before I would believe them as we waited for him to return from injury. My only thoughts at the time was "He can't be that good he is only No.4", obviously having no concept of how the numbers reflected the riders. Talented Swede who in my eyes, along with Leigh Adams, is the best rider never to win the world title. *(Steve Rayner)*

When I first started going to speedway he was the master of Smallmead. He had a shy mystery about him, a man of few words but let his riding do his talking for him. Nobody in that era could ride a slick track like he could. Single-handedly kept Swedish speedway alive on an international level for the best part of a decade. A rider who should have won a World title but never really rose to the occasion. He would have loved the GP series. *(John Downer)*

Great servant to the then "Reading Racers". I remember seeing him in a race with Mitch Shirra, Shawn Moran and Hans Nielsen where the lead changed places several times, just for Jan to win it on the line from Mr Nielsen! *(Steve Watkinson)*

Bill Andrew

A diminutive New Zealander with a swashbuckling style. Did he ride the bike, or did the bike ride him? Guaranteed 100% effort. He once broke the track record at Poole in the 2nd half and still complained to Mr Knott that he didn't like the track! Mind you, he was riding an ESO for the first time!! *(Bob Cole)*

The little Kiwi was the perfect partner for Brian Craven. The women used to love his swarthy looks! *(Bill Gibbs)*

Bob Andrews

A world beater unless the track was wet. A top liner at Wimbledon in the latter days of the National League, then moved on to Wolverhampton, before joining Cradley Heath. A brief interlude at Hackney interrupted a successful period at Dudley Wood, where he was always capable of beating the best. A good team man, famous for being Continental Reserve at a Wembley World Final (earning him the nickname of Bobov Andrews) and for winning the World Pairs Title with Ivan Mauger the year before it became officially recognised. *(Keith Cee)*

Tony Armstrong

Tony rode for Crayford in the late 60's and did some second halves at Monmore Green. Used to give me a lift home after the meetings in his Triumph Herald with his bike on the back. He is now living in Canada and was the National Champion sometime in the seventies. *(Tony Webb)*

Martin Ashby

In the first ever race I saw at Swindon Speedway, Martin Ashby beat Ole Olsen and broke the track record. Quite an achievement, I later discovered. He was my early speedway hero, often carrying an otherwise useless team with many superb one-man-team efforts. *(Graham Morris)*

Local lad. Record for the most points and appearances for the club (Swindon) 641 matches for 5476 points. Not the fastest of gaters but legendary for cut-back manoeuvres on pits bend. *(Keith Cross)*

Carl Askew

An Aussie who was not the most talented rider but one of the most hard working riders I've ever seen, he never gave up, was a real entertainer. *(Glen Johnson)*

We used to look forward to Birmingham coming up, just to be able to have a go at Carl Askew. He was worth the entrance fee on his own. Although he never seemed to score more than about 6 points, in my memory he was always in the thick of things: if a rider came off in the first bend - it was Carl, if someone looped at the start - it was Carl, if someone packed up when well placed - it was Carl, if someone went in a bit hard and came off second best - it was Carl. Brilliant fun. He seemed to appreciate the reception he always got (judging by the two fingers he used to give us). *(Ian Manley)*

Frank Auffrett

Always a bit wild, does anyone remember the races with Jack Millen? *(Gary Mitchell)*

Scott Autrey

Scott was my all time favourite rider; a cool performer but not loud and flashy like many of the Americans. Unfortunate not to have lifted the world title; I cheered him all the way at Wembley in 1978 when he finished 3rd. *(Mike Haley)*

B

Billy Bales

A rider with more years in the sport than most, well known as an "overnight sensation" Billy was a local boy made good. Many times he suffered injuries which had the sports followers writing him off but he always came back for more. His 13 years at the Firs were followed by a number of seasons at Sheffield and he will always be remembered in the sport. *(Bryan Tungate)*

David Bargh

'Barghy' first appeared on the scene in the late seventies. He was a young Kiwi with a fierce determination to forge a career in Speedway. His talent was undeniable and he developed into an excellent National League racer. He moved onwards and upwards (returning in '84 for the BL season) and enjoyed much success with club and country. He returned to Newcastle in 1990 after a long fight to be given special dispensation to ride in the National League. It was a ridiculous situation, no club in the top league wanted him yet he was 'too good' to drop down. The situation was eventually resolved and he was allowed to start a third spell as a Diamond. For the next three years he led the side brilliantly. Home or Away he could be relied on to rack up the points. He was idolised on the terraces, especially because he was 'one of our own', and his World Championship adventures provided many great days out. *(Andy Harris)*

Ian Barney

Don't even ask me how many spells this guy had with Peterborough. He first rode for us in the seventies and was still riding for our Conference side in 2002. His form was always excellent at home but inconsistent away from home. We'll never forget when he won the 1984 National

League Riders Championship at Peterborough. If I remember correctly the initial staging at Wimbledon was abandoned and Ian made the most of his home advantage in the restaging. *(Tony Taylor)*

Could have achieved so much more, but stayed loyal to the Panthers. I watched him when I was growing up and loved his all action style. *(Gavin Pell)*

Bill Barrett

Aussie kid who rode for Cradley about 10 times, I thought he was great. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Steve Bastable

Now this fella was a talent was just a shame he never really put it on show all the timehe was one of those riders who was brilliant one day and useless the next. Never did he have 2 meetings the same, but when he did give his all he was a winner every time. *(Glen Johnson)*

Bobby Beaton

This guy was always a joy to watch, especially when team riding with Joe Owen round the Boulevard in Hull. Great style, and could have gone a lot further if he'd had the desire. *(Simon Ashworth)*

Danny Betson

I've picked Danny as he is a real big inspiration for me. He is the same age as me, and when he started at Wimbledon wasn't all that fast but found his feet and was definitely the best reserve in the Conference League in 2005. *(Stephen Champion)*

Terry Betts

Surely the greatest rider to ever wear a Stars race jacket, not only was Terry a superb rider capable of beating anyone during his time, he was adored by the Kings Lynn public in a way that will never be equalled by anyone. He did it all in style and with a very large grin on his face! *(Chris Gosling)*

It would be hard to leave Mr Kings Lynn out of any 'all stars' line-up. A lifetime 9.20 division one average, he could usually be relied upon to get a win in heat 1 at home. As many have already stated before, he could have been world champion if he really wanted it. *(Roger Hunt)*

Although towards the end of his career, still good enough in the late seventies to win heat one on a regular basis and give us a good start. Probably allowed to go a season too early when leaving King's Lynn for Reading. *(Mike Edwards)*

All Stars fans would include 'Bettsy' in their all time greats. He was fabulous. I remember him for his sporting attitude and for his popularity even with visiting fans; whenever we went away with the Stars he always seemed popular with home fans too. I remember at Exeter, Bettsy refusing to take the Golden Helmet because the Exeter rider Gunnar Malmqvist had engine failure. Bettsy insisted on a re-run and he lost - such was the man. I think he was technically the best rider I ever saw. He deserved to be World Champion but was probably too nice. *(Trevor Gay)*

Jackie Biggs

I pick him solely for his performances in 1965. He had come close to being crowned World Champion in the early 1950s when he lost a run off for the title. By the early sixties his form had deteriorated and he was racing at reserve for Newport. Suddenly his form returned in 1965

and he finished top of the Newport averages. I've always admired him for reversing that decline. I believe he lost his life in a track crash in Australia, that would probably have been sometime in the early 70's. *(George Cox)*

Another of my favourite Harringay riders. A regular choice for any Australian test team, Jack Biggs was a winner of a rider and a very nice man. He was so nice he often allowed my friend and I to wash his car, a maroon woodie American estate. Biggsy was one of those riders who should have won everything, in the 1951 World Championship he would've been World Champ if he'd come first in his last race instead of a close second. In the ride-off against Jack Young and Split Waterman he came third! *(Mal)*

Danny Bird

I know he's a current rider but Danny always gives a good show wherever he rides and is always the first to gee up others. A true nice guy of the sport. *(Nige Burton)*

James Birkinshaw

James only spent half a season with the Glasgow Tigers, but in that half a season we saw a rider who would do anything to win, he never gives up until he passes that line, he doesn't know how to. I was shocked that he was not picked up by any PL team at the start of this year, but now he has been signed for Berwick and although it had been stop start through injury, once he is back and gets a run of meetings under his belt, he will prove all the promoters who left him out wrong. *(Tony McColl)*

Robbie Blackadder

Or 'Crashadder' as we knew him. He must be the only rider to obtain a 9.00 CMA by winning 3 races and crashing in the other in every meeting. *(David Torley)*

Carl Blackbird

Couldn't leave him out the team, he was a poor gater but came from the back many times to win - a true racer. *(Simon Stanley)*

David Blackburn

Personal favourite. Solid scorer everywhere. Always said he preferred small technical tracks, but always seemed to do well on the bigger circuits. Can't be too many other better characters than Blackie. Could dominate a meeting and his team riding was sublime. Favourite race - his first race back after a nasty head injury sustained in a crash at Peterborough, Wimbledon were on the end of 12pts from the 4 races Blackie finished on his comeback. *(Philip Newton)*

Nigel Boocock

Came to Kingsmead in his late part of his career but was still good value for money with his blasts round the boards. *(Mark Wyver)*

Would be my first choice any time. He always gave 100% for Coventry and England. He could mix it with the very best and appeared fearless. He turned out for Coventry despite carrying numerous injuries. He even fractured his skull in a racing accident, but was back leading a Lions tour in Australia some 6 weeks later. Booeey deserved more success individually and I remember one World Championship Final at Wembley (he & Howard Cole were the only Englishmen riding) when it seemed like the entire 80,000 crowd was cheering him on. But my personal best memory of him was from a Midland Riders Championship race with Barry Briggs where they were head to toe with each other, passing each other time and again until Booeey

nicked it on the line. This even had my normally reserved father out of his seat applauding, something I never saw him do before or after. And finally, who can forget his wonderful testimonial meeting, Brandon was literally packed with fans from all over the country acknowledging his career. *(Keith Butler)*

When I was a kid the best time of the season was when Coventry came to town! There would have been 10,000 or more at Blackbird Road those nights with most of the back straight taken up by Cov' fans creating a great atmosphere! Coventry didn't have a really good team then and it seemed to be this little guy in the Blue leathers who would be racing as though his life depended on it to beat Lions!! Remember the night there was a big fight between the teams (68 or 69) and the Coventry team ended up walking out and not taking part in the second half except for Nigel. At the time I thought that was really big of him not letting the fans down, though now I'm older, and also know he is a Yorkshire man, I bet it was about earning the money!!! *(Duncan Pemberton)*

An all rounder of all the best things in a rider. He could gate quickly, corner immaculately, win from the back (especially on the final bend) and team ride wonderfully. *(Paul)*

Geoff Bouchard

A battling rider who never set the track on fire but always gave 100%. I best remember his 15 point maximum at reserve and him getting the bumps at the end of the meeting. I also remember his big old Citroen with two bikes hanging on the back. That was the way it was in them days. *(Steve Rayner)*

The loss of speedway to Station Road at the end of 1967 put my growing interest in the sport on hold. Having been frightened by the 'monkey' masks and the noise at my first meeting in 1963, by the end of 1967 I was a regular fan with my Dad and had even progressed to neatly marking the programme on the obligatory piece of hardboard that pre-dated the colourful plastic 'proggie' boards of the 70's. For a few years football became my main sporting interest but a summer holiday visit to see Ivor Brown's 'Rangers' in 1971 swung the balance back to speedway. Geoff Bouchard was one of the young riders who took the eye that night, which was pretty impressive, given that an also youthful Phil Crump was appearing on track for the Crews Kings. Geoff proved to be a real stalwart for the Rangers (and Archers) and rarely did his performance waver. He persisted with the JAP engines long after they became unfashionable, but the fact that he was always 'competitive' must show he had true ability. With the exception of the 1973 team, the Long Eaton line-ups always seemed to be struggling against insurmountable odds - often at home and always away. One thing you could rely on though, was that, invariably, a certain G. Bouchard would have made the journey to Station Road worthwhile, whilst opposition supporters from Berwick to Eastbourne would have appreciated his sporting but committed riding as, in the days of 50-28 being an average Rangers' away score, you'd at least have seen your own riders' pushed for four laps. Geoff seems to have been one of those rare breed of riders who was enjoyed by all fans at all tracks and this obviously continued in the years after he progressed from Long Eaton. I've mentioned Long Eaton in conversation with other supporters and Geoff's name is synonymous with 70's Long Eaton. "A good rider and a great bloke!" is what I tend to hear. To be remembered with such affection is a great legacy. *(Ian Gill)*

John Boulger

Yet another great rider who in my opinion could have been

a world Champ if he hadn't been so laid back. Many great meetings for the Lions and used to love seeing him being tac-subbed with Ray Wilson to pull a meeting back. Though I am not sure if they ever got on with each other. When JB rode at Leicester for Cradley he had a coming together with Ray on the back straight, and the gossip all round Leicester after was that they had had a big fight in the car park after the meeting!!! Never did find out if it was true! How about telling us guys? *(Duncan Pemberton)*

Luke Bowen

Always gives 150% and doesn't get rewarded for it. Has come back from some bad injuries and he deserves some success. When high on confidence he can out-gate anyone. He goes in on effort alone. *(Ben Tucker)*

Shane Bowes



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

Shane was probably my first speedway hero, I remember him on parade for the first time as a youngster. Bright yellow leathers, blonde spikey hair, and all the ladies screaming. Shane became a Tigers Legend in his time with us, coming back in '92 when we needed a lift. Staying on through the glory years, but the race I will always remember Shane for is the 1992 interleague cup thingy, Glasgow were against Cradley Heath at Shawfield. Glasgow needed a 4-2 in the last heat to win, Robert Nagy was miles clear, Bowes was second, but locked up and went to third. The Glasgow fans are like, "that's ok we are still winning", but he locks up again. Now Greg Hancock goes into third, "OH NO" we think, but wait what's this? Shane diving up the inside of Greg to regain 3rd place, speedway riding at its best. *(Tony McColl)*

Superb racer, his passing ability around Shawfield was amazing. But the best was the best race I have ever had the pleasure of watching. Exeter v Glasgow in July 1992. How the thunderstorms never hit the County Ground I'll never understand. Anyway, I digress, Heat 12 or thereabouts? Bowesie trailing in third but winding them in (Richard Green and Frank Smart I think). Going the 'high wide and handsome route' but leaving turn 4 on lap three still about 10 bike lengths behind. Bowesie then powered around the 1st Falcon on turn 1 into 2 and the other on turn 3 into 4 for the win! I was there and I've got the tape, he really did

it, jaw dropping stuff and no mistake. Oh yes, and the Tigers won! *(Colin Mackay)*

Craig Boyce

Another rider who gave Poole years of good service. He was our number one for the best part of a decade and it seemed he would see his career out with us. Sadly a loss of form saw him move on and he's never quite recaptured his best form. He's not had a bad career though and he was in a run-off for the 1994 World Title. Had he won that race then perhaps things would have panned out differently. An excellent rider and a great Pirate. *(Frank Chalmers)*

Always has time for the kids, a fantastic ambassador for the sport. *(Alan Thompson)*

Tony Boyle

TB arrived at Odsal in July 1975 released by Newcastle who had an embarrassment of riding riches at the time. An Aussie he soon made an impression with his neat racing style and invited comparisons - with Gary Peterson. Unable to break through at Newcastle he was soon on the case with Bradford and quickly alerted division one clubs to his potential - notably Sheffield for whom he would ultimately sign. Tony, like Peterson, won the hearts of the Odsal support who had seen the team struggle in '74 and much of the early '75 campaign. Sadly they would not have the chance to see Boyley become an established Odsal hero as his Bradford career was quickly derailed by the clubs demise. Tony went on to have some success at division one level but mainly plied his trade in the late 70's and early 80's in division two at Wolves, Stoke , Boston & Scunthorpe. But injury and disagreements hindered his progress and the potential he had was somewhat unfulfilled. After his time in Britain, Tony returned home to Oz and built a second racing career in midget car racing. Sadly Tony's life was taken in a midget car track crash in his homeland in the early 90's. With Odsal looking for a new star at the time Tony came along and showed he had what it took. If he could have continued at Bradford...in my opinion he would have been up there with the great and good. *(Ray Allen)*

Ross Brady

Ross began as a very raw and erratic rider with Linlithgow, it was only when he joined Peterborough that he learned to compose his skills, and joined the Mildenhall Fen Tigers when Oliver Allen left in July 1998. He was one of the league's best riders that year and one of the country's best prospects. Another stylish star who could beat anyone - he has bags of potential and proved it when he joined Edinburgh. *(David Crane)*

Replaced Olly Allen in 1998, and again looked a terrific prospect, achieving some important progress in his development as a rider while with Mildenhall, and again another youngster who piled in some big scores. *(Neil Weston)*

Barry Briggs

Briggo was the top rider throughout the 1960s. He was as famous then as many footballers are today. On track he was a formidable opponent and it was a feather in cap of anyone that managed to beat him. I was surprised recently to read that his preparation wasn't always that professional. He always seemed to be better equipped than his rivals, perhaps his talent just made it seem that way. *(George Cox)*

Highly competitive, world champ, didn't like to get beat (rarely did). An out and out fighter, not so much a team man but great at getting the points. *(Paul Goodwin)*

I remember him as a virtual junior for the Wimbledon Dons and even then he was good. His World Championship record speaks for itself. Around 1976, I was managing Alvin Stardust and we were invited to Wimbledon Speedway which was being managed by ex Don, Cyril Maidment. We spent the entire evening in the pits talking to riders, and it was during that night that Alvin had his photograph taken with Briggo, the photograph appeared in one of Barry Briggs books. *(Mal)*

Why was it that when you'd say "I'm a speedway fan", everyone used to respond, "oh yeah, Barry Briggs, right?". The fact that it's easily remembered, ie BB, does not explain why everyone knows women's cricket captain Rachel Heyhoe-Flint. I am convinced he used to fall asleep at the tapes, and it was only the sound of them hitting the top that woke him up, but what a master when he got going. He found lines around tracks that nobody else was capable of riding, and gave his utmost to make sure team mates were protected or helped. *(Mick Cast)*

The greatest Robin of all time. Twice world champion '64 and '66 as a Robin. Won British title 6 years in a row. Awarded M.B.E. Scored an incredible 3681 points from 321 matches for Swindon including 142 maximums. *(Keith Cross)*

Tony Briggs

Was never going to live up to the pressure put on him by the media, but Tony always tried his best on the track. It was unfortunate the way his career ended but he still is, like his dad, a great guy. *(Nige Burton)*

Mike Broadbanks

The 'Red Devil' was a member of the last Swindon Robins side to win the league in 1967, also a member of the 1957 title winning team. Represented the robins for 16 seasons! 560 matches for 4239 points. Still a familiar figure at Blunsdon assisting team manager Alun Rossiter. *(Keith Cross)*

Eric Broadbelt

Gets my vote for being probably the scariest, most thrilling, greatest trier, and wonderful team member, that I have seen. To watch Eric come from the back, scraping the fence, and throwing his bike into a bend was speedway at its most thrilling. *(Don Maddocks)*

Wayne Broadhurst

Mildenhall's current 'captain fantastic', and although he hasn't been with us long, he has already done more than enough to earn a place in my greatest team. He gets it for his awareness of his team-mates on and off track especially his efforts to help the younger lads and generally his excellent leadership skills. Is a great influence around the club. *(Neil Weston)*

Wayne Brown

'The Mighty Atom'. What a rider he was in his last couple of seasons for Berwick, before he moved up a division. Stayed with Berwick from raw novice to finally becoming a heat leader. His 'bursts' around the second bend at Berwick were 'top drawer'. Wayne won the National League Riders Championship whilst riding for the Bandits. *(Gary Tait)*

I remember my Dad spending ages talking to Wayne in the pits at Blantyre. I'm sure it was when Berwick rode a few meetings there on Saturday nights in 1981, he let me sit on his bike and gave me bits and pieces. He signed for Sheffield and I thought I would never see him ride again

and I don't think I did. Never really fulfilled his potential and I was sad to hear the news when he died a few years back. *(Gary Moore)*

When he first arrived was just a struggling reserve then all of a sudden everything took off - winning the NLRC was the icing on the cake. *(Norman Clark)*

This little Kiwi came from reserve to number one overnight and we called him the "mighty atom"! He loved the big tracks where you could blast around the boards, but I used to love watch him ride the little track down at Rye House. A joy to watch. *(Barry Forrest)*

Jason Bunyan

I've known him since I was 12. I kind of hoped that after all those nights of playing football with tin cans after meetings and collecting discarded programmes that he would have made it to World champ by now. Still who cares, he's a mate and will always be. *(Michael Farrant)*

Jim Burdfield

Never a Star but what a character. *(Gazmundini)*

Mark Burrows

I picked 'Buzz' because to me, he is the best rider I have ever seen and he is such a gentleman. No matter the opposition he always gave it his best. *(Stephen Champion)*

Troy Butler

National League Riders Champion 1988. Stuffed the likes of Loram, Galvin, Kennett, Rasmussen and Poole and was a generally a great character around Milton Keynes. *(Michael Farrant)*



Steve Camden

Steve has shown terrific guts, determination and a never-give-up attitude since joining Mildenhall in 1999 after a 4 year break from the sport. Steve strengthened the side's top order in his first year, finishing runners-up in the Riders Final - a joint club record, and went on to be one of the best riders in the league last season with his best year in the sport. An 8-week broken wrist lay-off cost the club of his invaluable presence at the end of last year and lost the league title because of it. You'd be hard pushed to find a more tougher and committed rider, which has endeared him to the Mildenhall fans and envied by opposing supporters. *(David Crane)*

Another with a never give up attitude. Steve was a brilliant find for the club, who was the mainstay of the 2000 side, and battled through illness and injury in 2001, still managing some good scores. A real shame not to see him back in 2002. *(Neil Weston)*

Peter Carr

The B52 Bomber was a good second string in our (Sheffield's) British League days but really came into his own when he rejoined us in 1991. The Tigers were at that time in Division Two and PC formed a strong spearhead with Neil Evitts and Louis Carr. He was always a joy to watch blitzing round our pacy circuit. Sadly, over time the relationship soured and he moved on to Belle Vue. *(Malcolm Watling)*

I've heard many people saying it, and his four victories in the Scottish Open prove it, quite simply the greatest Monarch of the modern era, if not ever! His races at Armadale will never be forgotten, for sheer entertainment value alone. His legendary inside charge was great to watch, and his Scottish Open victory when he came from the back to beat Stoney and David Walsh was amazing. His victory in Heat 15 against Workington when he passed Stead and Stoney in the same corner was the best Carr memory for me. *(Chrissy Wilson)*

Peter came out of retirement in 1997 to ride for Edinburgh, ended the season a winner of the KO Cup, helped the Monarchs finish 3rd in the PL and best of all the Premier League's Rider's Champion which he won at Coventry's Brandon Stadium - a night Monarchs fans will never forget. Peter ended the season with an average touching 10 points. 'The Motor', as he is known to all Monarchs' fans, became Monarch's No.1 rider for 6 seasons after that and is in the hearts of all Edinburgh's fans with maximum after maximum at Armadale and his passes on the kerb were breathtaking. Armadale legend! *(Scott Frame)*

Kenny Carter

I didn't see him race often but he made an immediate impression. He put so much into his racing and had an incredible amount of talent. His tragic death cast a shadow over Odsal that took several years to lift. *(Marie Hitchin)*

A fantastic performer and arguably the best rider never to be crowned world champion. Just before he sadly passed away in 1986 he was supposed to be struggling but still had an average of over 10 points (if I remember correctly). The first rider who really captured my imagination and turned me into a speedway follower forever. True Yorkshire grit and who knows what would have happened during the rest of his career if it hadn't been prematurely cut short??? *(Andrew Dixon)*

Raw natural talent, was the proverbial candle that burned brightly but oh so tragically short. *(Iain Davies)*

Hard riding racer who always battled through from the back when behind. Was never fazed by any track surface and was not afraid to speak his mind. Was taken down in the 1982 World final, as is clear from the video, but really earned my respect when becoming British Champion with a broken leg on a dodgy surface. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

The undisputed champion in his own mind. He talked the talk, and walked the walk, like no one else. Unbeatable around the Shay, and should have been World champ in '82, but for Penhall and the race officials. He was arrogant to the point of being rude, but when you're that good, you are entitled to be. We can only wonder what might have been. *(Christian Oldcorn)*

who else could it be? Got to know him briefly when I tried to get the company I worked for to sponsor him, and everything everybody else has said about him is true. Could be arrogant and self centred, but could also be great company. At his peak he was a genius, I will never forget going to Hyde Road when Chris Morton was red hot, and Kenny just destroyed him. Sadly missed. *(Steve Metcalf)*

A sensation from day one. Seemed to have no fear and had the beating of most of the National League at 16 years of age. *(David Torley)*

My favourite rider ever, so much grit. The best rider never to win the world title? Remember all those races with a

certain American? Afternoons on World of Sport - Kenny was it for me. I remember him riding with a punctured lung, broken leg and broken jaw. He was a fighter on the track. A British Champion who should have been World Champion. (*Jez Godwin*)

Fantastic rider and was the Dukes' No 1 when I started watching regularly. Had the skill to win from the gate or from the back and never gave up. Just a shame that his story had the tragic ending rather than the glory he ultimately deserved. (*Chris Backhouse*)

What can you say about KC that has not already been said, he was English through and through and rode with his heart on his sleeve. I will never forget the inside passes he used to do at the Shay on the first turn. Kenny could pass on any track inside or out, dry or wet, slick or grippy. A natural talent and a sad loss. (*Gerard Lynch*)

England's only answer to the Danes and Yanks in the early eighties. I still remember all the stick he used to get from rival fans but he never cared. We sadly will never know what he would have achieved if he had not have left speedway so soon. (*Dean Hall*)

In my opinion one of the Greatest Racers never to be crowned World Champion. Should have taken it on that balmy Californian night in 82. I look back at his first three rides in LA and everytime he's gonna win the thing. Even Penhall (much respect) was not looking as mean and hungry for it as KC. Well it wasn't to be and the rest is history. You know I often think how things might have turned out had he won it? Kenny always lived on the edge with great self belief but it may also have masked a more fragile side. At the Shay Kenny WAS Halifax Speedway with a struggling side we delighted when our "local hero" went up against the big guns...and beat em at their own game. Promoter Eric Boothroyd said "Kenny was a light that burned bright for a short time in our lives and quickly burnt out". On his motor home was emblazoned "Kenny Carter - Remember My Name"....as if we could ever forget..... (*Ray Allen*)

Without a doubt the best English speedway rider ever, bar none. He had such natural ability and his grit and determination to overcome serious injuries often riding when he shouldn't is nothing short of remarkable. (*Mike Haley*)

The best battler in the sport. His never say die attitude got him a British title while riding with a broken leg. (*Robert Greenwood*)

'King Kenny'. Someone else I got to know and like very much through Ivan Mauger and also when I worked for Phil Pratt Tuning. A very funny bloke, always joking, and never afraid to speak his mind. Extremely patriotic to the point of annoying those around him. Sadly missed. (*Steve Hone*)

The most talented British rider ever? Tragic end to a possible world champion. (*Gavin Pell*)

KC was a flawed genius, as many often are. Destiny decreed he was never to achieve the greatness his undoubted talent, dedication & determination deserved as his path through life was shattered in that terrible tragedy. Kenny was another that many disliked because he was, many would say, a typical Yorkshireman, brash, loud, outspoken & very much a champion of his own cause. But for all that he was a sensation on a speedway bike &

another who would die for the cause of English speedway. He could easily have won the 1981 World Title but for mechanical gremlins & many believe had he listened to Ivan Mauger & not his dad on the subject of tyres in 1982, he could well have won that one too. Had he been victorious, who knows, his life may have taken a different path to the one it did and it's amazing to think he would still only be 45 now. So many people suffered because of the Carter tragedy and I feel that English speedway never properly recovered from his passing. (*Dave Lewis*)

FIND OUT MORE...



