

## THE HENRY LONG COLLECTION

### Part 7 – 1952/'53 Season

The 1952/53 season started earlier than any other with Roy Bester winning the Spring Trophy at Wembley on 5<sup>th</sup> September. The reason was that for the first time there would be two international sides visiting the Union with a Combined Europe team scheduled to tour from October to December and a New Zealand side from December until March 1953. South Africa won both Test series by the same 3-2 margin. The internationals were closely fought with the outcome of both going down to the last Test. The Springboks showed they were a force in world speedway but luck was with them as the touring sides suffered with injuries to key men; the Dutch ace Tinus Metzelaar of Combined Europe broke a leg having ridden in only one Test whilst Jack Cunningham experienced an identical injury shortly before the Kiwis first Test. The Englishman Bill Dalton, the Durban Hornets captain, replaced Metzelaar for the remaining four Tests of that series with New Zealand using local replacements as and when necessary. A triangular international was also staged between all three teams, New Zealand winning from the Springboks.

Three riders dominated the stage - Henry Long, Basse Hveem and Ronnie Moore. Although in the latter stages of his career Hveem, winner of multiple Norwegian and Scandinavian titles in both speedway and long track, set the local scene alight and his accomplishments in his short stay were immense. Prime achievement was his 6 consecutive maximums for Durban Hornets in the SA National League. With Hveem's return to Europe, Moore took his place at Durban and he proceeded to guide the Natal team to the first National League Championship. Henry Long was not overshadowed by these two world stars and although not as prolific in trophy gathering as the previous season still emphasised his stature as the man to beat in South Africa. After having earlier forfeited the Wembley Golden Helmet due to his overseas commitments, he regained the match-race title in February by defeating Ronnie Moore and successfully held it until season's end. Long retained the National, Transvaal and Wembley Open championships but surrendered the National Handicap title to Fred Lang at Boksburg. The Natal Championship continued to elude Long, as a fall in his last heat handed the honours to Bob Serrurier.

Besides the Golden Helmet at Wembley, Durban and Boksburg continued to stage their own match race championships first introduced in 1951/52. The prize at both was a Silver Helmet, and contests to claim the trophies were keen, none more so than when Ronnie Moore challenged Roy Bester in January 1953 for the East Rand (Boksburg) title. The 'best of three' contest saw Moore victorious by 1-0 with the other two races judged to be dead-heats as the referee could not split the riders as they crossed the finish line.

The junior scene was vibrant and a second National Junior competition was staged, – Doug Lang emerging victorious – , together with Transvaal and Natal Junior Championships. The work performed at the Vlakplaats training track was bearing fruit.

The emergence of a Durban Hornets team enabled the Transvaal League to be consigned to history and a National League of four teams was formed. The Germiston Stars, Wembley Lions and Boksburg Bees retained their league membership with the Hornets replacing the Pretoria Tigers. The coastal side were comfortable winners of the new competition and secured the title with a victory over Boksburg Bees at their own Hoy Park track in February.

Again growth of the sport was on the drawing board. After successful appearances at the Springs Show in 1953 and the two years before that, moves were being made to set the sport up at a permanent base in the far East Rand. On the West Rand local authorities were involved in discussions for a track to be built at Randfontein. The potential spread of speedway was not confined within the Union's borders. For many years there had been rumours and proposals for the sport to be introduced into Southern Rhodesia, none of which had thus far come to fruition. All forms of motorcycle racing north of the Limpopo River were very popular and various events were held around the country at venues such as Umgusa near Bulawayo. The domestic off-season would finally herald the birth of speedway in Central Africa.

**1952/'53 season Roll of Honour**

- Test Series:** - S Africa 3 Combined Europe 2; - S Africa 3 New Zealand 2
- SA National Championship :** - Henry Long @ Wembley
- SA National Handicap Chmpshp (Yanx Trophy):** - Fred Lang @ Boksburg
- SA National Junior Championship:** - Doug Lang @ Wembley
- Transvaal Championship:** - Henry Long @ Boksburg
- Natal Championship:** - Bob Serrurier @ Hoy Park, Durban
- Wembley Open Championship:** - Henry Long
- Wembley Match Race Chmpshp E-o-S Holder:** - Henry Long
- East Rand (Boksburg) Match Race Chmpshp, E-o-S Holder:** - Ronnie Moore
- Durban Match Race Championship E-o-S Holder:** - Ronnie Moore
- SA National League Champions:** - Durban Hornets

**Wills regains  
speedway  
title**

*Saturday Sept. 13 1952*

FRED WILLS, the former national speedway champion, is back to form and will be the first man to tackle the redoubtable Henry Long when the title holder returns from England.

Wills won the right to defend the match race championship against Long when he convincingly defeated Roy Bester in straight heats at Wembley Stadium last night. He dashed from the gate in both heats—the second in a re-run after Bester had fallen in the first lap—on a machine which many people mistook for Buddy Fuller's.

Fuller worked on the engine during the morning with the assistance of Bester, who ruefully admitted that the result was a combination of man and machine which he could not match.

**MAXIMUM POINTS**

Winning the match race event was not the end of Wills's success for he scored a maximum in the national league match between Boksburg Bees and Germiston Stars. Unfortunately his team did not give him great support and Boksburg were beaten by 35 points to 43.

For six heats the score was level but from then on the Germiston team forged ahead.

Sorny James, the former road racer won the reserves race and later in the evening won a heat in the scratch series. He rode a machine which was used by the American, Ernie Rocco, when he was killed on a track in England recently. Fuller brought the machine to South Africa.

James finds speedway more tiring than road racing but likes it much better. With his even style he should be able to get into a higher class in the near future.

There were flashes of great riding from other riders. Harry Serrurier beat three internationals in heat three and made a grand effort to catch Bester in the final heat of the final event. Joe Blankfield was the highest scorer among the second string riders and his brother, Alec, scored more points than anybody except Wills.

**RESULTS**

The heat winners in the league match were: F. Wills (B.), 78.2sec.; B. Raw (B.), 78.6sec.; H. Serrurier (B.), 79.8sec.; B. Raw (B.), 78.8sec.; T. Boshoff (G.), 79.7sec.; F. Wills (B.), 79.2sec.; D. Serrurier (G.), 80.6 sec.; S. James (G.), 81.2sec.; F. Wills (B.), 79.9sec.; J. Blankfield (G.), 81.2sec.; A. Blankfield (G.), 79.9sec.; J. Blankfield (G.), 81.4sec.; F. Wills (B.), 77.9sec.

The individual point scoring table was: Germiston Stars—A. Blankfield 9, D. Serrurier 8, J. Blankfield 8, T. Boshoff 7, A. Gould 4, S. James 4, D. Lang 2, Klootwijk 1; total 43. Boksburg Bees—F. Wills 12, B. Raw 8, F. van Zyl 6, H. Serrurier 6, D. Naude 2, G. Matthews 1, D. Collins 0, J. Pinto 0; total 35.

**Hveem makes Wills break  
speedway record in  
match races**

*Sake Gek. 11 1952*

"IT IS NO GOOD," said Reider Kristoffersen, the youngest of the touring Continental speedway riders when asked how his engine reacted at the gate after last night's meeting at Wembley. "This Basse Hveem, he take all these riders when his engine goes," was his final summing up with a touch of pride as he spoke of his Norwegian club captain.

Members of previous touring teams have had the same initial troubles, but none of them has made a first appearance on the Wembley track to compare with Hveem's performance in his challenge match race with Fred Wills. Wills won in straight heats, but on both occasions he had to beat the record to stay in front of the Norwegian.

Hveem almost took the lead in the final lap of the second heat but his speed took him wide at the bend and Wills kept on the inside to win by two lengths. Wills's winning times were 56.5 and 56.9sec. against the former record of 57.4sec. held by Henry Anderson.

**HARD RIDERS**

Sluggishness from the gate made Bertil Carlsson fight from the back in his races in the four-man team competition. But he put up the fastest four-lap time of the meeting and proved himself to be a hard rider who never gives up. The same can be said of the other two visitors, Kristoffersen and Evert Anderson. Once they settle down they will give the South Africans strong competition in the test matches.

Germiston Stars won the team event, Joe Blankfield scoring 11 points and being unlucky to miss his maximum. Then Alec Blankfield and Carlsson dropped only two points between them, scoring three 5-1 wins.

**RESULTS**

The scores were: Germiston Stars 33 (J. Blankfield 11, B. Carlsson 10, A. Blankfield 8, T. Boshoff 4); Boksburg Bees 21 (F. van Zyl 8, E. Anderson 7, H. Serrurier 6, D. Collins 0); Wembley Lions 15 (H. du Toit 8, R. Kristoffersen 6, D. Wolfe 3, P. McKenzie 1).

