

MILDENHALL SPEEDWAY



OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 15p

**Sunday
Mirror**



Bad Luck Melvyn —

We all wish you a 'speedway' recovery

Photo by Dave Kindred

SUNDAY, 8th APRIL, 1979 at 3.30 p.m.

MEETING No. 3

5th SEASON

SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND

Betting is strictly prohibited

Meetings conducted by the West Row Motor Cycle Club

MILDENHALL SPEEDWAY

OFFICIALS

Meetings conducted by
W. Mawdsley Promotions
and C. Barber on behalf of

**THE WEST ROW MOTOR
CYCLE CLUB**

T. Waters B. Klatt
W. Mawdsley C. Barber

SPEEDWAY OFFICE
West Row, Mildenhall, Suffolk

All correspondence to
Speedway Office

Telephones:

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C. Barber: Felixstowe 3119

Clerk of the Course
TimeKeeper
Medical Officer
Team Manager
Announcer
Machine Examiner
Pit Marshal
Starting Marshal
Colour Marshal
General Manager

D. Gage
B. Taylor-Balls
Dr. Davis
Ron Bagley
Terry Ripo
D. Leeks
H. Punt
R. Thrower
J. Satchell
C. Barber

Track Length : 307 Yards

Track Record:

Melvyn Taylor (Fen Tigers)
September 17th, 1978 — 55.0 secs.

Held under the auspices of the
Speedway Control Board Ltd.

SCB Licence No. 147/78/14

**ST. JOHN AMUBULANCE
IN ATTENDANCE**

Fen Focus

with Colin Barber

Good Afternoon Everyone,

We bid welcome to all the competitors taking part in this, the first Qualifying Round of the Sunday Mirror World Championship of 1979. We welcome too, the representatives of the Sunday Mirror who will be presenting medals to the worthy qualifiers, and would like to thank them for their kind sponsorship of this event. The Sunday Mirror is certainly a good friend to British Speedway with the sponsorship of this, and many other events up and down the country during the speedway season.

We must commiserate with Melvyn Taylor who is unable to take his place in the line-up today, due to a broken bone in his thumb sustained in the horrific pile-up with Mike Sampson last Sunday. Melvyn is very disappointed at saying goodbye to his chance this season, but has promised to come back with a vengeance in the Championship next season. He will have the best possible treatment in an effort to get back to full fitness as quickly as possible. Before leaving the subject of last Sunday's meeting, how pleasing it was to see the Tigers once again showing their prowess, even without the three big guns firing on all four cylinders. Congratulations to Mike Spink for a fine performance, and Robert Henry who played a real Captain's part with a fine 9 paid 11. Had it not been for a few unfortunate engine failures, the Tigers would surely have scored many more points. However, it has given Nottingham good practice at West Row, and their General Manager, Bob Griffin tells me that next time it will certainly not be so easy for us.

We have a very interesting and strong looking line-up this afternoon, with a number of Gulf and former Gulf riders taking part. Phil Collins, by virtue of his fine performances in Australia during the winter has, by some, been made anti-post favourite, but I do believe that Mick Hines, David Gagen and the other thirteen riders have different ideas about this. Richard Greer's performance in last year's round here stands him in good stead, and Colin Cook's previous record around this circuit makes him a man to be feared. Another man we must not forget is our former skipper, Bob Coles who will, no doubt, be out to prove a point or two this

afternoon. Let's hope we have a good afternoon's racing, and "may the best man win". To all of you making your first visit to West Row this season, don't forget our new Restaurant/Snack Bar is fully operational and will be serving "Super Suppers" until 8 p.m. tonight.

Next week's event, after its success last year, has been written into the diary as a permanent annual fixture. It is, of course, the "Easter Triangle" Tournament in which the Tigers take on Peterborough and Ryehouse. The first leg is at Peterborough on Friday, then here at West Row on Sunday, and at Ryehouse on Easter Monday.

NEW YEAR'S EVE BUFFET DANCE

A Buffet Dance will be held on New Year's Eve (yes, December 31st, 1979). The reason for this early announcement is that the tickets will cost £8 each and Bernie Klatt is giving supporters the opportunity of paying 25p a week throughout the season, rather than having to dig deep at Christmas time. For further details, please see Bernie at his new Restaurant complex.

