

Redmond and Long Finish All Square!

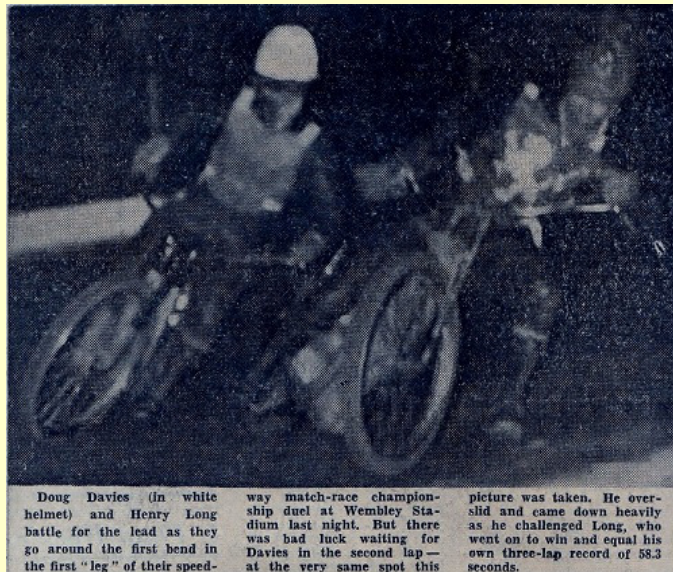
Mon. Jan 18 1955
TREVOR REDMOND, Springs Stars speedway captain, set the fastest time of the night when he clocked 62.5 secs, and beat Henry Long in the first heat of the match against South-West Transvaal at Springs on Saturday night. Stars won the match 45-39. Long had his revenge in the last heat and this was Redmond's only defeat of the night.
Springs Stars: Redmond 11, Genz, Bester 7, Walker 6, Edwards 5, Van Zyl, Quinn, Cooper 3—total 45. S.W. Transvaal: Henry Long 11, McKinlay 9, Blankfield 9, Doug Serrurier 4, Fourie 3, McKenzie, Blokdyk 1—total 39.
A crowd of 7,000 saw Overseas beat a South African team 361-311 in a Challenge Match at Port Elizabeth on Saturday.
Doug Davies set the fastest time of the night in heat 10—61.5 secs, when he beat Freddie Williams, captain of the Overseas team.

Long Still Speedway 'Champion'

Sat. Jan 22 1955
SIXTEEN YEAR-OLD Doug Davies went in the first "leg" of the South African speedway match-race championship with the big prospect of topping champion Henry Long. But it was the immaculate Long, holder, who stayed ahead. He won in two straight rides (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD). Davies fell in the second lap of the first heat, Long going on to equal his own three-lap record of 58.3 secs. But Davies made a real race of the second heat, challenging most of the way and losing only by three lengths.
The riders compete in the second "leg" at Pretoria on Wednesday, January 26.

TEST CERTAINTY

Fred Lang, scoring 10 points and smashing the Wembley 4-lap record—he brought it down to 58.3 secs clinched the place for the Springbok team for the second Test against the Commonwealth at Wembley on January 28.
He top-scored in Wembley's ridiculously easy 51-39 National League win against Pretoria Eagles and brought the record down by 4/5ths seconds as Doug Davies, his main match-race rival, fought a tremendous duel for second place. Davies forced Long into third place.
Wembley's team-riding was all too good for Pretoria. Junior Bainbridge, Lions' Australian rider, gave one of his best performances, overcoming initial machine failure.
Point scorers: Wembley: F. Lang 10, Bainbridge, Jackson 9, H. Long 8, D. Lang 7, D. Lang 4, Meade 3, Total 43. Pretoria: Briggs 9, Davies 8, Serrurier 3, Thomas 2, Total 30.



Doug Davies (in white helmet) and Henry Long battle for the lead as they go around the first bend in the first "leg" of their speed-

way match-race championship duel at Wembley Stadium last night. But there was bad luck waiting for Davies in the second lap—at the very same spot this

picture was taken. He overslid and came down heavily as he challenged Long, who went on to win and equal his own three-lap record of 58.3 seconds.