The heat winners were: F. van Zyl, 79.8sec.; E. Anderson, 79.8sec.; A. Blankfield, 78.4sec.; J. Blankfield, 78.7sec.; B. Carlsson, 78.3sec.; J. Blankfield, 78.8sec.; H. Serrurier, 79.9sec.; A. Blankfield, 78.8sec.; J. Blankfield, 79.6sec.; B. Carlsson, 79.3sec.; H. du Toit, 79.9sec.; F. van Zyl, 79.7sec.

**First S.A. test  
team**

The South African team for the first speedway test match against the Continental team, to be decided at Wembley on Friday, is: Fred Wills (capt.), Bob Raw, Doug Serrurier, Roy Bester, Joe Blankfield and Buddy Fuller. Reserves: Harry du Toit and Alec Blankfield.

**Determined S. Africans equal  
record score in winning  
speedway test**

*Tuesday Oct. 21 1952*

FROM THE TIME the tapes flew up for the first heat, the Continental speedway team never had a chance of beating South Africa in the first test at Wembley Stadium last night. The final score of 65-42 equalled South Africa's previous best which was against the Holland team in 1950-51.

Beaten from the gate in practically every one of the 18 heats the tourists continually faced a struggle to break through the South Africans' team riding and it was only brilliant riding by Basse Hveem and tenacious work by Tienus Metzelaar which prevented a string of 5-1 wins for the national side.

Hveem lost a point in the first heat when he was kept out by Fred Wills but from then on he was the master. During his next five rides he recorded the two best times of the season—his second heat being only half a second outside Henry Long's record. He set the seal on a great performance when he went past Roy Bester and Doug Serrurier with his throttle wide open to win the 13th heat. Without him the visitors would have been in a plight for Evert Anderson was the only other member of the team to win a heat.

**DETERMINATION**

South African riders have never surmounted their misfortunes with greater determination. Wills crashed into the safety fence in the sixth heat and received a bad gash on the knee but refused to go to hospital until after the meeting. He rode in another heat which he won.

Fuller said before the match that if he failed he was "washed up" as a test rider. After a good start an old hip injury recurred but he was still full of fight. Serrurier dropped his machine to the cinders to prevent a crash with Metzelaar and Kari Killmeyer rode into him. But, with a bandaged hip, Serrurier still won another heat.

**BUSY RESERVE**

As a result of all the casualties Harry du Toit became a busy reserve and rose to the occasion in fine style. He had four different partners in his five rides and was third on the South Africa scoring list.

Bester won the last heat to beat Joe Blankfield by one point and become top point scorer for South Africa. They were the only men in the team to complete their programme of six rides.

**HEAT RESULTS**

The results of the heats were—Heat 1: F. Wills (SA) 1, B. Hveem (C) 2, B. Fuller (SA) 3, 78.2sec. Heat 2: R. Bester (SA) 1, D. Serrurier (SA) 2, B. Carlsson (C) 3, 79.7sec. Heat 3: J. Blankfield (SA) 1, T. Metzelaar (C) 2, J. Hofmeister (C) 3, 77.9sec. Heat 4: B. Hveem (C) 1, R. Bester (SA) 2, D. Serrurier (SA) 3, 75.9sec. Heat 5: J. Blankfield (SA) 1, H. du Toit (SA) 2, B. Carlsson (C) 3, 79.8sec. Heat 6: B. Fuller (SA) 1, T. Metzelaar (C) 2, 79.6sec. Heat 7: B. Hveem (C) 1, B. Raw (SA) 2, J. Blankfield (SA) 3, 76.8sec. Heat 8: H. du Toit (SA) 1, B. Carlsson (C) 2, E. Anderson (C) 3, 80.6sec. Heat 9: R. Bester (SA) 1, T. Metzelaar (C) 2, K. Killmeyer (C) 3, 79.9sec. Heat 10: B. Hveem (C) 1, H. du Toit (SA) 2, B. Fuller (SA) 3, 79.9sec. Heat 11: D. Serrurier (SA) 1, R. Bester (SA) 2, E. Anderson (C) 3, 80.5sec. Heat 12: B. Raw (SA) 1, J. Blankfield (SA) 2, T. Metzelaar (C) 3, 79.4sec. Heat 13: B. Hveem (C) 4, R. Bester (SA) 2, R. Kristoffersen (C) 3, 79.2sec. Heat 14: J. Blankfield (SA) 1, B. Raw (SA) 2, E. Anderson (C) 3, 79.4sec. Heat 15: Wills (SA) 1, T. Metzelaar (C) 2, H. du Toit (SA) 3, 80.0sec. Heat 16: B. Hveem (C) 1, J. Blankfield (SA) 2, B. Raw (SA) 3, 78.9sec. Heat 17: E. Anderson (C) 1, B. Fuller (SA) 2, B. Carlsson (C) 3, 76.6sec. Heat 18: R. Bester (SA) 1, T. Metzelaar (C) 2, H. du Toit (SA) 3, 78.9sec.

**POINT SCORING**

The individual point scoring was—South Africa—R. Bester 15, J. Blankfield 14, H. du Toit 9, B. Raw 8, B. Fuller 7, D. Serrurier 6, F. Wills 6, Total, 65. Combined European Team—B. Hveem 17, T. Metzelaar 11, E. Anderson 6, B. Carlsson 5, R. Kristoffersen 1, J. Hofmeister 1, K. Killmeyer 1, Total, 42.



**Speedway Prize on Offer Today**

*Sunday Tribune Oct. 26,*

**D**UE to the waterlogged track, the speedway match scheduled for Hoy Park last night was postponed. It will be held this (Sunday) afternoon. Here Miriam Smith, daughter of the promoter, shows the "Silver Helmet" prize for the match race, to Bob Raw (left) who will ride for it against Basse Hveem. Buddy Fuller (centre) looks on.

**Receiving congratulations**



Basse Hveem (left), the captain of the Combined European speedway team, was full of smiles as he was congratulated by Doug Serrurier, the captain of the South African team, after the Continental riders had won the second test match by 55 points to 52 at Wembley Stadium last night.

**RAIN HELPS EUROPEAN TEAM WIN SECOND SPEEDWAY TEST**

*Saturday Nov. 1 1952*  
**BY WINNING THREE** of the last five heats by a 5-1 margin the Combined European speedway team reversed the result of the first test against South Africa at Wembley Stadium last night when they won the second match 55-52.

**Results**

**T**HE heat results in the second speedway test match were: Heat 1—R. Hveem (E.) 1, A. Blankfield (S.A.) 2, R. Kristoffersen (E.) 3 (76.1sec.). Heat 2—R. Bester (S.A.) 1, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 2, K. Killmeyer (E.) 3 (78.7sec.). Heat 3—B. Raw (S.A.) 1, H. du Toit (S.A.) 2, E. Anderson (E.) 3 (78.4sec.). Heat 4—R. Bester (S.A.) 1, Blankfield (S.A.) 2 (79.0sec.). Heat 5—B. Raw (S.A.) 1, K. Killmeyer (E.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3 (78.1sec.). Heat 6—D. Serrurier (S.A.) 1, A. Blankfield (S.A.) 2, E. Anderson (E.) 3 (79.5sec.). Heat 7—B. Hveem (E.) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3 (78.1 sec.). Heat 8—B. Carlsson (E.) 1, D. Serrurier (S.A.) 2, K. Killmeyer (E.) 3 (78.4sec.). Heat 9—E. Anderson (E.) 1, W. Dalton (E.) 2, R. Bester (S.A.) 3 (78.2sec.). Heat 10—B. Hveem (E.) 1, W. Dalton (E.) 2, A. Blankfield (S.A.) 3 (79.9 sec.). Heat 11—R. Bester (S.A.) 1, B. Carlsson (E.) 2, K. Killmeyer (E.) 3 (79.5 sec.). Heat 12—E. Anderson (E.) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3 (80.5 sec.). Heat 13—R. Bester (S.A.) 1, B. Hveem (E.) 2, R. Kristoffersen (E.) 3 (81.5sec.). Heat 14—B. Carlsson (E.) 1, K. Killmeyer (E.) 2, B. Raw (S.A.) 3 (81.8sec.). Heat 15—E. Anderson (E.) 1, W. Dalton (E.) 2, F. van Zyl (S.A.) 3 (81.8sec.). Heat 16—B. Hveem (E.) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3 (83.4 sec.). Heat 17—B. Carlsson (E.) 1, K. Killmeyer (E.) 2, F. van Zyl (S.A.) 3 (81.8sec.). Heat 18—R. Bester (S.A.) 1, W. Dalton (E.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3 (83.2sec.).

