



GULF OIL BRITISH LEAGUE BERGER GRAND PRIX
(in association with Daily Mirror)

SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

(Qualifying Round)

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME





Tonights Berger Grand Prix and World Championship qualifier gives us an opportunity to see some of the top riders in action and there is no doubt we can look forward to a great evenings racing.

Topping the bill will be the clash between Scott Autry and Bruce Penhall of the U.S.A. and each will do their best to prove the better and we can expect some healthy rivalry. At the moment Scott is somewhat out of favour with the A.M.A. which is the official U.S.A. body, following his much publicised withdrawal from the American World Championship qualifier last November, and it would seem this action has caused the authorities to discipline the rider by excluding him from the official U.S.A World Cup Team.

It is not for this column to criticise the A.M.A. but we can be allowed to wonder whether such action is the best way in which to bring attention to the supposed indiscretion of the Rider when his presence in such a team is so very important to the American chance of success, especially as there are a large number of reasonable people that think the A.M.A. would do well to actually study the method they have chosen to select qualification for World Championship representation. It is perhaps too easy to criticise the A.M.A. and perhaps I am a little biased because of what I regarded as a farcial method of selection last year, but I try to be fair which I am not certain the A.M.A. are, otherwise how can it be possible that for the I979 World Long Track Championship Steve Gresham is chosen above Bruce Penhall when Bruce has been the official U.S.A. Long Track Champion for the past two years. You tell me, or better still tell Bruce because he is convinced that the A.M.A. are against him whilst I hope they have simply made a mistake.

DAN

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Track Licence No. 79/14 Held under the Regulations of the Speedway Control Board St. John Ambulance Brigade in attendance Track length-367 yards

Track Record: 63.9

Steve Bastable 14.10.78



Supporters Club notes



Calling all Heathens' 79 fans, the following have now been arranged during the month of

Monday 7th May - Belle Vue Depart Stadium 8.00 am.

Members £2.20 Adults - £1.75 under 14's. Non-members £2.40 Adults - £1.95 under

Return to see Heathens' at "home" at 7.45 pm. Tuesday 8th May - Leicester (K.O. Cup) Depart Stadium 5.45 pm.

Members £1.60 Adults — £1.20 under 14's. Non-members £1.80 Adults — £1.40 under

Wednesday 16th May - Coventry (Midland Riders Final) Depart Stadium 5.30 pm.
Members £1.40 Adults — £1.00 under 14's.

Non.members £1.60 Adults — £1.20 under

Friday 18th May - Peterborough (I.L. Cup) Depart Stadium 2.30 pm.

Members £2.20 Adults — £1.70 under 14's. Non-members £2.50 Adults - £2.00 under 14's.

Sunday 20th May - Reading (World Team Cup) Depart Stadium 11.00 am.

Members £2.20 Adults — £1.80 under 14's. Non-members £2.60 Adults - £2.20 under

Monday 21st May - Exeter (GBL) Depart Stadium 2.00 pm.

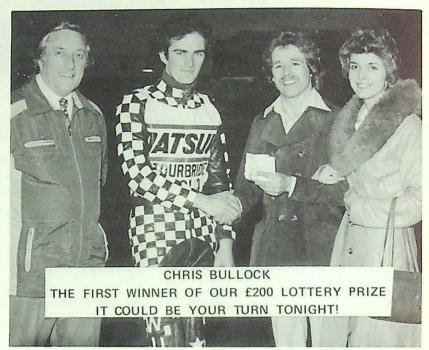
Members £3.30 Adults — £2.80 under 14's. Non-members £3.60 Adults — £3.10 under

Bookings taken at kiosk on "starting gate" side of track or by telephoning Margaret on Brierley Hill 71644 or Kingswinford 270322. Disco Thursday 10th and 24th May in "main bar" at 8.00 pm, admission 30p members—

40p non-members.