Henry Long and Davies All Square

Thur. Jan 27 1955
HENRY LONG, the holder, and Doug Davies are all-square in the South African speedway match-race championship. The 18-year-old Davies, beaten in the first "leg" at Wembley a fortnight ago, equalised when he won the second "leg" 2-1 at the Pretoria Stadium last night (writes Eric Litchfield).
Davies, breaking first from the starting gate, won the first heat by five lengths in 47.5 secs. Long drew level when Davies fell on the second lap of the second heat. Long's time of 46.5 secs, set a new three-lap record. Davies equalled this time in the decider.

Although Pretoria Eagles beat Wembley Lions 46-38, this National League match—the first ever held on the Pretoria stadium—belonged to Lions' captain, Henry Long.

He lowered the track record three times during the course of this 14-heat match and became the first rider to score maximum points in the new track. Long finished by chopping the time down to 64.7 secs. in the final heat.

A crowd of 4,000 saw Eagles move

further up the league table as a result of their second string riders who gave splendid support to Barry Briggs, Doug Davies and Olle Nygren.

Point scorers: Pretoria Eagles: Briggs 10, Nygren, Davies 9, James 5, H. Serrurier, Nel 4, Naude 3, D. Serrurier 2, Total 48. Wembley Lions: Henry Long 12, Jackson 10, Bainbridge 7, Meade 4, F. Lang 2, D. Lang, Bekker, Aubrey Long 1, Total 38.

Jan 28 1955
Speedway for "Strangler"
"Strangler" Fourie, form sional "all-in" wrestler, is South African junior champion. He scored 14 win the title at Randfontein.

Blokdyk unlucky in junior speedway

In a highly successful meeting at Randfontein on Thursday the South African junior speedway championship was won by Charles Fourie with Trevor Blokdyk second and Percy Binder and Theo Nel joint third.

Fourie dropped one point during the night when he was beaten in the final heat by Blokdyk. Blokdyk was unlucky in falling during the 10th heat and only managed to gain third position otherwise he would certainly have won the championship. He won the final heat decisively from Fourie.

HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: S. Fourie 68.1; T. Blokdyk 65.3; T. Nel 70.5; D. Hardman 71.2; T. Blokdyk 67.7; K. Long 70.9; P. Binder 67.7; S. Fourie 69.2; T. Nel 70.7; Cooper 72.9; F. Binder 70.1; Fourie 69.1; J. Stander 68.6; T. Nel 68.8; D. Lang 69.1; S. Fourie 69.1; K. Long 70.8; P. Maschke 72.6; P. Binder 69.3; T. Blokdyk 66.6.
Individual scores: S. Fourie 14; T. Blokdyk 11; P. Binder 11; T. Nel 11; D. Hardman 9; P. Maschke 9; L. Cooper 5; K. Long 8; J. Stander 7; J. Pinto 8; A. Johnson 4; F. de Kock 4; F. Eaton 2; Pretorius 2; J. Wheeler 2; B. Man 2; A. Thomas nil; P. Hayes nil.

S. African speedway team flounder in second test

Saturday Jan 29 1955
BEATEN OUT OF THE GATE and covered in mud at the first bend, the South African speedway test team were outclassed 63-39 by the Commonwealth touring side in the second test at Wembley last night.

The South Africans won only six of the 18 heats and the hope that they would prove the superior side throughout was completely shattered. When Henry Long and Fred Lang took five points from the first heat, which started in pouring rain, it did appear that South Africa would hold their own on the greasy track. Four heats later, however the Commonwealth riders were 12 points up and well on the road to avenging their first test defeat.

Doug Davies, who wins many of his races from behind, was at a disadvantage. More than once his goggles were covered in mud and he had to pull up. In one heat he fell twice and finished the match without a point, a disappointed young man.



B. Briggs

The best winners were: H. Long (S.A.) 81.5sec; B. Briggs (C.) 84.5sec; J. Bainbridge (C.) 86.1sec; K. McKinlay (C.) 85sec; B. Briggs (C.) 85sec; J. Bainbridge (C.) 85sec; H. Long (S.A.) 85sec; P. Clarke (C.) 85sec; R. Genz (C.) 85sec; A. Quinn (C.) 85sec; H. Long (S.A.) 82.5sec; F. Willis (S.A.) 82.5sec; P. Clarke (C.) 82.1sec; D. Lang (S.A.) 81.5sec.