Kenny Carter: Tragedy
By Tony McDonald
Order from Retro Speedway
01708 734 502
www.retro-speedway.com

Armando Castagna

Arrived at Ipswich in March 1987 with two World Final appearances behind him. A lively and excitable Italian, he formed a strong partnership with Kai Niemi in his second season with the Witches. (*David Spain*)

Peter Chapman

Another local lad to Boston and this man was destined for big things. Seemed to lose his way a little somehow though but would regularly rack up big scores at most tracks in the second division. (*Stuart Moore*)

Brian Clark

Not a world class rider but dedicated and would help anyone in his team. Mr nice guy, would probably have been a top rider if he could have had that extra bit of forceful riding. However, he gets into my team simply because he is a nice guy and very helpful. (*Norman Pell*)

Phil Clarke

Phil was a rider whose whole time in the sport was spent at Norwich. He was a quiet, unassuming man who always put the team first. He often surprised everyone with a high score just when it was needed. He also suffered injuries but always came up smiling. (*Bryan Tugate*)

Graham Clifton

The first rider whose autograph I got and was a steady scorer in his Canterbury career. (*Mark Wyver*)

Howard Cole

We Stars fans witnessed the re-birth and growth of 'Coley' at Saddlebow Road. He became world class and in fact was the first Stars rider to reach a World Final. How well I remember Howard at Wembley that year - I think it was 1969. I was also at Leicester on the night of the British Final when he was almost killed in a terrible sickening crash. For days we prayed Howard would recover and of course he did. What a gentleman. (*Trevor Gay*)

Brian Collins

'Pogo' always scored 12/15 points at every home match at Coatbridge. Held the team together points wise also held the silver helmet for a while before losing it to Joe Owen. Came second in the NLRC to Laurie Etheridge when his chain snapped whilst leading in the final run off. (*Andy Baillie*)

Les Collins

A tremendous servant to the sport. I have watched the 1982 World Final time and time again and he really did have the title in his grasp, until he rode a bad 3rd. His first ride in beating Penhall was unbelievable, especially when you consider how geared up Bruce would have been to have started with a win. He held him off superbly and it was such a shame he didn't take the title on the night. He brought the most exciting racing to the Monarchs when he joined and it was worth paying the admission money just to see Les ride. Although Peter Carr went on to achieve so much in his Monarchs career, Les will always be the greatest Monarch of all time. *(Mark Lucas)*

Mr Edinburgh Speedway. You couldn't help but be a little disappointed when he made the gate because then you missed his fantastic overtakes from the back. He was a master round Powderhall. I still reckon we could have got a few points out of him had we held on to him for another couple of seasons. *(Alison Cowe)*

Another who has given great service to both halves of Scotland. Les won the fours competition with Edinburgh in the same team as Kenny McKinna. He rode for Glasgow when they were going through a bit of a transitional period but no one could ever doubt his attitude and effort. Tapes to flag he gave 110%. I am sure all fans of every club will agree that he is a British legend! *(Scott Frame)*

Great riding style; bum back, head down, feet up. A nice guy as well. The fact he always put in a duff race even when he was on fire cost him a deserved world title. *(Gregor Pattinson)*

What can you say about this guy? Always respected by the Tigers fans when he rode for Edinburgh, even more so when he jumped the dyke to ride for The Stripes. The type of rider you could watch all day long. His win in Heat 1 of the 1994 KO Cup Final has to be seen to be believed. *(Gary Moore)*

Last but by no means Least. Les to me is one of the greatest ever speedway riders, missed the gate more often than not but could he pass, even in his ageing years (sorry Les) when Cradley came to Stoke he was showing Hamill and Hancock the way to do it, absolutely breath taking, Thanks Les. *(Gazmundini)*

Neil Collins

More great hair, looked like something out of the Jimi Hendrix Experience but he went like the clappers. Probably the most stylish of all the Collins brothers, even if he wasn't the most successful. *(Gregor Pattinson)*

Peter Collins

In many ways Collins was Peter Craven mark two. Craven was the better rider but Collins was the next best thing. He had a tremendous amount of ability and often showed amazing courage. He won the 1976 World Championship (in Katowice) and would have won more titles if he'd been able to gate. I admired him most when he defended his World Title despite having a broken leg. He almost did it as well. Persistent injuries forced him to retire in 1986. *(George Cox)*

The most meteoric rise to fame through 2nd Division racing at Rochdale followed by the pinnacle in 1976 at Katowice. Saw him break his handlebars in half and still finish 2nd! The first rider I saw break the golden rule, don't pass in the rain. That race-off with Anders Michanek

was possibly the best race I every saw. *(Norman Chadwick)*

If only he could have let the clutch out quicker he would have been a multi world champion. Great crowd pleaser. *(Carl Oakes)*

PC had everything except the ability to gate consistently. That he won the world title only once was a tragedy of circumstances (broken leg in 77, apparent fuel contamination in 78, and serious injuries in later years conspired to ruin his chances), but PC was the supreme entertainer and showman - what speedway is all about. *(Andy Millward)*

For his dedication to the cause. PC was Belle Vue throughout the 70's and early 80's. His poor gating was his only let down but in his prime was nigh on unbeatable around Hyde Road. *(Chris Young)*

One World Title was scant reward for this genius on a bike, rough justice at Wembley and injury a week before Gothenburg, where he so nearly pulled it off, was a cruel blow. Another racer who didn't know he was ever beaten. *(Tim May)*

This guy was a natural racer, with a great racing brain. Was there in Poland in '76 to witness a fantastic performance and it's a travesty that he didn't get another couple of titles! Definitely the best RACER I have ever seen on a speedway track. *(Duncan Pemberton)*

Picked for obvious reasons. Had the greatest balance on a bike that I have ever seen. Should have won the world title more than once. Always able to pass on pretty much any track. *(Mark Swindells)*

He was world champion in the 70's, and my Dad's name is all over the front of one of his bikes! Plus he once switched the side of his clutch so he could ride with a shattered wrist, and I admire bravery. *(Terri Hearty)*

I first saw Peter in the second half races at Belle Vue when he was driven there in the family Bedford van with his mother, father, sister and three brothers - as well as his machinery all crammed inside. I also remember the old red framed bike he rode back then, but make no mistake about it, he was good, very good. His progress was there for all to see and it wasn't long until he was in the main team, he was another great racer who in my opinion should have won more world titles than he did. *(Rob P)*

For me the greatest English rider of all time. PC was pure entertainment and he would have surely retained his world title in 1977 but for his bad accident prior to the final. To come second with his injuries in the rain was amazing. There are so many great memories of PC but the most memorable for me was PC chasing John Louis in the British Final at Coventry and taking him on the final bend, what a rider. *(Howard Eve)*

1976 World Champion. Deserved more, if only he could gate. But boy could he team ride with Chris Morton. *(Jeff Dooley)*

Mr excitement, I well remember his first visit to Wimbledon, we were amazed at his full throttle technique, we swore he never shut off for all four laps, a new era was starting. I remember going somewhere up the A5 to a horse trotting track to watch him ride a 750 triumph on the

launch of an American style flat track event. A truly great Brit and gent to match. *(Steve Bartlett)*

My first hero. One world title never seems enough for this all-out racer who was just magic on a bike. Too many people have always said that first out of the start wins at speedway, but they obviously never saw PC race! In his prime he could give anyone - and I mean anyone - a decent head start and still line them up and pass them in spectacular fashion. Watching PC was like watching a master craftsman at his work. I was fortunate enough to see PC many times and conditions made no difference to him, slick, grippy, big, small, flat or banked, all tracks came the same to him and but for injuries his career would have been even more glorious than it already was. A legend. *(Dave Lewis)*

Phil Collins

Great entertainer and a delight to watch. Always gave 100% and never gave up a lost cause. Once saw him 50 yards off at the back and he still got up into 2nd for a 5-1 with Alan Grahame. Never could make the gate but that made him the rider he was. Memorably saw him win the Overseas Final at Belle Vue on a soggy day in 1983. Class act. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Started in the Ellesmere Port team as soon as he was 16 (around the same age as I was). He had a way of throwing his machine into the outside of the pits corner at Thornton Road and blasting around whoever had been in front. Whatever was (rightly) claimed for Peter in terms of overtaking ability was more than matched, in our eyes, by Phil. *(Ian Manley)*

He never achieved his true potential, but I would certainly have him in any Cradley team of mine. *(Paul Tromans)*

Shane Colvin

Shane joined Mildenhall in late 1999 and enjoyed his best year in the sport the following year with both Mildenhall and PL Reading. He was a vital member of the almost-title-winning side, a superb gater and cool customer when leading, he proved his undoubted talent last year, including a fourth in the Riders Final. Sadly, a seeming lack of commitment to the sport at times has prevented him from achieving further success. *(David Crane)*

Lee Complin

In recent years, the one rider who immediately impressed and quickly and unrelentingly improved week in, week out. Then, retirement, what a loss to speedway but a gain to Short Track at present. Please make a comeback to Sheffield. *(Norman Chadwick)*

Andre Compton

Former Bradford junior who had experienced mixed fortunes in the early years of his career. Looked an excellent prospect in his outings with Belle Vue but had drifted back into Conference League racing. Snapped up by Sheffield in 1998 as a lower order rider but quickly proved to be capable of much more. An entertaining and controversial rider that never gives less than his best. His improvement was a factor in the '99 title win. *(Malcolm Watling)*

Colin Cook

Pure action. What a man, what a beard, what a belt! *(Gregor Pattinson)*

John Cook

Always a great entertainer with his wheelies. U.S.A

Champion in 1985 two World Final appearances in 1985 and 1987. A great loss to Ipswich when Cookie walked out in April 1986 because he looked to have a good season ahead of him. At the time he was the U.S.A Champion. *(David Spain)*

Second in my all time list of greatest ever riders to wear the Witches race jacket, he was and still is my favourite rider ever. *(Tony Simmons)*

Showman supreme, top quality rider who enjoyed his speedway. *(Carl Oakes)*

Cowboy Cook was a character and a true entertainer in every sense of the word. His exploits in the 1985 World Games at Wimbledon in particular stand out in my mind. A one-off. *(Jay Reed)*

What a showman, fantastic control of a bike of any description and also went on to be a really hot jet skier. Could probably still do a good job in the Elite League! I remember him being great at wrong-way speedway (clockwise) and making me enjoy the meetings. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

The cowboy, like Kelly Moran, had one of the most spectacular styles I have ever seen. Never say die, never give up. He was the supreme entertainer. How great it was to watch that Ipswich team that contained John, Billy Sanders and Dennis Sigalos. *(Harry Ward)*

Paul Cooper

Recognised my sons when he returned with Sheffield after they had given him a birthday card last season. Not many Sheffield Tigers are popular on the Island but Paul is a decent guy. *(Alan Thompsett)*

Ronnie Correy

When the pint sized American arrived in 1987, it didn't take him long to settle in and he recorded a maximum at Edinburgh in the first two weeks of the season. Ronnie became a key rider at Wolves and with Sam he helped make the club into a very successful club after years of winning nothing and relying on one rider to score all the points. Injuries forced Ronnie out of the sport and he returned to America but found he no longer regarded the States as his rightful home and returned to England where he got married and became a father. In 2004, after a fast spin out in Richard Juul's testimonial, Belle Vue tempted him out of retirement mid season and in 2005 he returned to Wolves where he scored over 60 bonus points and averaged just under seven a match. I like many others regard Ronnie as one of the nicest guys in the sport and his ever present smile always shines through. Will always remember his brilliant first bend moves that were breathtakingly brave. *(Grahame Darlington)*

Jamie Courtney

Hounded by my sons whilst on the island - he made two young fans for life who will always follow his career. Always happy to chat and spend time with the boys. *(Alan Thompsett)*

Mark Courtney

Berwick supporters questioned the move to sign Mark, but he proved what a stylish rider he was more or less straight away. The Berrington track certainly suited him and he was difficult to beat at home. He also performed well for the Bandits away from home. Number one for a few seasons. *(Gary Tait)*

One of the most stylish riders to ride for Berwick where his form seemed to take off again. Was the hero of the Cup-Final against Poole when, despite being badly injured the previous weekend, he scored double figures at Wimborne Road. *(Norman Clark)*

Sean Courtney

The big quiet Courtney was never a number one nor did he win several individual championships but he anchored a really good team and he was a 100% Glasgow Tiger. Not a speedway millionaire but he enriched our sport with his presence. *(Calum Macaulay)*

Marvyn Cox

After watching him come and beat Bradford again and again with Oxford, aided and abetted by Wigg and Nielsen, it was good to see him on our side for a change. A class performer who you knew would consistently score points and helped to end the guaranteed hammerings the Dukes used to get on their travels. Always a great team man and it was a shame his career had to end so soon and I hope everything goes well in his future. *(Andrew Dixon)*

"Cocker" - Marvellous Marvyn, another great capture in 1990. With Havvy banned the Dukes needed a number one and Cocker, in the shadows of Hans Nielsen & Wiggy at Oxford, was signed on loan for the season. Stylish and ultra professional he led from the front and moved his racing up a gear at Odsal with the added responsibility. A particular favourite of mine, it was dreadful that injury ended Cocker's racing career as it did. *(Ray Allen)*

I first saw Marvyn at Oxford in '83 when he was riding for Rye House. A flawless 6 ride maximum convinced me that this kid was one for the future, and his signing by the Cheetahs for '84 was great news. So many great rides, and I particularly remember some great battles he had with Sam Ermolenko, and of course a seemingly endless number of 5-1's when paired with Nielsen. *(John Phelan)*

Nigel Crabtree

What can you say about the man? I first saw him ride in 1983 for Scunthorpe and score a 18 point max at Loomer Road, we signed him the following year and he was without doubt the mainstay of the team through good and bad for many a year, enough said. *(Doug Coward)*

Stoke legend, all time points scorer etc. etc. Was good to watch as much in the pits as on the track!! *(Phil Smith)*

What can you say about 'Crabby', an absolute star, was brilliant to watch on the track, but also on the centre green when he became team manager. *(Gazmundini)*

Brian Craven

The brother of Peter and a great all action rider to watch. He gave nothing but 100% every meeting. *(Bill Gibbs)*

Peter Craven

What a fantastic rider. He could go round the corner at an angle that would be considered impossible in any other sport. *(Brian Dench)*

World Champ, only saw him once at Belle Vue, but boy what a rider, rarely gave up, held the team together with his track skills. Clever at covering the back door when required. *(Paul Goodwin)*



Whoever nicknamed him the "Wizard of Balance" hit the nail on the head. He was sensational to watch (particularly around Belle Vue) and is undoubtedly the best English rider of all time. He was a popular visitor at all tracks and was idolised in Manchester. He was killed in a crash at Old Meadowbank in the early sixties. If fate hadn't intervened then I think he would have won more World Titles. *(George Cox)*

The total unorthodox style and determination of this tiny guy was unbelievable. He could throw a bike into a bend with total disregard for his safety. Where other riders would be slowing for the corner, he'd be accelerating past them and winning races through sheer courage! *(Paul)*

Unfortunately I saw him in his last ever meeting but knew at the age of twelve I was in the presence of a great. His style today would seem quite normal but in 1963 was unique and breathtaking and to this day I can remember the feeling of disbelief that filled Old Meadowbank stadium on that fateful night. Surely he would be involved with the sport today if he had lived - an immeasurable loss. *(Graeme Selkirk)*

My first World Final at Wembley was to see Peter Craven win his 2nd title, in 1962. I was only 9 and, although he was a Belle Vue rider, his style and riding captivated me at the time. To the extent that, the following season, I nagged my parents to take me to Brandon to see him. Here I was with my yellow & black scarf, rosettes and "star" badges of Coventry riders queuing for the man who sold keepsakes around the track, in order to buy Peter Craven memorabilia. I spent all my pocket money on photo's, rosette & badge of him, much to the chagrin of my dad. But the badge went on my scarf (Ove Fundin was my only other non Coventry badge) proudly. Later that year Peter died in a crash, it was my first experience of a "hero" dying. I think that's one of the reasons Coventry - Belle Vue meetings became a little bit more special to me. *(Keith Butler)*

What a style, what match races. Peter is sorely missed, even after all these years. Pete was a really nice guy, the most exciting of riders to watch. *(Dudley Jones)*

Simon Cross

'Crossy' was another who served us well over a long period of time. Saw him make his debut and his raw talent was evident at 16. Never saw him much after '86 when he claimed greater glory. Still warrants a place due to competitiveness and ability to bounce back after injury. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Jason Crump

J.C. - son of God. Probably even better than his father. Showed his promise as a youngster at Swindon when he broke the Barry Briggs (he was before my time) team record for consecutive maximums. *(Graham Morris)*

A lot of people don't seem to like him but I love him! He's got skill and determination. Good team man who is always there to help - especially the youngsters. Remember him when he was a 16 year old riding for Peterborough and you could tell he was a future World Champion then. *(Alison Cowe)*

First joined Peterborough in 1992 on a three point average but by the end of the season he was scoring as a heat leader. Probably nobody else has ever developed from raw reserve to World Class in such a short time as he did. His popularity amongst Panthers fans has obviously fallen since he moved onto Kings Lynn and Belle Vue. Despite this he was a real hero in his three spells with the team and he'd always be welcomed back. *(Tony Taylor)*

He was the first rider I remember seeing, and the first I saw win a race. He's a great rider who more often than not scores near-maximums. *(Terri Hearty)*

I'm very pleased I got to see Jason week after week when he started out with the Panthers, right from his first ride at 16. He's gone on to become a two times world champ and counting. One day I hope he returns to Peterborough. *(Jez Godwin)*

The two times world champion. He's at number one because of his want to win. Jason if he is last will never stop trying until he gets to that number one spot. I was talking to his granpa in Australia, he said Jason will always keep winning because he has got a gift. When Jason gets on to a speedway bike, he changes. He goes from Jason Crump to World Champion. The only thing that will stop Jason Crump from winning will be his bikes. *(Justin Sedgmen)*

Jason was another rider who hit the scene with a bang, there was always excitement in the air when he was riding and I am not surprised that he has won world titles. A very determined rider who if focussed enough will win it again. I was lucky to see both his grandfather ride and especially his dad Phil. I was there at Earle Street (Crewe) when he first came over, and for me, Jason has taken over from him. *(Rob P)*

I would never class Crumpie, like his Dad before him, as one of my favourites, but I admire him in many ways. For his steely determination to succeed and achieve his goals, the way he has worked hard to curb his temper & channelled those energies into his racing, his absolute dedication to his chosen profession, his qualities as an ambassador for the sport and his undoubted qualities off track as a family man. I was delighted for him that he recently won his second world title as he has been so deserving of it and he would undoubtedly have won more had he raced in a different era, for in many ways he has

been a little unlucky to be at the very top at the same time as Tony Rickardsson. *(Dave Lewis)*

The determination this man has shown impresses me, he set out as a boy with a goal that was finally achieved, although not my cup of tea, cannot but admire someone who goes and gets what he believes is his destiny. *(Tim May)*

After Milton Keynes closed a few seasons later I ventured up the A1 on a Friday night to watch the double Aussie pairing of Crump and Sullivan. It reminded me of the Troy Butler and Mark Carlson double act at Milton Keynes in the late eighties. The treble was down to those two. Milton Keynes never won a trophy and to see the Panthers wipe the board that year was very emotional. Crumpie is a truly world class rider. I think Hans Nielsen is still the master but Jason is now a close second. *(Michael Farrant)*

Brilliant rider. Great personality. Has all the time in the world for anyone and will help you if he can. World champion twice but deserves more. *(Arran Swindells)*

Deserving World Champ, style and guts. *(Robin Couzins)*

Crumpie is a total winner. I thought Jason's dad Phil was good and hard but Jason is different class. I think Jason has the capability to win at least two more world crowns after this year's Grand Prix. I remember seeing Crumpie at Kings Lynn and he was awesome and virtually unbeatable at times. Like I said Crumpie is a total winner. *(Howard Eve)*

Loyalty springs to mind when I think of Crumpie. Not everyone's cup of tea but an all round nice guy and one hell of a speedway rider. Since 2002 Jason has wanted to bring the name of Belle Vue back to the forefront of British Speedway and, at times, has done that single-handed. Who will ever forget his magnificent 21 point maximum in the 1st leg of the 2005 Elite League Play-Off Final. Simply awesome around Kirky Lane. *(Chris Young)*

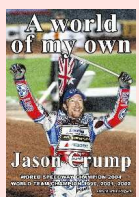
I'm not Crumpy's biggest fan, but I just can't deny his outstanding ability and contribution to the sport. A true fighter and never-say-die kind of rider. He never gives up and is also a very hard rider - get in his way if you dare!! I first saw him as a 16 year old at Powderhall, riding with Peterborough and even then you could see a tremendous, emerging talent. *(Mark Lucas)*

Jason has held Belle Vue together on his own for the last few years, when quite frankly we were a bit of a joke. Was great to see him crowned World Champ and become our first World Champ since PC in '76. Leads the team from the front and a great example to his team mates. *(Dean Hall)*

From the moment I first saw him around 1990 I knew he would be destined to be World Champion, if he could calm down. He raced hard and sensibly learnt his trade through the leagues. His conduct after Jonsson was injured in 1994 was fantastic and is remembered by most Reading fans and is definitely my favourite all time rider never to have signed for Reading. *(John Downer)*

The son of the Master. Jason is another great rider to come out of Mildura. The 2004 World Champion, there is not much more you can say about Jason that hasn't been said. He is a true Champion that learnt his craft as a junior at Mildura. *(Ryan Sedgmen)*

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Phil Crump

Villain turned hero! Initially he used to infuriate me by coming to Swindon and beating the Robins out of sight as a Newport rider. When he joined Swindon, however, I quickly came to realise that he was, in fact, God. Carried Swindon for many years in a similar way to Martin Ashby - although he was an even better rider than Ashby, and the rest of the team were probably even worse than before! Swindon 29 Cradley 49 - Phil Crump 15 point maximum. Ah yes, I remember it well. (*Graham Morris*)

The Mildura Master, he could do anything on a speedway bike and some of the conversations you hear about Crumpy are just magic. Riding around the corners with the handle bars scraping the dirt, putting his back wheel against the fence so he could use the dirt on the fence to get drive, the list goes on and on. Crumpy was a legend that's the only way you can describe the man. (*Ryan Sedgmen*)

Amazing, it was a revelation for a Newport Wasps fan to have a rider in the team you knew would beat the opposite number one home and away. I remember him blasting round Swindon in 1975 head below handle bars down the straights. Awesome! (*Ken Morgan*)

Phil was such a reliable rider, consistent scorer able to deliver when it was needed. (*Mike Haley*)

Sir Phil Crump, what a freak! Jason Crump is what he is because of this man. The 4 times Australian champion. My Dad told me he is the only person to ride around Mildura with the handle bars over the fence. Tony Rickardsson was not the first person to ride the fence. It got a bit tight so Crumpy said I'll just go on the fence. (*Justin Sedgmen*)

I remember Crumpy coming to Lynn from second division Crewe and he set the place alight. He was all action and no respecter of reputations. He became a cult figure with the Stars fans and it was so sad that he never won the world championship. He was braveness personified and I can still see him forcing his way through to take the lead on many occasions even in treacherous conditions. (*Trevor Gay*)

Why did he never win a world championship? Probably the best rider in the world when the mood took him. If I saw Crumpie's name in a team list I was always tempted to fill it in before the racing began, well at least 4 of them, he might get a tactical if we were lucky, brilliant rider. (*Mick Cast*)

Good enough average at Kings Lynn to qualify for Rider Replacement when injured doubling up with Crewe in Division 2. A class act and again let down at top level by his machinery but a legend. (*Mike Edwards*)

I'm not sure who was the greatest Wasps rider, Gote Nordin or Crumpie, I guess we'll never know. But from 1974 to 1976 he was almost unbeatable around Somerton

Park. He could pass inside or out, always seemed to find grip. In 1975 he wasn't beaten by an opponent around Newport until mid-August. I used to watch Crumpie ride for Swindon after Newport's closure, he was still a great rider, but I always used to tell the Swindon fans they never saw the best of Phil Crump. (*Martin Wilkins*)

As hard as they come and I never missed the chance to see him race at Ipswich. Was so consistent and Jason's career is on a par, although Crump senior was never a huge hit on the World scene. (*J Maxwell*)

Brilliant Aussie. Often stood alone in weak Robins teams in the 80's. 4254 points from 411 matches. (*Keith Cross*)

Brian Crutcher

Saw Brian Crutcher when he was 16 years old at Stanley Stadium, Liverpool. He came out in his first race, immaculate bike, gleaming leathers, white helmet cover and scarf. Won that race in a new track record, and went on to complete a maximum. He was awesome, and not much older than me. (*Don Maddocks*)

Martyn Cusworth

Never going to be a world champ but a genuinely nice lad who always tried. My wife said I had to put this one in as she "liked" him !!!!! (*Gary Mitchell*)



Tony Davey

Now here is a guy who had the talent to go as far if not further than Billy Sander and John Louis but for a fall one Good Friday! On his day I have never seen anyone who could leave the tapes so fast as Shrimp, he was like greased lightning from the tapes and he was very rarely passed once in front. A good rider and a gentleman - never too busy to stop and chat even now on the grass track circuit. (*Bob Banthorpe*)

Daniel Davidsson

Won the treble with the Pirates in 2003 as they took the Elite League, the BSPA cup and the Knockout cup. All in his first full year in the top flight. (*Jamie Rees*)

Stephen Davies

A solid middle man, never quite reached the heights expected but again, did pull off some tremendous performances in his career at Lynn (over 200 appearances). (*Roger Hunt*)

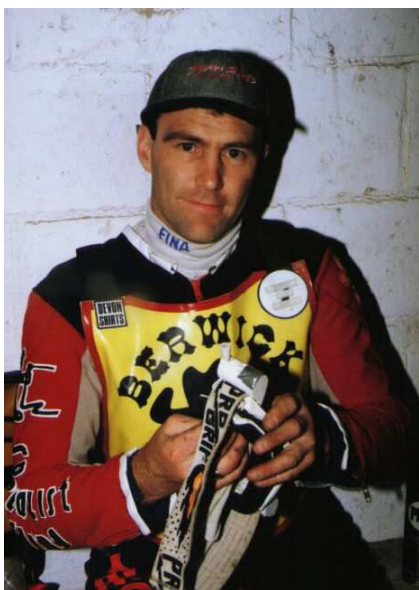
John Davis

Glamourpuss! John was an inspirational captain in 1980, always had time for us fans and stood for ages after meetings signing autographs and posing for pictures. I was chuffed to meet up with him a few years ago and he actually remembered me. (*Nige Burton*)

Graham Dawson

Good number 3 at Coatbridge. Had all the gear and could gate. Tragically nearly died at Barrow when Ian Hindle's handle bars smashed under his helmet when both crashed. A loss to the sport. (*Andy Baillie*)

Martin Dixon



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

What an ambassador for the sport and a great shame he is not riding this year. If you wanted thrills Dicko was your man. A role model for young riders and he always had the time to spend with the fans and the kids. (David Phillips)

All action local lad. Mad dog never knew when he was beaten. (Gary Mitchell)

One of the few riders that I had a grudging respect for when he was in an opposition camp and, though – seemingly – his best years were behind him when he arrived at Station Road in 1992, he proved to be a wonderful racer and team man for the Invaders. Prior to joining Long Eaton, he always seemed to have great success on visits to Station Road, his hard-riding comfortably seeing off our customary light-weight line-ups. Particularly memorable was a six ride full maximum in truly abysmal conditions at the end of the 1987 season. So, when Booeey brought him in, we expected quite a lot of The Mad Dog. But machinery gremlins and injuries took their toll and it wasn't until 1993 that the scoring matched our expectations. Then we saw some really great rides from Dicko who displayed the dying art of track-craft in many memorable from-the-back wins. Although aggressive on track, he had time for the fans off it and he proved to be articulate in some really great interviews for the Long Eaton season highlights videos which were produced. A true speedway character, well known for giving value for money home and away, he was never 'flash', despite a fair bit of success on the raceways. Apart from, that is, the one and only time he tried a celebration 'wheelie' along the home straight at Long Eaton and promptly turned the bike over! Embarrassing! Proud to have him in my line-up. (Ian Gill)

More for his time at Boro than as a Diamond. Mad Dog was pure entertainment. Always worth the entry money. (David Torley)

Jeremy Doncaster

A loyal servant to the club (Ipswich) and a great man to have in the sport. (David Spain)

The first rider I really supported at events other than Ipswich meetings after I saw him in a local grasstrack meeting before his debut, where he was much faster than all the others! Really committed team man who put Ipswich meeting first and was always well prepared, he carried the team on many an occasion and was awesome at the 1989 WTC, as well as for Reading 89-93. (Karl Bainbridge)

Exciting and dangerous as a raw youngster in his debut season 1982, but got steadily better year after year. (Tony Simmons)

Glenn Doyle

He was a very important member of the Dukes team in 1990/1991. Up until the 90's Bradford had been rubbish, and apart from Havelock (when not banned) and Evitts they offered very little else. (Christian Oldcorn)

The Bradford Duke gets this place for one reason only, winning the Coalite Classic individual meeting at Odsal against some of the world's best riders, including Gary Havelock when he was World Champion and on his own track. Remember Glen Doyle was a reserve at Bradford Dukes, so no mean feat. Club wise, he always tried, but that was an amazing highlight. (Simon Ashworth)

Aussie, came in to the Long Eaton team as a junior on a two point average and within months he was a heatleader. Later moved to Bradford. (Simon Stanley)

Graham Drury

The last team slot and a difficult personal choice to make. Mark Fiora? Alan Molyneux? Jan Staechmann? In the end, I've gone for 'The Judge' or 'The Big Fella' as he seemed to be known as at Long Eaton in the mid-80's. After many years around the tracks, Graham's career finished at Station Road, but not before he had played a major part in securing the 1984 National League Championship for the unfashionable Invaders. He offered the consistency of a true third heat-leader to the joint spearhead of Paul Stead and Dave Perks and his track knowledge and ability to get big points away from Station Road was a massive bonus as Long Eaton picked up crucial away points. Aside from his obvious ability on the bike, he had a good rapport with the fans and was always worth listening to when interviewed on the 'roving' mic by Ken Walker, where he had a natural appreciation that the terrace fans wanted to hear more than just simply "Yes" and "No" responses. Unfortunately, whilst at Long Eaton, he suffered from more than his fair share of injuries and, certainly in 1985 (the year after the Championship success), his lack of appearances contributed greatly to the team's slide down the table to finish an uncompetitive last. Those injuries included being knocked off his machine whilst waiting by the pits exit, by the tractor driver (and crop-sprayer) at Rye House and being ridden into after a race by Martin Goodwin after Graham had pointed the finger at him following some over-robust tactics against a young Long Eaton reserve, John Proctor. Graham was the catalyst for the Invaders' massive over-achievement in clinching the 1984 Championship - something I never thought I would see, after years of struggle - and quickly became one of my favourite riders. (Ian Gill)

Bob Duckworth

Just got on with the job of collecting valuable points. (Bill Gibbs)

Martin Dugard

Couldn't quite believe it when Martin signed for Oxford, but he landed and made his presence felt pretty much from the off. Again, so many breathtaking rides where he pulled off what seemed impossible moves to us mere mortals.

(John Phelan)

My all time hero. A very good team man, whether it was to do with the bike or the rider he would be there to help and he is a very good captain as well and who can forget that magical night at Coventry in 2000? I can't, I was there.