Team Up with Ron Bagley

We've certainly clicked into gear for this new season. No team could hope for a better start than we have put together these first two meetings. Today's excursion into the World Individual Championship is almost a rude interruption to our power team displays, still I suppose it gives the opposition a break. Only Melvin's knock has taken the shine off our magnificent entrance and as I write there is still some uncertainty as to the extent of his injuries. All going well though he should be in today's line up.

Perhaps Richard took his confidence kick just a little too far by turning up last week without his leathers. Admittedly he rode so well the previous week he could almost be excused not bothering to dress for the occasion — but just to keep within the regulations, we managed to squeeze him into a spare set of Melvin's.

As you all witnessed last week, Robert is once again the proud owner of a Colt car from the Skid Parrish stable and from what the Skipper tells me, those particular cars are well worth consideration if you happen to be affluent enough to change your car.

Once again, I take the opportunity to remind you all how crucial the role of our sponsors is to our cause. Fortunately we have some of the very best here at West Row and their financial support of the team is playing more than a large part in our current form.

RON BAGLEY PHOTOGRAPHIC

Cameras and equipment bought
sold and part-exchanged.

COLCHESTER (0206) 64142

Off The Record

MIKE SPINK

Place of Birth: Peterborough

Height: 5'10"

Weight: 10 st.

Married: No

Car: Marina

Pets: No

Your job prior to speedway: Delivery driver

Rider I most admire: Ole Olsen

Favourite Away Track: Peterborough

Most Memorable Match: Winning at Edinburgh, 1978

Likes: Go-Carting. Anything to do with motor sports

Dislikes: Football, Cricket and Stew

Favourite T.V. Show: I like fast-moving T.V. Cops, shows, but I most enjoyed a programme called Superbike 7. I'd like to see it again

Favourite Singer or Group: Bee Gees

Favourite Colour: Red

Favourite Meal: Home-baked Cottage Pie

Present Speedway Bike: 4-valve Jawa and a Street

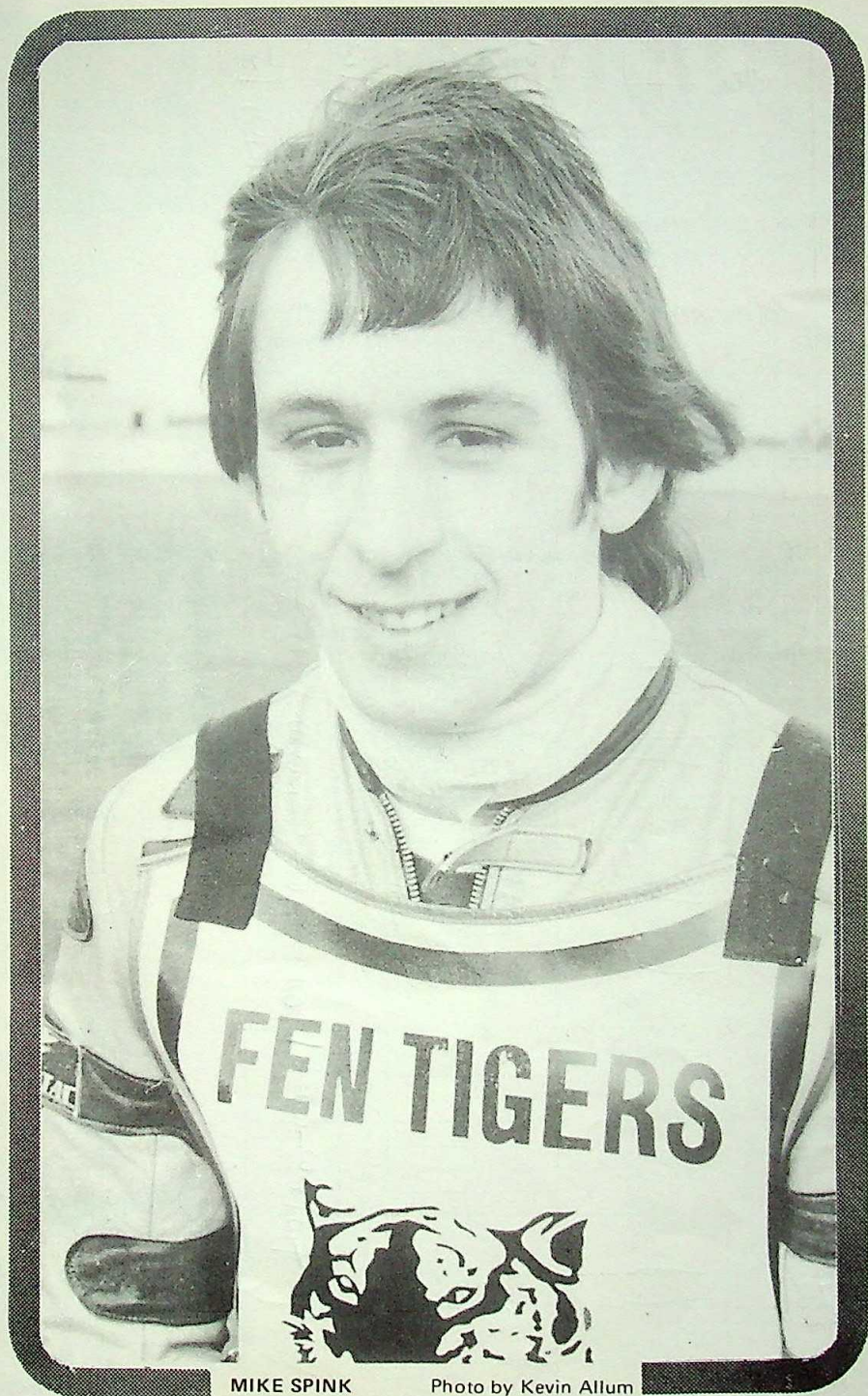
Biggest influence on my speedway career: Richard Greer