The individual scores were—Commonwealth—B. Briggs 16, J. Bainbridge 14, P. Clarke 11, K. McKinlay 9, R. Genz 7, G. Jackson 5, Total 62.
South Africa—H. Long 11, R. Bester 7, F. Willis 5, D. Davies 6, Total 29.

Monday Jan 31 1955
Last Heat Was Speed Decider
Freddie Williams, ex-world speedway champion, won the Supporters' Trophy with maximum 15 points at the Olympia Park track, Springs, on Saturday night.
The last heat was the decider.

LONG IS HOLDER - Now for Nygren

Friday Feb 4 1955
HENRY LONG, the South African Test captain, is still holder of the National match-race speedway title. But oh, what a fright he got at Randfontein last night.

After winning the first heat in the deciding "leg" of his January match-race with 18-year-old Doug Davies, who looped at the starting gate, in 64.6 secs., he seemed set for a comfortable victory.

But Davies drew level by winning the second heat in 64.5 secs, and then roared away from the starting gate in the decider. The crowd were already shouting Davies home when Long, making a tremendous bid in the final bend, drove round his young Springbok colleague to retain the match-race he has held all season.

RACES TO-NIGHT

Long now defends the match-race championship (February edition) against the Swedish star, Olle Nygren. They ride the first "leg" at Wembley Stadium to-night.

Barry Briggs scored the maximum 12 points when the Commonwealth side beat a South African "six" 39-33 in a challenge match last night.

Johnny Bekker, who scored five points and showed good form in Wembley Lions' last home match, is promoted to the "first six" for to-night's vital 18-heat Transvaal Cup match against Randfontein Aces. Aces are without Reg Duval and Pat McKenzie rides in the "first six." Teams: Wembley: Henry Long (capt.), Jackson, Bainbridge, Bekker, Fred Lang, Doug Lang, F. Serrurier, Aubrey Long, Collins. Randfontein: Willis (capt.), Blokdyk, McKinlay, McKenzie, Clark, Alec Blankfield. Reserves: Fourie, Binder.

Nygren Won By Yard - Then Came Rain

Saturday Feb 5 1955
By ERIC LITCHFIELD
THE time was just 8.10 at Wembley Stadium last night as Olle Nygren, Sweden's speedway champion, beat Harry Long, the holder, by a yard in the first heat of their South African match-race championship. The track was in perfect condition—and Nygren's time of 58.3 seconds equalled the Wembley 3-lap record.

Then came the heavy rain and an hour later the track was greasy—and dangerous. Although the riders of Wembley Lions and Randfontein Aces struggled and slithered their way through to the 11th heat, it was obvious that rain would be the only real winner of the night.

This proved to be the case and the match was abandoned at the interval. So Nygren did not get the chance to gain a first "leg" lead in this match-race championship, since the second heat was due to go on straight after the interval.

Instead, the first "leg" of the match-race championship, which has been held by Long since the start of the season, will go on at Pretoria Stadium on Wednesday and the second "leg" will be at Wembley Stadium next Friday.

Will Nygren start the second "leg" with a 1-0 lead? This is a matter for the Board of Control to decide. It will be done before the riders meet at Pretoria. Whatever their decision, it will not affect the Pretoria "leg," where victory will go to the rider who wins two of the three heats.

Nygren flies to Port Elizabeth this morning where he rides in challenge speedway match to-night. Howdy Byford, the West Ham rider, who was also due to take part in the Port Elizabeth meeting, has been told to rest from riding—this, following facial injuries received a fortnight ago.

EQUALLED RECORD

The Transvaal Cup match began with a sensational ride by Gerald Jackson, who equalled the four-lap track record of 70.8 seconds when partnering Henry Long to a 3-1 lead win.

At one stage Wembley, bidding for the Transvaal Cup, were eight points ahead, but by the time rain caused the postponement their lead had been cut to one point, 32-31.