(Niall Strudwick)

Vic Duggan

I was only 7 when I first saw Vic Duggan ride at Harringay. He captained the Harringay Racers until he retired and was a wonderful credit to the team. Vic Duggan was a legend in post-war speedway and won many championships, although the World Championship eluded him. *(Mal)*

Dave Durham

Immaculately turned out and he could ride a bike as well. I particularly remember a fantastic last heat decider he won against Alan Knapkin of Bradford, I lost count of the times they passed each other. *(Gary Mitchell)*



Reidar Eide

I remember the golden helmet clashes and one memorable one where he blasted past Ole Olsen at Somerton Park! Sadly no longer with us. *(Ken Morgan)*

Preben Eriksen

A very important member of the Ipswich team for a few seasons, and always very popular. *(Tony Simmons)*

Hard rider and good team man. Remember him at the end of season meetings riding a big road trail bike and doing wheelies on it and other machines. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

Sam Ermolenko

Selected after just one season at Sheffield but it would be hard to argue with. Carried them through in many meetings during the experiment with one combined league where the club could not compete with the top teams as they once had. A rider who had a chance of winning any race he was in and with the right support could always be relied upon to do his bit. An excellent team rider who capped his season by winning the league riders championship. *(Andrew Dixon)*

Sudden Sam was such a treat to watch and added that amazing brand of showmanship that only the Americans seem to be able to bring. A constant threat in any race at his peak and his unbelievable desire to get the World Title was finally rewarded after years of fighting for it. The way he recovered from injury was always unbelievable and he never lost his bottle because of it. A true entertainer and another constant professional. *(Mark Lucas)*

Although I've only seen 'Sudden' Sam live twice, he was a great showman and awesome to watch. A real talent on a Motorcycle and was a credit to our sport. Still a fantastic rider and it would be great to see him turn out in the Premier League one day, just for his entertainment value if nothing else! *(Chrissy Wilson)*

Mr Wolverhampton and in mine and many other peoples eyes, Mr Speedway. A remarkable guy who always takes time out to talk to fans and is very keen on promoting the sport in a positive way. After life threatening injuries, Sam returned to the sport in 1990 less than a year after his horrific crash and was soon back to his best and in fact got better. This was crowned with a World Title in 1993 after another season of averaging over 11 points a match. A great racer and always entertaining and even now at the age of 45, he can still mix it with the best. Deserves to be remembered as one of the sports all time greats. *(Grahame Darlington)*

This man 'Sudden Sam' never knows when to hang up the helmet. I personally think that given the choice he would have never really retired, but he has a good business behind him now and he works with Sky on the GP's along with Louis, so he is still involved with the sport that way. I know Sam well as well and he is a good friend to help me with my racing. *(Niall Strudwick)*

Sudden Sam first came to Armadale back in 1998 to ride in Kenny McKinna's testimonial meeting "The Gathering". Sam let no-one down and nobody got near him the whole night - he was first class. Sam is a true ambassador for Speedway, anytime he is on the television you can just see how he loves the sport. Of course, the pinnacle of his career came in 1993 when he became World Champion. *(Scott Frame)*

Although he is not as good today as he used to be I have to have him in my team as I am a total fan of his and have loved him since I started going to speedway!!! He is a great person and a great rider who always does his best and I LOVE HIM!! *(Julie Griffiths)*

A great rider and so exciting to watch. *(Kath Smith)*

One of the nicest guys you will ever meet, always the consummate professional, and ever the one to bounce back time and again after some terrible injuries. Also my darts partner when the Midland Speedway Darts League was up and running. *(Tony Webb)*

Barrie Evans

Still only 17, Barrie has time on his side to prove he can become a success in the PL after making his Mildenhall Fen Tigers and speedway debut in 1999. He has learned to master the West Row circuit over the past 3 years but his confidence has been harmed because of his failure to command a regular Premier team place. He has the equipment and ambition to become a higher league success, but needs to prove it by becoming a force on away tracks in the Conference. *(David Crane)*

Brilliant young rider who came straight into a struggling Mildenhall 1999 side, scoring double figures from the off. Played an important part in what should have been a title winning 2000 team, and was one bright spot of a struggling side in 2001, with some high scores plus several memorable match race victories. *(Neil Weston)*

Neil Evitts

A progressing talent at Halifax who showed his true form in 1986 after the move to Bradford, being crowned British Champion and reaching the World Final. If not for a string of knocks and injuries he may have gone on to much bigger things? His races against Kelvin Tatum alone were always worth the entrance money. Also put in a few excellent seasons for Sheffield. *(Andrew Dixon)*

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Gianni Famari

Oh my God, Gianni was a star, he gave everything every time he got on a bike, one of only a few Italians to have ridden over here and some of his antics made us laugh and made us cry, he could threaten and beat the best and sometimes he could not beat a track junior, but he tried every race. *(Gerard Lynch)*

Mike Faria

'Flyin' Mike Faria came to Belle Vue as reserve and was beating the top riders round Kirky Lane as though he had been there years. Always put on a show for the fans, pulling one handed wheelies in the middle of races. *(Darren Garlick)*

Flying Mike may have only had a relatively short stint at Belle Vue but he was really hard to beat around the tight circuit in the late eighties. Always thought he could have gone further in world speedway, perhaps he came over to England a little too late. *(Dean Hall)*

Tom Farndon

Obviously I never saw Tom Farndon ride, but from what I've read about him he was someone who epitomised the spirit of Speedway and part of me wishes I could have been around to witness what were the pioneering days of the sport. I know it was early days but here was someone who held the track record on all the National league tracks. After Coventry closed in the early 30's, he moved to London and eventually ended up riding for New Cross. He had a will to win attitude to racing which with his talent would surely have won a world title in later years. Sadly fate intervened and cruelly took his life at just 24 years of age following a racing accident. I used to live a 15 minute walk from where he is buried and I've seen his gravestone, a motorcyclist in black marble, and he must have been a bit special for something like this to have been commissioned to mark his life. *(Keith Butler)*

I've been told I'm distantly related to him, so I decided to look into the pre-war history of Coventry speedway, and by all accounts Tom was a thrill seeking daredevil rider who was destined to reach the very top until his fateful crash at New Cross in 1935. A true great in his own lifetime. *(Paul Houghton)*

Tony Featherstone

Tony was a great reserve for the Boston Barracudas. Unfortunately he was always visiting the fence too, mostly as the innocent party and I now know he is having tremendous difficulty with his back still to this day. He was a good points scorer wherever he raced for us. *(Stuart Moore)*

Matej Ferjan

Although Matej's time at Poole was brief, the impact he had when he replaced Jason Lyons in 2004 was huge. I think his introduction was crucial in Poole clinching the league that year. Despite his inconsistency, Matej was always great at Wimborne Road and his partnership with Antonio Lindback in 2004 was brilliant, you could expect a 5-1 against any opposition. *(Rob Wickham)*

Mike Ferreira

Superb out of the gate and a good rider to have in the pits. *(Mark Wyver)*

Never saw him race but his points record speaks for itself. *(Bob Wiles)*

Mark Fiora

Rode for only one season with Long Eaton, but during that season he was a true leader, rode for Middlesbrough as well. *(Simon Stanley)*

Nigel Flatman

A great team man, and scored a lot of vital points at vital times, now exiled in Australia I think. He is fondly remembered by all Witches fans. *(Tony Simmons)*

Bruce Forrester

Unfortunately I never got to see much of Brucie and injury always followed him but a true number one. *(David Phillips)*

Billy Forsberg

A new discovery in British speedway, from Sweden Billy has almost constantly scored highly in a lacklustre 2007 season for Belle Vue and has the potential to be a champion. *(Terri Hearty)*

Odd Fossengen

The flying Norwegian pops over to say hello every year. Still as popular today as he was then. Always had 3 good rides, before fluffing his 4th! A real gent, who mentioned a few weeks ago that, when he retires, he plans to move to Poole. *(Bob Cole)*

Paul Fry

GOOOO OOOONN FRYER! What a racer! Never knew when he had lost a race, always fought down to the very last. A true crowd pleaser wherever he went. *(Simon Colven)*

Mike Fullerton

Fast gating New Zealander who joined Berwick in 1978 as an Inter Continental Finalist. 'Fullo' was a big favourite with the fans both on and off the track. *(Norman Clark)*

Ove Fundin

Five times World Champion, skilled rider on any track, brilliant rider. *(Paul Goodwin)*

Lucky enough to see Ove at his best in the days of the Internationale at Wimbledon. Managed to win the World Championship with both legs in metal cages because of injuries. *(Brian Dench)*

Every Promoter or Manager wants to have the best there is and Ove was, always will be, the best rider of all time. As an individual he topped the lot. He would be the ideal leader for any team, but when it comes to Norwich's all-time team Ove is an absolute must. He rode for the Stars for 10 years. *(Bryan Tungate)*

They didn't always like him in his riding days, but he was awesome. Probably the greatest of his age and since his retirement a really great guy. The match races with Peter Craven were a treat. I remember little Peter and Soren Sjosten gating to win in the last heat, Norwich needed a 5-1 to win. Olle Nygren took a sweep around the pair on the first lap and on the final lap Ove was still last. On the back straight Ove just rode between Peter and Soren where no gap existed - and we got our 5-1! *(Dudley Jones)*

What can I say that has not already been said? My lasting memory of Ove was a race at Monmore Green in I think 1967, Great Britain vs Sweden, where he chased Barry Briggs for four laps, before passing him on the line, picking up so much grip that his bike stood on its back wheel from the fourth bend to the line! What a race! *(Tony Webb)*

A mean rider, in terms of dropping points and giving second best. A hero of Norwich, Sweden and true speedway followers. To him, coming second was a crisis, third or fourth unheard of in the prime of his career. Worth the admission money just so that fans could claim to have seen him ride. Was booed at all away tracks on principle - his punishment for being so good. *(Keith Cee)*

The fastest gater of his day. There was no-one around with his gating skills and aggression during the late 50's and to the mid sixties, he was the man to beat! *(Paul)*



David Gagen

A rider that any team would be pleased with, went on to better things after Boston, but career ended early due to a bad back injury. *(Andy Taylor)*

Not a star (no pun intended) his team riding with Bettsey in Heat 1 and ability to win Heat 8 against a rider replacement made him invaluable to King's Lynn. *(Mike Edwards)*

Andy Galvin

Led the Hackney side well from the number one position. *(Brian Longman)*

First rider I saw on my reintroduction to the sport. Gutsy, a bit cheeky and always ready to mix it but unfortunately riders like that often end up seriously hurt as was the case with Andy. *(Graeme Selkirk)*

Cory Gathercole

This kid is fresh from Mildura junior track and in a few years I think will see him with the World Championship in his hand - you just wait and see. *(Justin Sedgmen)*

Dave Gifford

Nutter! Always getting into trouble with the ref and always ending up with the fans in the crowd having a whip round to pay his fine, a battler. *(Andy Baillie)*

Dave was a good team man and an excellent gater. He could anticipate most referees at the starting gate. Always ready to give a helping hand to team mates and a good laugh when in company. *(Jim Liddell)*

Ross Gilbertson

A tough racer. Led from the front and held the Canterbury team together following the loss of a big chunk of the 1970 league winning side. *(Bob Wiles)*

A sentimental choice this - Ross won the first ever meeting I attended at the County Ground - I believe it was the Jack Unstead Memorial Trophy - with a flawless 15 point maximum. Despite riding for arch enemies Poole, he became a firm favourite of mine. *(Mike Western)*

Alby Golden

First Newport Wasps skipper in 1964 and crowd hero, skippered the team to K.O. cup glory in that first season. Sadly towards the end of his career, he was a passenger away from home. When Bob Radford dropped him in 1969 he scored a home maximum in between two away ducks. This upset some of the older fans but I think Bob had no choice. But I'll remember him as the first idol of Somerton Park. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Tomasz Gollob

You always want to see a race with Tomasz in it...you just never know what he'll do! *(Iain Davies)*

I wouldn't say I'm a huge fan of Tomasz but he is amazing to watch. His race with Crumpie at Poole in the WTC was outstanding. He's just too inconsistent. If all the GP's were held in Poland then he'd be World Champion over and over again. Just a pity he can't produce the goods elsewhere. *(Alison Cowe)*

Well my final rider is a man who doesn't need any introduction, Tomasz Gollob. He has to be the most exciting rider in the GP's with his long legs and great bike control. A great example of this was in the GP in Wroclaw in 1998 when it was the Final and he went past Jimmy Nilsson on the Final corner, now that was a race. The list for Tomasz is endless of great races. *(Niall Strudwick)*

In my opinion the best Polish rider ever not to be world champion. Tomasz on his day is the most exciting and brilliant rider in the world but his fiery temperament lets him down. *(Derek Grant)*

Colin Goody

Colin was always a veteran, but even in the twilight of his speedway career, came to Poole and was invaluable as a substitute, or just reserve rider. Together with Dicky May, they would find themselves, as a pairing, in a critical heat towards the end of a match, and race their hearts out and invariably saved the day. *(Don Maddocks)*

Martin Goodwin

A real club legend and he raced for Arena Essex for years. He was usually our number one and didn't take any prisoners when he got into action. He later became our team manager and I'm disappointed that he never made the comeback that was rumoured. *(Midge Taylor)*

Another one who doesn't know when he's beaten. Remember him coming out in heat one of the 1992 fours at Peterborough and thinking he's either going to break his legs or the track record. Fortunately he did the latter! *(Graeme Selkirk)*

Alan Grahame

This spot was between Alan and his brother Andy.....and Alan won due to his more composed riding and his love for the club, always gave his all even when injured. Even after leaving to go to local rivals Cradley Heath, Alan was still a hero here to the fans. *(Glen Johnson)*

The ideal partner for Phil Collins, as a pair they were a great combination, unbeaten in his World Final appearance. *(Paul Tromans)*

Deserves a mention for his whole hearted efforts and comeback from illness. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Always gave 100% effort, unless the promoter prepared a track unfit for speedway (are you listening former Cradley Heath and Oxford promoters?). Battled against illness and won, battled against rivals and often won, suffered the handicap of not being born in Denmark or the USA, which would have guaranteed him 1000 times as much in terms of sponsorship. *(Keith Cee)*

Rob Grant snr

The 'Sheepeater'. What a servant to the club and such a character. His totally legitimate inside passes of opposing riders on the third bend at Berrington Lough were.....well....had to be seen to be believed. Okay, okay maybe not always legitimate but it was certainly entertaining on occasions. Some of his first corner antics with his elbows are also well documented. Would rather have had him in my team! The man must have black and gold blood in his veins! *(Gary Tait)*

Berwick testimonial man, never a dull moment when Granty was on track. *(Norman Clark)*

What can you say about this man? He would ride through and over you to win a race and at the gate nobody got past his elbows and that long leg stretched out. I remember following him and his dad Alec down to Stoke in his old red transit van. I think he had a couple of sheep in the back as well! I saw his son ride recently and he has the same style but is not as mad as Granty. Pure legend! *(Barry Forrest)*

Richard Green

"Greenie" was very similar to Vaclav Verner in many ways. A similar racing style & build, the County Ground made him as a rider. Prior to joining the Falcons he was a low scorer but he suddenly found his "home" at a track that was just made for him. Whilst other much more illustrious & accomplished stars feared the CG, Greenie just loved it there and the fans lapped up his no nonsense approach to his speedway. Quiet and unassuming off track, "Richard the Racer" was a real tiger on it and contributed so many outstanding moments to Exeter Speedway in the time he wore the green & white. *(Dave Lewis)*

I am very lucky to have witnessed Richard around Exeter on a weekly basis. The regular winner of most exciting rider, and anyone that saw him at the County Ground will know why. Never gave up and any rider that got in front of Richard knew they had a battle on their hands. Thoroughly nice bloke too! *(Steve Hone)*

Another one of those riders who was absolutely spectacular at home! Not many riders could tackle the banked County Ground circuit at Exeter but Greeny would miss the start and somehow catch-up and ride that last bend like a jet propelled plane. *(Steve Watkinson)*

Steve Gresham

Came with a reputation from Bristol (with Phil Crump) and won the Swindon crowd over. His off the track antics and his ability on other motor vehicles was astounding. A complete entertainer and crowd pleaser. *(Steve Rayner)*

Because my dad slagged him off for coming out for practice starts while the national anthem was on. After the meeting while we were on our obligatory autograph hunt, he got his bike stuck getting it into his Citroen estate and my dad helped him and then said he was really nice guy! He was as well, he gave us a hat each! *(Gregor Pattinson)*

Gary Guglielmi

Goog was exciting, fast, entertaining and above all came up with the goods. *(Andy Taylor)*

"Googy" was my hero as a 13 year old, but unfortunately this was very short lived, as, less than a year after I discovered Speedway, he received a 5 year ban for alleged drug related offences in 1984. His end of season speech that year sounded like a farewell, and it proved to be. No doubt he knew what lay ahead when he made that speech. An all round great team man, a tough, tough rider who always seemed to be snapping at his opponents heels, switching inside and out. I remember one quote from a rider about Googy; "You never know where he is, you hear him on the outside, you look round and he's gone to the inside!" *(Jay Reed)*

Erik Gundersen

Another Cradley favourite - won the world title and fought back valiantly after his accident. A hero by any stretch of the imagination. *(Clare Robertson)*

'Gunder the Wunder', what can you say. Long serving Cradley skipper who spoke with a Black Country accent. Dynamite from the tapes he was rarely passed once in front, not so good from the back but have seen him overtake! Loyal servant, so sad when he got injured. He could still compete with the best around today, in my mind. Phenomenon. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Erik was a one team man whose career was cruelly cut short by injury, never saw him get passed when he made the gate - top rider. *(Paul Tromans)*

I remember seeing him ride at both the Shay and Odsal and the guy was immense on both tracks. Another rider who's career was cut short too early. I also remember how good he was when people asked him for autographs at the Shay or spoke to him. Unlike some, he always spoke to fans and signed autographs. *(Chris Backhouse)*

Great rider and always spoke when we saw him, a genuine all round nice chap. Who can ever forget his awesome outside pass of the team-riding King & Moran in the 1985 World Final? *(Paul Houghton)*

This man was just a tremendous rider and I was lucky to see him break the Wembley track record at the greatest ever World Final. I was also lucky to see him win in Vojens on that wet Saturday afternoon in the late eighties. On the day of his crash we were stood on the first bend and watched in horror as the crash unfolded. *(Stuart Moore)*

What can you say about this man? He was an amazing rider whose career was cruelly cut short on that fateful day in 1988 at Bradford. A true legend he shall always remain. *(Matthew Pell)*

Henka Gustafsson

Another very exciting rider with the ability to come from nowhere and find lines on the track that no-one else could find, greatly missed by all the fans at Kings Lynn, who saw far too little of him. *(Chris Gosling)*

Even though he rode less than 100 meetings in division one for the Stars, he remains a favourite of the Stars crowd. I have only seen him on video but seeing his outside sweeps makes me envious of those who saw him in his prime as a Star. *(Roger Hunt)*

Henka was a very good rider at King's Lynn because it seemed to suit his style, it was his sort of track. It was a shame that he never made it as World Champion or made it into the top three in his career, because I thought he had a lot of talent. *(Niall Strudwick)*

This is the man you just willed to miss the gate and more often than not, in his Lynn days, he would come up trumps mostly on the run-in to the line. Not many people beat Hans Nielsen around Saddlebow Road but I remember vividly Hans trapping and both Henka and Mark Loram passing the Danish Professor. *(Stuart Moore)*

H

Billy Hamill



(Picture courtesy of Steve Hone)

Not only a good rider, but not too bad to look at either! *(Leanne Sampson)*

Another American who had it all and had Cradley remained open I am sure he would have collected more World Championships. *(Paul Tromans)*

Never say die attitude. Bionic man. Amazing the way he keeps coming back from injuries. Had the pleasure to see Billy race at Powderhall in the Scottish Open. Met him a few times - really nice guy. *(Alison Cowe)*

It's nice to see him back in the Elite League, England is where he belongs. He has so much experience in Britain riding for so many British clubs alongside Greg Hancock to make them one of the best partnerships in the league. *(Jamie Rees)*

'The Bullet' in his prime was near untouchable around most tracks but especially around Brandon. If nothing else he would be in my team because of the amount of heat 13 and 15 wins he and Greg Hancock had around Wolves. *(Steve Quarterman)*

From the more recent past at Belle Vue, I had the pleasure of watching Billy Hamill when racing near his peak. I had just introduced my sons to the sport and they were both captivated by Billy, particularly his overtaking. You got the impression he would just blast around the track for the sheer thrill of it. *(Ian Manley)*

Greg Hancock

A top rider from the recent era who would grace any team, and certainly graced the Cradley team. *(Paul Tromans)*

Mr Nice Guy, a winner and the greatest team rider I've ever watched. *(Iain Davies)*

Is there, or has there been a better team rider? Can make his partner look a world beater, seems to run the race in his head, before the green light even goes on. How many times has he been unselfish and slowed to get his partner a better position and a World Champion to boot. Favourite race - too many to mention, but a number of times when he's slowed a race down to help his partner. *(Phillip Newton)*

Greg is one my favourite riders because he is Mr. Nice Guy and is always there for photos and to sign autographs. Also a very good rider who thoroughly deserved to win a world title and it is such a shame he has never rode for the Witches. *(Liam Grimwood)*

"Herbie" is as good now as he was 10 years ago. So smooth on a bike that he makes it look easy, which I can assure you it isn't! *(Gavin Pell)*

Bert Harkins

A wonderful rider loved by the crowds, especially at Wimbledon. Not only a nice guy but a guy who gave 100%. *(Derek Grant)*

Sverre Harrfeldt

The first rider I can remember riding around Custom House seemingly without ever shutting off. But for his severe injuries I have no doubt he would have been World Champion. *(Harry Ward)*

Chris Harris

I think he is just one of the most exciting up and coming British riders around at the moment, his never say die attitude and overtaking means he has to be in the team. *(Steve Quarterman)*

A latter day rider, speedway today lacks characters, riders who keep you on the edge of your seat, Bomber is one such rider that is capable of doing it, as his British GP Final win showed, never beaten till the chequered flag drops. *(Paul Houghton)*

A good rider, up and coming who can hold his own home and away, and can be bothered when guesting for a club. *(Terri Hearty)*

Toby Harrysson

A very exciting rider, amazing balance, produced some real hair raising stuff. Who knows what he might have achieved but for that terrible crash at Wembley in 1969. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Gary Havelock

Led the Bradford side brilliantly for many years and scored an incredible amount of points. His World Championship success in 1992 was celebrated throughout the city. Havvy was, and remains, Mr Bradford Speedway. *(Marie Hitchin)*

A dazzling talent when he first burst onto the scene and a very exciting day when Bradford clinched his signature. An exciting rider with style and an ability to win from the front or come from behind when he needed it who just got better and better as I watched him. The highlight was, of course, seeing him crowned World Champion in Poland. Perhaps could have gone on to produce more without the spell he spent banned on the sidelines and the horrific injury which has obviously affected him since. Good to see him still riding and I wish him all the best for the rest of his career as he represented Bradford 100% until they closed. *(Andrew Dixon)*

At my first meeting I remember Havvy scoring a fantastic maximum, a classic display. Gary was, and probably still is, capable of beating anyone at Poole. He was not only a great rider but also an inspirational captain who always led by example. *(Rob Wickham)*

Signed from Eastbourne and became one of the best captains the Pirates have ever had. To see him in the pits, his leadership must have been worth at least five points a match. Redcar's gain is our loss. *(Adrian Williams)*

Boyhood hero along with Screeny and a true leader and captain. Feel very privileged to have seen him lift the greatest honour in speedway! Was head and shoulders above the rest in 1992 and was set for more success but for injury! *(Dan Neve)*

Bradford captain and number one when I started watching again. Another rider that can win from the gate or from the back, quite a rare skill these days. He's also very passionate about the sport and is one of the few modern day riders that seems hell bent on putting something back in to speedway, rather than just taking out. *(Chris Backhouse)*

Was the number one rider of the Dukes best teams of the nineties. The last British World Champ at a one off World Final was capable of producing the goods at Odsal, and the Bradford public loved him. Although from Middlesbrough, an honorary Bradfordian. Never been the same since his back injury. Still my favourite! *(Christian Oldcorn)*

Great guy. World champ in 1992. Great captain who brings lots of team spirit to the pits. Should take over the job as England manager in my opinion. *(Arran Swindells)*

Yes, Gary did have his problems off track in his earlier days. But he proved to everyone that he was a truly great rider with his victory in the 1992 World Final. Many people didn't believe in him but I just knew that evening that he would do it. *(Matthew Pell)*

The first of the new breed of young English riders who just went for it. Havvy was awesome in his prime especially around the Odsal bowl. He always has time for his fans and always rode to impress, just a shame he had the nasty back injury as I think he could have threatened in the GP's if this has not happened. *(Gerard Lynch)*

Havvy is my modern day favourite, stemming from a test match at Oxford in 1988 when the Danes ruled. Havvy was still a kid but had the beating of all the top Danes that day until his bike blew, including an incredible race against new World Champion Erik Gundersen which saw them pass several times before the young Brit emerged the victor. Had his troubles as a youngster and is certainly not everyone's cup of tea because of that and the fact that he speaks his mind. But that, allied to his undoubted leadership skills, and that fact that he would ride through a brick wall for England, mean he would get my support any day of the week. He is held in very high esteem by his peers and that speaks volumes of the man. *(Dave Lewis)*

Brought the World Title to Bradford. *(Robert Greenwood)*

Havvy arrived at Odsal with a "big ask" from everyone, replace the irreplaceable Kenny Carter. A big price tag and great expectations added further to the pressures. At times Gary was in the news more for his off track deeds than those on it and ultimately this ran him into bother and a drugs ban from Speedway for the whole of '89. Dukes coped without him, they had to, but he was back the following season determined to make his racing do the talking. Successive British Championships in 91/92 were forerunners to the ultimate, the World Title in 1992. Now accepted as one of the Elite racers of his generation, Gary was also captain of the England Lions and enjoyed great times with Bradford a club now recognised as one of the best in the world! However serious back injuries forced Gary out of the sport for a good while in '96. He returned to lead the Dukes to the Elite League title as the curtain fell down on racing in Bradford in '97. Without doubt Havvy has left his mark in the annals of Speedway History in Bradford. *(Ray Allen)*

Trevor Hedge

A great team man and rider, especially when partnered with 'Bronco' Bobby Dugard. Rare faller and fantastic trier. Made a move on third and fourth bends to trounce rivals to the line his own. I remember him pulling one great move on Ivan Mauger, shame we did not have slo' mo' instant replays then. Always well turned out, man & machine. *(Steve Bartlett)*

Richard Hellsen

I can remember him beating Jason Crump at Long Eaton when Rick was in his 40s, Jason was only 16. The whole crowd went wild, anyone would have thought we had won the league. *(Simon Stanley)*

Another superb stylist, hard riding Swede, who developed into a 9 point plus rider from being a very raw recruit in 1975 when he first came to England. Rode with class and distinction for ten years. *(Chris Gosling)*

When the signing of Richard Hellsen was announced during the last weeks leading up to the start of the 1989 Station Road season, I have to admit to being somewhat underwhelmed. After another desperately poor season, was this the 'star' that was to propel the Invaders into the upper reaches of the League? Well, he might not have achieved the turnaround in fortunes of the team, but over the next couple of years, the loyal Invaders' fans were to be ever more grateful to him for regularly 'carrying' our once-again inadequate team. We quickly became accustomed to that right leg sticking out in celebration (or was it a blocking move?) as he came off the 4th bend and it was obvious that he was a proud rider whose maintenance of racing standards was all important to him. He was another in that seemingly long line of Station Road heroes who made it worthwhile attending meetings even

though a disappointing result was inevitable at times. He could trap and made it hard for many of the young stars who were half his age. Of course, he lost a few battles over the way, but he was worth the admission. No one who was present will forget a classic third bend dive under Station Road Public Enemy No. 1, Andy Galvin, which saw our Southern 'friend' physically shifted out. Only a small snapshot in a long watching career, but which meant so much to committed Invaders fans as it paid back, in a split second, many of Galvin's antics at our track. Rick returned in the mid-90's and possibly enjoyed his racing even more as, by then, he had others to do the brunt of the scoring. It was great to see Rick team-riding on many occasions with Jan Staechmann and overall, I think he was a fantastic rider for Long Eaton. *(Ian Gill)*

The super Swede and a nice guy to talk to. Always gave his best and at his best very good and capable of beating anyone in the world. Very spectacular, often with both feet off the rests coming off bend two! *(Mike Edwards)*

Anders Henriksson

Seemed to be a fixture at Newport for the first few seasons, reliable, often unbeatable at home. *(Ken Morgan)*

Phil Herne

My first hero at Birmingham, on his first stint here in the second division (as it was then) he was totally unbeatable at the Perry Barr stadium, was most upset when he left to go to Newport, but was so glad to see him return again years later. *(Glen Johnson)*

Andy Hines

A real hero of mine in the Eighties. He was Peterborough Panthers number one for a few years and - to my young eyes - he seemed almost invincible. Looking back now he probably didn't score points on the same consistent basis as Ryan does nowadays but he was an excellent rider. I think he left us to return to the British League - we were a lowly National League team in those days. I also remember his brother Mick riding for us at the same time - I always thought he was really old but I think he was probably just prematurely grey. *(Tony Taylor)*

Stylish; good team rider; hard to beat. *(Martin Clark)*

Craig Hodgson

Had the potential but lacked the final punch to become a top class rider. Great character even if his temper was a little hot at times. *(Carl Oakes)*

What an entertainer, what a person. Craig always had time for the fans. His wheelies were a real crowd pleaser too. I recall many good gestures from Craig during his time at Peterborough. I was very saddened to hear of his passing, a few years ago now. He will be sorely missed but gave many lasting memories both on and off track. *(Matthew Pell)*

Chris Holder

I have only seen this man twice but what an amazing man to watch with his hanging off the bike style. He was my most impressive visitor to West Row last year and is undoubtedly a future World Champion as long as his style doesn't get him a serious injury. *(Liam Grimwood)*

Rob Hollingworth

Mr Boston Speedway, returned to the sport after a 14-year absence, and still winning, looks smoother now than when he rode in the seventies and eighties. *(Andy Taylor)*

Malcolm Holloway

The Mad Wellie. One of the nicest people you'll ever meet. Always would let you have a chat or give an autograph. As a 9/10 year old the first person you would try and find in the pits was Malc cause you would go back to your mum and dad with something he said or a face he had pulled. *(Steve Rayner)*

Hasse Holmqvist

My first speedway hero as an impressionable youth! Always known at Wolves as "Classy Hasse". Always smiling and quite spectacular on occasion. *(Tony Webb)*

Roger Horspool

After a brief spell with Kings Lynn before, Roger made one brief comeback year in 1995, and was the Mildenhall Tigers star man of that season. Roger was a stylish rider in the mould of Mel Taylor, looking untroubled and composed on a bike, and enjoyed a great year. It's just a pity he didn't carry on as he had the undoubted talent. *(David Crane)*

David Howe

Rode in second half events for many years before he was eligible to ride professionally. Even from an early age it was clear to see that he possessed an incredible talent. When he was 15 he won the Conference League with the Panthers, when he was 16 he won the Premier League with the Panthers and when he was 17 he won the Elite League with the Panthers. Absolutely phenomenal and something that is never likely to be achieved again. His progress thereafter was perhaps not quite as rapid but he's still developing. Sadly he's now moved onto Wolverhampton but I bet a piece of his heart will forever be with the Panthers. *(Tony Taylor)*