Personal Ambition: To earn enough to live comfortably

Professional Ambition: To get to the top of course, but first to become a heat leader

What would you like to do when you retire? I would very much like to have a business of my own

Who would you most like to meet: Ivan Mauger and Ole Olsen



MIKE SPINK

Photo by Kevin Allum

No.	RIDER	TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
1	R. Bales	Mildenhall	3	2	2	2	3		12
2	R. Greer	Birmingham	1	2	1	1	1		6
3	C. Meredith	Oxford	1	1	1	1	1		5
4	I. Clark	Peterborough	2	1	1	1	1		6
5	K. Hawkins	Coventry	2	1	1	1	1		6
6	A. Pullen	Rye House	1	2	1	2	1		7
7	R. Emerson	Workington	3	3	2	1	3		12
8	C. Cook	Ipswich	1	1	2	2	2		8
9	N. Flatman	Peterborough	1	1	3	3	2		9

Sunday Mirror

CHAMPIONSHIP

of
THE WORLD

Qualifying
Round

No.	RIDER	TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
10	L. Rumsey	Oxford	2	3	2	2	2		7
11	D. Gagen	King's Lynn	1	2	1	1	2		4
12	M. Hines	Mildenhall	3	2	3	3	3		14
13	D. Ashby	Milton Keynes	3	3	3	3	2		14
14	A. Price	Cradley Heath	1	1	1	1	1		5
15	B. Coles	Weymouth	1	2	2	1	1		7
16	P. Collins	Cradley Heath	2	3	3	3	1		11
17	R. Henry	Mildenhall							
18	M. Spink	Mildenhall							