The individual points-scoring list was: Combined Europe—B. Hveem 14, B. Carlsson 11, E. Anderson 11, K. Killmeyer 9, W. Dalton 8, R. Kristoffersen 2, J. Hofmeister 0 total, 55. South Africa—R. Bester 16, B. Raw 13, H. du Toit 6, D. Serrurier 5, A. Blankfield 5, J. Blankfield 5, F. van Zyl 2, total, 52.

At the end of the seventh heat they were 17 points down and appeared likely to suffer a worse defeat than they did in the first test. But, from then on, all the visiting riders, with the exception of Josef Hofmeister, improved on their previous efforts at Wembley and their points deficit was gradually whittled down. Rain fell before the 12th heat when the tourists were only seven points behind and taking advantage of their superior skill on a wet track, they went into the lead in the 15th.

It was a just reward for Bill Dalton, the Combined European guest reserve, that he should help his team into the lead in this heat, for he completed a full programme of six rides and was always in the forefront after he borrowed Buddy Fuller's machine—a loan made necessary by a seized engine in his first race.

**OBVIOUS MASTERS**

Two falls and three engine failures in the first seven heats were responsible for the Europeans' bad start, but they never let their misfortunes affect their dash and they were the obvious masters when the track conditions deteriorated.

Roy Bester was the only South African to give them any trouble throughout the programme and his 13th heat win over Hveem was the result of determined riding. This enabled him to become the highest point scorer of the match, his only failure being when Evert Anderson and Dalton beat him in the ninth heat.

**STARTED WELL**

Bob Raw started well but lacked fire after the rain and Doug Serrurier could only ride in three heats. The Blankfield brothers also showed that the South Africans could do with more experience on a difficult track.

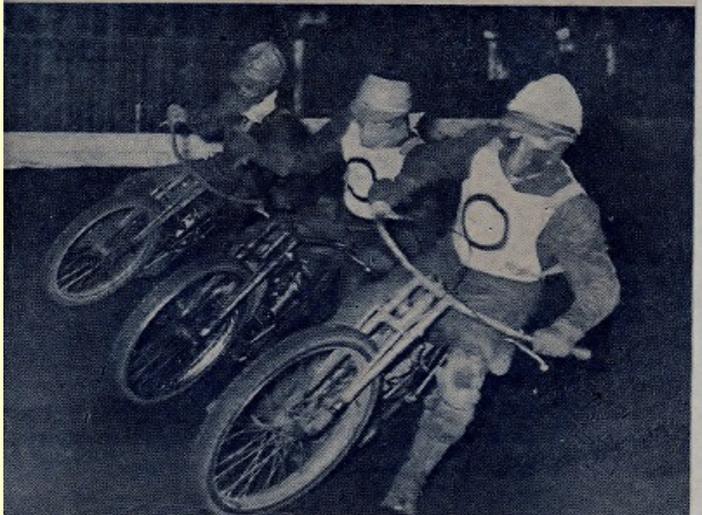
The ability of Carlsson, Anderson and Killmeyer has been stressed during the tour and they showed last night that, given the opportunity, they will be hard opponents for South Africa in the remaining matches.

**Hveem in open event at Boksburg**

Basse Hveem, Bertil Carlsson, Josef Hofmeister and Karl Killmeyer, members of the Continental speedway team, will make their first appearance on the Boksburg track when they compete for the Kamillen trophy competition tonight. They are among the 16 nominated riders to take part in the 20-heat programme under championship conditions.

With the track likely to be wet they should do well and Hofmeister, who is the German long track champion, might find his proper form at Boksburg.

**No Sign of Henry Long—But He Was First**



**HVEEM SETS RECORD, GETS MAXIMUM—AND EUROPE WINS TEST**

*Saturday Nov. 22 1952*  
 By Eric Litchfield

South Africa ..... 53 Combined Europe ..... 55

**BASSE HVEEM**, a little man (5ft. 6ins.) but a mighty speedway rider, inspired Combined Europe to victory in the third speedway Test at Wembley Stadium last night with perhaps the finest individual six-heat performance ever put up by an overseas rider in South Africa.

During the course of an amazing night's riding, Hveem accomplished these remarkable things:

Set a new four-lap record of 74.7 seconds, beating the previous best time set by himself by three-tenths of a second.

Twice beat Henry Long on the Springbok captains' return to racing in South Africa.

Scored the maximum 18 points—and never looked like being beaten.

Hveem set his record in the very first heat when he had his first clash with Long on a South African track. The Norwegian was first away and won by a comfortable margin. The same thing happened when the "giants" clashed in Heat 10.

Although these were the only defeats for Hustling Henry, it did appear that he wasn't getting quite as fast as he can do, no doubt, it won't take the South African champion long to correct this defect and any Long-Hveem duel promises a close finish.

**Tourists Lead 2-1**

Although there were only two points in it at the finish, a margin that was sufficient to send Combined Europe into a 2-1 lead in the five-Test series, the tourists always had a few points to spare from the time they gained 5-3 wins in Heats 2 and 3.

In fact, for a long stretch during the second half, they held an 8-point lead, and it was only the magnificent team riding of Wills and Joe Blankfield (Heat 14), Long and Fuller (16), and Bester and Raw (18) that enabled the Springboks to get within two points of the tourists.

**ONLY three riders in heat four**—Buddy Fuller (extreme left, and on the outside), Karl Killmeyer (centre) and Bertil Carlsson hugging the white line. Where was Henry Long, Fuller's heat partner? He was tucked in behind Carlsson in this third speedway Test incident at Wembley last night. But Henry came through on the inside on the second lap to win the heat.

Maybe the individual brilliance of Hveem—a firm favourite with the 12,000 crowd—overshadowed other performance in this thrilling Test. Yet, he will be the first to admit that he received strong support from every one of his team-mates.

The overseas riders, almost unrecognisable from their first few outings, together with the help of "guest" rider Bill Dalton, have moulded themselves into a strong combination.

Machine troubles hampered both Buddy Fuller and Bob Raw, who has withdrawn from the fourth Test in Durban to-night. Harry du Toit comes into the Springbok team. Fred Wills, after missing out in his first heat, and Roy Bester scored consistently—but it just wasn't good enough.

Heat Winners: Hveem (C.E.) 74.7 (record); Killmeyer (C.E.) 76.3; Dalton (C.E.) 78.8; Long (S.A.) 76.2; J. Blankfield (S.A.) 77.7; Hveem (C.E.) 77.8; Long (S.A.) 78.4; Hveem (C.E.) 77.0; Bester (S.A.) 78.1.

Hveem (C.E.) 75.2; Wills (S.A.) 77.4; Bester (S.A.) 75.5; Long (S.A.) 77.2; Wills (S.A.) 78.3; Hveem (C.E.) 79.5; Long (S.A.) 79.0; Hveem (C.E.) 78.1; Bester (S.A.) 79.9.

Point scorers: Combined Europe: Hveem 18, Killmeyer 2, Carlsson 5, Anderson, Dalton 7, Kristoffersen 3, Hofmeister 1. Total, 55.

South Africa: Long 15, Wills, Bester 12, J. Blankfield 7, Fuller, Raw 3. Total 53.

# EXCITING CINDER TEST WIN PUTS S.A. LEVEL

**SOUTH AFRICA** drew level at two matches all in the speedway test series against Combined Europe when beating the visitors 75-49 at Hoy Park Stadium, Durban, last night. A near capacity crowd of 6,000 excited spectators watched a thrill-packed match which never lacked incident.

Features of the meeting were the five tearaway wins of the Combined Europe captain, Basse Hveem, along with a single defeat which was his first in 20 races at Hoy Park; the comparative eclipse of Henry Long, who had to be content with four seconds, and the number of spectacular but fortunately harmless crashes.

Hveem's first triumph in the opening heat was achieved in 56.5sec, equalling Long's four-lap record which has stood since May 10. Hveem is now holder or joint holder of all the track records (one, three and four laps).

Hveem's first defeat at Hoy Park came in heat 8, when he was excluded for boring. He was, nevertheless, well beaten in this event by Fred Wills, who was top scorer for the Springboks with 15 points.

### TOP SCORER

Top scorer of the meeting was, however, Karl Killmeyer, whose five wins and one third gave him 16 points. He and Hveem collected 31 of the tourists' 49 points. The retirement of Bill Dalton through illness half-way through the meeting was unfortunate for Combined Europe.

Henry Long, who appeared to have machine troubles, was far from the Long who set up a series of records at the track last year, and it was left to Wills and Roy Bester to be the Springboks' most successful pair.