Another pure speedway man. He is always so focused, but still got one eye open for the fans. Nothing is ever too much for him, whether it's signing an autograph or posing for (yet another!) photo. He's a good team rider which is what speedway is all about. *(Leanne Sampson)*

Ron Howe

Mr reliability! He never became a star, because you could only have one in a team and Ronnie Moore was Wimbledon's, but he could team ride better than anyone else could ever dream of! *(Paul)*

Ted Howgego

He used to have purple leathers, was a bit over weight and a bit slow, so me and my brother used to call him Wibble Purple. As in the Leicestershire street classic of the late 1970s, 'You're slower than Wibble Purple you are, fatty malloist'. *(Gregor Pattinson)*

Ted Hubbard

Memories of him turning up at the last minute after a days work and blasting round the track, and at times through the fence, fast and furious, then spot him the next day driving around in his potato lorry, tremendous. *(Tim May)*

Ivor Hughes

An unassuming hero, who got on with the job of trying hard, making progress and suffered the ultimate bad luck. Died when approaching his peak. Had beaten the reigning World Champion at Cradley Heath shortly before his tragic fatal accident in 1966. Was a shining light at Dudley Wood during a period of underachievement. *(Keith Cee)*

Bob Humphreys

My first recollection of a heat leader was Bob. He went on

to start up the training track at Elfield Park which was redeveloped as Milton Keynes primary track after the Groveway was closed down. Always a nine point average man. My hero as a five year old. Hope you're doing okay now mate. *(Michael Farrant)*

On his day, unbeatable around the Groveway track, and hard to beat at most away tracks too! Tried hard to nurture new talent by opening his own training track in Milton Keynes. *(Martin Clark)*

Good rider and always capable of beating the best on his day. I remember doing a sponsored walk round Smallmead and Bob showed up to support us as he said we always support the riders so he wanted to show us the same support. All round nice guy. *(Nige Burton)*

George Hunter

The team riding King. Scored countless 5-1s with a very young Neil Collins. My most vivid memory of him is bringing the KO Cup trophy round the fans after beating Berwick in 1981. The match took place in November! I was honoured to be on the centre green at George's testimonial in 1983 to give a presentation to him and his wife (I was 10 years old and was joined by a young boy who is now my husband!). *(Alison Cowe)*

Rod Hunter

Let's make no bones about it, Rod liked money, lots and lots of money. Nothing wrong with that of course, but it often did seem to overshadow much of his career. Rod, an Aussie, first rode for Newcastle in 1978 and swiftly developed into one of our best riders. He was always a slightly controversial character who divided the support. Like Barghy he moved on to the upper league before drifting in retirement. He had offers to return but a deal could never be struck. He eventually did return in 1989 when he lined up for the reformed Newcastle Diamonds. He hadn't ridden since 1985 and it was a desperate gamble from an increasingly desperate promotion. After a slow start he clicked into gear and proved to be an excellent number one. The club wanted him to return but terms couldn't be agreed. It looked as if his career was over again but he signed for arch rivals Middlesbrough on the eve of the season. That was to be his last year in the sport. Rumoured to have won big on the Lottery a few years ago - he'll like that! *(Andy Harris)*



John Jackson

My idol from the age of 8 or 9 onwards, particularly blasting around the outside of the first bend at Thornton Road. Best memories include a last to first at Peterborough when winning the NL4s, and countless scraps against Joe and particularly Tom Owen. *(Ian Manley)*

Edward Jancarz

"Steady Eddie", says it all, only problem was you never knew when he would get released to ride. Very sad end to his life, fabulous statue though. British fans seem to remember Zenon Plech, but Eddie was in my opinion a much better rider, although not perhaps with the panache of Plech. *(Mick Cast)*

Merv Janke

The small pony tailed blonde Aussie with a style of riding totally suited to the deep shale at Coatbridge. *(Andy Baillie)*

When I first went to speedway, aged something around pretty young, I loved it from Heat 1. Blantyre it was, and boy did I love it. Didn't really understand too much other than the Tigers were the best thing ever and Merv Janke; my first ever speedway hero. *(Colin Mackay)*

Tommy Jansson

What a class act Tommy was, even though he was taken from us so soon. Tommy would have surely gone on to win the World Title had he not been tragically killed. I remember Tommy coming to Hackney and looking so stylish and classy. I think they were right when they said Wimbledon was never the same again after Tommy died. *(Howard Eve)*

My earliest memories from when I really started paying attention to who the riders were involved Tommy J. Stylish, fast, and a World Champ in the making. Another sadly missed. *(Steve Hone)*

The young Swede who was tragically killed in his prime. I have never before or to this day seen a rider with so much natural balance. He could go into a bend at the wrong angle pull a full locker stay on and ride off after the pack! Truly unbelievable. *(Derek Grant)*

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	Jansson: Legend who died young By Magnus Nystrom
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Peter Jarman

Known as the 'Lemon Juice Kid' because of his initials. PLJ. Favourite trick was to miss the gate deliberately and then overtake all 3 other riders around the first bend. Finally cured when Ron Mountford waited for him and put him under the fence. *(Brian Dench)*

Dave Jessup

Always loved to watch little DJ ride and always felt for him as he always suffered engine failures on the big day and sadly never got to taste the riches he really deserved. One of my most vivid memories of the sport is DJ walking across the Wembley pitch with his hand in his race jacket and head towards the floor. Remember in 1980 I think it was when he rode against Hans Nielsen in the Golden Helmet at Monmore Green. He beat Hans 2-0 and broke the track record. Hans then beat him at his place and in the decider at Birmingham, Hans pulled off a remarkable cut back as they entered turn one to lift the title. *(Grahame Darlington)*

My first speedway hero, the most unluckiest rider not to have won the world title at least once. Excellent captain all round. *(Nige Burton)*

My favourite rider! For anyone a bit younger than me who remembers DJ as a trapper and white line guy, I'm talking about the rider especially in the seventies who, yes was the best trapper around, but also could race when he had to! Those were the days when he used to give Morton and Collins a run for their money round the Hyde Road circuit, though sadly in his later years was a white liner round there! Was a pleasure to follow him around the country cheering him on and a nice guy as well, always had time for a chat with me. 1980! What a year! Seeing him win the

British Final was the best one for me, because it was still a prestigious title to win and he was long over due for that one! That should have been THE year if it wasn't for Mr Lee pipping him! Though could have been a lot different if DJ hadn't let Lee beat him in the Sheffield Semi Final when Lee was having a bad night and needed a win in his last and DJ only needed a 2nd place. But I suppose they were team mates at Kings Lynn, so could have created a bad team atmosphere if DJ had put him out! *(Duncan Pemberton)*

Roger Johns

Roger was one of the best captains that Wimbledon ever had. He was always there to help and encourage new up and coming riders. His riding skills were fantastic and he had the class of being able to come from the back and find a riding line up the middle of the two opposite team members and win a race. *(Becky Partridge)*

As far as I am concerned he was Mr Wimbledon speedway. I was too late for Ronnie Moore, but Roger probably rode at every number race jacket in his years at Wimbledon. I sponsored him along with other supporters on a cash for points basis, cost me a fortune that year. Never a superstar at BL level, but he really held the team together when we went National League. Also his arrival in the team was also my return to watching speedway. *(Mick Cast)*

Steve Johnston

Lost his team place at Sheffield, within months he was a Long Eaton heatleader and the crowd loved him, always had a laugh with him in the bar after a meeting. He loved Newcastle Brown. *(Simon Stanley)*

Kevin Jolly

Again only spent one season with Boston, but was possibly the strongest ever rider round New Hammond Beck Road. *(Andy Taylor)*

Graham Jones (The Berwick one)

A brilliant servant to Berwick and saviour of the team on more than the odd occasion. Never had the 'flashiest' of bikes (or gear) but was consistent. It would have been interesting to see how far 'Jonesy' would have gone with top notch machinery and good sponsors. *(Gary Tait)*

Made the trip from Lowestoft to Berwick year after year for home meetings, started off as a second string before becoming No 1 Rider. Received a well deserved testimonial. *(Norman Clark)*

My first hero for the Bandits back in the 70s. We'd go down 60-18 away from home and it would only be Jonesy who would win a race. I only remember him having three sets of leathers in 10 years! He travelled all the way from Lowestoft every week to ride for the Bandits. A true hero and captain. I remember Jonesy beating Phil Crump, who was third in the world at the time, from behind at Berwick in an inter-league clash - he brought the house down! *(Barry Forrest)*

Graham Jones (The Wolverhampton One)

Struggled early on with the team (Stoke) and some said he shouldn't have been re-signed after quitting mid season in 1984/85. I am sure he took great pleasure in showing his true form to many a supporter both for Stoke and Wolves in the following years. *(Doug Coward)*

Andreas Jonsson

He is great, what else can I say? He is absolutely flying

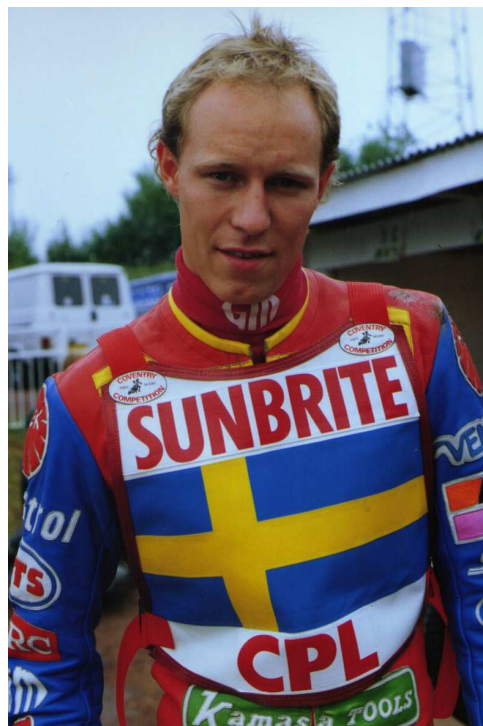
these days and I hope to see him World Champion one year! *(Julie Griffiths)*

Always liked AJ and would welcome him back to Coventry with open arms, great rider who is a class above others on occasions, when he's good he's great, but when he's bad he's awful. If he can sort his health out he will become World Champion. *(Paul Houghton)*

I choose Andreas because he is such an entertaining rider and I enjoy watching him ride every time he comes to our track. I love his riding style, fast and flowing, he is not afraid to do anything as he showed in the SWC final at Poole. *(Jamie Rees)*

'The Speed Swede' as Yorkie calls him, people have doubts over his dedication to British speedway but when he is in the mood no-one can touch him. *(Steve Quarterman)*

Per Jonsson



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

Per is one of my all time favourite, a great rider from the gate, he had style and class. Always great to watch Per at Reading. Just watching Per in his races was worth the money spent in getting into a speedway meeting. I had great admiration for Per. Unfortunately his career was cut short by a really horrific accident. *(Becky Partridge)*

A bit of a grudging inclusion, due to the fact he rode for Reading, but Per was a phenomenon and his injury was a tragedy for the sport as well as himself. Racers fans used to actually cheer if he missed the gate, safe in the knowledge he was going to storm past whoever was in the lead on the final bend. *(Graham Morris)*

I always loved the way Per never gave up. His style was brilliant for a taller guy and his passing moves were always memorable. He had so many great meetings, but I'll always remember how he inspired Reading to the Fours in 1993. He passed riders like they were standing still that day and that always seemed to be the case when Per was on song. His run off win against Shawn Moran at Bradford for the World Title in 1990 was immense too! *(Mark Lucas)*

I've included Per in my team, not just because he was a fantastic rider, but for the memory of seeing him take Gary Havelock and Joe Screen from the back at Odsal when they were trying to team ride him out. Havvy and Screeny were at the peak of their form and were "Kings" of Odsal but Per went high on the banking on turn 3, picked up tremendous speed and went through a gap that just wasn't there. Everybody just held their breath, then gave him a standing ovation. *(Steve Metcalf)*

Ultimate professional - he would always be well prepared and was able to race on all types of surface. Loved the real grippy deep tracks that Reading could provide and was fantastic to watch when overtaking, could ride the outside or inside and was superb around the white line. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

Saw him grow from a very raw next generation rider who, along with Jimmy Nilsen, Sweden were pinning their hopes on. He did not disappoint. Unlike Andersson he could always rise to the occasion in the world finals and in the early 1990's was simply the best over taker in the game. He was one of the safest and fairest riders whose career was sadly taken from him through no fault of his own. A rider who with the advent of lay downs and the GP series would have gone on and won many more world titles. The emergence of Tony Rickardsson would have been great for speedway as the two of them would have had a fantastic rivalry. Quite rightly he remains the track record holder at Smallmead setting the record of 58.1 in October 1987. He was a privilege to watch. *(John Downer)*



Brian Karger

Joined Arena Essex in our double year in 1991 and his arrival was an important factor. He came into the side when Andy Galvin got injured and he more than replaced Andy. He was probably the highest averaging rider in the league and I honestly can't remember anyone ever beating him that year (although I know that a number of people must have). He moved up the following year to Division 1 and he was still our number 1! *(Midge Taylor)*

Another true speedway gentleman. Given a rough time by Swindon in the early '90s thus resulting in his move to Arena Essex but during his spells with the Robins a true racer and all round nice bloke. Always took time to speak and sign autographs etc. *(Simon Colven)*

Peter Kelly

Tough as old boots and boy could he ride Brough Park....had a style which looked as if he was locking up but what a performer. *(Bill Gibbs)*

Barney Kennett

Superb entertainer who was worth the admission fee alone on a Saturday night and on most away tracks. *(Mark Wyver)*

No Canterbury team would be complete without Barney. *(Bob Wiles)*

As a youngster, it was Kingsmead on a Saturday night, sitting on the 3rd and 4th bends, hanging over the fence and watching Barney in his leathers with the big yellow McDonalds "M" on his bum. I always remember him fighting his way from the back to the front. I'm not sure if Barney just couldn't gate or his McDonalds sponsorship slowed him down! *(Robin Couzins)*

Mr Canterbury Speedway, offered sheer enjoyment each time he climbed on the bike, as with most racers, gating was never a strength, but by the time he had hugged the kerb and found gaps that wasn't there, the race was on, fantastic. *(Tim May)*

Edward Kennett

To be honest when I first saw Eddie I was unsure that he would really reach his potential but after his years at Rye House and a season at Poole in the top flight, I am sure Eddie can be a real British Speedway legend. *(Alun Chapple)*

Edward Kennett is a young rider just getting to grips with heat leader position with Poole. Hopefully next season Ed should be given the chance to go in as a wild card at Cardiff after 3 years in a row of being at reserve. *(Niall Strudwick)*

Gordon Kennett

Gordon was the number one when I was a regular at White City. I don't think that he ever got the recognition he deserved, he was a brilliant rider. He was a diabetic but he overcame this to race into his forties. I would often go down to Eastbourne to see Gordon race and he always made the journey worthwhile. I last saw him race at Milton Keynes when he had a short spell with the Knights. *(George Cox)*

My first hero. He had an amazing ability to pass people up the inside, and it was his pass on Barry Briggs in the first match I ever saw on Easter Monday at Oxford that got me hooked. That night at Wembley in 1978 when he got the Silver Medal in the World Final was something else. *(John Phelan)*

Chris Kerr

Chris is like a Bobby Schwartz in training; his personality and attitude is so similar, he loves to chat with his fans and sign autographs. He will be a great addition to British Speedway. *(Alun Chapple)*

Bob Kilby

Swindon lad and a member of the '67 title winning team. Electric gater who rode in 556 matches for 4192 points. *(Keith Cross)*

Daniel King

He was superb for Mildenhall in 2006 and everyone at the club will wish him well for the future and looks like a future world champion to me. *(Liam Grimwood)*

Lance King

The only non-Englishman in my team. Lance brought a bit of American razzamataz to Odsal and became a big favourite with the supporters. He was a good looking boy and could race a bike as well as anyone. He was rumoured to be making a comeback a few years ago but nothing seemed to come of it. *(Marie Hitchin)*

Brought over by Penhall, he took time to settle. Had such a smooth riding style and almost succeeded in claiming the greatest prize in '84 losing out to Erik and Hans. Took over as No.1 after Wiggy left and again could be relied upon for hefty scores and was good from the front or back. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Lance brought a bit of colour to the Bradford Dukes team when he started and was one of a number of riders who did not fulfil his full potential. He was great to watch around Odsal and at all the 'big' away tracks, he surprisingly struggled for an American around the tight circuits. *(Gerard Lynch)*

Alan Knapkin

"Knappy" was an Odsal pioneer in 1970 who, along with Gary Peterson, in the Northern team did much to win the hearts of the Bradford public. AK was a big points scorer and this generated a good deal of friendly rivalry between him and Peterson. Indeed had Knappy raced at any other Div 2 track in 1970 he would have been the No 1 rider (both boasted 10.00+ averages). In 1971 Knappy took on the No 1 mantle and topped the scoring for Northern. But Knappy's contribution to Bradford Speedway was not confined to the track for in 1973 he retired from racing to assume promotional control of the club. However attendances waned as the team struggled and needed a rider of Knapkins ability on track rather than off it! He was a tireless worker for the cause and when he sold a stake in the promotion to local newsagent Jim Streets it paved the way for a late racing comeback in 1975 to bolster the team. Alas it was too late to win back the missing fans and the track would be closed to racing for a decade and more. *(Ray Allen)*

Was my favourite rider when the Dukes re-opened at Odsal (from Nelson Admirals). Could beat anybody round Bradford and was also very impressive at the bigger tracks away from home. I remember going to Crewe when Phil Crump was king and alan clocked a time round the big banked circuit that the locals just couldn't believe. *(Steve Metcalf)*

Richard Knight

When Richard signed for the Bandits for the 'ill-fated' foray into the top division, his never say die attitude, especially at the first bend, won him many a race. Stayed with the Bandits when they were asked to step down a division the following season and was a good number 1. *(Gary Tait)*

Rode for Ipswich in 1985 and 1986 and an England International rider. Started his career with Mildenhall at West Row in the late 1970's and was spotted by then Ipswich manager John Berry. *(David Spain)*

Phil Knowles

Had a tough task coming in to replace Leggy (Geoff Powell) as Mildenhall's number one, which even he'd admit was a bit too much to take on. Came back, though, lower down the side and impressed with his gritty performances and never say die attitude towards his racing. *(Neil Weston)*

Tommy Knudsen

My favourite rider of all time. Should have been World Champion. *(Roger Heydon)*

The actual year escapes me, but I remember Tommy having his first ride around Brandon in the second half of a meeting when he was just 16. I distinctly remember

turning to my mates and saying he was going to become some rider. Over the years he proved that and gave Coventry terrific service. How he never became World Champion amazes me even now. The world final at Wembley where Bruce Penhall won those 2 incredible races (against Tommy and also Ole Olsen) was probably his best chance. Tommy was a star rider when I entered my "sabbatical" and still a star as I started to come out of it in the 90's. *(Keith Butler)*

Bjorn Knuttson

Hell rider, speed machine, out and out fighter, remember him when riding for the West Ham Hammers, he used to have something like a 30 yard handicap start position but would be at the other riders back wheels by the first bend. A great speed merchant very daunting to other riders, they would just smell him as he over-took them. *(Paul Goodwin)*

Janusz Kolodziej

Such an understated rising star. When he first arrived at Reading for a cup match against Swindon nobody had ever heard of him and most people still cannot pronounce his name correctly! He went on to thrill the crowd with his skills and a heat 15 hunt and pass of Oliver Allen to win Reading the meeting instantly made him a crowd hero. Like most young Poles he has way too much pressure and expectation on his shoulders but if he can stop getting injured he will be the natural successor to Tomasz Gollob. He is a very professional rider and is always checking out track conditions and looking to learn new things and appears a very nice person off the track and it is a joy to watch him progress like Per Jonsson twenty years previous. *(John Downer)*

Joonas Kylmakorpi

I've picked Joonas as he really impressed me when I was watching Arena v Swindon and Arena v Ipswich. In some ways he reminds me of Buzz Burrows, loves the track, knows how to work it and gives it his all. *(Stephen Champion)*

Phil Kynman

Berwick's own prodigal son, he kept coming back to Berwick after a year or two out. He always gave us his best when he had his bikes right. A real good racer. I remember him down at Ellesmere Port coming from behind in the last race to earn a draw, it made my night. *(Barry Forrest)*



Scott Lamb

We should call this man 'superglue'. To put it another way, when the Bandits moved back to Shielfield Park in the mid nineties, Scott played the role that Steve Lawson 'played' at Glasgow for so many years - he held the team together. Never an out and out number one when comparing to other teams number one's, but had to play that role season after season. He rose to the challenge. A couple of bad injuries, one in the 1999 season and one in the 2000 season (which wrote off both seasons) were the only negatives. *(Gary Tait)*

Leigh Lanham

I've picked Leigh as he is another idol for me. He is a rider who has so much talent and has potential to go far. *(Stephen Champion)*

Rode for us at Kings Lynn this season and almost won us the meeting, some of his moves were breath-taking and he would dominate the Premier League were he to drop down full time. *(Ben Tucker)*

Mike Lanham

Now if you wanted all round entertainment look no further, here is a guy who would not give up until he had passed the checkered flag. Manys the time he has gone round the boards to get by everyone. A career that was cut short because of an arm injury. *(Bob Banthorpe)*

Aub Lawson

Aub was a long-time servant to Speedway and his latter years were spent with Norwich. Though called the "Gentleman of the tracks" Aub could and did know how to look after himself when the occasion arose. A natural-born leader, he would make an ideal Captain of my team. *(Bryan Tungate)*

I never saw Aub ride and it's only in the last couple of years, thanks to Tempus publishing, that I realise what a real great he was. Third in the World when in his forties, a great captain, an exciting rider and prolific scorer. Have you ever seen a photo of Aub when he wasn't smiling? Here was a true great. *(Dudley Jones)*

Steve Lawson

One of, if not the greatest Glasgow Tiger of all time, his scoring record speaks for itself. His loyalty towards the Tigers, and sheer professionalism made him a firm favourite, and still is to this day. No one can ever forget those chants on the terraces, half the Glasgow support would chant Stevie, while the other half chant Lawson...Magic. *(Tony McColl)*

The man from Maryport must feature in the side. He was a fantastic speedway rider who made it look all too easy over a lengthy career mostly spent in the red and white stripes. A great team captain and a nice guy sorely missed. *(Calum Macaulay)*

What can you say about the Maryport Marvel? Always first out of the gate, couldn't pass water but didn't need to. Held the silver helmet for years and the track record at Blantyre. A joy to watch. *(Andy Baillie)*

After trawling my mind for the number five I have come up with Mr Glasgow speedway. I think he was the all-time top points scorer, certainly for Glasgow, if not the whole league - although I do stand to be corrected on that. He was another man who would come to Boston and do well. *(Stuart Moore)*

Mr Lawson. The skipper. Need I say more? I visit his leathers and bike in the Museum of Transport in Glasgow from time to time. *(Colin Mackay)*

Steve was another of these riders who carried the whole team for a while, top scoring where ever he went. A good gater and when in the lead not easily passed. Retired a bit early in my opinion. *(Jim Liddell)*

Tom Leadbetter

Tiger Tom was a family friend of ours and a great guy who was a gentle giant and a true gentleman. Tom gave me a ride on his speedway bike around the farm I lived on as his niece rode the horses and often he bought his bikes back to ours to clean them. Roger Harvey and Rob Hooper, (pro moto x riders) were usually around and they

took me out on the bikes as Tom was also a former scrambling rider and they taught me to race and do jumps. Tom continued to take part in pre-75 grasstrack meetings until his early death in his 50's and was a local builder who built his own house which looks onto the Bowling Green Island in Lichfield. Tom kept the old bike cover he used at Wolves and it was yellow with a Wolf head on. Sadly it got pinched off the bike on the back of his car a few years before he died. Miss the guy a lot and always fun to be around. *(Grahame Darlington)*

Tom won the first race I ever saw beating Crayford's Geoff Ambrose at Cleveland Park, 100% all the time and a great captain. Fantasy speedway - Tom v Ivan Mauger in a world final run off, I wouldn't have known who to shout for. *(Gary Mitchell)*

Michael Lee

Only one season with Boston and even at an early stage he was obviously going to be something special. *(Andy Taylor)*

The rider who had it all, the only genuine Kings Lynn produced World Champion, was a shame to see Michael waste what most other riders never had - natural talent. It was great seeing him develop his ability at such a fast pace, was hero worshipped by most of the crowd at Kings Lynn, only to see him rapidly fall from grace. I was at Wembley the night he lost his crown to Bruce Penhall, Michael behaved impeccably that night despite being given a rough ride by some of the fans. *(Chris Gosling)*

I remember seeing Michael as a 15 year old after meetings and we all knew this was a special talent. How thrilling it was for us all when he won the World Championship. He was the most balanced rider I have ever seen and arguably the most skilful. I often wonder why he didn't win more world titles but such is life. *(Trevor Gay)*

I was never a fan unless he had an England jacket on, but the most natural guy on a speedway bike I have seen, though I despised him in 1980! *(Duncan Pemberton)*

A great rider, a good team rider and such a waste that he didn't win more. Superb from the back when his machinery was up to scratch. *(Mike Edwards)*

I saw Michael's full debut vs Leicester in the snow back in 1975. I doubt anyone there that day who also witnessed it did not think the lad would be a World Champion. To this day I have not seen a rider who could try some of the last lap overtakes he pulled off. He was simply, a brilliant rider. *(Roger Hunt)*

Not the most stylish of riders but boy when he turned up for the Pirates he never disappointed! *(Steve Watkinson)*

Paul Lee

A Mildenhall hero after helping them to numerous titles in Graham Drury's reign in the Conference League. Set the Mildenhall track record which still stands now. His last ride in the Knockout Cup Final in 2003 was sensational, especially as he was riding with a broken jaw. *(Liam Grimwood)*

Kyle Legault

Kyle would kill me if I didn't pick him. Well we do sponsor him! Neil Machin tells me he is the most popular rider at Sheffield today. I feel he is very much out of the Shawn Moran mould with the kids. Also has a never say die attitude to his racing. But still a long way to go. Just happy to be involved with a rider with so much talent. *(Jeff Dooley)*

Bernie Leigh

What needs to be said about this rider? Always there to gee up others in the team, always gave 100% on and off the track, the first rider to offer his bike if yours hit mechanical trouble. *(Nige Burton)*

Mark Lemon

Lemo on his day can beat anyone and I mean anyone. Once he gets his equipment sorted out he can be so fast. Lemo is the current track record holder at Mildura. And if it wasn't for all the injuries he has had over the years he could have been a real chance as a Grand Prix performer. Lemo is just one of Mildura's favourite sons. *(Ryan Sedgmen)*

Lemo picks up points quietly without a fuss which is great as opponents usually forget he is the threat that he is. He has proved he has what it takes in the top flight this season. *(Ben Tucker)*

This guy is more than a freak. You never know with Lemo, he can go out and beat Leigh Adams and Jason Crump, or he could do really bad. But he is a really good team man and he will never stop trying for the team. *(Justin Sedgmen)*

Sandor Levai

Allocated to Newport in 1969 by the then rider control committee. The Wasps fans weren't overjoyed as he was the replacement for Toby Harrysson. After a shaky start he was top scorer for 3 years, 69-71, and very often during those years was the only effective rider away from Somerton Park. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Who else, when he couldn't get in to the Stoke Provincial League team, would try top division Norwich? The ultimate tryer, never gave up, at a time when others were thinking of retiring Sandor was trying to stay on the bike. Stay he did and got better, often his hard won points made Norwich winners. Sandor became an accomplished star and number one for Belle Vue and later Newport. In his 50's he came out of retirement to help Cradley and still averaged over 6 points. *(Dudley Jones)*

Bob Leverenz

Bob came over with the great Jack Young and I feel he could have emulated the great man. Unfortunately Bob didn't seem to want Speedway as much as Jack and he gave the sport up too soon. He was always immaculately turned out and found time for the supporters whenever possible. *(Bryan Tungate)*

Tony Lewis

His white line riding is legendary. Tremendous pairing with Ken Middleditch. In the Provincial League days he became almost unbeatable round Poole. Maximum after maximum, with seemingly no effort. *(Bob Cole)*

Rob Lightfoot

What a talent, would have been World Champion without a doubt if it weren't for a serious neck injury in early 82, British Junior Champion in 1981. *(Phil Smith)*

Antonio Lindback

The Swedish sensation he will be a future World Champion for sure. He's been an absolute revelation since joining Poole in 2003 and he made an impact straight away by helping us to all three titles that year! *(Jamie Rees)*

Anton is one of the most naturally talented riders that I have ever seen. He is an extremely entertaining rider who always gives his all. He has had some extremely memorable rides at Poole, like heat 14 of the league final in 2004, when he cut up the inside of both Wolves riders. I hope he stays at Poole for all of his career. *(Rob Wickham)*

Fredrik Lindgren

It's very rare for me to predict how far a young rider will go, but I can't see many others around of his age with his qualities that I believe will take him to the top of the ladder in this beautiful sport. Chris Morton, Scott Autrey, Malcolm Simmons, Split Waterman and a few others were under consideration for my dream team but I believe Freddie will surpass them in speedway's all-time greats list. *(Grahame Darlington)*

Kevin Little

Siddy Little was the engine room in the Newcastle Diamonds championship winning success. Now he is a full Newcastle asset he is still producing the goods and the excitement! *(Craig Brock)*

Christer Lofqvist

The second man I saw around Custom House at full throttle. The difference being Christer bounced off everything! Riders, the fence, everything. Looked like Peter Craven with his small body wrapped around the bike with his chin touching the front wheel. A sad loss at such a young age. *(Harry Ward)*

Sadly died of a brain tumour, Christer was also a crowd pleaser but essentially our number 1 when we were short of quality at Poole. Small but big hearted *(Don Maddocks)*

I remember Christer riding for Stars for three or four years and the hearts of all of us were often in our mouths as he scraped the fence in overtaking. We loved him and it was so sad to hear he died young from cancer. A great tragedy. *(Trevor Gay)*