Heat/Time		RIDER	Substitute	Col.	Points
1	1	R. Bales		R	3
	2	R. Greer	R. Bales	B	1
56.4	3	C. Meredith		W	1
	4	I. Clark		Y	1
2	5	K. Hawkins		R	2
	7	A. Emerson		B	3
57.8	6	A. Pullen		W	1
	8	C. Cook		Y	1
3	10	L. Rumsey	M. SPINK	R	2
	11	D. Gagen		B	1
58.2	9	N. Flatman		W	1
	12	M. Hines		Y	1
4	15	B. Coles	R. HENRY	R	1
	14	A. Price		B	1
56.5	16	P. Collins		W	1
	13	D. Ashby	J. BUCHARD	Y	2
5	13	D. Ashby	J. BUCHARD	R	3
	1	R. Bales		B	2
56.6	5	K. Hawkins		W	1
	9	N. Flatman		Y	1
6	14	A. Price		R	1
	10	L. Rumsey	M. SPINK	B	3
57.8	2	R. Greer	R. Bales	W	1
	6	A. Pullen		Y	1
7	11	D. Gagen		R	1
	15	B. Coles	R. HENRY	B	2
57.4	7	A. Emerson		W	3
	3	C. Meredith		Y	1
8	4	I. Clark		R	1
	8	C. Cook		B	1
56.8	12	M. Hines		W	3
	16	P. Collins		Y	3
9	6	A. Pullen		R	1
	16	P. Collins		B	2
55.8	1	R. Bales		W	2
	11	D. Gagen		Y	1
10	12	M. Hines		R	3
	5	K. Hawkins		B	1
57.8	15	B. Coles	HENRY	W	1
	2	R. Greer	BUCKING	Y	1
11	8	C. Cook		R	2
	9	N. Flatman		B	3
57.4	3	C. Meredith		W	1
	14	A. Price		Y	1

Sunday Mirror

Referee Mr. Alan Todd

AWARDS

Winner Receives
GOLD MEDAL

Runner Up Receives
SILVER MEDAL

3rd Placed Men Receives
BRONZE MEDAL

Sunday Mirror

Heat/Time		RIDER	Substitute	Col.	Points
12	13	D. Ashby	BUCKARD	R	3
	4	I. Clark		B	1
56.4	10	L. Rumsey	SPINKS	W	1
	7	A. Emerson		Y	2

INTERVAL

13	7	A. Emerson		R	1
	12	M. Hines		W	3
57.0	14	A. Price		Y	2
	1	R. Bales		Y	2
14	2	R. Greer	BUCKING	R	1
	13	D. Ashby	BUCKARD	B	3
57.2	8	C. Cook		W	2
	11	D. Gagen		Y	1
15	16	P. Collins		R	3
	3	C. Meredith		B	1
56.4	10	L. Rumsey	M. SPINK	W	2
	5	K. Hawkins		Y	1
16	9	N. Flatman		R	3
	6	A. Pullen		B	2
58.2	4	I. Clark		W	1
	15	B. Coles	R. HENRY	Y	1
17	1	R. Bales		R	3
	8	C. Cook		B	2
56.8	15	B. Coles	R. HENRY	W	1
	10	L. Rumsey	M. SPINKS	Y	1
18	9	N. Flatman		R	2
	2	R. Greer	BUCKING	B	1
	7	A. Emerson		W	3
	16	P. Collins		Y	1
19	3	C. Meredith		R	1
	12	M. Hines		B	3
57.6	13	D. Ashby	J. BUCHARD	W	2
	6	A. Pullen		Y	1
20	5	K. Hawkins		R	3
	14	A. Price		B	1
58.0	11	D. Gagen		W	1
	4	I. Clark		Y	1
21*				R	1
				B	3
57.2				W	1
				Y	1

*Decider — if necessary

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N.L. Events For Your 1979 Diary

Saturday, July 14th
at Halifax

NATIONAL LEAGUE PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, July 29th
at Peterborough

DUREX NATIONAL FOURS FINAL

Saturday, August 18th
at Hackney

WARNERS GRAND NATIONAL FINAL

Saturday, September 29th
at Wimbledon

GAULOISES NATIONAL LEAGUE RIDERS FINAL

In The Shop -----

PENNANTS STICKERS LARGE TIGER'S HEADS BADGES

RIDER STICKERS SMALL STICKERS YEAR BARS

SCARVES COLOUR PHOTOS SEW-ONS TIGER'S HEADS

BLACK & WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

ETC.

Next Week at West Row

SUNDAY, 15th April, 1979 at 3.30 p.m.