Riding became a hazardous business on this greasy track. Three riders fell in heat eight and only Alec Blankfield finished in heat 10, when he set an all-time "high" of 100 seconds for the four laps.

Triumph for touring team on speedway

Monday Feb 7 1955
RECORD-BREAKING rides by Barry Briggs, with Junior Bainbridge acting as his shadow for five of their six heats, gave the Commonwealth touring team a big advantage in the third speedway test at Springs on Saturday and a winning margin of 59-48.

Briggs broke the four-lap record for the track in the second heat with 61.5 seconds and lowered this time later to 61.4 seconds. He was invariably the first out of the gate but Bainbridge did not always get away well. After a blank first ride the little Australian rode with great dash and finished in second place twice by coming from the back of the field.

When the Commonwealth team was selected it was expected that they would prove to be the best side to visit the Union. Their performances before the New Year were disappointing. Now they are showing that the original assessment of their abilities was correct. Leading 2-1 in the series of five tests they should—on their present form—win the remaining matches.

HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: H. Long (S.A.) 64.2sec; B. Briggs (C.) 61.5sec; J. Bainbridge (C.) 61.4sec; K. McKinlay (C.) 61.5sec; H. Long (S.A.) 62.2sec; A. Quinn (C.) 61.1sec; B. Briggs (C.) 61.4sec; K. McKinlay (C.) 61.5sec; R. Genz (C.) 62.9sec; B. Briggs (C.) 61.4sec; D. Davies (S.A.) 62.5sec; R. Bester (S.A.) 62.5sec; F. Willis (S.A.) 61.5sec; P. Clarke (C.) 61.5sec; D. Lang (S.A.) 61.5sec.
The individual scores were—South Africa—H. Long 9, T. Redmond 9, D. Davies 9, F. Willis 8, R. Bester 8, D. Serrurier 1, A. Duncan 2, Total 48.
Commonwealth—B. Briggs 16, J. Bainbridge 14, P. Clarke 11, K. McKinlay 9, R. Genz 7, G. Jackson 5, Total 59.

Long Rides Round Outside To 2-1 Lead

Thursday Feb. 10 1955
HENRY LONG beat Olle Nygren 2-1 while defending the first "leg" of his South African speedway match race championship at the Pretoria Stadium last night. The Springbok will keep that lead when he goes into the second challenge at Wembley Stadium to-morrow night.

Duncan in Test Side

Sat. Feb. 12 1955
ARTHUR DUNCAN, 19-year-old Pretoria Eagles speedway rider, has been recalled to the Springbok team for to-night's fourth Test against the Commonwealth touring team at Durban-Hoy Park track. Duncan, who appeared in the first three Tests, heard of his recall only a few hours before the Springboks left Johannesburg by road at 9 o'clock last night. Doug Serrurier, chosen as reserve, was unable to make the trip and the selectors decided to recall Duncan as partner to his club-mate, Doug Davies. Fred Lang is switched to reserve.

LANG AS RESERVE

"This will enable us to put Lang in any position in the event of a member of the 'first six' failing to touch top form."

Reason: Nygren has agreed to "wash-out" last week's match race challenge against Long where he took a 1-0 lead before rain stopped the duel.

Nygren could have begun the second "leg" to-morrow night with that 1-0 lead—it was not against speedway regulations. But the Swedish star sportingly agreed to waive this.

TORRE AWAY

The "Flying Swede" started off by beating Long in the first three-lap heat at Pretoria last night. He tore away from the starting gate and stayed out in front to win in 46.3 secs.

Nygren again got away at the gate in the second race but Long rode around the outside of him in the very first bend to win in 46.5 secs.

It was the same story in the decider. Nygren away first—but once again the South African champion burst past him in the first bend to win in 46.2 secs.

The three-lap record of 46.9 secs., held jointly by Long and Doug Davies, was thus broken twice.

S.A. LOSE SPEEDWAY SERIES

Sunday Tribune Feb. 13 1955
THE Commonwealth speedway team beat South Africa 60-48 in the fourth "test" at Hoy Park Stadium last night to win the five "test" series at 3-1.