My all time favourite rider. This guy was just fabulous to watch. Inside or out, he never gave up. His Golden Helmet match race with Jimmy Mac, was as good as anything you can see today. He stalked Jimmy for 3 and a quarter laps, inside and out, before blasting round the outside by the pits gate. My throat has never been the same since, and that was 1972! *(Bob Cole)*

Mark Loram

For 11 great years in the 80's & 90's the Bradford Promotion stabled the best of the British racing talent, and the acquisition of Loramski on loan for 1997 was a great move. It probably ensured the Dukes would be crowned inaugural Elite League Champions. Mark was awesome and his forceful riding style, often from the back, was great to watch. Riding at Odsal week in, week out took him up an extra notch or so-in my opinion and laid the ground work for his attaining World No1 status in 2000. *(Ray Allen)*

'WamBam' will always be one of my favourite riders. His determination to pass riders after his gating let him down time and time again was just amazing. He guested for the Monarchs on one occasion at Powderhall in 1995 and although he had bike problems he jumped on another's riders machine and still passed people like they'd stopped! His World title was well deserved - a true gentlemen of the sport. *(Mark Lucas)*

Racer extraordinaire - never gives up. You just hope he misses the gate every time, to provide thrilling passes by going out wide and making up huge straights. Favourite race - World Championship winning ride, you could see how much he wanted it and how much it meant, gave British speedway a huge shot in the arm. *(Philip Newton)*

What can you say about this man that hasn't already been said? One of these riders whose presence alone can make you decide to attend a meeting or not. Get well soon Mark and everyone in speedway is hoping to see you on track again. *(Graeme Selkirk)*

Loramski is my No.1. The guy is just fantastic to watch. His pure motorcycling ability is second to none. Exciting to watch. I remember when he broke the track record twice in the one night at Powderhall. He was just awesome. Well deserved World Champion in 2000. *(Alison Cowe)*

Purely on ability and entertainment value. I have seen him in some great races down the years and had the pleasure to spanner for him once at Coventry. He is so down to earth and approachable. *(Gavin Pell)*

A great rider for Ipswich and every other club he has ridden for, he was really good to watch in 2006. Deserved his world title and will no doubt go down as one of the best ever riders, he's also an amazing entertainer. *(Liam Grimwood)*

There is no better sight in speedway than Mark chasing down an opponent - all action, never say die - a real crowd pleaser and entertainer. I've never heard another rider say a bad word about Mark - he is universally respected within the sport because other riders know that it is safe to race him. Desperately unlucky to miss most of this season, I hope he feels able to come back in 2008. *(Mike Western)*

Mark was what I would call a hero, he has been the most exciting rider of all time. His never say die attitude was worth travelling anywhere to see, he never managed to gate consistently much to the crowd's delight, but that is what ultimately has restricted him to one world title. I will never forget him. *(Rob P)*

I remember when Mark started at Hackney in 1988 when Hackney swept all before them in the second division. You could see then what a racer he was and now I have the pleasure of seeing him every week at Ipswich and he is still as entertaining as he always has been. Mark winning

the Grand Prix in 2000 was fantastic and he thoroughly deserved it, what a rider. *(Howard Eve)*

Similar to Screeny, Loramski is a real entertainer and a rider who I really look forward to watching. The Ham brothers made a masterstroke by signing him for Bradford in 1997. Great to see him become World Champion. *(Dan Neve)*

He gave us two brilliant years of service and provided entertainment in virtually all his races. Seeing him crowned World Champion in 2000 was a great moment. *(Frank Chalmers)*

Mr Entertainment! An absolutely breathtaking rider to watch and fully deserving of being World Champion. *(Chris Backhouse)*

Mark is my favourite rider ever. I first really took notice of him during his days at Poole and his World Championship win but since he has continued to entertain me and all the supporters that watch him. I dread the day he retires. *(Alun Chapple)*

Great on the shale or grass, a bloody nice bloke and bloody great rider. His never give up style, whether 1st or 4th, is great to see and how many racing lines has that track??? Our last World Champ and the GP's will be worse off without him this year - if only for the entertainment value alone. *(Robin Couzins)*

Poole's first World Champion. Mark was at his best when wearing the skull and crossbones. *(Adrian Williams)*

To watch Mark Loram win his World Championship in 2000 is my favourite speedway memory. I think everyone in Britain was behind him that night. By winning the World Championship he raised Speedway's profile in Britain and more money was invested into the sport. Every fan I know loves to watch Mark as the way he moves on the bike and different lines he takes getting every last drop of speed out of his machine is breathtaking. *(Scott Frame)*

I've only ever seen Mark as an 'away' rider or on tv - but he's almost always been superb. A rider we try to go to watch when he's 'in town'. His world title was brilliant, but he seemed to put the same effort into fighting for a minor place in a lost cause at Belle Vue. My current favourite. *(Ian Manley)*

2000 World Champion Mark has been one of the most successful Brits of modern time speedway, and when he misses the start, you can almost see people rubbing their hands together in anticipation. A unique talent, and sorely missed in the Grand Prix. *(Jay Reed)*

The first time I saw Mark Loram ride I knew he would become World Champion. I wrote to the Speedway Star but they never printed my letter. I saw in Mark Loram the style of rider that made speedway so exciting to watch when speedway needed style and excitement. *(Mal)*

No team would be complete without another 100 percenter and World Champ to boot. I would travel anywhere to watch him ride. Fantastic for team and country, pure racer - enough said. *(Steve Bartlett)*

If ever a modern day racer was made in the Peter Collins mould, Mark is the one. The esteem in which he is held by

his peers speaks volumes - even the other riders want to see Loramski racing and for me, that says it all. I was lucky enough to see him at work first hand whilst he was at Exeter in the 90's & if ever you needed to have skill to overtake on a track, then the County Ground was it! But it was just another day at the office for Mark - his first race in Exeter colours and guess what? Yep, he missed the gate! Tracked Bo Brhel for 2 laps, sold him the most outrageous dummy and his status as an Exeter folk hero was assured from day 1! And any Exeter fan that was at Swindon for THAT cup match will never, ever forget that race with Jimmy Nilsen. The best "racer" of the modern day, without a doubt. *(Dave Lewis)*

Any rider who can slide a JAP and pull wheelies on it must have some sort of amazing natural ability. That was just what Mark did during a series of match races after a meeting at Kings Lynn one night back around 1993/94. Not even the professor Hans Nielsen could get the back end out. And finally Mark got his deserves in 2000 by being crowned world champion (without winning a single round!!) *(Matthew Pell)*

A real racer, very talented from an early age. *(Brian Longman)*

As my enthusiasm waned reports were coming through of a young fella making his mark, how pleased I am that I was back watching the sport to see this man win his World Title, a real racer who never stops trying and his standing among his peers says volumes. *(Tim May)*

A real delight to see him miss the gate. The style and effort combines to make him one of the most attractive riders of the current era, not to mention our most recent World Champ. *(Harry Ward)*

Chris Louis

Chris began his Speedway career with Hackney in late 1988. Being the son of John 'Tiger' Louis he moved from Hackney to Ipswich for the beginning of the 1989 season with Mark Loram and Alan Mogridge. Has had a great career with Ipswich winning the World under 21 Championship and being British Champion. He's also been a Grand Prix rider and ridden in the old one off World Final. *(David Spain)*

No team should be without a Mr Dependable/Consistent. Has been there, done it and bought the T-shirt. Only thing missing was a senior World title. World Under 21 Champion in 1990 and 3rd in the Senior World Final of 1993. Fantastic racer and now back racing again after suffering terrible injuries. Great to see him back. *(J Maxwell)*

I was at Hackney when Chris started his speedway career and have worked with him for quite a few years. Another rider who didn't quite fulfil his potential, especially in the Grand Prix, but still managed to take the World Under-21 crown and third place in the Pocking World Final. A loyal club man (pretty rare these days) who is still mixing it with the best in the world. *(Mike Western)*

His 18 point maximum at Berrington Lough in only his second season in speedway was out of this world. From the gate, up the inside, around the outside. He made the rest look as if they were going backwards. Favourite race - going past David Walsh and Mark Courtney in a Heat 16 at Berrington in '89, sublime skill and determination. *(Philip Newton)*

This guy would bleed blue, black and white blood. A more dedicated captain you could not find, probably even more so than his father before him. A true professional. I remember him starting out so I have seen his ups and downs from start to date. An almost impossible act to follow when he does decide to call it a day. *(Bob Banthorpe)*

John Louis

Probably the greatest Englishman never to have been World Champion. *(J Maxwell)*

Mr Ipswich speedway, a true pedigree, a rider who was not afraid to grab a handful of throttle and go the long way. I sometimes wonder if he missed the start on purpose just so he could go by everyone? Like Billy Sanders he always seemed to give 110%. His duels with the likes of Peter Collins, Dave Jessup, Terry Betts and Simmo were a real treat to watch both at home or away. *(Bob Banthorpe)*

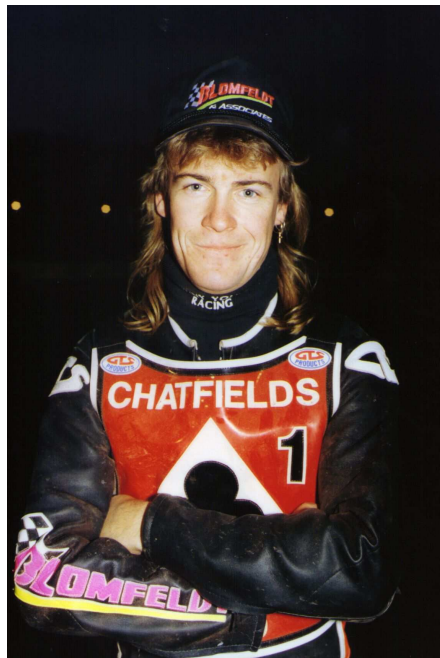
Jamie Luckhurst

Started his career with Canterbury at was probably at his best while with the Crusaders. *(Mark Wyver)*

Reg Luckhurst

My personal favourite Wimbledon Don with an engaging friendly smile. He was brilliant on difficult or wet tracks and always had reliable equipment. An absolute bomb around the boards, again an infrequent faller. Reg loved a bit of dirt on the track so he could race. I even tipped him one year to do well in the World championship. *(Steve Bartlett)*

Jason Lyons



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

Jason matches Mort for loyalty and unswerving dedication to the club (Belle Vue). Last year, he often carried the team single-handed, almost never complained, but usually turned in brilliant performances, home and away. Every team needs a man like Jason. *(Andy Millward)*

My hero. This man is my favourite rider of all time. He always has the time to speak to you. The first time I went into the pits he spoke to me and had a picture with me. I then robbed his hat and still have it to this day. (*Arran Swindells*)

The Mildura Ace as he is called at Mildura. Jason has been a world class rider for many years now but if you had a World Championship at Mildura then Jason would easily make the final. Jason on his day is so fast around Mildura not even Leigh Adams can catch him. These two riders put on the best speedway action against each other at Mildura and it is a treat to watch. Jason is well liked at Mildura and he is a true Aussie battler who can go through a lot of pain to win. (*Ryan Sedgmen*)

A rider in the same mould as Chris Morton. Belle Vue through and through always giving his all. Probably the best rider of turns 3 and 4 at Kirky Lane that I have ever seen. (*Darren Garlick*)

I chose Jason because in this day and age loyalty to one club is pretty rare. Jason has earned the right to be called 'Mr Belle Vue'. After the league title victory of 1993 the team was pretty much decimated but Jason remained and improved year upon year. At times he was keeping Belle Vue away from the wooden spoon on his own. Broke his, and my, heart when he was left out of the 2004 team but Ian Thomas made the right choice to bring him back the following year. Didn't disappoint anyone and what a sight it was in heat 14 of The KO Cup Final 2nd Leg when Jason, along with another old Aces boy Andy Smith, team rode for a 5-1 to bring the KO Cup back to Manchester. (*Chris Young*)



Grant MacDonald

I watched Grant come through the ranks, starting at reserve for the Glasgow Tigers in '97 and by mid '98 he was our third heatleader. His overtakes around Shawfield were worth the admission money alone. He had a serious car accident which stopped his career, but he was back in the Conference last season scoring big points, so hopefully we will see Grant back in the red and white one day, and he can pick up where he left off. He is still young enough to become a big player in the PL. (*Tony McColl*)

Mark Martin

Young Aussie who gave 100 per cent in every ride for the Canterbury Crusaders. (*Mark Wyver*)

Steve Masters

A strange choice but I have always have admired Steve and it's bad that he hasn't got himself a team place for the last couple of years. Brilliant at Rye although some away performance were bad you always knew you would get good points from him around Rye. (*Ben Tucker*)

Roman Matousek

Not everyone's cup of tea but a great favourite of mine. The wildman livened up many a meeting with his, frankly, outrageous riding. Roman didn't care if a gap existed or not - he was going through. In the second division he was a big scorer and he did well enough in the original premier league. On track he was entertainment personified, off track he was a moody, unreliable and unpredictable individual. No team should be without a nutter, Roman is mine. (*Malcolm Watling*)

Mr Entertainer. I will never forget the night he had a fight with Andy Smith. (*Kath Smith*)

Just enjoyed watching him never knowing what he was going to do next. (*Roger Heydon*)

Well they called him 'the showman' at Sheffield and he did just that. You just never knew what you would get from him next. (*Jeff Dooley*)

Ivan Mauger

My boyhood hero and the sport's greatest ever rider. There's little new that can be said about the great man. I remember his earliest rides for the Diamonds, it was immediately obvious that he was a class above most of his provincial league opponents. The true extent of his class didn't become apparent until 1965. This was the year that the leagues combined into the British League. Ivan soon proved that he was one of the very best in the World. The club never really recovered from his loss. (*Andy Harris*)

World champ, great skills, good team rider, have seen many a tussle between him and Briggs, with honours being shared. (*Paul Goodwin*)

Who???? Seriously I saw him many times at Edinburgh when he was a 'Diamond' and in retrospect it was blatantly obvious even then he was going to the very top. Usually won his races by around a quarter of a lap unless against the top men when it was only by 30 yards! Probably the best ambassador the sport has ever had. An entertainer in the way that Steve Davis was at his peak i.e. so good that you wanted to see him beaten just to know he was human! (*Graeme Selkirk*)

One of the first truly great professional riders who you either loved or hated! Set the scene for some great professional riders since his retirement and the sport owes him such a lot. The greatest ever. (*Norman Pell*)

Always professional like Rickardsson, same desire to win, and entertain the fans who pay the wages. A huge star among the riders of the time, and a huge star among all sports stars of his era. Just behind Rickardsson in my book, Rickardsson could manufacture a pass out of nothing, on a slick or grippy track. (*Simon Ashworth*)

The only man who could be crowned the 'King of Speedway'. (*Robert Greenwood*)

Mauger is seen as one of the sport's best ever riders, and would stand up to any of the others. (*Terri Hearty*)

Simply the best speedway rider there has ever been. Pioneered the way for speedway to become a major sporting attraction. Poetry in motion, fast gating and totally balanced, a real professional who could cope with any pressure. (*Mike Haley*)

Quite simply a living legend. (*J Maxwell*)

Clearly the most dominant rider every to appear in British Speedway, one year he was unbeaten until June, dropped only 5 points all season and 3 were an engine failure - simply the best. (*Norman Chadwick*)

I have to have Ivan at the top as I grew up with him staying at our house every time he was in London and got to see the way he was on and off the track. The ultimate

professional and the catalyst for so many things that go on in the sport now. Superb captain and team man. *(Steve Hone)*

No-one but a fool would leave this guy out! Maybe the fastest gater there's ever been. Once the tapes went up he was usually 10 yards in front before the others had let go of the clutch! I would have loved to have seen him and Ove Fundin gate together. *(Paul)*

Simply magic. So very professional. Speedway's king of all time. *(Carl Oakes)*

Simply the greatest rider that ever lived. His record probably will never be surpassed, but not the most personable. *(Iain Davies)*

When I started watching speedway Ivan was the big name, when he was there the atmosphere was special, he was so professional and everything was in place. I once went to a supporters club meeting at the Midland hotel in Manchester when I was a child and I actually sat on the gold plated bike. He was a nice person who would always sign autographs for anyone and he in my opinion brought speedway to a higher level. *(Rob P)*

My all time hero, who I met this year...I remember Ivan going about ten weeks at home without dropping a point until he was beaten by a young Hackney Hawk number one...Colin Pratt. He was beaten shortly afterwards by a Wolverhampton rider...Peter Jarman. I went to Wembley in 1966 to see Ivan win the European Championship and it is the only time I have come out of Wembley a winner as six trips there with Newcastle United have produced nothing! *(Bill Gibbs)*

My wife's choice because of his looks. My choice because of his skill. When Ivan, Peter, Ole and Ove won the championship you had to beat everybody. The modern champion could theoretically win without winning a single race. Let's go back to the old way. *(Brian Dench)*

Although I only remember the later part of his career, it was always great when he came to town with his green and white leathers with Exeter. I remember once when Exeter arrived, every rider had their bikes on the back of cars, Ivan turned up in a van and all his bikes were gleaming. I once had a picture taken with Ivan and the Golden Bike but sadly I lost it. Possibly the first rider to ever dominate the sport in a certain era and averaged 11.74 in one league season. World Champion at 39, to record a record sixth title at a time when a host of new stars were breaking through. *(Grahame Darlington)*

Didn't see too much of him but was in Poland to see him win his sixth title and the realisation of how he had raised the standard dawned, a true professional. *(Tim May)*

Mikael Max

As a Wolves fan I reckon it is obvious why I choose him. He is great and Max is deffo a suitable name, as max is what he scores in each meeting. *(Julie Griffiths)*

Shawn McConnell

The most fun I ever had watching speedway was when Shawn McConnell joined Swindon. He was always entertaining and generally good for a second or third place. Also, the only rider I ever saw do a celebration wheelie on the final straight and get overtaken in the process! *(Graham Morris)*

Along with Bobby Schwartz - these two guys are a credit to the sport and their country - always a pleasure to meet at Brighton - and how the kids appreciate the high fives etc. *(Alan Thompsett)*

Steve McDermott

A brilliant servant to Berwick. Had natural ability on a bike and put in some great performances, saving Berwick on countless occasions. Berwick have only produced 2 NLRC winners and Steve was one of them. *(Gary Tait)*

Brilliant rider who won the NLRC. Served Berwick well but was unlucky with injuries. Received a well deserved testimonial. *(Norman Clark)*

A close run to Graham Jones as my favourite, he just got better and better once he signed from Edinburgh. He was immaculate around Shielfield and Berrington. I once saw him take a 18 point maximum down at Boston and that was a fast track. I was there when he broke his leg at Peterborough in the National Fours final - when you hit that fence you don't get up! I only wish I had seen him win the National League Riders Final at Wimbledon. Stevie was a great servant to Berwick. *(Barry Forrest)*

Glen McDonald

One of the many Aussies to come to Long Eaton, I had visions of Glen becoming a world class rider, sadly this didn't happen, but very entertaining all the same. Also impressed with his limited outings at Cradley. *(Graham Hall)*

Travis McGowan

Travis has been riding around Mildura ever since he was nine, he rode juniors and graduated to seniors. He might not have set the world on fire on the world stage but he sets Olympic Park alight when he rides at Mildura. One of Mildura's favourite sons that soon will turn the corner and become a Grand Prix performer in the future. *(Ryan Sedgmen)*

Travis, This guy in a few years will come out and show us all what he is made of. Trav can go out and bet anyone if he puts his head to the job in hand. *(Justin Sedgmen)*

Mick McKeon

Aussie with a never say die attitude. Very good point scorer at no 5, nearly always won the second half at Coatbridge. *(Andy Baillie)*

Ken McKinlay

I used to watch Ken race for West Ham in the mid-sixties. He captained the side that won the first ever British League and his scoring was a major contributory factor towards that success. He used his experience to outfox younger opponents and never seemed to hit mechanical problems. To a young man (as I was at the time) he seemed to be ancient, in retrospect he probably wasn't as old as he seemed. He was still racing a decade later and had lost none of his class. *(George Cox)*

Charlie McKinna

Signed for the Bandits in the mid '80s and what a popular lad he was. Always smiling and had time for everyone. I would say he had a great style around Berrington. I remember when he broke his leg grass tracking and rode while his leg was still in plaster! Canny Scot! (*Barry Forrest*)

Kenny McKinna

For the first season at Shawfield when he genuinely was a class above everybody else in the National league. He was later to defect to 'them' but as he found his feet with us and had (in my opinion) his best season with us. A constant source of help to ALL speedway riders in Scotland and this continues with his weekly Glasgow training school this winter. (*Calum Macaulay*)

Kenny returned to Glasgow when Shawfield opened its gates to speedway and soon established himself as the master around the track. It was sad he fell foul of the promotion and moved on to Middlesbrough and then Edinburgh. He was sadly missed at Glasgow. (*Jim Liddell*)

Kenny McKinna is one of the most likeable riders not just in Scotland but throughout Britain, from Exeter to Newcastle everyone knew and loved his bubbly character. Monarchs and Tigers fans alike will agree that he is a true ambassador for the sport in Scotland. His never say die attitude, on the bike he nicknamed "the beast", made him a legend in both the East and West of Scotland. A true Scottish Speedway legend. (*Scott Frame*)

Jim McMillan

The man from Glasgow went from a second string to number one in one season. In 1968 (the second year I followed speedway) Glasgow were left 'Monkless' and short of any real quality in their side barring the great Norwegian and former Edinburgh Monarch Oyvind S Berg. Jimmy Mac stepped in to the breach and saved us from several memorable gubbings. He went on to have a long and meritorious career which hasn't quite finished as he still races in past masters events and mechanics for the 'Bullit'. Reserve at a Wembley world final and raced in front of a bigger crowd than the Bullit ever has! (*Calum Macaulay*)

Jimmy Mac was a rider who suddenly burst onto the scene at Glasgow White City. One week he was a second string trying to keep his team place and suddenly he was a heat leader top scoring where ever he went. The highlight of his career must have been his reserve spot at the world final at Wembley. A good team man. (*Jim Liddell*)

Ken Middleditch

Our Mr Poole himself. Ultimate team man. Never went out for his own glory. He would always have a smile and a kind word. Still the same today. A really genuine person. He was my first ever hero! When you see him today, he's rarely without a smile. (*Bob Cole*)

'Mr Poole' for the 50's and early 60's. Almost unbeatable in the old third and second division days and when Poole finally made division one he was still a class act. Ken was and is Poole Speedway. I can remember him coming out of retirement for 2 matches in 1962 and still top scoring! (*Adrian Williams*)

**Neil Middleditch**

Our current team manager and also manager of England. It's as a rider I remember him best. He raced for us for over ten years and was always a reliable second string. A look at the record books shows me his best year was 1978 when he averaged over 7.5. (*Frank Chalmers*)

Gangly Neil, rather awkward in his style, nevertheless was a Poole man through and through. His father Ken was captain of the club in his day, and Neil followed. Eventually his persistence paid, and he became an invaluable team member, and then Team Manager. (*Don Maddocks*)

Garry Middleton

The young Aussie who learnt his trade at Plough Lane and really should have been the greatest. (*Derek Grant*)

Jack Millen

Mr controversy. The wild man was coming through like it or not. One of the few riders I ever saw who tried to bully Mr Mullarkey. Crazy Jack would be at reserve but would also be captain in my dream team. After all, any trouble and there was no better man to have in your corner. (*Harry Ward*)

Chris Mills

Well, why not ... his enthusiasm, never say die attitude, his victory celebrations, his sense of humour ... they all combine to make Chris a worthy inclusion. Milk it Millsy!!!! (*Steve Hone*)

Alan Mogridge

Brilliant racer, if he didn't make the gate you knew you were in for a treat. True speedway legend and Stoke's best ever according to their fan forum! Carried the team in 2005, unceremoniously axed in 2006, won rider of year 3 times in 4 years, grand finale in his last ever meeting even though as a Comet! (*Phil Smith*)

Moggo was a brilliant racer and a brilliant personality off the track, a rider we thought was going to sign for Rye in 2006 as he was at most meetings towards the back end of '05. Could still be racing at a high level in the Premier league now. (*Ben Tucker*)

What can I say?? Seen him do some amazing things on a speedway bike, one in particular was during a visit to Berwick's Shielfield Park a few years ago. Don't recall the opposition but he went from last to first in the space of half a lap including one almighty sweep round that the banked 3rd and 4th bend which brought the house down! (Simon Colven)

I said at the start that I was only going to include entertainers and 'Moggo' certainly was one of those. Never gave up and I've seen him really whack some safety fences and get up as though he had stumbled on a loose paving slab. At the end of the day anyone who has thrown his leg over a speedway bike in anger deserves to be in somebody's dream team! (Graeme Selkirk)

Eric Monaghan

'Bootsy' was worth watching just for the laughs you could have and then again when he was hot he was unbeatable, not bad for a turkey farmer eh?? (Doug Coward)

Nicknamed 'Bootsey' due to turning up in an enormous pair of borrowed boots. Always seemed to try - we saw him go from a second halfer to a good secondish heat leader, then stepping up to the old BL at Leicester; the sort of rider that the sport is built upon. (Ian Manley)

'Bootsy' was an excellent passer, he used to wind it on for two laps, put his wheel in the dirt right by the fence and round the opposition. (Gazmundini)

Charlie Monk

The big quiet Aussie was master of the White City (the first of many Glasgow homes) and could beat all comers. Briggs, Mauger, Boocock etc it did not matter to 'Maxi Monk' he beat them all. He started a tradition of a long line of Aussie heroes in the red and white stripes. He also won the famous Internationale at Wimbledon from the 'real' stars when it was a 'second' world final. An all time Glasgow great. (Calum Macaulay)

Charlie was the master of White City at Glasgow. Reputations meant nothing to him and he frequently beat the best round this track. During his time at Glasgow he carried the team, top scoring at most tracks. Never one for talking to the fans on race night, but his riding soon made up for this. (Jim Liddell)

Ronnie Moore

He is my captain, firstly because he would have the respect of the other team members, being a world champion himself, he would be a great guy to have on your side, not only for his fantastic riding skills but also to make sure they all keep their heads to ride as a team and not individuals seeing as they are all stars in their own right. Finally I should imagine he would be a great tactician and team leader. (Paul Goodwin)

The Mirac. Again a great stylist, a brilliant rider. I remember him in the 1960s. He was such a tactician; other riders often thought he was on the inside, when he was on the outside, or vice versa. (Dudley Jones)

Undoubtedly the most naturally talented rider of all time. Would have won the world title on many more occasions if he had not taken time out for car racing and a broken leg. Also faced real top liners in Ove Fundin, Barry Briggs, Peter Craven and Bjorn Knutsson for much of his career, unlike modern 'superstars' who have very little sustained quality opposition. (Keith Cee)

The Wimbledon number one rider for over 10 years during the 50's & 60's. He was totally unflappable and could read a track situation like no-one else. An amazing team captain. (Paul)

When I was a kid, the big treat of the year was a trip to the World Final at Wembley, the only occasion which provided an opportunity to see the 'big boys' from the National League and abroad. Ronnie Moore was pure class - an easy 'armchair' style and an elegance about his riding which in my opinion only Leigh Adams has amongst today's riders. (Mike Western)

Only saw Ronnie during his comeback years but he was still a class act - the best throttle control merchant I ever saw in comparison with today's style of on/off control. (Norman Chadwick)

The master and mr reliable over a number of years. Fantastic natural ability, a leader and team man to the core. (Derek Grant)

The most immaculately turned out rider, who was also the most immaculate of riders. Tremendous style, a rider who deserved to be World Champion. During the 50's you could tell a rider by the shape of his handlebars. Ronnie Moore's bars were a virtual U shape. An exciting rider who should be nominated in any team. I seem to recall that Ronnie came from Tasmania, but he would ride for Australia and later New Zealand. (Mal)

Probably the best Don ever, most of his achievements are well documented but the one moment that still brings a lump to my throat is when he fell right in front of us with victory in the Laurels within his grasp. A picture of me and my younger brother drinking with Ron at Jim Blanchard's speedway night at Coventry a couple of years ago has pride of place on my wall. I first met Ron in my local sweet shop when he was on crutches and discovered he only lived over the road. He was the World Champ and made a lasting impression. (Steve Bartlett)

Kelly Moran

Elder brother of Shawn and arguably an even more talented rider. Lacked the dedication and professionalism of his brother but had just as much flair and charisma. Always had time for the fans and could have achieved so much more if he had remained focussed. Could probably still score big in today's premier league. (Malcolm Watling)

Possibly even more talented than his brother Shawn. If he had been more committed he could have dominated speedway for some time. I have never seen any rider since have his balance on a bike. (Darren Garlick)

A great entertainer, a joker and a pure gentleman. Wished he had stayed more on the right side of the management though, could have and should have been World Champion. (Glen Johnson)

Great heat leader and team rider. (Mark Swindells)

For pure natural skill he has to be in my team. Great to watch and at the end of the day we all go to speedway to be entertained and Kelly did that. Also deserves more credit than he gets, as I'm sick of people saying how he wasted his talent. I say remember the good times. (Dean Hall)

Who could forget the young Kelly hanging off an upright bike on the bumpy Boulevard track of the Hull Vikings? Will never forget the homecoming meeting after he and Ivan had come first (Ivan's 6th title) and fourth (Kelly's 1st world final) at the Boulevard. Always a 100% rider with incredible balance and charisma. *(Simon Ashworth)*

Could have been the best in the world. What a pair Shawn and Kelly made together. A true champion but just enjoyed life too much. *(Jeff Dooley)*

Kelly Moran was super. I will never forget the first time I watched him on a speedway bike, he was so small and his style was unreal. What a rider. *(Kath Smith)*

Went to a meeting a couple of years ago with him and came across to me as a really nice guy. I don't actually remember him riding but he is in my team for his personality. *(Arran Swindells)*

I did see Peter Craven ride but I remember very little of him. Having seen photos of him I feel the nearest you can get to his bendy body style was Jellyman. If only he had taken the sport seriously he would have been world champion many times over. I had the privilege to meet him in Brighton last year and his massive personality still lives up to his massive natural talent. *(Harry Ward)*