EASTER TRIANGLE

MILDENHALL v RYEHOUSE v PETERBOROUGH

All the excitement of two Local Derby's in one

Who will be champions?

Pit Patter

with Randall Butt, Cambridge Evening News

It didn't take long this season did it for everyone at West Row to get a cruel reminder that in speedway nothing is certain.

Just when the prospects seemed so bright, with the team in such tremendous form, Mel Taylor, through no fault of his own, ends up in the fence, and out of action for a month or more.

The consolation is that it could have been much worse, it certainly looked far more serious as the teenager's head slammed into the boards.

In the event he "escaped" with a broken thumb, although he wasn't exactly counting his lucky stars on Monday morning as he looked at the plaster cast on his hand and arm.

"It's a real drag this early in the season" he commented, "I was looking forward to the world championship round at West Row. I can't remember much about what happened, when I came round I couldn't even remember what day it was."

Crashes can affect young riders but Mel is level headed enough to shrug this one off. He knows that it was nothing to do with his judgement or ability. He was simply going too fast for Mike Sampson who lost control in an attempt to live with him.

It's a great shame that the local lad is unable to compete this afternoon because going by the way he outshone Nottingham star Dave Perks last week he stood a great chance of being one of today's qualifiers.

His form last week even moved clerk of the course Dave (that's me in the smart suit) Gage to wax lyrical last week. As Mel stormed past Perks, Dave muttered: "poetry, sheer poetry".

In fact there was quite a bit of poetry trotted out by the Tigers last week, great chunks of it from Mike Spink and Mick Bates, with Robert Henry and Richard Knight contributing more than the odd stanza.

What was so encouraging was that the Tigers obliterated poor Nottingham even though the heat leaders finished as joint bottom scorers with six points.

And the only occasions when home riders finished last were when Ray Bales ground to a halt with fuel line trouble, and Mick Hines' magneto disintegrated.

The man of the match title must go to Mike Spink on the flying Jawa. Mike got some first division experience with Wimbledon this week, and it's a pity he isn't able to have a go at today's star-studded field.

It will be really strange this afternoon to see Bob Coles riding here in the colours of another team.

No doubt there will be a few fans who will feel it necessary to boo him if he manages to beat a home rider, but they should remember the tremendous role the West countryman played in the establishment of Mildenhall speedway.

He has earned the gratitude of everyone connected with the track, and has rightly been described by Colin Barber as the rock on which West Row was built.

Welcome back Bob, it's good to see such a dedicated professional back in the sport.

So which riders are going to get the coveted four qualifying places today. You could almost stick a pin in the line up — on paper that it.

I've got to go for Mick Hines, who has shown such tremendous form around here this season, and of course Phil Collins, no stranger to the track and with speedway success in his blood.

Colin Cook and Dave Gagen will get a lot of support and must be in with a chance, Nigel Flatman could shake a few, and that man Coles will have the greatest incentive of all in front of his former fans.

Guest Writer

from THE SUNDAY MIRROR

It all starts here

It seems only yesterday that 90,000 people were roaring home a new world champion at Wembley Stadium, with Ole Olsen realising his ambition and crowning a great season by taking the sport's highest individual honour.

Britain had to be content with second place, a fine performance by Gordon Kennett, but already we are about to witness the start of the long trail to the magic of another World Final. Another chance for Britain to find a winner, another chance for the up-and-coming to establish themselves.

The trail starts here with the National League, the roots of the sport, where talent is developing and young eyes are fastened on that elusive crown. On the way there will be the further qualifying rounds on the British League tracks, then the semi-finals, the British Final at Coventry — always a very special occasion — and then the Commonwealth and Intercontinental Finals.

A long, long arduous path and a daunting one for any rider. Maybe those you see this evening will not make it all the way, history suggests it is perhaps too much to ask, but one thing is certain, it will not be for want of effort which is why you will be seeing the fiercest competition at any stage of the event. Here, at the very start, you will be watching speedway at its grass roots level. Enjoy it, for it has all the sport's finest ingredients. Enthusiasm, dedication, honest effort and a love of the sport.

Give the lads the encouragement they deserve, sustain them with your appreciation, for this is a special night for them and the first step on the sport's highest ladder to the top.