Meeting Number Eight

NOTE: Betting Strictly Prohibited. The management reserve the right to alter this programme. Should it be necessary through any cause to abandon the meeting prior to the start of the sixth race, tickets will be issued valid as admission to any one of the next three meetings. In no circumstances will any money be refunded. Rights of admission reserved. Motor Sports events are dangerous and all persons attending this meeting do so entirely at their own risk. It is a condition of admission that all persons having any connection with the promotion and/or organisation and/or conduct of the meeting, including the owners of the stadium and the owners and drivers of the vehicles and passengers in the vehicles are absolved from all liability arising out of accidents causing damage or personal injury to spectaters or ticket holders. Taking of photographs is strictly prohibited without consent of the management.





Photograph - ALF WEEDON



It's funny how we often take things for granted, but not so funny when these assumptions backfire, as they did on Steve Bastable in the World Championship qualifying round at Reading on Monday.

Steve was going well, having won his first heat, and was chasing John Davis in his second race when he realised he was losing power. He managed to finish second but when he reached the pits it was found that his clutch had been slipping Hasty repairs were necessary as Steve was out again in the following heat and father Harry worked frantically to change the clutch plates, but with the two minutes warning signalled, Steve was a couple of seconds late in getting out on to the track and was disqualified. It was annoying, and disappointing, for the Cradley skipper, but Harry had taken it for granted that extra time would be allowed because Steve had two races on the trot. He claims Steve was not given enough time.

It is the normal practice for referees to make a time allowance in Championship and open meetings when, by virtue of the race formula, some riders have to compete in successive heats.

Surprisingly, there is nothing in the speedway regulations which stipulates that the extra time must be given!! It is simply left to the discretion of the referee. I can understand no time being allocated in league matches when a rider is needed to take a second race immediately because he is wanted as a tactical substitute. That is the decision of the team manager and can obviously be adjusted, but in a World Championship meeting, the situation just cannot be avoided because of the 20 heat formula.

It has been an unwritten law over the years for the additional time to be given, but it is not set out in the rules. Isn't it about time that it was?

Steve finished the meeting with a creditable ten points from his four outings, and he should have no difficulty in getting through to the British Semi-finals. The qualifying level should not be too high, with points being collected also by overseas riders who have no direct interest in the World Championship.

The Grand Prix qualification is a different matter. It is going to be much more difficult to get into the top 16 who will qualify for the final at Wimbledon in August, and every point is vital. Steve has been a finalist for the last two years and he is hoping the habit will continue.

Combining the Grand Prix and the World Championship qualifying rounds has caused a lot of criticism. Riders do not like the idea because they feel that the overseas contingent are robbing them of points, and fans are opposed, because of the complicated business of working out who needs championship points and how many premium points they have collected for the Grand Prix.

The reason for putting the two competitions together was simply to add spice to the racing and attract bigger crowds to the qualifying meetings which previously lacked appeal.

The World Championship is still the major competition in the speedway calendar and should be given prominence. Under the current system it seems to be taking second place to the Grand Prix, which, of course, is alright in itself because it brings together probably the best 16 riders in the world for the final.

The GP line-up at Wimbledon in August will most likely be a much stronger field all-round than the world final at Katowice in September, which will include riders from EastenEurope that we have never heard of, and would struggle to hold a place in the British League.

But at the end of it all there is the world crown, and that's why every rider here tonight will be battling all the way.

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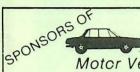
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THE GRAND PRIX LIVES!

Graham Baker - Daily Mirror

The Grand Prix lives! And, indeed, Britain's top individual speedway tournament has emerged from a troubled close season stronger and more vibrant than ever

It's four years now since the Daily Mirror introduced the Grand Prix with a novel method of points scoring that gave an alternative to the straight forward knock-out principle of world championship racing.

Immediately, the tournament caught the imagination of the public and the top riders in the world.

Already Peter Collins, Ole Olsen and Chris Morton have won the Grand Prix title, following three dramatic Finals at White City. This season the Final switches to Wimbledon on August 23rd.