Shawn Moran

Joined Sheffield in the early eighties and stayed with us until closure in 1988. Quite simply the best rider I have ever seen. 'Shooey' was virtually unbeatable around Owlerton and could score big points at any track in the land. His best years were probably 1984 and 1985 when he was possibly the best rider in the World. He moved on to Belle Vue when we closed and a few Tigers fans were always happy to trek over the Pennines to watch him. Shawn rejoined us in 1994 and should have proved the top man in the second division. Unfortunately his signing proved to be a costly mistake as he retired early in the season. However the good memories vastly outweigh the bad and Shawn would always be number one in my side. *(Malcolm Watling)*

What can I say, by far the best speedway rider I have ever seen. He was also great when he rode for our rivals over the border. Should have won a World Individual Final, great captain and team man and could always produce the goods when the pressure was on. Also deserves a mention as Belle Vue's last championship winning skipper. *(Dean Hall)*

Was the best rider around Odsal bar none. In his pomp, he was outstanding around Odsal, and the best race I have ever seen was won by him. Heat 16, 1990 world final. *(Christian Oldcorn)*

Should have been world champion. A naturally talented rider, who could gate or beat anybody from the back. Shooey was a genuine person who always had time to give an autograph or picture. *(Darren Garlick)*

What a Showman. Also a very good Captain with an excellent style. *(Kath Smith)*

Shooey had his problems but always gave 100% for The Aces in the short time he was with us. An out and out number 1 and worth the admission fee alone at times. I'll always remember his clashes with Hans Nielsen at Kirky

Lane and will never forget the day he finally won the BLRC. *(Chris Young)*

Just a great team man and all round good guy. I remember the times he spent crossed legged in the bar talking to the kids. *(Jeff Dooley)*

Extremely capable rider and rode great team races with brother Kelly. Always had great machinery. Very dependable. *(Mark Swindells)*

Chris Morton

Has been chosen for obvious reasons, commitment and consistency over all the years he rode for Belle Vue and England. He never gave up and chased all the way, usually from the back. *(Darren Garlick)*

A great servant to the club and alongside PC as a master of track tactics. It's a shame that Mort suffered the same gating affliction as PC, and never really achieved the recognition he deserved. True, he won a number of big meetings like BLRC and Inter-continental finals, plus a World Pairs title with PC, but never the big one - often because the track conditions rarely suited his style. Particularly on the wide sweeping bends of Hyde Road, Mort pulled off many unbelievable manoeuvres in winning from the back. *(Andy Millward)*

Awesome overtaking on the pits bend at Hyde Road, week after week. Mr. Entertainment. *(Norman Chadwick)*

Mr Belle Vue, so loyal to the club. Fantastic captain and also brilliant to watch as he always had to pass due to his pathetic trapping skills! Never seen anyone ride Hyde Road better than Mort. Yes PC included as I was too young to see him at his peak. *(Dean Hall)*

One of the most dependable riders to ride for Belle Vue. Can rely on him to be focused on his job in the team and 9 times out of 10 he did that job with perfection. Very consistent over his whole career. *(Mark Swindells)*

One of the best team riders ever seen. Always a pleasure to talk with. *(Jeff Dooley)*

I loved watching Mighty Mort race at Hyde Rd, he couldn't gate to save his life but by hell he gave you a race and a half! He knew where the racing line was and always swung out into the dirt to fly past his amazed opponent. *(Paul Houghton)*

My idol and all time number 1. One of the only guys who was absolutely terrible at starting (sorry Mort) yet still maintained a high average year in year out. Anyone who saw heat 10, I think, of the 1983 Northern Riders at Hyde Road will know what I mean. He hunted Kenny Carter down for 3 laps before making his move.....what a rider. *(Chris Young)*

Only had one season at Ellesmere Port in 1973, but was always destined for greatness; again an overtaking maestro. One particular memory was a last bend cut back for England against USA at Sheffield (about 1980) and a race to the line which Mort won to gain a 5-1 and turn the meeting. *(Ian Manley)*

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Dave Morton

Was awesome at Hackney for a few seasons. *(Brian Longman)*

Ray Morton

Ray is a fantastic rider who gained many nicknames throughout his time at Wimbledon, from being the 'Peckham Flyer', 'Peckham Point Piler', 'Sting Ray', 'Rip Snortin Ray Morton', and 'Rip Roaring Ray Morton'. Other riders were always aware that Ray was around and breathing down their necks. The pairing of Nathan Simpson and Ray was always one not to be missed. *(Becky Partridge)*

Okay, maybe not a superstar but enjoyed his speedway and was always up for a laugh. Great character. *(Carl Oakes)*

Ron Mountford

Probably at his best before I started following Coventry avidly. but Ron was always a trier who could be relied upon to get stuck in. He was my mother's favourite rider, both at Birmingham & Coventry. I think Ron suffered the worst crash I've seen at Brandon (and I've seen a few) when he exited the Coventry bend, his machine locked up and he was catapulted over the handlebars and bounced down the track while his bike cleared both safety fences and landed in the terracing. That crash finished his season and he was never quite the same rider again. During his layoff he returned to Brandon and I can still see him near the pits leaning on his crutches with his leg in plaster, obviously in some discomfort, signing autographs for everyone who asked him. *(Keith Butler)*

A tough rider, a gentleman off track. Lived a few short miles from Cradley Heath in the 1960's and took my photo album to get autographs of his Coventry team mates in 1966, a much appreciated gesture. A star at Birmingham for a while, caught up in the South Africa dispute that led to the track closing down and then reached his peak only to be struck by severe injuries in the mid-1960's when rivalling Nigel Boocock for the top spot at Brandon. *(Keith Cee)*

Geoff Mudge

An inspiration as captain. Equipment always immaculate. Great team rider. *(Bob Cole)*

Kelvin Mullarkey

The slowest rider I have ever seen. Kelvin had his opponents pulling their hair out at Rye House as he blocked their every move. Never adverse to controversy and a real team man. The reason behind Rye's Championship winning season. *(Harry Ward)*

N

Robert Nagy

The first Glasgow Tiger to start the winning habit when he won the Riders Championship. The team got the habit and two league and cup doubles followed. A cracking gater and a nice guy. He was master of Shawfield and several other circuits. Like many other former Tigers (including my number one Charlie Monk he has, in my opinion, never quite reached his Glasgow heights again). Remembered for pulsating battles with a young Aussie called Jason Crump (Wonder what happened to him?). *(Calum Macaulay)*

Burst onto the scene at Glasgow (Shawfield) after a match with the Hungarian touring team. Had no fear of any track, large or small. I remember one weekend seeing him ride at Rye House and Exeter, where he top scored at both tracks. Sadly missed when he left for pastures new. *(Jim Liddell)*

Came into the Glasgow side in 1992, a find of ex promoter Neil Mcfarlane. Struggled to say the least, and was nearly the one to be dropped to make way for the returning Shane Bowes but a good meeting at Powderhall saw the promotion drop Robert Csillik instead. Robert then went on in that same season to win the Division Two riders championship, beating Mick Poole in a run-off where Mick Poole basically tried every trick in the book to win. Robert led us to two League titles and two KO cups and will always be remembered with fondness within the Glasgow camp. *(Tony McColl)*

Chris Neath

Neathy could have his moments but apart from that a promising young rider. Should make it to the top in the sport. *(Lewis Joseph)*

Daniel Nermark

Well he's just the one and only Danny Nermark, and you need a good looker in the team! *(Julie Griffiths)*

Scott Nicholls

The impact Scott had on the Coventry side as they won the Elite league title in 2005 was immense. Having seen him ride for Ipswich I knew how good a rider he was, but the way he led the team after Andreas Jonsson quit was truly magnificent. Coventry had no right to be in with a chance, he was our only real heat leader, but he inspired the others in the team to up their game and the rest is history as they say. Scott's style and never say die attitude remind me so much of Nigel Boocock and if he gives Coventry a fraction of the service Boocock gave then the Bees are on a winner. I just hope he goes on to get the individual success he deserves in the Grand Prix. *(Keith Butler)*

Although still young, Scott has achieved so much and has the credentials to follow in the foot steps of Mark Loram and go on to become World Champion. He also has the talent to overtake to win many of his races, which I love to see. *(Alun Chapple)*

Followed his career from the beginning and indeed raced against him a couple of times. Always gives 100% for his British club and puts them first, excellent team rider and one of, if not the best, fair racers in modern speedway. Always exciting to watch and would love to see him back at Ipswich one day. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

I have lots of memories of Scotty. Particularly seeing him race around the junior track at Mildenhall as an 11 year old, just look at you now Scotty! You always knew even then that he was destined to be a top class rider. Three British titles in four years, and robbed of the other one! *(Matthew Pell)*

He's the British No1, the Coventry captain and a great rider. Mark Loram worn the world title without being the best gater in the world and Scottie can do the same. *(Steve Quartermann)*

A great servant to Ipswich speedway and is in the top 10 riders in the world. In 2003, if Ipswich didn't have him they would have struggled even more. A great rider. *(Liam Grimwood)*

Sheer poetry on a bike, never gives up. A good team man who got his reward with Coventry in 2005. A good leader who cements his team, be it with his league or International, wears his heart on his sleeve. *(Tim May)*

Hans Nielsen

A rider of supreme quality, the most tidy rider I have ever seen. Was a great signing for Birmingham and the club had its best period in the top league while this man was thereno coincidence in my opinion. *(Glen Johnson)*

Top class rider with great commitment to the sport, never let anyone down and his career average says it all. *(Robert Greenwood)*

Best rider around in the late 80's early 90's. Just one of the all time best. *(Roger Heydon)*

Like Jan Andersson had that air of mystery about him, probably helped by his black leathers and big full-face helmets. In the mid to late 1980's he was easily the best rider in the world. So professional he took the sport to the next level. Often had the race won by the back straight of the first lap but people forget he could race and overtake alongside the best. Deservedly won multiple world titles. Still holds the Oxford track record. *(John Downer)*

Simply the most professional rider I have seen, always tidy and also the best rider of the mid 80's to late 90's. *(Robin Couzins)*

My idol is Hans Nielsen. A great rider through the whole of his career. Like Penhall he was a great professional in his own way. He was noted as a very good and fair rider, but the only fault I thought Hans had was he didn't always team ride his partner home. Hans should have won at least five world titles but he was just unlucky, especially at Bradford in '85 and Gothenburg in '84. But still a very good rider. *(Niall Strudwick)*

I rate Hans as the best rider of all time and was the ultimate pro with the smoothest style of riding I have ever seen. Like Sam Ermolenko in the early 90's, Hans made the sport look easy, but Hans managed to do it for over 20 years at the top level. Should have won more than four World Titles and had a few years where a single incident robbed him of at least another four. He does however still hold the record for most FIM Gold Medals and at one stage held Individual, Pairs and Team medals. Hans also managed to go a whole season in the league without dropping a point in any away match and in the best ten averages of all time in a season, he holds five of those positions. *(Grahame Darlington)*

I know he rode for "the other side" in Oxford but did anyone actually ever beat this bloke? Astonishing on a speedway bike. *(Simon Colven)*

Never a fan of his but you had to admire his class. Best Dane by far (Sorry Ole!) *(Duncan Pemberton)*

For me he was always on the other team and he was in my opinion the very best overall of all riders, he was as professional as Mauger, as dynamic as Rickardsson, and as hard as anyone, once he got in front that was it. I managed to speak to him during his last season over here and just had to thank him for all the great meetings I had seen because of him. *(Rob P)*

The man had it all. Fast when in front, a brilliant team rider, and never beaten until the flag fell. He seemed to have this amazing ability to drag whoever he was paired with into the first corner with him. No coincidence that Oxford's best years were '84 to '92 when he was in the team. *(John Phelan)*

Still seems to me the real star of the 80s and the pre-grand prix format. He was one rider who I always went out of my way to watch. So good from the gate and at the first bend. One or two run offs going his way and he would be out there on his own with the most world titles. A real perfectionist. *(Jez Godwin)*

He still holds the track record around Cowley if my memory serves me right. Nobody could touch him, not even Tony Rickardsson. How many times has Tony ridden there without getting close to Hans's record? It has stood for many years and I don't think it will ever be beaten. *(Michael Farrant)*

The ultimate professional. I had the pleasure of meeting Hans, he was not at all arrogant, unlike some other top riders. *(Gavin Pell)*

In Glasgow Tigers first season at Shawfield, he came along to do some second half demonstration laps and to take on Tigers on a head to head basis. Having never seen the place before he beat everybody by half a lap if not more. The days of some speedway on Eurosport and Screensport, the Speedway Mail and Speedway Star: Mr Nielsen was the best of the best. *(Colin Mackay)*

Like Mauger, dedicated and focused. Professional and likeable. *(Carl Oakes)*

Kai Niemi

During his career he had two spells at Foxhall Heath. A good heat leader with bags of experience under his belt but at times let the team down due to his commitments while racing in Sweden. He formed a strong and impressive partnership with Italian rider Armando Castagna in 1988. *(David Spain)*

Jimmy Nilsen

Often flattered to deceive whilst riding for Bradford, but he was a classy rider who was able to ride any type of track. A really nice guy who wore his heart on his sleeve, and was a proven success at the top level. *(Christian Oldcorn)*

Super Swede racked up 3815 points in 408 matches. A five times World Finalist. The top Scandinavian at Blunsdon. *(Keith Cross)*

Joined Berwick for their first division rollercoaster season, brilliant around Berrington Lough. *(Norman Clark)*

Unbelievably quick around Berrington from lightning starts, but also made some daring passing moves both home & away during that season. Favourite race - early in '91 season against Coventry when Rick Miller and Pater Ravn gated and Jimmy was stuck behind. He managed to go past Miller up the inside and tried everything to get past Ravn, whilst also defending second from Miller on the faster wide line. Jimmy did not settle for second and drove right round Ravn after feigning to go up the inside of the second bend. Quite incredible given the tight confines of the Berrington track. *(Philip Newton)*

Gote Nordin

The first great at Newport. *(Ken Morgan)*

Brilliant stylist at the time he rode for the Wasps, probably one of the top four or five in the world. Turned up at Hackney one night with just a pair of handlebars, stuck them on the Newport track spare, scored a 15 point max and beat Colin Pratt for the Silver Sash. His team riding with Bob Hughes around Somerton Park was pure class. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Great track craftsman, a job for other riders to get passed once in the lead, overshadowed by Ove Fundin but still a brilliant rider for the squad. *(Paul Goodwin)*

One of the best riders never to have won a world championship. Very stylish rider who always looked in full control. *(Norman Chadwick)*

For only one season and one match Gote was Poole's number one, but in that short time he became part of Pirate folklore. By winning the Internationale at Wimbledon he became the first Pirate to win a major championship. We all went home very happy! *(Adrian Williams)*

Extremely elegant rider. Immaculate equipment. Shame he only stayed for with Poole a season. Looked every inch as stylish when the Briggo Golden Greats came to Poole a couple of years ago. Well thought of in these parts. *(Bob Cole)*

David Norris

It's a pity it took him 15 years to get serious about it, what would he have done with the dedication of somebody like Crump? He's amazing to watch, and completely funny off track. *(Gavin Pell)*

First saw him in the four team final riding for Ipswich, he came from last to first in one race and helped the Witches win. Love the passion he has when he rides for England. He seems like you could have a great laugh on the piss with him. Hope he gets to ride at Cardiff as a wild card again as I believe he could still do something special. *(Jez Godwin)*

Because he is one of the funniest people I have met. Dave's career never reached the heights which his natural talent promised, but another out and out racer and entertainer. *(Mike Western)*

Rod North

Likeable Aussie who came on leaps and bounds in Stoke's injury plagued 1982 season, achieved an eight point average that year. *(Phil Smith)*

Olle Nygren

Great team rider, his commitment to Norwich during what now seems to be a short period meant that Norwich were a real force in their last year. Riding on with Wimbledon he was so good as a guest rider that one year was referred to as Olle's benefit season! *(Dudley Jones)*

A cunning fox, a master of his trade who had an abundance of knowledge that he passed on to the lads of the early 70's. That was one telling factor of the early days and what he passed on. Mind you he could be a bit fiery, kicking and elbowing Rick France around the track then squaring up with him after the race on the back straight will always stick in my mind. *(Bob Banthorpe)*

The first of the flying Swedes! Was always trying to win (by fair means or foul!) but would never give up on a race even if he was 50 yards behind on the final bend! *(Paul)*

Great skipper and a fast gater, still not sure about the white boots though! Solid scorer but in our eyes expected to do well, I don't know why. But with his vast experience and fast starts he's a must for any Dons team. *(Steve Bartlett)*



Gary O'Hare

Super sub, he could race against any rider and beat the pants off them, was a dead cert to be a top line rider until he broke his thigh at the Under 21 Championship. *(Doug Coward)*

Ole Olsen

Ivan Mauger's Danish protégé who eventually replaced the Kiwi as Newcastle's number one. Olsen wasn't idolised in the way that Ivan had been, but he was an excellent rider. Olsen inspired respect more than genuine affection but I couldn't leave him out of my side. *(Andy Harris)*

First captain I ever knew - and no one could beat him around Coventry. *(Roger Heydon)*

Probably the most exciting Wolves rider I ever saw. Must be commended for his part in the best World Championship Final at Wembley in 1981. *(Brian Dench)*

You could fill your programme before the racing began. I don't think I ever saw him ride badly, I saw him get beaten in very tough edge of seat races occasionally, but love him or hate him, you could not ignore him. *(Mick Cast)*

Nobody could lead or motivate the team like our Great Dane! If we were in the lead going into the last heat we knew we would win. *(Paul Houghton)*

Subjective I know, but I think Ole was probably the best rider ever. I first remember him appearing at Brandon with Ivan Mauger's "Newcastle Diamonds" and for someone who had never ridden the track before he seemed so at ease and phased by no one. By the time he rode for Coventry he was at his peak and had given Wolverhampton fine service. Although he won three world titles, with a little less bad luck he would have had at least two more. In Sweden, racing in a torrential downpour, in his last race he only had to follow John Boulger home to be crowned champion. But Boulger fell and Ole had to lay down. The referee allowed next to no time for him to

regroup and Ivan Mauger beat him in the rerun to take the title. Then one year, at Wembley, in his first race he came from last to second and then fell trying to overtake Christer Lofqvist for the lead. He then reeled off four straight wins but Mauger again took the title with 13 points. A fond memory I have is when a Polish side visited Brandon, Ole was about to have his photo taken with surprise world champion Jerzy Szczakiel and I was leaning over the pit fence also trying to get a picture. He saw me and turned himself and Jerzy towards me so I could get my picture before the press photographer was allowed his. *(Keith Butler)*

Ulrich Ostergaard

The most pleasant, polite rider in the sport. Fantastic with fans young and old. *(Alan Thompson)*

Bobby Ott

While the Moran brothers were great showmen in their own right, Bobby Ott was "Showtime." Never gave less than 100%, and always helped team-mates. In particular, Bobby formed a brilliant partnership with Frede Schott which allowed the Dane to perform well above his average on many occasions. *(Andy Millward)*

Never gives up and would always try and come from the back if he missed the gate. Good middle order man. *(Mark Swindells)*

'Showtime' Bobby Ott says it all really, always put on a show whether he was winning or trying to come from the back. I remember him once falling and keep going all in one movement without getting off the bike. *(Darren Garlick)*

One of those crazy American riders brought over to Belle Vue. I always remember seeing him almost hanging off the bike around the bends looking like he was about to come a guttser and the suddenly become upright. A great uni-cyclist so must have a great centre of balance. Bobby '100% entertainment' Ott. *(Steve Watkinson)*

Never saw him ride that many times really, but I always remember Mr Showtime when I did see him. He seemed to almost be either off the back of the bike or underneath it. A great entertainer. *(Robin Couzins)*

Showtime, simply an entertainer of the highest order. Brilliant balance, off the side of the bike, then off the back of the bike longtrack style. Favourite race - all of them, Bobby was worth the admission money alone, for pure style, only John Cook had anything resembling his unorthodox riding style. *(Philip Newton)*

Included purely for his unique style of riding. Looked at times if he were resting his shoulder on the track like a sidecar rider! Great to watch but very temperamental at times. I was spanner man for him a few times at Kings Lynn. *(Norman Pell)*

Main reason I have chosen 'Showtime' is Wolverhampton '92. The last time Belle Vue won the league, pressure race last heat, championship on the line. Made a superb start and never looked like getting caught by the Wolves pair which was just as well as both passed Lyons on the last lap. *(Dean Hall)*

Joe Owen

One of the original members of the 'new' Diamonds side in 1975. Joey was a tremendous rider let down only by his

gating. This didn't matter to those of us on terracing, we loved watching him recoup ground on his faster starting opponents. In the mid seventies he was the best rider in the league and his loss to the British League was inevitable. He returned to Newcastle in 1982 and was every bit as good as I remembered. He had matured as a rider and simply oozed class. He led the side in the ill-fated BL campaign in 1984 and proved that he could still mix it with the best. Tragically he was paralysed while racing for Ellesmere Port in 1985. *(Andy Harris)*

Pure brilliance, especially his 1976 season when he finished an entire season with an average over 11.5. Consistency but not borne out of being the sharpest from the gate. Mr Excitement. *(Iain Davies)*

Joe would come to Boston every year and clean up. I remember him riding against Robert Hollingworth in the Silver Helmet at Boston and in the decider beating Rob by 20-30 bike lengths. Saw him win the NLRC at Wimbledon twice too. Like Erik Gundersen a horrendous crash ended his career and he was sadly missed. *(Stuart Moore)*

He maybe never became the world class rider we hoped, due to his first big accident at Hull, but he was undoubtedly the best NNL, NL, PL rider of all time. He could beat anyone, and I mean anyone, around Brough Park. Great wheelies too! *(David Torley)*

Tom Owen

Elder brother of Joe and an equally proficient scorer. Led the side magnificently from 1975 to 1979 and was rightly nicknamed the 'Ivan Mauger of the National League'. Injuries saw him miss most of 1980 and 1981 but he returned to the side in 1982. Moved on to Stoke the following year, but concluded his career with a season at Newcastle in 1987. Tom was Mr Newcastle for many years and is one of the club's greatest ever servants. He possessed an air of invincibility that nobody has come close to in recent years. We knew he should really have been in the British League, but we loved the fact that he wasn't. *(Andy Harris)*

If possible more reliable than his younger brother, but made it look so easy, and one of the loveliest guys the sport's ever known. *(Iain Davies)*

My first year at Stoke speedway was 1983 and this signing, along with John Jackson, made it a season that I will never forget, even though if memory serves me right we finished 2nd or 3rd bottom. Tom was a revelation having come back from serious injury. *(Doug Coward)*

To me he was Stoke Speedway in the 80's, some of his battles with his brother Joe had to be seen to be believed. *(Gazmundini)*

P

Shane Parker

Led from the front and when he didn't provided some top class overtaking around the boards at Cleveland Park on a track that at the time was one of the best race surfaces I have seen. Ever popular and always gave 100% (*David Phillips*)

A rider from the more recent era at Kings Lynn, embodied the fighting spirit instilled by new promoter Keith "Buster" Chapman when he re-opened the track in 1997. Never knew when he was beaten, very good with the fans, a great bloke in every respect. (*Chris Gosling*)

Now I know he is not a Monarch, but he is a fantastic speedway rider. He does annoy me sometimes with his heat wins at Armadale, but you have to respect him. Great to watch, and always puts on a good show when he visits Edinburgh. (*Chrissy Wilson*)

A real racer, presents himself in an impeccable manner. Cannot be faulted for his commitment and professional attitude. A dude with much coolness. The way he shepherds team-mates for 5-1's like Mr Ksiezak this season is a joy to watch. His ability to wind people in and cruise past them on the inside line or out in the dirt; you go that way and Mr Parker will pass you the other way. (*Colin Mackay*)

Shane has been a revelation since joining Glasgow, digging us out of some tight spots at times. But it is not also Shane's riding that gives him this spot, it is the way he always takes time out to talk to any fan that may wish to ask a question, he is never too busy to help out the promotion by attending schools. A real team player. (*Tony McColl*)

Bjarne Pedersen

After a great two seasons with Newcastle in the Premier League, Bjarne is now making his mark in the Elite league with Poole. (*Craig Brock*)

Bjarne has improved year-upon-year with the Pirates since joining us in 2002. He has been a great influence to many of the young upcoming riders in the Elite League and he is a valuable member of our team. Helped the Pirates to back-to-back league titles in 2003 and 2004. (*Jamie Rees*)

Bjarne is fast becoming a Poole legend and is showing why the management were right to keep faith in him after he struggled in 2003. In the past few seasons Bjarne has shown his real class and is now almost unbeatable at Poole. Bjarne is not only a brilliant rider but also a genuinely nice guy who always takes time to talk to fans. (*Rob Wickham*)

Jan O Pedersen

Yet another world champion rider from Cradley Heathens. (*Clare Robertson*)

Jan O was to my mind one of the best riders I ever saw coming from the back, again his career was cut short by injury. (*Paul Tromans*)

Only 1 year as a (Sheffield) Tiger, but he was a super rider. (*Kath Smith*)

Great style and a nice chap. It's a shame he couldn't go on to win more world titles. Jan and Hans in the pairs were the best pairs riders I've ever seen, they were always miles in front of the rest. Great team rider. (*Jez Godwin*)

All heart and World Champ - class personified. (*Andrew Bradley*)

Injury robbed us of his exceptional talent and him of further world titles. Super quick and another nice guy. (*Gavin Pell*)

Nikki Pedersen



(Picture courtesy of Steve Hone)

Nikki only spent one season with Newcastle (1998) but he is one of the most popular riders we have ever had. He arrived with a big reputation and didn't fail to deliver. To score so well, so soon, on unfamiliar tracks was an indication of his class. He was a slickly polished professional in the Mauger mould and we were lucky to have him. (*Andy Harris*)

I have seen some great riders at Eastbourne, Gordon Kennett and Kelly Moran for example, but Nicki seems to have got the track worked out. Okay, they might be raking it to his liking and on his line, but maybe he is just riding the line they inadvertently lay. He flies round Arlington, and has been known to remember he has a team mate. Dirty rider, maybe it's just that inexperienced riders try too hard against him, that includes Grand Prix meetings. (*Mick Cast*)

Gavin Pell

I know lots of you are saying 'who?', but I can't leave my own brother out of my list. Who knows what could have been if not for your injuries. Broken back at 16 (1991), would almost definitely have broken into the Peterborough side in 1992 but then a broken arm halted your season. And then a broken collarbone in 1993. Every time you were getting better and faster then 'bang' injury and loss of confidence. I'm still proud of everything you achieved and so you make it into my dream team. Oh yes and the only

rider I can recall passing on the inside around turns 3 and 4 at Peterborough!! Not even Stephen Davies or Mick Poole ever did that. *(Matthew Pell)*

Just had to include my own son in the side. He was never going to be a world champion, but his dedication was second to none. Was on the verge of the number 7 race jacket at Peterborough when he had a bad crash at Kings Lynn and never fully recovered. Rode for Arena Essex and Mildenhall then retired due to lack of funds. *(Norman Pell)*

Bruce Penhall

1981 and 1982 world champion and I was there, 10 years old at Wembley Stadium. 90,000 fans and an atmosphere that was electric!!!! The blond haired, blue eyed American that took the Cradley Heathens and the world by storm. *(Clare Robertson)*

The greatest speedway entertainer there was. I loved every minute while he was here in the UK racing and thrilling crowds everywhere. I especially loved his meetings with Kenny Carter and that unforgettable final heat with John Louis at Belle Vue to decide the 1979 BLRC. That one race was worth the admission on its own. John being the victor in the end. People who today bemoan the lack of passing should have seen that race. Passing and re-passing a plenty in that one race. Fantastic stuff. *(J Maxwell)*

Always rode below what he could achieve in my opinion when doing domestic meetings. When he rode his last match v Halifax in August '82 he was simply untouchable and scored an easy maximum averaging 1.5 seconds faster than all other heat winners. Awesome rider, who when he really tried, was exceptional, and he was fantastic when he didn't try that hard!! Never really any rider to compete with him in the early 80's. *(Andrew Bradley)*

Bruce for me was another rider who brought something to the sport. He was a great rider beyond doubt as well as being stylish and with his good looks always seemed to be the centre of attention. I have always enjoyed watching the Americans since supporting Scott Autrey at Exeter, but Bruce was the special one. It's so sad that speedway was robbed of him so young, who knows what he may have won had he continued. *(Rob P)*

Always felt he could make a difference for the away team. *(Roger Heydon)*

I remember the first time I saw Bruce at White City in 1978 and he looked totally out of his depth but within two years he was a superstar at Cradley. His performance in winning the world title at Wembley in 1981 was simply awesome. His races against Olsen and Knudsen where he reeled both of them in were worth the admission money alone. A true speedway superstar. *(Howard Eve)*

Bruce undoubtedly had it all - charisma, skill, from the front, the back or team riding. *(Paul Tromans)*

It was a great loss to the speedway world when Bruce pursued his career in Hollywood. I was there in 81 when he had some great races to clinch the world title with Ole Olsen and Tommy Knudsen. Such a great rider and showman. *(Stuart Moore)*

Simply the best rider ever. Mostly unbeatable at home and away. He was also a gentleman on and off. Always fair. *(Steve Rayner)*

FIND OUT MORE...