### INDIVIDUAL SCORING WAS:

South Africa: Fred Wills 15; Bob Serrurier 11; Harry du Toit 9; Henry Long 8; Roy Bester 7; Doug Serrurier 7; Fred van Zyl 0. Combined Europe: Karl Kill-

## N. Zealanders start speedway

**Tuesday Nov. 25 1952**

From Our Correspondent

DURBAN, Tuesday.

NEW ZEALAND'S team of seven speedway riders under Trevor Redmond should be well liked in South Africa, not only for their riding ability, but also for their general perkiness and confidence, which was much in evidence when they arrived in Durban by mail-boat this morning.

Redmond, the only tourist to have ridden in South Africa previously—he was here last year—says he will captain the team in the first test. "After that," he added, "the rider in best form will lead us in the tests." The first of these is between New Zealand, Europe and South Africa in Johannesburg on December 12.

### STRONGEST TEAM

With an average age of 23—the youngest member is Barry Briggs, aged 17, and the oldest Dick Campbell, aged 29—this team is, says the leading South African speedway spokesman, Buddy Fuller, who was "here to meet them, easily the strongest combination to visit the Union.

## Speed "King" Younesa

**YOUNESA**, the Norwegian speedway star. Although he has been in South Africa less than two months, he has put up two performances on our tracks: 1. Broken or equalled every record at Hoy Park, Durban.

2. Set a four-lap record at Wembley Stadium, becoming the first man to break 75 secs.

3. Equalled Roy Bester's time of 18 secs. for the one-lap record at Wembley Stadium.

4. Gained six successive 12-point maximum scores in National League matches for Durban Hornets—a record out on its own in South Africa.

5. Scored 84 points out of a possible 72 in the four Tests against the Springboks.

And his secret? Fast away from the starting-gate and tremendous acceleration in the straights.

## Long Lost Both Heats

**Saturday Nov. 29 1952**

FRED WILLS retained the Wembley match-race speedway championship when he beat Henry Long in two straight record-breaking rides—clocking 56.3 seconds in both 3-lap heats — at Wembley Stadium last night. The previous record, also held by Wills, was 56.5.

There was no doubt that Long was beaten at the starting gate. He could not reproduce his old quick-silver starting and Wills easily got ahead at the first bend in both heats.

Even though Wills lifted his front wheel at the start of the first 'leg' he was still able to burst around Long to take the lead in the first bend. Long did make a great effort to cut inside Wills on the second bend. But it was no use. The holder stayed in front to win easily by four lengths.

It was the same story in the second heat. Wills raced away from the starting gate and steadily built up a lead. This time Long tried to pass him on the outside in the final bend, but Wills hung on to win by three lengths.

Basse Hveem and Beldy Kristoffersen won the Best Pairs competition when their 5-1 win in the last heat gave them a total of 20 points. But Alec Blankfield was the star of the event, scoring maximum points.

Ronnie Moore, the 19-year-old New Zealand star, making his first appearance at Wembley won the special scratch race final by over 150 yards from Harry du Toit in 76.8 seconds.

In an earlier race Moore dropped out with engine failure. But his New Zealand team-mate, Dick Campbell, stood down to let the crowd see the man who finished fourth in the world championship. Heat winners in the International Best Pairs were: A. Blankfield 77.8; Hveem 77.8; Killmeyer 79.9; J. Blankfield 78.3; A. Blankfield 77.6; D. Lang 78.4; A. Blankfield 76.3; J. Blankfield 78.2; Hveem 75.7; A. Blankfield 77.5.

Points scorers: Hveem (12) and Kristoffersen (8); 20; A. Blankfield (15) and Harry Serrurier (3) 18; Joe Blankfield (13) and Fred van Zyl (5) 18; Killmeyer (10) and Hofmeister (8) 18.

## S. AFRICA'S SPEEDWAY TEST WIN BIGGEST IN 31 MATCHES

**Saturday Dec. 6 1952**

SOUTH AFRICA has met international speedway teams 31 times but has never scored a more convincing win than against the Combined European side at Wembley Stadium last night. The final score of 67-40 was the widest margin of any previous test and enabled the national team to win the series 3-2.

While the individual honours were taken by the visiting captain, Basse Hveem, who scored a maximum of 18 points and set a new four-lap record, the most satisfactory feature from the South African viewpoint was the team riding by the local riders.

In seven of the 18 heats South Africa scored the maximum five points and only twice did they lose a heat.

Hveem opened the programme by leading Wills by half a wheel at the first bend in the first heat and it was no surprise when it was announced that he had beaten his previous record by one-tenth of a second.

### NEVER IN DANGER

Four heats resulted in even scoring but in the fifth South Africa received a first break. Carlsson fell after leading Henry Long for two laps and Evert Anderson had to drop his machine to avoid a nasty accident. From then on the South Africans were never in danger of defeat.

With the exception of Alec Blankfield, who had a bad meeting, all the South Africans rode with skill. They broke from the gate well and were the absolute masters of the visitors with the exception of Hveem and to a lesser degree Josef Hofmeister.

It would be invidious to pick out any South African for special praise for the general standard was much higher than usual.

### HEAT RESULTS

The results were: Heat 1: B. Hveem (E) 1, Wills (S.A.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 2: B. Raw (S.A.) 1, E. Anderson (E) 2, B. Carlsson (E) 3, 15sec; Heat 3: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Hofmeister (E) 2, K. Killmeyer (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 4: B. Hveem (E) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, H. Long (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 5: H. Long (S.A.) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, R. Bester (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 6: J. Blankfield (S.A.) 1, F. Wills (S.A.) 2, K. Killmeyer (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 7: R. Hofmeister (E) 1, F. Wills (S.A.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 8: B. Hveem (E) 1, H. Long (S.A.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 9: B. Hveem (E) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 10: R. Hofmeister (E) 1, F. Wills (S.A.) 2, J. Blankfield (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 11: B. Raw (S.A.) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, W. Dalton (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 12: H. Long (S.A.) 1, J. Hofmeister (E) 2, K. Killmeyer (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 13: B. Hveem (E) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, R. Bester (S.A.) 3, 14sec; Heat 14: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 15: F. Wills (S.A.) 1, E. Anderson (E) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 14sec; Heat 16: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 14sec.

## World speedway finalists head field at Wembley

**Tuesday Dec. 9 1952**

HENRY LONG and Ronnie Moore, two of the finalists in this year's world championship, finished first and second in the Wembley open speedway title event last night but they were both beaten in the fifth heat by Basse Hveem.

The expected struggle between these three riders lasted for one lap after which Hveem's greater speed on the straight enabled him to forge ahead but the effort took more out of the machine than it did from the rider. In his next heat Hveem had trouble and had to push his machine for more than half a lap to score a point. His failure to follow up his two winning rides left the final result in doubt until the last heat when Long had to win to finish one point ahead of Moore. Moore had gone ahead of Fred Wills and Roy Bester, who shared third place, in his last ride.

Long was more like the rider he is expected to be and one can look forward to some exciting races when he meets Moore again. When the young New Zealander has had time to acclimatise himself to local conditions he should live up to his reputation. He undoubtedly has the skill as he showed in the 12th heat when he brilliantly passed Bester on the inside with only inches to spare.

Barry Briggs and Dick Campbell were beaten more by inexperience of racing conditions on the Rand than by a lack of skill and with Trevor Redmond and Moore should soon form a solid core to an attractive New Zealand team.

Comparisons with times in previous meetings may not be a true guide but it is interesting to note that the times returned by Moore and his fellow New Zealanders were better than those of Hveem and the Continental riders in their first full-scale outing at Wembley.

### Heat results

THE heat results were—  
Heat 1: F. Wills, 1; B. Raw, 2; T. Redmond, 3. 76.7sec. Heat 2: H. Long, 1; J. Hofmeister, 2; B. Briggs, 3. 74.7sec.  
Heat 3: B. Hveem, 1; R. Bester, 2; D. Campbell, 3. 75.5sec. Heat 4: R. Moore, 1; K. Killmeyer, 2; B. Serrurier, 3. 77.1sec.  
Heat 5: B. Hveem, 1; H. Long, 2; R. Moore, 3. 74.7sec. Heat 6: R. Bester, 1; F. Wills, 2; K. Killmeyer, 3. 77.5sec. Heat 7: B. Briggs, 1; B. Raw, 2; F. Boyle, 3. 78.3sec.  
Heat 8: S. Redmond, 1; B. Serrurier, 2; J. Cunningham, 3. 78.9sec. Heat 9: H. du Toit, 1; B. Serrurier, 2; D. Campbell, 3. 74.3sec. Heat 10: H. Long, 1; F. Wills, 2; J. Cunningham, 3. 78.8sec. Heat 11: K. Killmeyer, 1; B. Briggs, 2; H. du Toit, 3. 78.5sec. Heat 12: R. Moore, 1; B. Raw, 2; R. Bester, 3. 74.3sec. Heat 13: H. Long, 1; F. Wills, 2; D. Campbell, 3. 75.5sec. Heat 14: H. Long, 1; R. Bester, 2; B. Serrurier, 3. 74sec. Heat 15: H. Long, 1; R. Moore, 2; B. Serrurier, 3. 74sec. Heat 16: T. Redmond, 1; J. Hofmeister, 2; R. Bester, 3. 74sec. Heat 17: R. Bester, 1; H. du Toit, 2; T. Boshoff, 3. 19.3sec. Heat 18: F. Wills, 1; R. Briggs, 2; R. Serrurier, 3. 78.9sec. Heat 19: R. Moore, 1; J. Hofmeister, 2; B. Raw, 3. 74.3sec. Heat 20: H. Long, 1; D. Campbell, 2; T. Redmond, 3. 74.3sec.