But at one stage during the close season the future of the Grand Prix was most uncertain. Our joint sponsors Volkswagen withdrew after two years.

Happily, the situation was saved when the leading paint manufacturers Berger decided to fill the vacant sponsorship of the Grand Prix. Already Berger back soccer's Isthmian League. This is their first speedway venture — and we are delighted to welcome them as co-sponsors of the re-named Berger-Daily Mirror Grand Prix.

The name has changed. But the thrills are the same, and the format that gives the Grand Prix a unique flavour is unaltered.

Putting it simply, the Grand Prix system makes every race count — and yet it allows riders to repair the damage of an occasional slip up or temporary loss of form.

Riders from every Gulf British League club will be involved in three qualifying rounds each. First place in each qualifier will score ten points, second will get nine down to one for tenth.

After totting up the qualifying round points the top sixteen will go through to the Grand Prix Final. Their qualifying points will count towards the Final total.

But even the lowest qualifiers can win overall with a brilliant display at Wimbledon — as Belle Vue's Morton proved last season

Their qualifying scores will be added to the Final premium points of 50 for first 45 for second down to five for tenth.

It sounds complicated, I know — but it is the fairest possible way of deciding the top overall rider of the season.

I'm looking forward to the action — and I know that our friends from Berger share the sentiment. I hope you all feel the same way.



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BERGER GRAND PRIX (in association with the Daily Mirror)

SUNDAY MIRROR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Qualifying Round)

Saturday, 5th May

4 LAPS CLUTCH START

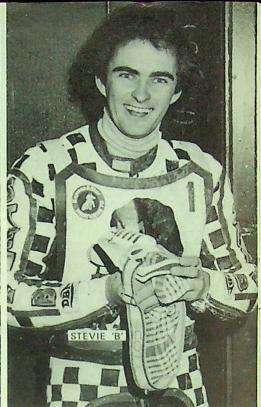
Winner decided on Race Points: 1st 3, 2nd 2, 3rd 1 Riders are identified by Numbers and Riding Colours Starting positions are indicated by helmet colours

HEAT	RIDER	Substitute	Col	Points	
1 Time	1 Scott Autrey 2 Bruce Penhall 3 Roger Johns 4 Phil Collins		R B W Y		1st
2 Time	5 Edward Jancarz 7 Alan Grahame 6 Andy Hines 8 Dave Kennett		R B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd
3 Time	10 Colin Richardson 11 Phil Herne 9 Dave Perks 12 Steve Bastable		R B W Y		1st
4 Fime	15 Nicky Allott 14 Mai Corradine 16 Trevor Geer 13 Vic Harding		R B W Y		1st
5 Time	13 Vic Harding 1 Scott Autrey 5 Edward Jancarz 9 Dave Perks		R B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd
6 Time	14 Mai Corradine 10 Colin Richardson 2 Bruce Penhali 6 Andy Hines		R B W Y		1st
7 Time	11 Phil Herne 15 Nicky Allott 7 Alan Grahame 3 Roger Johns		R B W Y		1st
8 Time	4 Phil Collins 8 Dave Kennett 12 Steve Bastable 16 Trevor Geer		R B W Y		1st
9 Time	6 Andy Hines 16 Trevor Geer 1 Scott Autrey 11 Phil Herne		R B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd
10 Time	12 Steve Bastable 5 Edward Jancarz 15 Nicky Allott 2 Bruce Penhall		R B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd
11 Time	8 Dave Kennett 9 Dave Perks 3 Roger Johns 14 Mai Corradine		R B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd
12 Time	13 Vic Harding 4 Phil Collins 10 Colin Richardson 7 Alan Grahame		A B W Y		1st 2nd 3rd