Penhall World Speedway Champion By Steve Johnson

The book can be purchased by sending a cheque or postal order for £14.99 (including free p&p) to:

Steve Johnson; 42 Saville Road;
Whiston; Rotherham; S60 4DX

Dave Perks

He was Mr Long Eaton speedway, used to ride the white line for four laps. *(Simon Stanley)*

A rider who was the king of the National League, did so much for Long Eaton over the years, a perfect stylish rider. *(Graham Hall)*

The Master of Station Road, A super-smooth stylist who would be in any Long Eaton fan's 'Top Team'. At his best, was the out-and-out no. 1 we all craved who could take on and beat the best of the rest. An important bonus was that Dave was always prepared to team-ride; his efforts with a young Chris Pidcock in the Championship winning season of 1984 will stay long in the memory. I had the pleasure of interviewing Dave after meetings at Long Eaton during 1983 as the basis of a programme feature I was compiling about "A match day in the life of Dave Perks". He was most obliging, answering with humour and enthusiasm the many questions I needed answers to. A most enlightening experience. I was privileged to witness Dave feature in many 'classic' races; these were of course, the genuine article rather than the over-rated 'classics' that Messrs Green, Tatum, Ermolenko, Millard et al go overboard about over on SKY! Chris Harris excepted! One particular favourite during a troubled 1983 for Long Eaton, was the stalking for three and a half laps of League No. 1, Newcastle Diamond's Joe Owen at Station Road. On the last bend, Dave made to blast round the boards; an unusual move for him. Joe responded, and within a micro-second Dave had switched lines to blast under him and win the race to the line. Speedway at its best. It was so sad that Dave didn't win the Riders' Championship in 1984 which would have been the culmination of a wonderful season at individual and team level. I don't think I have ever experienced a greater 'low' in 42 years of watching speedway, than seeing Dave, 30 metres from the chequered flag in the run-off grind to a halt with a broken chain, allowing Ian Barney to become surely, the most fortuitous winner of that Championship – ever. Dave was one of an extremely rare breed – a genuine 'star' rider, and a gentleman on and off the track. My favourite rider of all-time. *(Ian Gill)*

Bo Petersen

Bo came to Arena Essex in 1991 and was critically important to our league and cup double that season. He was a great rider and it took a good rider to beat him. He moved up with the team in 1992 and still recorded heatleader scores despite racing in a harder league. *(Midge Taylor)*

Massive points scorer for the Hackney Hawks, little known when Len Silver brought him in. Developed into a top BL rider. *(Brian Longman)*

Stylish rider who performed up there with the best, particularly round the Waterden Road track in Hackney. *(Mike Haley)*

Gary Peterson

Gary spent just half a season as a Bradford rider in 1970 and yet he left an indelible impression on all those fortunate enough to have witnessed his racing exploits. No rider captured the imagination of an eager Bradford public more than this slightly built Kiwi Gladiator. He was for many, myself included, their first true 'shale hero' and those of us still hooked on this great sport today are testimony to Gary Peterson. One of the first discoveries of division two racing, he was widely tipped as a future World Champion. When Gary left Odsal for Wolves there were many heavy hearts but he had found his rightful place amongst the elite. His scoring record at Bradford was simply phenomenal and was only challenged by 80's/90's Odsal stars Havelock and Screen. Sadly Gary's potential would never be realised as injury and domestic difficulties dogged his career. Ultimately speedway asked of Gary the highest price...his life. He was killed racing for Wolves in 1975. Only weeks earlier he had returned to Bradford to contest a match race series against the Odsal top three. His 2-1 victory was a reminder and poignant goodbye from a genuinely nice guy. There's no doubt Gary Peterson lines up with the best of our Odsal heroes and if there's a Big O in the sky then Gary's gonna Glitter!..... *(Ray Allen)*

Only had the privilege of seeing him ride for Bradford for a few months before he went to Wolves, but made a big impression on everybody at the time. In one meeting he was beaten by Eric Broadbent round Odsal and he was so upset he challenged Eric to a match race during the interval. Eric duly obliged (he was quite a rider himself in them days). Unfortunately Eric fell off after gating to spoil the fun. We will never know how good Gary could have been, because of his fatal accident, but we all believed he was a future World Champion. *(Steve Metcalf)*

Paul Pickering

Perhaps a strange choice, but he won us (Bradford) the cup at Arena Essex guesting when everyone in speedway thought we had no chance. Thanks Paul. *(Robert Greenwood)*

Was the top Stoke rider in 2000 when I restarted to go to speedway after a hiatus in the 90's. He suffered a bad arm injury at Hull in 2005 and is making a comeback in 2007. *(Phil Smith)*

Dave Piddock

Useful second string who could always mix it with the best. *(Mark Wyver)*

Theo Pijper

As I got older I started taking a really keen interest in speedway, and that coincided with Theo's introduction to British Speedway as a Monarch. He has been a great servant to Edinburgh Speedway. He has great ability and has improved every year. He always gives his absolute best and has produced some great races at Armadale. *(Chrissy Wilson)*

Zenon Plech

Big crowd favourite and an exciting rider. Some good World Final performances. *(Brian Longman)*

What a rider. Zenon would make Gollob look timid in comparison. Twice Zenon came close to winning the

world title and with a bit of luck would have. We never saw the best of him often enough at Hackney because of his poor machinery, but when he was on it you knew you were going to see fireworks. My best memory of Zenon was his paid maximum at Halifax in 1980 when Hackney came back from the dead and won 39-38 with only four riders scoring. Zenon beat Kenny Carter twice no less that night. *(Howard Eve)*

Igor Plechanov

Brilliant rider, nice guy, greatest Russian ever. When Norwich were told that they couldn't actually hold a Norwich v. Russia test, Igor and three comrades took on Norwich in 18 heats, riding 9 apiece. For me one of the greatest never to have been champion. *(Dudley Jones)*

Mick Poole

Mr Peterborough for many years and a rider who seldom let the side down. One of the very best riders in the last years of the National League and a guy who proved he could mix it in the top league as well. The fact that he was competitive in the Aussie Grand Prix is testament to his talent and durability. He also had a tremendous mop of hair of which I was always jealous - even more so now that my own locks are thinning. Sadly his recent injuries probably mean that his career is over. *(Tony Taylor)*

Mick only spent one year at Oxford, but what a year. So many races I can remember, but his ability to pass other riders on the outside of the 4th bend was special. *(John Phelan)*

What a guy! Always time for the fans, always a dream on the track, what more can you ask for? His cute little kiddies racing round the back of the pits on their tricycles were so cute in the mid-90's! *(Leanne Sampson)*

Mr Peterborough, that four team championship win, the treble! Can't say enough about Mick he's a great bloke. Hard as nails and unlucky not to be N.L.R.C winner twice! It's a close call between Mick and Jason as to my favourite Panthers rider ever. Thanks Mick! *(Jez Godwin)*

If there was any rider better than Mick around Peterborough then I'd like to know who he is! He knew every inch of that track and my main memory is from 1992 when Mick spent the whole of heat 15 on Martin Goodwin's back wheel and then made a superb pass on the last bend. *(Matthew Pell)*

Another Aussie who dazzled but didn't reach the heights expected. I got to know Mick quite well in 1987 as I followed our hapless team across country. He even once gave me a lift to the railway station after a meeting, when I knew I would never make the last train. Top bloke - no worries as they say down under! *(Roger Hunt)*

Geoff Powell

A true professional and role model for the youngsters, Leggy joined Mildenhall in late 1995 after a long career stretching back to 1981 mainly with Glasgow, and was the mainstay of the side until 1999. He was consistently the Tigers top performer and never lacked enthusiasm despite his trek from Cumbria for every meeting and on more than one occasion was refused his rightful place in the Riders Final because of his 35+ age. It was fitting he got one final season in the Premier with Workington and fully deserved his testimonial. *(David Crane)*

The former Mildenhall captain. Rarely beaten round West Row, not to mention his total dedication in travelling down from Cumbria. A great servant to the club. *(Neil Weston)*

Big Leggy. Biggest cheer I ever remember from Shawfield was when he won a race. Big skinny cheery bloke who was always up for any race and never ever gave up. A credit to the Tigers and to the world of speedway. Proof that you don't have to have a heat leader average to be a speedway hero. *(Colin Mackay)*

Mick Powell

100% Glasgow man. Stuck together a double championship winning outfit and became our skipper prior to his move to the Comics at Workington. *(Calum Macaulay)*

Mick was the key man in the Glasgow double-double years of 1993 and '94 (Yes Monarchs we actually managed to defend our title). There was nobody Mick could not beat, and the hero he often was. 1993 KO cup final, Jason Crump had been on a remarkable unbeaten run lasting several meetings, up steps wee Mick, Boom there you go Crumple. Crump couldn't get near him. He did the same in the '95 all one league season with a lot of the top men, including Hancock. *(Tony McColl)*

Colin Pratt

Never had a lot to do with Colin but his presence in any pits made you stand in awe of him. Great rider whose career was ended at Lokeren but continued his speedway life as a promoter and team manager. No nonsense speedway guru who made people sit up and listen. Gets my vote because of pure dedication to the sport. *(Norman Pell)*

Troy Pratt

Troy has been with Arena Essex forever! Quite possibly the club's best ever servant and a nicer man you couldn't hope to meet. His racing can be a bit up and down but he's always popular with the fans. Hopefully he'll stick around for a good few years to come - we'd all miss him if he left. *(Midge Taylor)*

Arthur Price

The first hero of the fens, rode in the Mildenhall league winning side and capped it all by winning the League Riders Championship. *(Andy Taylor)*

Chris Pusey

One of the most spectacular riders I've seen, always lost my voice when the late great rider rode, even though he was in the opposing side, and also a true character. Sometimes disappointed when he seemed to lose interest. *(Simon Ashworth)*

Geoff Pusey

Often unsung hero at Middlesbrough but you would not wish for a better rider to have in the pits. Was never a world beater but some of his team riding, especially with Steve Wilcock, gave me many happy sights around Cleveland Park. *(David Phillips)*

Denny Pyeatt

It's with a touch of sadness that I name Denny, I remember one meeting where he wasn't riding so he came and stood with us as a fan on the back straight. Always rode with his heart on his sleeve giving 100%. Always had that cheeky grin on his face and always stayed to sign autographs and generally chat with us. *(Nige Burton)*

R

Peter Ravn

A genuine nice guy. Never reached his full potential in my opinion. My daughter loved him to bits and has to this day his 1986 Wolves race jacket, signed by him. *(Tony Webb)*

Pete Reading

I think Pete rode about 15 consecutive seasons at Cleveland Park, he had his ups and downs and formed a great first heat partnership with Tom Leadbetter. *(Gary Mitchell)*

Steve Regeling

As consistent at home as he was away. On more than one occasion saved us (Middlesbrough) from some humiliating away scores by rattling in high double figure returns. *(David Phillips)*

Derek Richardson

Came through the Coatbridge ranks and ended up at no 4. Also rode for Belle-Vue and learned loads from Chris Morton/Peter Collins. Had the potential to do better. *(Andy Baillie)*

Tony Rickardsson

He's an awesome rider who's easily the best in the world. Such a friendly guy as well and a brilliant ambassador for the Pirates and the sport. *(Frank Chalmers)*

The ultimate speedway rider. He has brought to the sport not only tremendous excitement and skill, but more importantly he brought an immense amount of professionalism. Something that all rivals have looked up to and adopted in an attempt to emulate the world's greatest ever speedway rider. *(Mark Lucas)*

I actually wrote to Coventry suggesting they take a look at this young Swede who had rode so well in the 1990 Under 21 final, I was told they had their eyes on a better rider, Peter Ravn was that rider!!! Always liked Tony and wished he'd signed for the Bees, the Cardiff GP wall of death ride says it all. *(Paul Houghton)*

From the moment I first saw him ride I knew he was going to be special, a real racer and an entertainer as well as being a nice guy. He maintained a high standard for so long and when it was at its most competitive, he seemed able to achieve the impossible in some of the very best races I have seen. *(Rob P)*

Best rider around now and absolutely world class. *(Roger Heydon)*

If Ivan was the greatest then this man was the best! That recovery after getting seriously out of shape on the second bend at Cardiff when most riders would have ended up 'by the hot dog stand' is the stuff of legends - and he went on to win. Shame about the manner in which he retired but understandable. *(Graeme Selkirk)*

Not from a team I have supported, but he's the number one of all time, due to his undoubted professionalism, determination, passing ability second to none, and the ability to always entertain the fans who paid his wages. Gave his best at all times and had the absolute desire to be the best. *(Simon Ashworth)*

I first saw Tony in an Under-21 final at Lvov where he finished third. There was just something special about him and the next year I persuaded him to turn professional and ride for Ipswich. In the modern post-war era Tony was the best rider I have seen - ultra professional, totally focussed on winning, a colourful personality and most importantly, a never say die racer. *(Mike Western)*

Immaculate in every area and the next best thing to Ivan over the years. *(Iain Davies)*

The most complete speedway rider there has ever been, a team man and a World Champion, a rare combination. Who can ever forget Cardiff 2005, the wall of death ride, it was unbelievable to watch. *(Adrian Williams)*

What can you say that everybody else has not said before? Tony, to me you will always be a Witch and a proud member of the dream team from 98. A showman in every sense of the word and probably the most complete speedway rider for decades! *(Bob Banthorpe)*

Immaculate style and presence. Took over where Hans left off. *(Robin Couzins)*

He had his first season in the British league in 1991 and reached his first ever World Final in Sweden. In his debut season he ended with a nine point average and went on to claim a rostrum place in the World Final. *(David Spain)*

A True Legend! The Ultimate Professional! What else is there to say. *(Alun Chapple)*

Saw Tony in possibly one of his first meetings in the UK at Peterborough in a pre season match against Rospiggarna. I was very impressed, he scored 16 points and I spoke to him afterwards and got his autograph. In 2005 I watched on the third bend at Cardiff as he rode the air fence to win. I'm not surprised he is a six times world champ and most of them in the tougher grand prix format. *(Jez Godwin)*

What can you say that has not been said already? Simply the greatest of his time. A true top class rider and World Champion. *(Robert Greenwood)*

A speedway legend, I almost bowed "unworthiness" at seeing his Cardiff Grand Prix "wall of death" final in 2005. *(Jay Reed)*

I don't have to say why I choose this man. He's just an unbelievable rider who has done so much for the sport of speedway. He will always be a legend of the sport. *(Jamie Rees)*

Simply the best. What else is there to say about this man? He is one of, if not the greatest rider that there ever was. *(Arran Swindells)*

Rider of his generation, maybe the best rider ever, I have never seen him ride and if I do not see him it will be a major regret. Tony is immaculate - tapes to flag, hardly misses a start, hardly makes a mistake. He is a superstar of the sport. Seems from television to be one of the sport's nicest guys, but ultra-determined. The best there is, the best there was and the best there ever will be. *(Scott Frame)*

Poole could not have found a better replacement for Mark Loram in 2001 than Tony. He made a massive impact during his time at Poole and I think all Pirates fans shed a tear when he announced he was leaving in April 2004. Tony is certainly the best rider I have ever seen and probably the greatest speedway rider of all time. *(Rob Wickham)*

Graceful on the bike. Totally unbeatable when completely on fire. Six world championships tells its own story. *(Steve Rayner)*

Scott Robson

Unsung and unassuming. Has been over-taken in career terms by his little brother, but if he could have avoided injuries in his early years, could have gone to the very top. He could beat anyone on his day, machinery problems dogged him throughout, but his exciting style won many admirers. Favourite race - a league meeting at Poole circa 1988, he beat Leigh Adams from the back. *(Philip Newton)*

Stuart Robson

Not the best rider in the world but he gives 120% all of the time, and for that he makes the team. *(Steve Quarterman)*

All out efforts, brilliant passes, superb team riding and 100% entertainment summarises Robbo and he is such a nice guy on top of that. Shame he is injured as he is worth double what he scores on the track off it in my view. An irreplaceable rider and that's why he is in. *(Ben Tucker)*

Fred Rogers

Fred will always have a special place in my memories. When Norwich first got elected to the First Division he was a rider who improved out of all recognition. A solid team man who would provide good back-up to the heat-leaders. *(Bryan Tungate)*

Alun Rossiter

Alun is one of the sport's real characters and is always good for a laugh. He's never been a star rider but he's ridden for England and beaten most of the top stars at one time or another. I've lost track of how many times he's ridden for Poole but he's never let us down. *(Frank Chalmers)*

Although Alun has not been a Wimbledon rider he has always been one of my favourites. Whenever Alun is around you can always be sure of a laugh. Alun has a fantastic sense of humour and that is one thing that is needed in a speedway team. Alun is always good for the back up points, he is one that can often win a meeting for you. *(Becky Partridge)*

Les Rumsey

Quick and fearless, would have a go at anyone. *(Bob Wiles)*

S

Emil Sajfutdinov

I have been telling my mates about him for a while but none of them believed me until he rode at Rye House earlier this season. I can see him dominating the sport like Rickardsson and Mauger in the future. *(Ben Tucker)*

Mike Sampson

A rider who could be brilliant one week, often was, but not very good the following week, I understand he was very temperamental. Could have been a good middle team rider at Cradley too. *(Graham Hall)*

Not always popular with opposition fans, a battler, and a hard rider to pass. *(Martin Clark)*

The skipper from '81 and legend in division two in the 70's. His career was on the decline when he arrived at Stoke, however was good to watch in 81. *(Phil Smith)*

Again led the team well when he signed, although his career was coming to an end, he was always worth the entrance fee. *(Gazmundini)*

Billy Sanders

A fine rider with a great style of his own, one of the finest never to be crowned champion. Sadly died while a Birmingham rider, he will never be forgotten by any of the Birmingham fans. *(Glen Johnson)*

Simply brilliant. I remember the 1983 World Final when Billy finished 2nd whilst an Ipswich rider, he was very unlucky to meet Egon Muller on a well prepared German track in Norden. Surely the only reason why Billy came second and didn't win it. Tragically took his own life, about a mile from where I live, in Ipswich way back in 1985, at a time when he was unbeatable. He scored yet another fine maximum in his last ever meeting and then defeated Chris Morton to win the golden helmet as well. I have a photo of Billy posing with that golden helmet after that match. Much treasured. *(Tony Simmons)*

Despite others' views about his personality off track, he was always fun on it. Very fast quality rider. I remember he used to pull out other riders' cut-outs up at the start line just for a laugh! Very unlucky not to be crowned World Champ. *(Karl Bainbridge)*

What a terrible waste his untimely passing was. Odds on to have been the World's number one. He was so consistent. Wherever he rode he gave 110% and was just superb. I remember him coming to Ipswich as a raw 16 year old and seeing him make great progress right up until that fateful day in '85. Great loss to speedway and is still missed. I would have Billy in my team anyday! *(J Maxwell)*

I remember him as a raw sixteen year old kid with a big smile who was not afraid to mix it with his peers and give 110%. His team riding with John Louis was poetry in motion, they just seemed to know each others position on the track. I suspect they learnt this from riding with Olly Nygren. A master craftsman in action. *(Bob Banthorpe)*

Brett Saunders

I'm sticking wee bad Brett in at 7, there is no doubt in my mind that the Scottish derby matches especially in the 80's

would have been a little duller without Brett to boo. He lapped it up and was a talented rider who I think could have gone further with a bit more dedication. It's amazing to think that his last contribution to a Glasgow-Edinburgh match was a match winning performance for the Tigers against his old club - priceless! *(Gary Moore)*

Rory Schlein

This is a rider who has the potential to go straight to the top. In that memorable Edinburgh title winning season, Rory was magnificent and produced fantastic racing. Was a joy to watch as a Monarch and has the ability to be a future World Champion. *(Chrissy Wilson)*

Steve Schofield

An excellent servant to the Pirates. He was at his best in the National League days, at the time he was probably the best rider in the league. He moved on to Hackney but returned in 1991 and proved he could hold his own against the world's best. Sadly his career was ended by a nasty crash. *(Frank Chalmers)*

Another who visited with Weymouth and just like my all time favourite Tiger, Merv Janke, he was tiny, probably even smaller than Merv. When he came to the tapes he looked just like a wee boy alongside the others but when the tapes went up what a rider! He rarely failed to impress me when he visited Glasgow. *(Gary Moore)*

The pocket rocket! There was always great entertainment when Scoie was on track, at the starting gate you could always know it was Scoie as you could hear him revving the guts outta his bikes. Yet another great rider on shale, grass and longtrack. The Mitcham Marvel, what a legend! *(Steve Watkinson)*

Frede Schott

Another of that famous 2003 Premier League title winning side. His form was breathtaking that year, and he turned Armadale into a fortress. A great rider who captained the side brilliantly in 2003. Would love to see him back in the Blue and Gold! *(Chrissy Wilson)*

Bobby Schwartz

'Boogaloo'. Penhall's mate but another to leave a great impression on the Dudley Wood crowd. Always rode well there when riding for other sides later on but in '79 left us with some great memories. Would have been great to see him and Bruce riding for Cradley Heath when they were both at their peak. *(Andrew Bradley)*

I have seen Bobby at the Brighton Bonanza many times. I have really taken a huge liking to him and his great personality, his attitude and his genuine friendship with the fans. *(Alun Chapple)*

Boogaloo bought us cokes all night once in the bar at Brandon. He kept doing that 'What's that?' point at your chest/flick you on the nose thing and I fell for it every time. Not a bad rider either. *(Gregor Pattinson)*

Jack Scott

Won the pools in the early 1960's, had some good outings for Southampton, was brilliant at Plymouth and desperately unlucky at Cradley Heath, where he finished his British career in controversial circumstances. A little more assistance and understanding would have helped him turn the corner - a few years later, if he had been Danish or American, a blown engine would have been cause for sponsors to shower him with gift-aid.... a man before his time, unfortunately. *(Keith Cee)*

Joe Screen



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

The most entertaining rider in Speedway. We couldn't believe our luck when he quit Belle Vue and moved to Odsal. He never gave up in any race and could beat the best riders in the world from the back. (*Marie Hitchin*)

Mr Entertainment? Of course. If the guy could gate consistently then he'd have been world champ at least once. Fantastic skills on a bike and a very quiet and unassuming guy off it. Also a member of the Bradford Dukes team that took the first ever Elite League. (*Chris Backhouse*)

Ever since I first saw Joe at the age of 15 doing a mile-long wheelie (yes, he clocked it!) on Southport beach in 1988 I have been an admirer of the guy's raw natural talent on a bike. Although he didn't quite make it as a World Class performer on a regular basis, he surely would've been World Champion had it been awarded on entertainment. He did at least achieve World No.6 status at one stage, but could've been so much more. (*Jay Reed*)

When I first saw Joe as a 15-year old, he looked like a World Champion in the making, though he also suffered from the Aces gating disease. While he's not quite lived up to his potential, Joe proved that he could win from the back, even on the tight Kirmanshulme Lane track, and wins friends everywhere with his style. (*Andy Millward*)

Started at Belle Vue when he was sixteen and you could see he was a natural from the beginning. Another of the famous Belle Vue non-gaters, had to do it all from the back and usually did. Cannot understand why he has not gone on to be a real force in speedway, with his talent he should be challenging for the world title. (*Darren Garlick*)

A steadfast member of Belle Vue who seems to have been riding forever, he can still score and win races. He was the second rider I remember seeing. (*Terri Hearty*)

Joe is one of the most talented men on a bike. Can beat anyone on his day. Could have been world champ in his younger days. Brings the team together at tough times. (*Arran Swindells*)

Mr Entertainer and an absolute natural on a speedway bike. I will never forget him blasting around Bradford passing people like they were stood still! Deserves so much more than just a British Title to his name. The Wheelie King! (*Dan Neve*)

The Screen Machine, when he moved from Belle Vue I did not like him at all (Belle Vue always sold us dummies like Larry Ross!!!) by the time speedway finished at Odsal he could do no wrong. If only Screeny could gate he would have a great chance of being the next English World Champ. When watching him at Odsal you wanted him to be last out of the gate and his skill on the bike was second to none for such a big fella. He could turn the bike on a six pence no matter what the track's condition. (*Gerard Lynch*)

Brings team spirit to the pits and is able to pass any rider on his day. (*Mark Swindells*)

Super Joe.....Belle Vue through and through, even though he has spent a large part of his career away from Belle Vue. I remember his first meeting for the Aces against Bradford in 1989. He won his first race by about half a lap. I'll always remember the 1990 season when he beat Jan O Pedersen. Joe made the gate and Pedersen tried everything to pass him. Inside and outside tried the little Dane but Joe parked his bike perfectly on every corner. Tactical speedway at its best and he was only 17 at the time. (*Chris Young*)

It was barely conceivable that Screeny would leave his beloved Belle Vue but he did....once again the Bradford promotion had pulled off a master stroke. A world record transfer fee (of £35000?) was a potential dead weight round his neck, but Joe delivered and then some. I would venture to say here that Joe is-in my opinion the most complete out and out racer of his generation and of my era. Few can manipulate a motorcycle so superbly as Joe, always in command and safe, he has rarely suffered injury. Odsal was a great place to be when Joe was on the card (for or against). (*Ray Allen*)

Simply the entertainer. Selected for his attitude to all, his wheelies, his bravery to go through gaps that weren't even there and his sheer racing ability. A crowd pleaser on every track. (*Robert Greenwood*)

Ken Sharples

Ken always reminded me of everyone's favourite Granddad...he was to later ride for the enemy, Sunderland Saints at East Boldon. I believe he was tragically killed in a car crash. (*Bill Gibbs*)

Adam Shields

Always happy to sign autographs and have a chat with the youngsters, even at the Brighton Bonanza when things didn't go too well a few years back. Really deserves to make it to the top in the sport. (*Alan Thompsett*)

Gerald Short

The 'Action Man'. Certainly the most spectacular rider in my 'Dream Team' he enlivened many a meeting in the mid-80's whilst wearing the Invaders race-jacket. A true leg-trailing, fence-scraper, his all-action style led to more than its fair share of bumps, bruises and broken bits which weren't confined to his spell at Station Road. A broken leg while with the Sheffield Tigers and, later on, another when he was with the Milton Keynes Knights curtailed the number of appearances he should have made in a pretty short career. Gerald was a character off the track as well, mixing freely with the fans and always game for a laugh. Where are his counterparts today? When he broke his leg at Long Eaton, the wife and I both wrote to him, to wish him a speedy recovery. Mine was the typical bloke's observations concerning his on track exploits and passing comments on what it looked like from the terraces. I remember commenting that – with his riding style leaving very little room for error – it must be great to race with people who gave him 'room', Reg Wilson (Birmingham) being a great example. I contrasted that with riders who appeared – from the terraces - to leave him little room. A certain Stoke skipper of the time instantly sprung to mind! The wife wrote a jolly little ditty to cheer him up. Imagine our surprise when, a few weeks later, Gerald wrote back. He commented on all my points, agreeing with the racing room angle and sent back a superb – and lengthy and humorous – poem to Karen to thank her. I've still got them in my Long Eaton collection of memorabilia. Priceless! I notice that 'Shorty' is still competing – successfully – on the grass track scene today and, I'm sure, is still "Wowing" supporters with his truly individual style. Great bloke! Great racer! (*Ian Gill*)

Dennis Sigalos

Such a talented rider, and such a shame his career ended because of injury to his ankle in 1984. Made a dramatic comeback to the Witches in 1985, but I'll never forget or forgive Jimmy Nilsen for dumping him off his bike in heat 13 in his first match back, damaging his ankle again. Dennis never fully recovered from that and never returned to England after that season. (*Tony Simmons*)

Had he not broken his ankle so badly in 1984, when he was hitting the peak of his form, Siggy could arguably have been World Champion in the following 2 or 3 years. Another great entertainer and an absolute class act. (*Jay Reed*)

Andrew Silver

My first speedway hero and I couldn't have a dream team without him in it. Brilliant to watch and he had a totally unique style. I still can't believe he never became world champion! I saw him race last year and he's still as great as ever. (*Midge Taylor*)

Always gave 100% when racing. You always knew something was going to happen when the 'Silver Machine' came to the tapes! He had a very extraordinary leg trailing style. I hear he was once stopped by the police skateboarding up the hard-shoulder? (*Steve Watkinson*)

Another raw talent which seemed to defy gravity in the early days but sadly defied belief in the end. Nevertheless, an amazing rider to watch. (*Jay Reed*)

The best team rider in the history of the world. Although he was a bit inconsistent, when on top form he was sensational. I've never seen someone slow a race to get his partner through as often and as competently as he did. Even today, whenever I see a lack of team riding from the rider in front, I think....now, if that had been Andrew

Silver. Looked cool on and off a bike too. Very important. (*Graham Morris*)

Malcolm Simmons

Another favourite from Custom House (West Ham) days. He started racing at an early age, certainly earlier than was customary back then, and quickly established himself at Hackney. He moved over to West Ham when the provincial league ran 'black' in 1964. If he'd raced for Hackney he would have lost his licence and been unable to race on the grasstracks. He went on to become a World Class performer who spent a year as the World's number two. He still races on the grasstracks and came close to an Elite league return just a few years ago. (*George Cox*)

A hero to many at Poole. He was simply brilliant and the fact he's still racing now shows how much class he has. He joined us in 1975 from King's Lynn and was our number one every season until he left at the end of 1980. (*Frank Chalmers*)

Malcolm was my very first favourite rider, when he used to ride for Wimbledon. He outstood the rest of the riders in the league at the time. (Well in my opinion anyway.) (*Becky Partridge*)

Another great rider who gave me an unforgettable memory. this time at the Shay (guesting for the Dukes at a track it was rumoured he didn't particularly like). Eric Monaghan made one of his rare decent gates and hit the front. Simmo tucked in behind him and proceeded for 4 laps to shepherd him home, switching from one line to another to thwart the 2 cradley riders (who were obviously faster than Eric). Simmo seemed to know where they were going to attack next and blocked every move. (*Steve Metcalf*)

King of Wimborne Road. When he joined Pirates from Kings Lynn in 1975 he took some little time to get used to the track, although scoring maximums away from home. When he did master the track, he was unbeatable, such a stylist, and could win races from the front, or from the back. What a pity he had to have Peter Collins - who won - in the same world final in Poland, when both were at their best. (*Don Maddocks*)

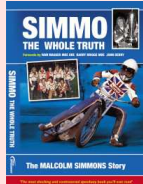
'Super Simmo', Poole's first British Champion. Multi World Pairs & Team Champion. In 1976 I remember at Exeter him coming from the back to overtake Scott Autrey in a challenge match and the British Final at Coventry was Simmo at his best. (*Adrian Williams*)

With Bettsy as our established number one 'Simmo' was often seen as second best but he was a sensational rider who we all loved to watch. In fact Simmo was almost as popular as the skipper and again we all thought he could become world champion. Simmo was stylish and a great team man. (*Trevor Gay*)

A super rider and spectacular, missed wherever he rode. Left King's Lynn to be a number one but always welcome back at Saddlebow and always left you wanting the next race. (*Mike Edwards*)

A superb stylist, never did I see anyone look more comfortable on a bike than Simmo, he was a terrific rider who sadly needed to leave Kings Lynn to get the recognition he deserved. He did get on well with Terry Betts, but could never quite achieve the hero worship status that Terry managed to have at Saddlebow Road. (*Chris Gosling*)

FIND OUT MORE...