The post-race list was: H. Long, 14; R. Moore, 13; F. Wills, 12; R. Bester, 12; B. Briggs, 9; B. Raw, 8; T. Redmond, 8; R. Hveem, 7; B. Serrurier, 7; H. du Toit, 6; K. Killmeyer, 6; J. Hofmeister, 6; D. Campbell, 5; P. Dikes, 2; J. Cunningham, 2; F. Boyle, 2; T. Boshoff, 1.

### Speedway pairs for triangular "test"

The pairs selected for the triangular international speedway match at Wembley on Friday are: South Africa—H. Long and H. du Toit; F. Wills and R. Bester; B. Raw and J. Blankfield. Reserve, D. Lang.

## New Zealand win speedway match with better display than previous tourists

**Saturday Dec. 13 1952**

RIGHT FROM THE START of the triangular international speedway match at Wembley last night the New Zealanders were in far better form than any previous touring team and they finished the meeting with a 5-1 win against 37 and the Combined European team with 28.

As Basse Hveem's star began to fade—he scored only five points for Europe without getting one first—a whole galaxy started to shine. Twice in the first four heats Jack Cunningham and Dick Campbell won maximum points. Then Roy Raw retook the lead from Hveem in the fifth heat and it was obvious that South Africa and New Zealand would be the leading teams.

Ronnie Moore's first ride was against Henry Long and he gave an exhibition of fine riding which has seldom been equalled at Wembley. Long went round the bend leaving scarcely two feet to spare, but Moore kept a steady course with his wheel on the line. He took the lead out of the bend but Long hung on with Barry Briggs close behind. They finished a great race in that order.

Moore won his next three races with Briggs second so the only point the young New Zealanders lost was the one Briggs dropped to Long. Neither of them started well against Roy Bester and Fred Wills but they both showed fine ability during the race and took the only opportunity of going to the front.

Both Carlsson and Bert Killmeyer were the best of the Continental contenders but were overshadowed by the South Africans who in turn were given a lesson in some of the finer points of speedway.

With the improvement in the New Zealanders which should follow as a matter of course South African honours for the test series against them cannot be rated very highly.



R. Moore

### Results

THE results in the triangular speedway match at Wembley last night were: Heat 1: J. Cunningham (N.Z.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, B. Raw (S.A.) 3, 75.5sec. Heat 2: R. Serrurier (E) 1, Wills (S.A.) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 80.8sec. Heat 3: E. Anderson (E) 1, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 2, P. Dikes (N.Z.) 3, 75.2sec. Heat 4: J. Cunningham (N.Z.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 82.2sec. Heat 5: B. Raw (S.A.) 1, R. Hveem (E) 2, K. Killmeyer (E) 3, 79.6sec. Heat 6: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Kristoffersen (N.Z.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3, 76.5sec. Heat 7: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 3, 78sec. Heat 8: R. Moore (N.Z.) 1, J. Long (S.A.) 2, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 3, 76.2sec.

Heat 9: K. Killmeyer (E) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, D. Lang (S.A.) 3, 77.6sec. Heat 10: R. Moore (N.Z.) 1, H. Briggs (N.Z.) 2, B. Serrurier (S.A.) 3, 76.2sec. Heat 11: E. Anderson (E) 1, R. Hveem (E) 2, H. Long (S.A.) 3, 76.2sec. Heat 12: H. Long (S.A.) 1, J. Cunningham (N.Z.) 2, J. Hofmeister (E) 3, 82.2sec. Heat 13: E. Anderson (E) 1, B. Raw (S.A.) 2, H. Long (S.A.) 3, 76.2sec. Heat 14: F. Wills (S.A.) 1, R. Hveem (E) 2, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 3, 78.8sec. Heat 15: T. Redmond (N.Z.) 1, B. Carlsson (E) 2, P. Dikes (N.Z.) 3, 76.8sec. Heat 16: R. Moore (E) 1, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 2, K. Killmeyer (E) 3, 79.6sec. Heat 17: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Hofmeister (E) 2, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 3, 79.6sec. Heat 18: E. Anderson (E) 1, R. Hveem (E) 2, E. Anderson (E) 3, 79.6sec.

The individual point scoring was—  
NEW ZEALAND—R. Moore (13) J. Cunningham (8), B. Briggs (8), T. Redmond (8), D. Campbell (4), P. Dikes (2), F. Boyle (1), Totals 45.

SOUTH AFRICA—H. Long (14), F. Wills (13), B. Raw (8), R. Bester (7), H. du Toit (2), D. Lang (1), Totals 45.

COMBINED EUROPE—B. Carlsson (8), K. Killmeyer (6), Hveem (5), J. Hofmeister (4), T. Boshoff (1), E. Anderson (2), Totals 28.

## Doug Lang wins junior speedway championship

*Saturday Jan 31 1953*  
**B**UT FOR ONE ENGINE FAULTURE it would have been a happy day for the two Lang brothers, Doug and Fred, yesterday for they finished first and equal third respectively in the South African junior speedway championship at Wembley last night.

Had Fred's machine not given him trouble in his first heat he would probably have been riding for first place against his brother in the final heat. In spite of an injury he received in Durban a week ago which started to give him trouble in his third ride, Doug scored a maximum and must now be ranked as a certain South African rider of the future.

Dave Naude was beaten by Doug Lang and Pat McKenzie in his third ride but apart from that race—which cost him the title—he rode with exceptional dash for a man who has had few opportunities.

Maurice Fenton and Sid van der Vyver tied with Fred Lang for third place and won some of their races in a manner reminiscent of their best performances in the past.

### BETTER STANDARD

The standard was much better than it was last year when Roy Bester won the title. The times recorded were faster, the competitors appeared to ride more safely and there were fewer delays through engine failures.

There is little to fear about the replacement of some of the leading men when they retire. Selwyn Nelson, Harry Bremner, Dave Collins and Pat McKenzie all showed that a little more encouragement would be a good investment for the improvement of speedway.

### MATCH RACE

Ronnie Moore followed his defeat of Fred Willis in the Durban match race championship on Thursday with another win in his Wembley challenge. Willis had to use Bester's machine as his own was not available, but this did not make much difference. Moore took the lead from the gate in both heats and was not seriously threatened at any time.

### HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: S. van der Vyver, 81.8sec.; P. McKenzie, 80.8sec.; D. Naude, 80.8sec.; Lang, 78.4sec.; D. Naude, 78.1sec.; D. Lang, 78.0sec.; F. Lang, 78.9sec.; G. Matthews, 82.4sec.; F. Lang, 81.5sec.; S. van der Vyver, 80.3sec.; D. Lang, 79.4sec.; M. Fenton, 83sec.; D. Lang, 79.4sec.; S. van der Vyver, 80.7sec.; D. Lang, 81sec.; Individual point scorers: D. Lang, 81sec.; S. Nelson, 80.7sec.; D. Lang, 81sec.; S. van der Vyver, 81; G. Matthews, 9; D. Collins, 8; Nelson, 8; H. Bremner, 6; J. Becker, 5; R. Hatcher, 5; P. McKenzie, 5; D. Luendyk, 4; B. Messer, 3; B. Todd, 2; S. Smith, 2.

## South Africa score finest win in international

*Saturday Jan 31 1953*  
**R**ECORD-BREAKING RIDES BY HENRY LONG, a spectacular crash in front of the stand, a sporting gesture by the New Zealanders in allowing Alec Blankfield to ride for South Africa after two men had been injured, and determination by most of the South Africans were the highlights of an exciting speedway test at Wembley last night.

South Africa won 55-53 and achieved their most meritorious success in any international meeting.

Long laid the foundations when he smashed the record in the first heat and followed with two more wins in times which were better than the previous record. His third win—against Ronnie Moore—was an exceptional performance for the heat Moore by a quarter of a lap.

