## Poole Speedway

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**THE 1979** 

## WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH SEMI-FINAL

Sponsored by the "SUNDAY MIRROR"

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME 20p



## Good Evening Everyone



#### KEITH FISHER WRITES:

The Sunday Mirror extends a warm, warm welcome to you all on an evening when, unashamedly, the pulses race a little bit faster. And why not? Yes, it's British Semi-Final Night and what a time is in store for the sixteen riders who parade before you. For eight lucky lads who qualify for the British Final at Coventry on June 20 there will, undoubtedly, be relief that another important hurdle has been overcome . . . For the eight who don't there's only the sad realisation of what might have been, what went wrong and why. Their only glory will be of taking part in what has become one of the most prestigious nights in British Speedway. They warrant an extra cheer.

The Sunday Mirror is delighted to be associated with this meeting . . . our record is second to none in sponsoring the World Championship since 1958. After tonight, we move on to the British Final, then the Commonwealth Final at London's White City on July 1, climaxed by the real big crunch fixture of the domestic calendar — the star-spangled Inter-Continental Final again at White City on August 5. And it surely goes without saying that we all want to cheer home another English rider in the race for the biggest prize of all the World Individual Championship which, this year, is being staged once again in Poland on September 2. It was in Poland that Belle Vue's Peter Collins, great competitor that he is, had us all leaping out of our seats at the mastery and excellence he showed in Katowice in 1976.

Tonight's proceedings will go along way to showing English Speedway supporters just which of our likely lads is making early, sustained progress towards the ultimate honour . . . the crowning moment in any rider's career. But whatever happens in Poland, bank on one thing . . . the Sunday Mirror will be there to record all the drama, emotion and heartbreak of that long, winding road to fame and fortune.

Yes, we'll be there. AS ALWAYS.

#### FROM THE SPEEDWAY OFFICE

Once again it is our pleasure to present one of the major events in the British speedway calendar and we look forward with keen anticipation to a great evening's racing. Keith Fisher, of the Sunday Mirror, has summarised this year's World Championship and as we sit back to enjoy what promises to be a wide-open Semi-Final we extend the thanks of all speedway supporters to the "Sunday Mirror" for their continued enthusiastic support of this great sport.

Tonight, the sixteen competitors will be fighting not only for those eight places in the British Final, but also for the fine added prize money and medals provided by the Sunday Mirror. Our own hopes tonight will go with Malcolm who will be making a supreme bid to achieve the title to which he has come so close in the past. We wish all riders an even run of the breaks.

Away from the Championship we can congratulate the lads on their fine win against Belle Vue last week, and this was followed up with a success in the Four Team Tournament at Oxford the following night, when "Simmo" returned a "Maximum" and Neil a fine 10 points. On the same evening, Andy Tkocz, called at short notice to ride for the Polish Touring side at Middlesbrough, returned a flawless 15 points.

Next week we have something special to look forward to at the Stadium, for Cradley Heath will come to do battle in the super £300 challenge — the "HARTWELLS SPECTACULAR" — and they will be "fielding" the side that is causing a stir throughout the country. Their line-up will include the sensational Bruce Penhall, Bobby Schwartz, and the lad who is really setting things alight, Eric Gundersen, as well as Steve Bastable, Phil Collins and Kristian Praestbro. We shall all look forward to this one — it could be a night of super speedway.

Now back to the event of the moment, as we introduce the riders in this British Semi-Final

of the World Championship.



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#### MEET THE RIDERS

LES COLLINS (Belle Vue, age 20) current average 7,26

The second of the famous Collins brothers, and he celebrates his twenty-first birthday tomorrow — hopefully with a British Final place. Another of the best British youngsters of the current era, Les was here last week with the Aces on league business.

BRUCE CRIBB (Wolverhampton, age 32) current average 5.35
The New Zealander, who came to Britain in 1965 to ride for Poole, now has entry through the British rounds. Has slimmed down by two stones, and is looking sharp for his new club — he joined Wolves from defunct Bristol during the winter.

JOHN DAVIS (Reading, age 24) current average 10.25

Local lad who has hit the big time in speedway — though currently ignored by England selectors. He'll be out to prove a point tonight, quite apart from wanting to reach his first World Final — he was reserve in Gothenburg in 1977, after a controversial exclusion in the Inter-Continental Final at White City.

TREVOR GEER (Eastbourne, age 25) current average 4.71

Another Poole specialist, Trevor has moved with the White City licence to Eastbourne — thus returning to the track where his career began. A little more self confidence could see him still emerge as a heat leader, and a possible spoiler this evening.

MICK HINES (Mildenhall, age 33) current average 7.36

Former Wimbledon captain who opted out of Gulf League Racing because of work pressures. In fine form for his National League club, and has scored well for Wimbledon when used in his role as number eight. A man who always goes well here at Poole.

DAVE JESSUP (King's Lynn, age 26) current average 9.81

The unlucky man in the Wembley World Final last September, Dave might well have won but for a snapped push rod. An England regular, he joined King's Lynn in a big money transfer deal from Reading during the winter — and it will be a major shock if he fails to reach Coventry and beyond...