		INTERVA	L	
13 Time	7 Alan Grahame 12 Steve Bastable 14 Mal Corradine 1 Scott Autrey		R	1st
14 Time	2 Bruce Penhall 13 Vic Harding 8 Dave Kennett 11 Phil Herne		7	1st
15 Time	16 Trevor Geer 3 Roger Johns 10 Colin Richardson 5 Edward Jancarz		V	1st
16 Time	9 Dave Perks 6 Andy Hines 4 Phil Collins 15 Nicky Allott	F E V	3 V	1st
17 Time	1 Scott Autrey 8 Dave Kennett 15 Nicky Allott 10 Colin Richardson	F E E	8 V	1st
18 Time	9 Dave Perks 2 Bruce Penhall 7 Alan Grahame 16 Trevor Geer	F E V	3 -	1st
19 Time	3 Roger Johns 12 Steve Bastable 13 Vic Harding 6 Andy Hines	F E V Y	8	1st
20 Time	5 Edward Jancarz 14 Mai Corradine 11 Phil Herne 4 Phil Collins	F E E V	3	1st
		RUN OFF IF NECES	SARY	
21 Time		E E	B V	

Rider	1	2	3	4	5	6	Totl	Rider	1	2	3	4	5	6	Totl
1 Scott Autrey (Exeter)								9 Dave Perks (Cradley)							
2 Bruce Penhall (Cradley)								10 Colin Richardson (Wimbledon)							
3 Roger Johns (Wimbledon)								11 Phil Herne (Birmingham)							
4 Phil Collins (Cradley)								12 Steve Bastable (Cradley)							
5 Edward Jancarz (Wimbledon)								13 Vic Harding (Hackney)							
6 Andy Hines (Peterborough)								14 Mal Corradine (Middlesborough)							
7 Alan Grahame (Cradley)								15 Nicky Allott (Sheffield)							*
8 Dave Kennett (Eastbourne)				CA I				16 Trevor Geer (Eastbourne)							
17 (Res) Bobby Schwartz								18 (Res) Eric Gundersen							

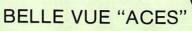


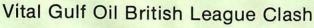


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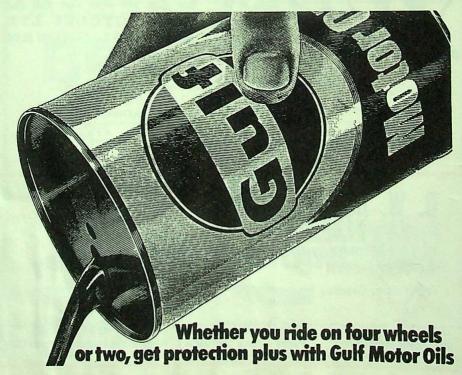
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Sponsors of the Speedway Grand Prix

Berger, who announced their sponsorship of the Speedway Grand Prix earlier this month, are one of Britain's largest paintmakers.

Already well-known for our sponsorship of the Berger Isthmian League, the south of England's leading soccer league, our backing of the Grand Prix is another association between our Company and the persuit of sporting excellence.

Although we are best known to the public for our decorative paints — Magicote, Colorizer and, in trade circles, Brolac, we have also shown — in our recent television commercials — that we supply paint for virtually every industry in Britain.

All four British car makers use Berger paints and finishing materials. If you have your car repaired or resprayed after an accident, chances are it will be done with our refinishing paints. Every civil aircraft made in Britain has Berger sealants in its structure — even Concord, where Berger materials seal the cabin and the wings.

Oil rigs, refineries, bridges, food packaging, printing inks, oil tankers, luxury liners, office machines, Matchbox toys — all these products and thousands more benefit from paints and coatings, special resins or adhesives supplied by us.

In Britain we have eight manufacturing and distribution Sites, employ 2,800 people and are the largest Company in the world-wide Berger Group.

We, at Berger, look forward to this year's Speedway season with interest and excitement. The qualifying heats and final of the Berger Grand Prix will, we hope, be one of the leading attractions in this year's sporting calendar and we know that it will attract your support and provide a real test of international top riders' skills.







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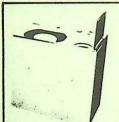
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