Simmo
The Whole Truth
 By Malcolm Simmons

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Nathan Simpson

Nathan is in my dream team for his determination. Nathan was a good solid scorer. He was one of the best number ones at Wimbledon and he could beat any rider in the league. He also supported and encouraged the new up and coming riders. Nathan's best season was for the Dons in 1989. Nathan always had a great sense of humour and you could be sure of a good laugh with him. Always a rider to give 101% *(Becky Partridge)*

Adam Skornicki

Every team needs an entertainer, and Skornicki is great for this. Although not a top rider he provided entertainment in a dull season of losses and he's a true character. *(Terri Hearty)*

David Smart

The first rider I ever had my photo taken with! Also one race in particular that sticks in the memory. I don't know which season it was, but I recall him riding the race of his life to keep the mighty Hans Nielsen behind him to earn the Robins a 5-1. *(Simon Colven)*

Frank Smart

Great rider. Probably the most exciting rider in the league. Made a huge mistake on drugs and has now put all that behind him. Never forget that golden double he pulled off at Swindon - awesome. *(Lewis Joseph)*

Truly a rider worth the admission money alone, defies belief in his riding at times...a spectacle. *(Ken Morgan)*

No Wasps' all time team would be complete without Frankie, some of his rides have to be seen to be believed. I've closed my eyes on many occasions. Wasps fans were very saddened by the news that he was quitting, in our eyes he's irreplaceable. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Andy Smith

As a 16-year old, Andy was occasionally wild but often brilliant, and another rider capable of almost anything from the back, and a potential world champion handicapped by lack of gating ability and successive injuries. Andy now looks a shadow of the rider he was then, despite achieving GP status - great shame. *(Andy Millward)*

Got his career back online at Bradford. At his peak was outstanding at Odsal, even if he could not gate. A real Yorkshire terrier! *(Christian Oldcorn)*

Graeme Smith

A class act. Topped the Division 2 averages with 10.46 in 1970. Always looked and performed like a junior Ivan Mauger. Injury ended his career early. *(Bob Wiles)*

Pete Smith

Steady and consistent, Pete seemed to have been at Poole for ever. Always reliable, knew the Wimborne track like the back of his hand, and surprised even the most seasoned

opponents with his seemingly suicidal inside swoops. *(Don Maddocks)*

Scott Smith

Superb rider who spent over 7 seasons as a (Sheffield) Tiger. An unsung hero with a super style. Represented Sheffield in both Championship winning years 1999 & 2002. *(Kath Smith)*

Martin Smolinski

I know that Martin has only been riding for the Bees for a couple of seasons but he is already gaining somewhat of a cult status amongst the fans. A born entertainer who could be destined for big things. *(Steve Quartermann)*

Nigel Sparshott

Nigel was always turned out in immaculate gear, although we never knew if it was talent or lack of top notch bikes that stopped him making that leap from D2 heatleader to D1 middle man. A rider who me and some away regulars got to know quite well in the two years he rode for King's Lynn. A classic 'trier'. *(Roger Hunt)*

Another rider sadly no longer with us. I remember seeing him at 'Blantyre 1' riding for either Young England or the Anglian Junior League Select - can't remember which. What I do remember though was a rider with a spectacular leg trailing style, although when he visited Glasgow in the subsequent years he was never the same rider I saw that first time. *(Gary Moore)*

Bert Spencer

Another rider who graced the sport for many years. I will always remember Bert as he was my first boyhood hero in 1946 when I first saw Speedway. He was a leg-trailer, but could hold the white line with uncanny brilliance. *(Bryan Tungate)*

Mike Spink

I was lucky enough to be involved at Canterbury with Mike. Another one of those great team men and nice blokes. Never really a top star but very much a good rider that just got on with his job. *(Steve Hone)*

Jan Staechmann

He was the first Long Eaton rider to win the division two riders championship. Just missed out the following year also. *(Simon Stanley)*

Big name attraction when he signed for Stoke, injury cut short his career in dubious circumstances, unbeatable around Loomer Road. *(Phil Smith)*

Dean Standing

In 1988 I had an accident at work where I lost part of my fingers. My Dad got Glasgow's clerk of the Course Tom McCrone to ask the riders to sign a card for me one night. It must have been Eastbourne because I remember Dean Standing making a point of seeking me out to ask how it happened and how I was, which was a nice touch. He came across as a decent guy and a good rider too. *(Gary Moore)*

Graeme Stapleton

An old warhorse of a Kiwi who came to Newcastle late in his career. What a team rider though. His rides with Tom Owen were sheer class. Often did four laps with barely a Rizla between them. *(David Torley)*

Yes I have fond memories of Graeme, helping him all those years ago at the start. Getting the bike out of the Mini pick-up for practice sessions at Plough Lane. *(Derek Grant)*

Simon Stead

Always fully committed in every race, stylish when in front and always has a chance of overtaking when behind. I look forward to seeing him get better and better and hopefully with David Howe become Britain's very own Nielsen and Gundersen on the world front for many years. *(Andrew Dixon)*

I drifted away from speedway for a bit towards the end of the 90s. My work recently found me in Sheffield quite often on a Thursday night, so I thought I'd pay a visit to Owlerton. This man was responsible for rekindling my interest in the sport. Looks every inch a future top rider. The way he sits on a bike, coupled with his spectacular overtaking, remind me very much of Per Jonsson. *(Graham Morris)*

Although Steady has only been at Belle Vue one season so far he's showed me enough to become a legend. Cruelly, in my opinion, labelled a big track rider, Simon chose to come to Belle Vue and that decision has paid off. Simon dropped to reserve for a time in 2005 and it did him the world of good. At Wolves in the Elite League B fixture he rattled off (I think) 17 points from reserve. He was also called up to the GB World Cup Squad and certainly didn't disappoint anyone. His clash with Gollob in the WC final was one to be savoured although I still think Gollob should have been excluded. *(Chris Young)*

Great partnership with Olly Allen in the 1998 season for Peterborough, highest averaging pair of reserves that year. *(Leanne Sampson)*

Superb ability, right from the Screen and Loram mould and very entertaining on a speedway bike! I feel Simon can go all the way in speedway and emulate Havvy and Loramski, he certainly has the ability and the right attitude. Top Bloke as well! *(Dan Neve)*

Carl Stonehewer

Carl had long ridden for local rivals Long Eaton and been a constant thorn in our side. The chance to bring him to Owlerton was one not to be missed and he joined us in 1998. His impact was immediate as he gave the side a credibility it had previously lacked. His departure to Workington was greeted with much regret. *(Malcolm Watling)*

I got to see a lot of Stoney during 2003 and he really impressed me. Another born leader and very determined rider who looks out for the rest of the team. His attitude and determination in the Grand Prix was also superb! *(Dan Neve)*

Was a reliable scorer for the (Sheffield) Tigers. *(Kath Smith)*

Another rider who has never been a Monarch, but I wish he had been. A wonderful rider who produces great races, and seems like a great guy to go with it. Such a shame he won't be a part of the 2006 season. A real speedway great! *(Chrissy Wilson)*

I first saw "Stoney" at Armadale back in 1997 when he was riding for Long Eaton. They needed a 5-1 in the last

heat and he and Martin Dixon (who became the first away rider to score a maximum at Armadale that night) pulled it off, from then on he became my speedway hero. What he has done in the sport is truly remarkable, reaching Grand Prix level whilst riding in the PL is something only a true great of the sport could have done. Workington fans are lucky to have a living legend at their club. *(Scott Frame)*

Always good to watch and it was awesome seeing him compete in the Grand Prix as a PL rider. *(David Torley)*

Norman Storer

Made riding a speedway bike look like he was sitting in an armchair. My first ever speedway hero, and a rider any promoter would be proud of. A first class loyal team rider, especially when paired with Ray Wilson. *(Graham Hall)*

Norman Strachan

Norman was always good for one maximum each year. *(Adrian Williams)*

Neil Street

He was able to pop out the gate and beat anybody on his night. *(Ken Morgan)*

Along with Bob Kilby one of the fastest gaters I've ever seen. His knowledge and experience helped many youngsters in the team, he was responsible for helping bring riders like Phil Crump and Phil Herne to Newport. *(Martin Wilkins)*

Lee Strudwick

Lee really impressed me last year when he was drafted into the side to replace Andrew Bargh. He took a while to find his feet in the team, but once he found them, he was mighty fast and it shows this season with good points for Rye House. *(Stephen Champion)*

Ryan Sullivan

The Panthers top scorer of all time and a rider who has remained loyal over a long period. Nobody has ever ridden Alwalton as well as he has and at times his performances have been absolutely breathtaking. He has taken some criticism for putting his Grand Prix commitments before his club commitments at times and while I'm not happy about that I can understand why he does it. He has the ability to become World Champion and given an equal share of luck he should manage it at some point. It's unimaginable for him to ride for another club now so hopefully he'll be at Peterborough for many years to come. *(Tony Taylor)*

He is absolutely fantastic and the name "flying" suits him! He is a great rider who you can rely on as he never lets you down and always rides to his max! *(Julie Griffiths)*

Top class rider who deserves a little more luck. *(Carl Oakes)*

I can probably only count on one hand the amount of times I have seen this Peterborough man get beaten on his home track... he's pure speedway through and through. *(Leanne Sampson)*

Daz Sumner

Could gate and ride the line nearly as good as Tom Owen. Should have achieved more at Stoke, it was disappointing to see him leave. *(Doug Coward)*

T

Kelvin Tatum

Another top English rider of his generation. It was an eye opener when Kelvin - by tradition a Southern/Midlands racer decided to move to Odsal. To be fair he was not universally popular amongst Dukes fans probably because he piled up points regularly against us! Ever the professional, personable and articulate Kelvin soon set about winning over his new crowd. In two seasons he continued to enjoy success in World individual and team events and played his part in domestic success as the Dukes dominated the Knock Out Cup competition in '92/'93. Aside from Wiggy, could there be a better ambassador for Speedway? He has now matured into an excellent commentator and broadcaster for Speedway on Sky. *(Ray Allen)*

Kelvin was one of the first riders I really met, my mother used to run his fan club when he rode for Coventry and on his night he was superb. *(Steve Quarterman)*

Jim Tebby

Gentleman Jim. Never a star but a man who could pull off a miracle and win you the match. *(Derek Grant)*

Wimbledon ever-present from the late fifties, always produced the unexpected when most needed. Riding in the K.O. Cup with Cyril Maidment against Belle Vue was absolutely his best moment. Out of the second bend on the line, beware Jim is there! *(Steve Bartlett)*

Sam Tesar

A brilliant servant to the Panthers cause. We signed him from Ipswich in the early nineties and he developed into a decent rider who could sometimes reach unexpected heights. It's sad that he's opted to retire as he still had so much to offer the sport. *(Tony Taylor)*

"The Dark Shadow." So loyal. A true Peterborough man. Who can fault him? Bring him back from retirement I say! *(Leanne Sampson)*

Barry Thomas

I don't think there would be much argument about Barry Thomas being Mr Hackney. He always seemed to turn it up against the Dons. *(Mick Cast)*

Hackney Legend, 20 years loyal service from the round the boards racer. *(Brian Longman)*

Mr Hackney. Barry couldn't gate and that's what made him the rider he was. The sight of Barry swooping around the boards at Hackney was worth the admission money every time. Had Barry been able to gate I think he would have been a top rider. Barry's last bend swoop around Mauger and Autrey at Hackney will always stay with me, what a ride. *(Howard Eve)*

A real trier and quite a stylist. Developed a leg-trailing style during 1969 that was a particular crowd pleaser. *(Bob Wiles)*

Finn Thomsen

Very classy, professional rider, like many other Danish riders at the time. *(Brian Longman)*

Paul Thorp



(Picture courtesy of Ian Adam)

'Thorpy' was the ultimate team man. He never established himself as a top liner but rarely let the side down. Paul is possibly the most laid back guy to ever ride a motorcycle, he even looks like he's half asleep. I travel across to Hull occasionally and still enjoy watching him. *(Marie Hitchin)*

I remember Stoke signing him in 1985 mid-season, he made sure that we didn't forget 1986. I still wish we had brought him back to Stoke for a second spell. *(Doug Coward)*

He was breathtaking to watch in '87, we followed him all over the country as he tried to make his 1st World Final. *(Gazmundini)*

Mark Thorpe

Just for the stunning transformation that he underwent from struggling three pointer one week to genuine number one the next. And yes, it really did happen overnight. The best gater I've seen at National League level. He didn't have the confidence to make it in the Elite League though. Wonder what he's doing now? He often seemed so laid back he would fall asleep if he wasn't on a motorbike doing 70mph. *(David Torley)*

Rob Tilbury

A real character who won over a sceptical Arena public who had disliked him in his Canterbury days. The best years of his career were spent as a Hammer. He really saved us in 1990 when Martin Goodwin was out injured and without him I dread to think how heavily we would have lost some of our matches that year. He missed out on the double year in 1991 as he moved onto Long Eaton (I think) and then seemed to disappear. *(Midge Taylor)*

John Titman

Stylish and steady. The first rider I saw beat Ole Olsen. I didn't think it was possible before that! Great hair as well. *(Gregor Pattinson)*

Reliable Aussie, really steady and able to score highly on all tracks. He was often guesting for other clubs...a real team man. (*Mike Haley*)

Tomas Topinka

A great captain and a superb team rider. Unbeatable (almost) around the 'Bow there is no way I can leave him out. Long may he continue to reign at Kings Lynn. (*Roger Hunt*)

Having observed him at Kings Lynn I have seen what he brings to the club, and I think many Kings Lynn fans would agree. A great captain and team man. (*Steve Hone*)

Ian Turner

Surely the most exciting rider ever to ride at Kings Lynn? I followed his career from the second halves to heat leader status, when Ian first rode in the 2nd halves no-one went home early. How could someone so small in stature control a machine at all? Ian did not achieve all that he had promised early in his career but still was capable of beating the best for several seasons. Can well remember him appearing against Ipswich in front of the television cameras in June '78. Ian went from last to first in each of his opening three rides and narrowly missed a full maximum in his fourth. (*Chris Gosling*)

It may come as a surprise that Ian 'Tiddler' Turner was my favourite Stars rider. He never got the praise he deserved. He was tiny and spectacular. I remember seeing Tiddler beat the great Barry Briggs at West Ham with a daring swoop round the fence. I remember seeing him winning the British Junior Championship and if only Ian had been lucky enough to have the equipment of some of his peers like John Louis I am sure he could have become one of England's all time greats. He was the best value for money I ever saw. (*Trevor Gay*)

The tiddler, all the more loved for being local, a great trier and again at his best around Saddlebow where he could beat anyone. Always struggled with his gating and never really a factor at most away tracks as a result. But in this team for his whole hearted efforts on a speedway bike. (*Mike Edwards*)

David Tyler

The original overnight sensation, and many times a match winner, should have gone on to bigger things. He was tried at a couple of BL tracks far too early in his career, it was rumoured he lost his nerve and passion for racing. (*Graham Hall*)



Peter Vandenberg

Another rider from my early days at Monmore. Peter took the time to read an article I had written for a school project and put me right on a few points, but praised my efforts. (*Tony Webb*)

Lionel Van Praag

Being the first World Champion, he set a standard for others to follow. I never actually saw him ride but have heard many great stories about him. In modern times he would not have been World Champion because the qualifying round points were added to the final scores, so on the big night our own Eric Langton would have been champion. (*Norman Pell*)

Vaclav Verner

During those formative years of my speedway days at Exeter, an unknown Czech arrived in 1977 and became possibly the most spectacular racer in the history of the Falcons. Paid 11 on his debut and incredibly a near 11 point average at home in that first season. But it wasn't his points scoring that endeared him to me or the other Exeter faithful, but his all out, full throttle style. I swear once his reputation got around visiting riders would miss the gate to make sure he was ahead of them! The County Ground was a fearsome place with its banking and steel fence, but many a rider would ride wide only for Vac to find a "gap" to go outside him and roar to another win! It was only when you rushed down to the fence to see the tyre marks half way up the steel fence you realised that there was actually no gap to go through. (*Dave Lewis*)

I remember watching Vaclav practising before his Falcons debut back in 1977. No better sight than seeing him not throttle back and blast round the County Ground skimming the iron fence. (*Mike Haley*)

I remember watching Vaclav practising before his Falcons debut back in 1977. No better sight than seeing him not throttle back and blast round the County Ground skimming the iron fence. (*Mike Haley*)



David Walsh

One thing you get from 'Walshy' is an honest shift. He is also very safe on track and I believe that other riders trust him not to do anything 'stupid'. His gating ability is first class and consistent, and can be streets ahead of opponents at the first corner. An obvious advantage in this game! Has been a good servant to Berwick during his numerous stints as a Bandit. (*Gary Tait*)

Walshie was a rider Glasgow let go as a teenager, but who returned as a star to show them what they had missed. A brilliant gater and when ahead rarely passed. A good team man but another who retired a bit early...this time caused by a track injury at Hull. (*Jim Liddell*)

He certainly was very laid back off track, although once he got the crash helmet on it was a different matter. He was a good solid rider and I'm pleased he won a championship medal with the Dukes. (*Chris Backhouse*)

Split Waterman

My ultimate favourite rider. He had previously ridden for New Cross, Wembley and Wimbledon before arriving at Harringay. He was the ultimate rider for any team, flamboyant, daring and wonderful to watch. He also came in very handy when through friends he got me and two friends best seats to see the 1951 World Championship at Wembley Stadium. After a three-man ride-off Jack Young became World Champion, Split came second with Jack Biggs third. Record producer Pete Waterman claims to be the nephew of Squire Francis 'Split' Waterman. (*Mal*)

Craig Watson

Just an amazing example of an out and out number one. Great on every track in Britain and a huge favourite with the fans. (*Lewis Joseph*)

His blasts from the back at home and away are inspiring, leads from the front. (*Ken Morgan*)

Always happy to talk and spend time with the youngsters. Polite and professional - plus a blooming good rider (*Alan Thompson*)

Keith White

The master of the Groveway. He knew all the racing lines on that track inside out. His average was always kept down though with his lack of scoring power away from home. Who cares though? He was a great character and friend and even took me and my mate round the track on his bike after a meeting. Something that I have never forgotten in more than 20 years. God bless you Chalky, wherever you are now. (*Michael Farrant*)

Jack Winstanley

A gritty rider who we dubbed "The Legend"...he was nothing great but we loved him! (*Bill Gibbs*)

Simon Wigg



(Picture courtesy of Tony McDonald)

Another rider who was taken from us at a tragically early age. Wigg always had a smile for everyone and nothing seemed to get him down for long. His easy going personality was a nice contrast to Havvy's more serious outlook on life. His machinery always had a 'space age' look as he added some aerodynamic features to gain those precious seconds. (*Marie Hitchin*)

Came to Bradford after suffering a bad injury, and at one point dropped to reserve. He regained his confidence, and then was absolutely fantastic. Consistently fast, and a really nice guy. He is sadly missed. (*Christian Oldcorn*)

True professional and a class act. The Green Machine oozed quality. A very sad loss to the Sport! (*Dan Neve*)

I can't believe that anyone could leave Simon out of their top seven Oxford riders. A flamboyant, gregarious professional. Simon and Hans were to Oxford what Jason Crump and Bjarne Pedersen are to Poole today. (*John Phelan*)

When Wigg came to Bradford he was getting over a bad neck injury that could have finished his career and did not start very well, people were calling for his head, by the end of his time with the Dukes he was legend. Simon was always there with the younger and less experienced members of the team giving them tips on what to do, no matter if he was jetting off the Germany he would always have a chat with his fans and always rode to win. (*Gerard Lynch*)

Only had one season at Dudley Wood, his first after stepping up from Weymouth, but he was catapulted into the No.1 jacket after a month of brilliance at reserve. Was such a talent and very reliable, spearheading Cradley Heath into that golden spell when they won virtually everything in '83. He was a superstar in the making. (*Andrew Bradley*)

Had my photo taken with him by the track photographer at Groveway Stadium back in 1986 when I was 12. It was my claim to fame and was proud of it. I made sure all my schoolmates knew. I was at his farewell grasstrack meet too. It was very sad. It still upsets me now. He was my role model. My hero. And Hans' right hand man. (*Michael Farrant*)

I can still remember to this day my Dad saying to me "that guy with the green leathers is going to be some rider", that was 1980 when Weymouth visited. He wasn't wrong was he? It is about the only thing my Dad has got right in 30 years watching! I think Wigg's presence is still missed in speedway today. (*Gary Moore*)

"Super Scintillating Simon Wigg" - that sums up Simon perfectly. Very much a surprise signing in 1991. Wigg was a pioneer in as much as he set the mould for future top line stars to come to Odsal in the 90's. To be fair it was a struggle for him early on in 91. Returning from a bad neck injury the previous season he dropped to reserve at one stage. However the unmistakable "grin in green leathers" started to hit form and mid to late season the big scores were in abundance. A perfect professional, personable and passionate about motorcycling in every form - a great role model for team mates. Wigg's influence rubbed off on all around him - perhaps not least Havvy who benefited greatly I am sure he would admit. Wigg was with Bradford for two seasons and again although not popular as an opponent, because he had scored freely against us, he won our hearts and was always welcomed back to Odsal as a visitor in later seasons. It's terrible that Wigg is no longer with us, it's something you can hardly take in now. As you look at Speedway today and the renaissance is happening, look again because whatever's happening Simon Wigg probably had something to do with it. God bless. (*Ray Allen*)

The green man of the shale! An out and out racer, brilliant to watch and a great loss to the sport. One of a few racers who could compete at top level at grass/shale and longtrack. (*Steve Watkinson*)

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Steve Wilcock

Mr Consistency and one of the most loyal riders I have known. His track craft around Cleveland Park was second to none. *(David Phillips)*

So many memories of a superb performer, could pass riders anywhere. *(Gary Mitchell)*

Alan Wilkinson

Never a superstar, but a great captain, team rider, sportsman and competitor, Wilkie was the original "hard man" who never bore a grudge and often led the team to victory against the odds. Once beaten twice by Nigel Boocock at Hyde Road in one evening, Wilkie took the microphone and paid tribute to his rival on the air - something I've never heard any rider do before or since. Broke his neck in a freak accident (1977 or 78, I think), but has never been bitter about the sport. *(Andy Millward)*

Bruising second string and team man, useful on bumpy tracks and if a scuffle were to break out. These are my good memories of Alan before his accident. *(Norman Chadwick)*

Ray Wilson

Started when 17 year olds were unheard of, memories of him barging past anybody who got in his way, and often getting away with it. Always seemed a bit too 'chunky' to be a good rider, but really made it big in the early 70's, anybody scoring a maximum for their national team deserved a medal. *(Graham Hall)*

World Cup Willie! Mr Leicester, a great sight seeing him thunder in to the first turn in heat one of a match. Many memories of great performances but none better than the '75 British Final, when after a pointless first ride he stormed back to take the last qualifying place for Wembley by beating Martin Ashby in a run off! What a pity that race has never been put on a DVD. *(Duncan Pemberton)*

Sean Wilson

The blow of Sheffield losing 'Stoney' was cushioned by the delight of Sean's return. Sean rode for us in the eighties and looked an excellent prospect. He enjoyed a reasonably successful career in the top flight, principally with Coventry and Bradford, but was frozen out of a team place in 1998. He would have been an excellent capture for us but his average was too high. Eventually he landed a place with Belle Vue and he ended the season with a low enough average to be allowed to drop down. He signed for us over the winter and turned in a season of individual brilliance. He was the club captain and the main reason that we won the league. He stayed with us in 2000 and it's hard to imagine him ever moving on again. *(Malcolm Watling)*

Typical Yorkshireman and a rider of real character. Has shown some real determination and leadership with Sheffield and previously Bradford. His team riding with Havvy has to be some of the best ever witnessed. *(Dan Neve)*

Guts, determination???? I first knew Sean off the grasstracks and Bradford Dukes. First good memory is on the grass at Northallerton when Sean would be about 18, he raced handlebar over handlebar for four laps with Paul Bentley, one of the best races I've seen, on grass OR speedway. Then all the entertainment he's given at Sheffield and Bradford over the years. Maybe the brave bit comes after his appalling injuries over the years, especially his broken neck, to come back and win the Premier League Riders crown at Sheffield in 2005.....incredible,

awesome, call it what you like, but the look on his face when he won it will always be an image I won't forget. *(Simon Ashworth)*

An under-rated rider who could beat the best on his day, but was worth having in your team just for his personality and enthusiasm. Brightened up many a Saturday night in the bar at Odsal after the meeting. will never forget the punch up with Per Jonsson after a particularly spicy race at Bradford. Sean could just about reach Per's belly button. *(Steve Metcalf)*

His tenacious racing typified the Yorkshire spirit. He took some nasty knocks through the years but his enthusiasm never waned. Sean was a real character who seemed to know everybody around the stadium. It's great to see him doing so well for Sheffield. *(Marie Hitchin)*

A rider 100% committed to Bradford during his time there who recovered from a terrible back injury to regain form, especially when coming from behind around the wide bends of Odsal. I have then been fortunate enough to see him again at Sheffield where he has somehow appeared to become even more enthusiastic about the sport and committed to his team. *(Andrew Dixon)*

Guess you couldn't pair him with Roman Matousek, but one of the most popular modern Sheffield riders. Just seemed to be able to pull that extra yard when needed. *(Jeff Dooley)*

Mr 100%, another Bradford rider with a serious back injury, Sean was a true Yorkshire terrier and never knew if he was beaten, some of his last lap dashes were magnificent, Sean's only problems were his inconsistency to beat the riders with less skill than him and his dodgy hats when the weather got cold at Odsal. *(Gerard Lynch)*

Todd Wiltshire

Todd is a great rider who ability to whizz out of the starting gate and be the first to the bend was absolutely fantastic, with this it gained him the nickname of whizz kid in my eyes. Todd first came to Wimbledon as a reserve and he built his way up to being up with the very best, and even after a very serious injury, becoming a Grand Prix Rider. *(Becky Partridge)*

Came to Reading on the eve of the 1990 season from National League Wimbledon. He was desperate to try his hand in the British League but many promoters would not touch him believing him to be too light weight and only able to gate. How wrong they were. He took the league and world by storm, ending up as 1990 world number three and a league and cup winner. He had it all, the style, the looks and the ability. Sadly had his best years taken from him after a clash with Jason Lyons in the Australian final in the early weeks of 1992. He would have gone on to win a world title or two. *(John Downer)*

Probably now an Oxford legend. Always a professional, a true leader, and an all-round nice guy as well. Certainly one of the fastest starters I ever saw. To come back to the sport at the highest level after an injury that could so easily have seen him not walk again was just amazing. *(John Phelan)*

Alan Witt

Only rode at Long Eaton for a short time, he used to follow riders for 3.75 laps and then take them on the old pits bend which became known as the 'Witt turn'. *(Graham Hall)*

Simon Wolstenholme

Simon led Mildenhall in their first two Conference years with experience behind him with Arena in the late 80's/early 90's. He was the valuable leader with consistency and top scores until his abrupt double "retirement" at the end of the 1995. *(David Crane)*

Antonin Woryna

I first saw Toni Woryna riding for Poland at Monmore Green in 1967. I am now a very good friend of his son, Mirek. *(Tony Webb)*

James Wright

James is one of the best prospects England has got. Has improved vastly over the last 2 years. Brilliant young gun. *(Arran Swindells)*

Doug Wyer

With Long Eaton's demise at the end of 1974, I headed North every Thursday evening with my father for our weekly speedway 'fix'. Starting to follow a 'new' team meant I had no pre-conceived ideas about 'favourites' but it certainly wasn't too long before Doug emerged. Here was a truly 'hard' rider; no quarter asked or given. Doug saw it that his job was to go out and win races for himself and Sheffield Tigers. Team riding was for others. His was a win, win, win mentality and he had considerable success as a result. Almost as soon as we had commenced following the Tigers, their fortunes as a team, slumped. Bad injuries to Arnie Haley and Reg Wilson and some poor signings over the subsequent seasons, meant that 'The Flyer' was often left to compete with the opposition on his own, and, when that was the case, you were assured of 'entertainment'. Big reputations meant nothing - particularly round Owlerton - as Doug took them all on. I remember him sarcastically waving Ole Olsen through at the end of a Heat, having whipped the Great Dane for the second time in three heats. I think I associated with him more because he was what was termed an 'unfashionable' No. 1, but that made his victories over the media-hyped - usually Southern based - stars all the more pleasing. He could do it on the away tracks as well, often incurring the wrath of the home fans with his hard charging style. *(Ian Gill)*

Came to us probably past his peak, but seeing him beat the best in the world from the gate was worth the admission money (unfortunately he was just as likely to be last going into turn 3 after a lightning gate, until he got his equipment sorted out). Always entertaining and on his day could save a meeting for us. *(Steve Metcalf)*


Vesa Ylinen

Vesa was a tremendous talent and such an exciting rider to watch. His gating was lightning fast and I believe if it wasn't for injury he would have gone on to be a big force in the sport. He was always a threat in Scandinavia and helped put speedway back on track in Finland. His highlight for me came when he scored a paid maximum at Oxford for the Monarchs, completing two of his rides on borrowed machinery! *(Mark Lucas)*

Jack Young

I think Jack Young joined West-Ham Hammers from Edinburgh Monarchs. We had all heard of his reputation, but he far exceeded everything that had been said about him, he was one of the greatest riders ever. An Aussie

stalwart, a tremendous rider who every fan wanted in their team. *(Mal)*


Karol Zabik

Had the pleasure of watching this guy at Poole when the Panthers took the Pirates to the cleaners big time. What a racer, watching this lad pick people off at his leisure, if he wasn't already leaving them trailing in his wake, was just superb. *(Colin Mackay)*

Matej Zagar

A master of balance and has the world at his feet. If he can improve his professionalism to the next level it will push him into the world top three. Some of his passes are reminiscent of the great Per Jonsson and he's one of the most naturally gifted riders of his generation. He can be a little hot headed at times but then so was Crump and that did him no harm in the long term. I first saw him in an under 21 qualifier and instantly knew he was special. It turned out he had only ridden about twenty meetings prior to this in his life. I raved on about him to the Reading promotion and finally they signed him via Trelawny. *(John Downer)*

Magnus Zetterstrom

Zorro is a Poole legend, after 9 years of solid service at Poole, no one deserved the 2004 league title more than Magnus. His emotion on that night showed how much Poole meant to him. He was a fantastic captain and always looked out for his team mates both on and off the track. I can't believe I only saw the famous dance twice! *(Rob Wickham)*