We at the Sunday Mirror are delighted to claim a special relationship with the sport's premier event since 1958. Every year has had a special story to unfold. This will be no different in that respect. Let's sit back and watch history made again.

SUPPORTERS CLUB NEWS

The Annual General Meeting was held November 15th 1978. A new Committee was elected:

Chairman: Kim Gove *Secretary:* Beth Hensby *Treasurer:* Bob Carters
Membership: Sandra Butler and Andrew Whitehouse
Draw Tickets: Alice Lloyd, Joan Raven, Brian Wood, Dee Anna Wood, Colin Heffer, Nigel Carter, Robert McLaukin

Sweden 1980 World Final

A meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 18th at 8 o'clock, in main Bar, for information on this trip. A deposit of £5.00 must be given on the evening for those wanting to go.

100 Club Winner this week — No. 62 Mr. R. Freeman — £25.

Thank you

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Fixtures 1979

MARCH

Sun 18 OXFORD (Ch)
Thurs 22 Oxford (Ch)
Sun 25 STOKE (Ch)

- RAIN
- RAIN
- 57-21

APRIL

Sun 1 NOTTINGHAM (Ch)
Sun 8 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
QUALIFYING ROUND
Fri 13 Peterborough (3 T.T.)
Sun 15 MILDENHALL (3 T.T.)
Mon 16 Rye House (3 T.T.)
Sun 22 OXFORD (NL)
Sun 29 MIDDLESBOROUGH (NL)

- 53-35

MAY

Sat 5 Canterbury (4 T.T.)
Sun 6 MILDENHALL (4 T.T.)
Mon 7 Rye House (4 T.T.)
Tues 8 Crayford (4 T.T.)
Sun 13 POLISH UNDER 23's (Int. Ch)
Sat 19 Canterbury (NL)
Sun 20 SCUNTHORPE (NL)
Tues 22 Milton Keynes (NL)
Weds 23 OPEN
Fri 25 Peterborough (NL)
Mon 28 Scunthorpe (NL)

JUNE

Sun 3 BERWICK (NL)
Fri 8 Ellesmere Port (K.O.C.)
Sun 10 ELLESMERE PORT (K.O.C.)
Sun 17 WORKINGTON (NL)
Tues 19 Crayford (NL)
Sat 23 Junior Champ. British Isles
(Canterbury)
Sun 24 CRAYFORD (NL)
Fri 29 Glasgow (NL)
Sat 30 Berwick (NL)

JULY

Weds 4 MILTON KEYNES (NL)
Sun 8 RES. K.O. CUP
Sun 15 CANTERBURY (NL)
Sat 21 N.L. Pairs Final (Halifax)
Sun 22 Suffolk Open Junior Champs.
Weds 25 OPEN
Fri 27 Edinburgh (NL)
Sat 28 Stoke (NL)
Sun 29 Durex 4 T.T. Finals (P'borough)

AUGUST

Weds 1 OPEN
Weds 8 BOSTON (NL)
Sun 12 Boston (NL)
Mon 13 Newcastle (NL)
Weds 15 JOE COBBOLD TROPHY
Sun 19 Ellesmere Port (NL)
Weds 22 OPEN
Sun 26 RYE HOUSE (NL)
Mon 27 Rye House (NL)

SEPTEMBER

Sun 2 PETERBOROUGH (NL)
Weds 5 Nottingham (NL)
Sun 9 GLASGOW (NL)
Tues 11 Weymouth (NL)
Weds 12 STOKE (NL)
Thurs 13 Middlesbrough (NL)
Fri 14 Workington (NL)
Weds 19 OPEN
Sun 23 WEYMOUTH (NL)
Sat 29 N.L. Riders Champ. (Wimbledon)
Sun 30 EDINBURGH (NL)

OCTOBER

Thurs 4 Oxford (NL)
Sun 7 NEWCASTLE (NL)
Sun 14 ELLESMERE PORT (NL)
Sat 20 PALMER TROPHY
Sun 28 OPEN
WARNERS GRAND NATIONAL
Date to be decided

SUBJECT TO FURTHER ALTERATION

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