South Africa were two points up when Joe Blankfield and Harry du Toit were followed by Moore closely in the 11th heat. But Blankfield wobbled badly and Du Toit crashed into him. Both men were unable to ride again and South Africa had only five riders left.

The only South African who failed to score well was Fred Willis but he can be excused for a break in his frame was discovered after his second ride.

The New Zealand heat leaders showed the better skill and it was only lack of support which prevented them from winning. The line riding of Redmond, Moore and Campbell nearly gave them the lead and it was fortunate for South Africa that Bob Raw and Alec Blankfield could win two heats by less than half a length.

### NO OBJECTIONS

With the result in the balance Trevor Redmond raised no objections when it was suggested that Alec Blankfield be allowed to take his brother's place.

Alec rode three times and scored two wins. In the final heat, with South Africa needing a 3-3 score to hold on to their two-point lead, he went to the front and stopped Barry Riggs from breaking through.

Buddy Fuller scored only five points, but two of them, scored in the 17th heat when Long's engine let him down and stopped him from getting a maximum, were as essential as any.

### BROKEN FRAME

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## LONG DEFEATS MOORE TO REGAIN SPEEDWAY MATCH RACE TITLE

*Saturday Jan 31 1953*  
**H**ENRY LONG, who had started in his Golden Helmet match race challenge against Ronnie Moore at Wembley speedway last night but he won the last two heats to regain the title for South Africa.

Starting from the outside, Moore cut in front of Long in the first heat at the first bend. Long was forced to the outside and took a slight lead in the back-straight on the final lap but Moore hung on to the line and gained a narrow win in a time which equalled Fred Willis's record of 56.3sec.

Moore again showed up in front in the second heat, but Long came out of the second bend very fast and, keeping to the centre of the track, had too much pace for the line-hugging Moore.

The third heat was one of Long's best races at Wembley. He was again beaten out of the gate and called for the first lap. When Moore drifted out in the second lap Long immediately seized the opportunity to get through. He won by the biggest margin of the three heats.

### EVEN LEAGUE MATCH

Germiston Stars almost sprung a major surprise when they failed by only two points in their league match with Wembley Lions. For 10 heats they managed to keep the score even and it was only a grand ride by Fred Lang in the final heat which prevented them from drawing level.

The New Zealanders, Peter Dykes and Frank Boyle, showed improved form, especially Boyle, but the most gratifying feature was the way Fred Lang, for Lions, and his brother Doug, for Stars, hung on to the leaders in most of their races.

### Heat winners

The heat winners were: H. Long (W) 77.5sec.; R. Bester (W) 77.2sec.; B. Briggs (W) 78.3sec.; S. James (G) 81.0sec.; Boyle (G) 78.3sec.; P. Dykes (G) 78.4sec.; F. Redmond (G) 77.5sec.; R. Bester (W) 77.5sec.; H. Long (W) 77.5sec.; R. Bester (W) 77.5sec.; F. Boyle (G) 78.8sec.; H. Long (W) 79.9sec.; F. Boyle (G) 78.9sec.; F. Lang (W) 79.2sec.

The individual scoring was—WEMBLEY LIONS—R. Bester 11, H. Long 10, B. Briggs 9, F. Lang 7, M. Fenton 5, S. Nelson 2, H. du Toit 1, D. Wolke 0, Total 45.  
 GERMISTON STARS—F. Boyle 11, T. Redmond 8, P. Dykes 7, D. Lang 6, A. Blankfield 4, S. James 3, T. Boshoff 2, J. Becker 0, Total 41.

## NEW ZEALAND WIN EXCITING SPEEDWAY TEST

*Saturday Jan 31 1953*  
**N**EW ZEALAND won the second speedway test against South Africa at Wembley Stadium last night by 58 points to 50. To do so they had to win one of the best matches seen at Wembley. Only one or two races were won with something to spare and very few points were conceded without a thrilling struggle.

The score chart shows that only Roy Bester and Henry Long scored well for South Africa but it gives no indication of some stirring, but unfortunately unsuccessful, attempts by the local riders to match the New Zealanders.

The tourists reached a standard they had not previously attained in the Union and their tactics, especially by their second string men, came as a revelation to those who had seen them in their earlier matches.

### CAPTAIN'S EFFORT

Roy Bester, as though to justify his selection as South Africa's captain, had the best performance of his career. When Ronnie Moore stopped in the first heat, Bester prevented Frank Boyle from challenging Fred van Zyl with a fine display of team riding.

On more than one occasion in later heats Bester attempted to repeat the performance but when one of the New Zealanders did split the pair he went ahead to win the heat. Bester dropped a point in the 10th heat when Moore rode a truly grand race to pass Van Zyl on the inside and then Bester on the outside. Apart from that lapse Bester had the answer to every move made by his opponents.

Long also missed a maximum by one point dropped to Moore. In the fourth heat the two men were locked together until Moore gained a slight advantage at the end of the first lap. When they met in the 13th heat Long gained his revenge through holding off repeated challenges to win by half a wheel.

### CONSISTENCY

Dick Campbell was the outstanding example of the New Zealanders' consistency. He won his first heat and followed with five seconds. Barry Briggs started well with five points in two rides and was placed in his next four. Boyle and Peter Dykes were not overshadowed by their partners and were always battling to improve their positions.

Their dash was too much for the second string in the South African team and it is because of this factor that the tourists won.

A satisfactory feature of the match was that on only one occasion did a rider fail to complete the course, Dykes having to pull up in his fourth ride.

### The results

The results in the speedway test match at Wembley Stadium last night were: Heat 1: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, F. van Zyl (S.A.) 2, F. Boyle (N.Z.) 3, 78.5sec. Heat 2: H. Long (S.A.) 1, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 2, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 3, 76.5sec. Heat 3: D. Campbell (N.Z.) 1, P. Dykes (N.Z.) 2, F. Willis (S.A.) 3, 79.8sec. Heat 4: R. Moore (N.Z.) 1, H. Long (S.A.) 2, F. Boyle (N.Z.) 3, 76.4sec. Heat 5: B. Briggs (N.Z.) 1, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 2, F. Willis (S.A.) 3, 79.6sec. Heat 6: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, F. van Zyl (S.A.) 3, 76.4sec. Heat 7: F. Boyle (N.Z.) 1, R. Moore (N.Z.) 2, F. Willis (S.A.) 3, 77.5sec. Heat 8: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 2, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 3, 76.7sec. Heat 9: H. Long (S.A.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, P. Dykes (N.Z.) 3, 76.7sec. Heat 10: F. Moore (N.Z.) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, P. Dykes (N.Z.) 3, 76.7sec. Heat 11: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Bester (S.A.) 2, F. van Zyl (S.A.) 3, 79.6sec. Heat 12: F. Willis (S.A.) 1, H. Long (S.A.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3, 77.5sec. Heat 13: H. Long (S.A.) 1, R. Moore (N.Z.) 2, F. Boyle (N.Z.) 3, 76.5sec. Heat 14: T. Redmond (N.Z.) 1, A. Blankfield (S.A.) 2, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 3, 79.8sec. Heat 15: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, P. Dykes (N.Z.) 3, 78.9sec. Heat 16: R. Moore (N.Z.) 1, F. Willis (S.A.) 2, H. du Toit (S.A.) 3, 78.9sec. Heat 17: R. Bester (S.A.) 1, T. Redmond (N.Z.) 2, B. Briggs (N.Z.) 3, 76.9sec. Heat 18: H. Long (S.A.) 1, D. Campbell (N.Z.) 2, F. Dykes (N.Z.) 3, 77.5sec.

The individual point scoring list was—New Zealand—R. Moore, 13; D. Campbell, 11; T. Redmond, 12; B. Briggs, 9; F. Boyle, 4; P. Dykes, 5. Total 58.  
 South Africa—R. Bester, 17; H. Long, 17; F. Willis, 8; F. van Zyl, 4; H. du Toit, 2; A. Blankfield, 2. Total 50.

## Experience beats Bester on speedway

*Sat. Feb. 7 1953*  
**A**T the end of the speedway test last week Roy Bester said, "I know what he had learnt 'quite a lot', but he probably learnt far more when falling in his match race challenge against Henry Long at Wembley last night.

Long won in two straight heats, the time for both being 56.4sec. —only one-tenth of a second outside the record. Experience alone prevented Bester from making an exciting race of the first heat. He took the lead, relinquished it and again went ahead, but he made the mistake of going for the line when Long was less than a length behind.

Had Bester kept to the centre of the track and made Long cover more ground the result may have been different. In the second heat Bester made an effort to pass on the inside but Long held him off and won more easily than expected.