ROGER JOHNS (Wimbledon, age 25) current average 7.60

One of the reasons that Wimbledon are such a force these days is the form of Roger. A second Division star, he seemed to have lost his way a little, until he started to show consistency with the Dons last year. Now a more mature performer, he'll want to reach his first British Final.

KEVIN JOLLY (Ipswich, age 21) current average 6.45

A lot of pressure rests on his shoulders at Ipswich with Tony Davey injured, and Billy Saunders having moved to Birmingham. Runner-up in the European Under 21 Championship last year, and one of England's better prospects for future honours.

JOHN LOUIS (Ipswich, age 37) current average 9.16

The oldest competitor in the field this evening, but a rider who can still beat the very best. His career started late, back in 1970. Despite the late start he finished third in the 1975 World Final at Wembley, has captained England, won the World Pairs Final with Malcolm Simmons and led Ipswich to many successes.

CHRIS MORTON (Belle Vue, age 23) current average 9.73

Winner of the Grand Prix last year, Chris is out to repeat 1976 history. Then he reached the World Final in Poland — he hopes to return there this year. A star in his own right, and no longer in the shadow of Peter Collins at Belle Vue, Chris is an all action performer who should score heavily.





















#### **Programme of the 11th Meeting 1979**

Wednesday, 23rd May, 1979

Held under the Regulation of the Speedway Control Board

A.C.U. Referee P. B. RYALL Direction: C. J. KNOTT Clerk of the Course: T. CHANDLER N. V. YOUNG

Announcer: J. L. KNOTT Machine Examiner:

Track Licence No. 79/19 Timekeeper: D. SMITHSON

Starting Marshall: A. BALL Pit Marshal: P. CLARKE

Medical Officer in attendance - St. John Ambulance - Voluntary Service

### THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP **BRITISH SEMI-FINAL**

Sponsored by the "SUNDAY MIRROR"

20 Heats, 4 Laps — Clutch Start. Points: Heat Winners 3 points; 2nd 2 pts, 3rd 1 pt. Starting Grid positions are indicated by helmet colours: -Red, No. 1 (inside); Blue, No. 2; White, No. 3; Yellow, No. 4.

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8 MICK HINES								(Blue)
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1st£200 and Gold Medal			Gold M				3rd £50	and Bronze Medal

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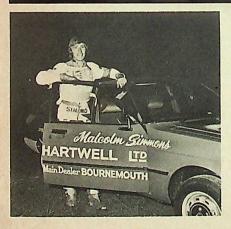
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#### MEET THE RIDERS Continued

DAVE MORTON (Wolverhampton, age 25) current average 8.63 In his second season with the Wolves, Dave seems to have overcome leg and knee injuries two years back — which leaves him with restricted knee movement. A good scorer at Poole, and currently on the fringe of England squads — should be a good bet to qualify for Coventry.



CRAIG PENDLEBURY (Sheffield, age 28) current average 7.56 A rider on the verge of heat leader class for some time, but let down a little by his away scores. A British Final appearance might be just the boost he needs, though he goes into this evening's meeting something of an outsider.



COLIN RICHARDSON (Wimbledon, age 20) current average 7.30 The youngest rider in the field tonight, he returned to track action after a broken leg ruled him out of last season. A former National League Riders Champion, he has started to recapture the confidence that he needs to fulfil all his early promise.



MALCOLM SIMMONS (Poole, age 33) current average 9.37 MALCOLM's big ambition is to go one better than he did in 1976 — when he was placed second in the World Final in Katowice. The Poole and England captain relishes the though of a return to Katowice, and tonight is an important stepping stone for him.



IAN TURNER (King's Lynn, age 30) current average 4.62 Pint sized local find in his testimonial season at King's Lynn, his only club. A dismal start to the season ended with a good run in the World Championship rounds, and he is here tonight just four days after his benefit meeting to celebrate ten years service at Saddlebow Road.



REG WILSON (Sheffield, age 31) current average 8.44 An experienced campaigner who might have hit greater heights but for some unfortunate injuries. Has only ridden for Sheffield in senior league speedway, and widely regarded as one of the better captains in the sport by those in the know.



POOLE SPEEDWAY, THE STADIUM, WIMBORNE ROAD, POOLE Under the direction of Poole Stadium Ltd.

Directors: C. J. Knott J. L. Knott J. Knott Secretary: R. A. Vowles, F.C.A.

Official Measurement of Track — 380 yards (347.5 metres)

Track Record: 65 sec. IVAN MAUGER (Exeter) 20th August, 1975

#### NOTICE

Motor sport 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 and lessees of the stadium and the owners and riders of motor cycles are absolved from all liability arising out of accidents causing damages or personal injury to spectators or ticket holders.

#### BETTING STRICTLY PROHIBITED

In the event of a meeting being abandoned before the holding of the Sixth Event in the Programme, re-admission tickets will be issued available for free admission to any meeting within one month of the day of issue.

NO MONEY REFUNDED

TRACK DOWN THE STARS with

in the

Sunday Mirror