### FULLER IMPROVES

In a match between teams captained by Ronnie Moore and Trevor Redmond, Buddy Fuller had his most successful evening for many months. He put himself back into the limelight for test selection even though he only finished third in one heat which he should have won.

Bob Serrurier also gave indications that it will not be long before he regains his best Wembley form.

The biggest excitement at the meeting was in the ninth heat which was won by Pat McKenzie in the fastest time of the night. Coming out of the last bend McKenzie could not hold his machine and it "looped" as he passed the line. Man and rider crashed to the cinders and McKenzie stopped 20 yards away and the machine came to rest 50 yards past the post. McKenzie's first concern was the machine—loaned to him for the race by Buddy Fuller.

### THE RESULTS

The heat winners were: T. Redmond, 79.5sec.; B. Serrurier, 77.5sec.; F. Boyle, 77.5sec.; G. Matthews, 79.5sec.; R. Moore, 78.5sec.; B. Briggs, 78.5sec.; F. Boyle, 78.0sec.; B. Briggs, 77.8sec.; P. McKenzie, 76.5sec.; B. Briggs, 78.5sec.; B. Briggs, 78.5sec.; R. Moore, 79.5sec.; F. Boyle, 78.5sec.; B. Fuller, 80.3sec.

The individual point scoring list was—Moore's team: B. Briggs 11, F. Boyle 10, R. Moore 9, B. Fuller 9, T. Boshoff 5, H. Serrurier 2, M. Fenton 1, Total, 45.  
 Redmond's team: T. Redmond 11, D. Campbell 6, B. Serrurier 6, S. James 3, P. McKenzie 3, G. Matthews 3, D. Naude 2. Total, 39.

## Engine failures spoil third speedway test but South Africa deserve success

*Saturday Feb. 21 1953*  
**S**OUTH AFRICA won the third speedway test against New Zealand at Wembley last night by 60 points to 41, but there was little satisfaction to be derived from their success. Engine failures dogged the tourists throughout the evening and at one time they had only one serviceable machine between them.

There is little doubt but that South Africa would have won had the visitors been able to ride their own machines throughout the match, but both riders and spectators would have appreciated more keenly contested heats.

New Zealand's troubles started in the first heat when Dick Campbell's engine seized when he was leading Fred Willis. In the following heats he rode five different machines. He rode his own again in the 16th heat but he "looped" at the gate.

The 14th heat was the culminating point for the New Zealanders. Ronnie Moore, riding Buddy Fuller's machine, took the lead from Roy Bester but the front wheel came out of the forks and Moore had a nasty fall.

### MACHINES IN DEMAND

The South African's machines were in great demand towards the end of the meeting and there were heats in which all four machines were those of local riders.

But there must be no deduction from the merit of the South African success. The heat leaders—Willis, Long and Bester—scored well. Long beat Moore twice when the New Zealander was riding good machines and he would have scored a maximum of 18 points

### The results

The results of last night's speedway test were: WEMBLEY LIONS—R. Bester 11, H. Long 10, B. Briggs 9, F. Lang 7, M. Fenton 5, S. Nelson 2, H. du Toit 1, D. Wolke 0, Total 45.  
 GERMISTON STARS—F. Boyle 11, T. Redmond 8, P. Dykes 7, D. Lang 6, A. Blankfield 4, S. James 3, T. Boshoff 2, J. Becker 0, Total 41.

The individual scoring was—WEMBLEY LIONS—R. Bester 11, H. Long 10, B. Briggs 9, F. Lang 7, M. Fenton 5, S. Nelson 2, H. du Toit 1, D. Wolke 0, Total 45.  
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The individual scoring was—WEMBLEY LIONS—R. Bester 11, H. Long 10, B. Briggs 9, F. Lang 7, M. Fenton 5, S. Nelson 2, H. du Toit 1, D. Wolke 0, Total 45.  
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had his engine not failed in his second heat.  
 Bob Serrurier and Alec Blankfield were always on hand to support their partners and even some dashing riding by Betsy Briggs in the closing heats failed to regenerate them to a pointless position.

# Speedway Title To Hornets

*Sunday Tribune  
Sunday 22 Feb 1953*

**DURBAN HORNETS** became first winners of the South African Speedway Championship when they scored a crushing 47-23 victory over Boksburg Bees at Hoy Park last night.

The final National League log reads:

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pt
Hornets	..	..	..	9	6	0	3 356 313 12
Bees	..	..	..	9	4	1	4 338 336 9
Stars	..	..	..	9	4	1	4 352 348 9
Lions	..	..	..	9	3	0	6 348 367 6

Hornets started in tearaway fashion and built up a 10-point lead in the first four heats. They continued to rattle up the points against a side hampered by many machine failures until an unassailable lead of 34-18 had been established with three heats still to go.

It was fitting that the brilliant New Zealander, Ronnie Moore, should make the issue safe for Hornets by streaking away to a quarter-lap victory in heat nine, for his "maximum" of 12 points was yet another instance of his value to the Durban team this season.

Scorers were: Hornets: Moore (12), Dalton (10), Bob Serrurier (8), Van der Vyver (8), Dykes (4), McWilliam (4), Hatcher (1)—47.

Bees: Campbell (10), Raw (6), Wills (2), Harry Serrurier (2), Nelson (2), Collins (1), Naude (0).

Moore also won the scratch race final in simple fashion. This event was marred by a fall in which Vern McWilliam was injured and had to be taken to Addington Hospital for observation.

# Easy win for Long in match on speedway

*Sat. Feb 28 1953*

THE ease with which Henry Long beat Ronnie Moore in the Wembley speedway match race championship last night makes one wonder if there is any man, including the world champion, Jock Young, who would be able to get the measures of Long on the Wembley track.

In the first heat Long was on the inside and he took the lead coming out of the bend and won easily, equalling the record of 56.3sec.

Moore was in front for a lap in the second heat and had every chance but Long made no attempt to crowd the line and passed Moore in front of the stand and scored another easy win in the same time as the first heat.

# Second-string riders help New Zealand win fourth speedway test

*Saturday March 7 1953*

NEW ZEALAND won the fourth speedway test against South Africa at Wembley last night by 57 points to 51 and thus levelled the score in the series to 2-2 because their second-string riders rode better than they have done in their tour.

Barry Briggs and Frank Boyle started off with a 5-1 win over Fred Wills and Doug, Serrurier in the first heat and thereafter lost only five points in their remaining five rides together. The only man in the South African side who could stop them was Henry Long, who once again showed that he is the outstanding rider at Wembley. Only once was Long beaten out of the gate—in the fourth heat when Boyle led for 100 yards—and he won all his heats in less than 75 seconds.

Bob Raw proved to be the most successful partner Long has had in an international match and but for an engine failure in the 13th heat, when Raw stopped at the gate, the pair would have been more prolific scorers than Briggs and Boyle.

### DYKES RIDES WELL

Peter Dykes also did far better than expected and when Dick Campbell hurt his knee just after the interval he took control of the remaining heats and scored five points.

The disappointment for South Africa was the poor showing of Fred Wills. His own machine had been packed for dispatch to Liverpool and he borrowed a machine which is normally in good order.

### Heat results

THE results of the heats in the fourth speedway test at Wembley last night were: Heat 1: B. Briggs (N.Z.), 1; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 2; F. Wills (S.A.), 3; 77.6sec. Heat 2: H. Long (S.A.), 1; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 74.6sec. Heat 3: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; R. Bester (S.A.), 2; F. Serrurier (S.A.), 3; 76.2sec. Heat 4: H. Long (S.A.), 1; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 74.3sec. Heat 5: B. Serrurier (N.Z.), 1; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 2; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 3; 77.5sec. Heat 6: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; D. Serrurier (S.A.), 2; F. Wills (S.A.), 3; 76.2sec. Heat 7: B. Briggs (N.Z.), 1; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 2; B. Serrurier (S.A.), 3; 77.5sec. Heat 8: P. Dykes (N.Z.), 1; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 2; 117.9sec. Heat 9: H. Long (S.A.), 1; B. Raw (S.A.), 2; R. Moore (N.Z.), 3; 73.9sec. Heat 10: B. Briggs (N.Z.), 1; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 2; D. Serrurier (S.A.), 3; 76.9sec. Heat 11: H. Long (S.A.), 1; B. Raw (S.A.), 2; P. Dykes (N.Z.), 3; 74.2sec. Heat 12: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; R. Bester (S.A.), 2; 1. Redmond (N.Z.), 3; 76.3sec. Heat 13: H. Long (S.A.), 1; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 2; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 3; 74.7sec. Heat 14: R. Bester (S.A.), 1; P. Dyke (N.Z.), 2; B. Serrurier (S.A.), 3; 76.7sec. Heat 15: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 2; D. Serrurier (S.A.), 3; 77.4sec. Heat 16: B. Briggs (N.Z.), 1; F. Boyle (N.Z.), 2; R. Bester (S.A.), 3; 77.5sec. Heat 17: P. Dykes (N.Z.), 1; D. Serrurier (S.A.), 2; F. Wills (S.A.), 3; 77.9sec. Heat 18: H. Long (S.A.), 1; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 74.6sec.

The individual point scoring was:  
NEW ZEALAND.—B. Briggs 16, R. Moore 13, F. Boyle 9, P. Dykes 9, D. Campbell 5, T. Redmond 5. Total 57.

SOUTH AFRICA.—H. Long 18, R. Bester 6, F. Wills 3. Total 50.

# Three riders in speedway trophy run-off

*Monday March 30 1953*

The performance of some of the younger speedway riders in the Yanx trophy event at Boksburg on Saturday must have been pleasing to those who are looking for stars for the future.

Fred Lang won the trophy after failing to score in his first heat, but only after he won a run-off against Alec Blankfield and Toy Edwards. Edwards, the Transvaal junior champion, had an engine failure when leading in his fourth heat, but in his other four rides he never allowed the back markers to catch him. He finished last in the run-off but his unexpected high scoring gave him the cup for the best performance of the evening.

### HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: T. Edwards (10yd. behind), 60.2sec.; R. Bester (40), 59.7sec.; B. Fuller (30), 60.6sec.; H. Serrurier (20), 59.9sec.; T. Edwards (10), 59.5sec.; B. Fuller (30), 60.3sec.; A. Blankfield (30), 58.8sec.; F. Lang (30), 58.1sec.; T. Edwards (10), 59.1sec.; F. Lang (30), 57.8sec.; F. Lang (30), 57.8sec.; T. Boshoff (20), 58.5sec.; P. McKenzie (20), 60.5sec.; T. Boshoff (20), 59.2sec.; H. Long (40), 58.8sec.; B. Raw (30), 61.2sec.; T. Edwards (10), 59.1sec.; A. Blankfield (30), 60.3sec.; F. Lang (30), 59sec.; R. Bester (40), 59.7sec. Run-off: F. Lang, 1; A. Blankfield, 2; T. Edwards (fell) 58.6sec.

The point scoring was: F. Lang, 12; A. Blankfield, 12; T. Edwards, 12; B. Fuller, 11; T. Boshoff, 10; R. Bester, 9; H. du Toit, 8; H. Serrurier, 8; F. van Zyl, 7; P. M. McKenzie, 7; B. Raw, 7; H. Long, 4; D. Serrurier, 2; L. Bekker, 2; D. Lang, 1; D. Lourens, 1; B. Serrurier, 1.

# Henry Long retains South African speedway title

*Saturday May 2 1953*

HENRY LONG looked every bit the champion and had no difficulty in retaining his South African title in the final speedway meeting of the season at Wembley Stadium last night. Besides scoring maximum points, Long also returned the fastest heat time (75.6sec.)

It was not until the final heat that Long became champion. Roy Bester had kept level with him in point scoring but times show that Long was riding the better of the two. Long's times for the first four rounds were 75.6sec., 77.4sec., 77.1sec. and 77.8sec., as compared with Bester's 76.1sec., 78.9sec., 79.9sec. and 80.2sec.

It was not Bester, however, who chased Long in the final heat, but Bob Serrurier. Long got away to his usual fast start and looked like having an easy win, with Bester second. Coming up fast, however, Serrurier passed Bester on the first corner of the second lap and chased Long all the way to the finishing post.

This second place enabled Serrurier to take third place, two points behind Bester. Had it not been for engine trouble in the third heat, Serrurier would most probably have been placed second riding against S. James, who won the heat, and Alec Blankfield. Serrurier looked a winner when his engine failed and he was forced to retire. A win in this heat would have given him maximum points up to the last heat along with Long and Bester.

Fred Lang never looked like being placed. He lost his first heat to Harry du Toit and crashed in the 15th heat when trying to take the first position away from Bob Raw, who rode well throughout the meeting to be placed fourth.

Roy Bester left this morning to take up his appointment with the Edinburgh Monarchs.

### The results

The results of the championship were: Heat winners: R. Bester (76.1sec.), F. Lang (75.6sec.), S. James (78.4sec.), H. Long (75.6sec.), H. du Toit (77.6sec.), H. Long (77.4sec.), B. Serrurier (78.3sec.), R. Bester (78.9sec.), B. Serrurier (76.6sec.), F. Lang (78.3sec.), H. Long (77.1sec.), R. Bester (79.9sec.), H. Long (77.8sec.), B. Serrurier (79.9sec.), B. Raw (79.9sec.), R. Bester (80.2sec.), D. Serrurier (80.3sec.), B. Raw (80.2sec.), F. van Zyl (80.3sec.), H. Long (77.1sec.).

Points scores: H. Long 15, R. Bester 13, B. Serrurier 11, B. Raw 10, D. Lang 9, B. Fuller 9, S. James 8, H. du Toit 8, F. Lang 8, D. Serrurier 7, F. van Zyl 6, A. Blankfield 5, T. Boshoff 4, A. Duncan 2, D. Wolfe 2, G. Matthews 1.



Henry Long

*Best Regards  
Henry Long*

# S. Africa win last test by two points

*Sat. March 21 1953*

SOUTH AFRICA won the fifth and final speedway test against New Zealand at Wembley last night by two points but the difference would have been greater had it not been for the points scored by the two local men who were riding as "guests" in the visiting team.

Fred Lang was drafted into the New Zealand team because of an injury to Frank Boyle and won two heats which included a fine victory over Henry Long. Lang fell twice when trying to go round the outside of the field—had he succeeded in his efforts it is possible that he may have been able to swing the scoring in New Zealand's favour.

The South African team were deservedly 12 points ahead at the interval but only just managed to hold on to their lead during the second half when the visitors made the best efforts.

Roy Bester and Bob Serrurier were the most successful pair in the South African team and never lost an opportunity of riding together. When Bester struck trouble after the interval Serrurier went off on his own and he rode one of his best races to beat Moore in the 11th heat.

The heat winners were:— Heat 1: H. Long (S.A.), 1; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 76.3sec. Heat 2: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; B. Serrurier (S.A.), 2; R. Bester (S.A.), 3; 76.4sec. Heat 3: H. du Toit (S.A.), 1; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 2; B. Fuller (S.A.), 3; 75.9sec. Heat 4: R. Bester (S.A.), 1; B. Serrurier (S.A.), 2; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 3; 77.9sec. Heat 5: B. Fuller (S.A.), 1; H. Long (S.A.), 2; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 3; 77.5sec. Heat 6: F. Lang (N.Z.), 1; H. Long (S.A.), 2; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 3; 76.5sec. Heat 7: H. du Toit (S.A.), 1; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 2; R. Moore (N.Z.), 3; 77.3sec. Heat 8: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 77.6sec. Heat 9: B. Serrurier (S.A.), 1; R. Bester (S.A.), 2; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 3; 78.5sec. Heat 10: H. Long (S.A.), 1; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 2; B. Raw (S.A.), 3; 75.6sec. Heat 11: B. Serrurier (S.A.), 1; R. Moore (N.Z.), 2; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 3; 77.9sec. Heat 12: F. Lang (N.Z.), 1; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 2; B. Fuller (S.A.), 3; 76.9sec. Heat 13: A. Blankfield (N.Z.), 1; R. Serrurier (S.A.), 2; T. Redmond (N.Z.), 3; 77.7sec. Heat 14: R. Moore (N.Z.), 1; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 2; H. du Toit (S.A.), 3; 79.9sec. Heat 15: H. Long (S.A.), 1; F. Lang (N.Z.), 2; B. Briggs (N.Z.), 3; 75.7sec. Heat 16: T. Redmond (N.Z.), 1; H. du Toit (S.A.), 2; B. Fuller (S.A.), 3; 79.2sec. Heat 17: H. Long (S.A.), 1; R. Moore (N.Z.), 2; D. Campbell (N.Z.), 3; 75.7sec. Heat 18: B. Briggs (N.Z.), 1; R. Bester (S.A.), 2; F. Lang (N.Z.), 3; 79.5sec.

The individual point scoring was:— SOUTH AFRICA.—H. Long 14, R. Serrurier 12, H. du Toit 11, R. Bester, 8, B. Fuller, 7; B. Raw, 3. Total 55.

NEW ZEALAND.—R. Moore, 13; T. Redmond, 11; B. Briggs, 10; F. Lang, 9; D. Campbell, 7; A. Blankfield, 3; P. Dykes, 0. Total, 53.

See Slideshow for '52/'53 photo gallery.