The track was still damp from the recent rains, but, although no records were broken, the crowd of close on 6,000 spectators saw some of the most daring riding yet to grace Hoy Park—also team-riding by the Commonwealth of a standard that will be hard to beat in the future.

That is where the visitors had the edge—greater skill and understanding between their pairs. The Barry Briggs-Peter Clark combination was the best of the night, running up between them 23 of their side's 60 points.

Briggs's 13 was also the best individual tally. In not one of six rides was he unplaced. The same applied to Alan Quinn (12), whose team-up with Ronnie Genz (9) was another important factor in the Commonwealth's victory.

FASTEST TIME

Briggs turned in the fastest time of the meeting—57.8sec. But the most memorable single performance was undoubtedly that of Fred Wills (S.A.) in the third heat, when, with the four riders locked together every inch of the way, he managed to smash the stranglehold the leaders, Quinn and Genz, had on him at the last bend, and came on the outside to win.

Top scorer for South Africa was Henry Long (10), but not before he had tasted the dust of three riders in front of him on two occasions.

Full points were obtained in nine races over the 18-heat programme. South Africa looked set for a test win when they did it three times in the first five heats, but Commonwealth finished with five "full-house" scores. Points-scorers were:

Commonwealth: Barry Briggs (13), Alan Quinn (12), Ken McKinley (10), Peter Clarke (10), Ronnie Genz (9), Gerry Jackson (6).

South Africa: Henry Long (10), Fred Wills (9), Doug Davies (8), Arthur Duncan (7), Roy Browning (6), Roy Bester (5), Fred Lang (3).



England Pair 1st and 2nd

Doug Davies (on outside), Freddie Williams, Fred Wills and Ken McKinley are all set for the start of their Heat Nine clash during the International Best Pairs speedway competition at Wembley Stadium last night. Williams and McKinley filled first and second places to help the England pair win the trophy with 20 points.

HALF-FIT NYGREN UNABLE TO STOP LONG

Wed. Feb. 16 1955
OLLE NYGREN got out of a sick bed to ride the second "leg" of the South African match-race speedway championship at Wembley Stadium last night. But there was no story-book for the Swede, who was twice beaten by Henry Long (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

So Long, who had won the Pretoria "leg," retained the match-race title which he has held since the start of the season. Nygren, who had a temperature of 100, insisted on going through with the challenge. He started from a 1-0 lead established a fortnight ago in the postponed meeting. . . this, after a request to reconsider his decision to start from scratch.

Compensation

Nygren gained some compensation in Heat Six of the international best pairs competition, when he chased Long for three-and-three-quarter laps and then slipped inside the South African captain to win by a wheel.

Fred Williams, partnering Ken McKinley for England, set a new four-lap record in Heat 11. He clocked 76.7 secs. to take one-tenth second off the previous record. It helped towards the English pair gaining first place in the best-pairs competition.

Point Scorers: England 20: Williams (14), McKinley (6), New Zealand 17: Briggs (10), Clarke (7). South Africa 16: Long (13), Lang (3). South Africa 16: Davies (9), Wills (7).

HORNETS FORCE RUN-OFF

THURS. Feb. 17 1955
DURBAN Hornets crashed through to a thrilling last-heat win to force a run-off for the National League speedway championship before 4,000 wildly excited fans at Pretoria Stadium last night.

After trailing for 12 heats, the hard-riding Durban Hornets out-drew level in Heat 13, and then clinched the match when Freddie Williams and Dick Campbell gained a 4-2 win in the last race.

So Hornets, winning their first match on the Rand, became joint leaders with Springs Stars—and the volatile Maurice Smith, the Durban team manager, has already set up a howl to get the championship decided for his Durban Hoy Park track.

Williams equaled the track record of 62 secs. in Heat 9, but the decisive factor in Hornets' win was the strong riding of their reserve, "Hookie" Bremner, who scored six points from three rides.

Team riding beats Hornets

Sat. Feb. 19 1955
THE decision of the visitors to ride in individuals proved the undoing of the Durban Hornets in their first-round National Trophy speedway match with Wembley Lions last night, and they went down 56-50. The second stage of the knock-out round between the two teams takes place at Durban tonight.

Freddie Williams, the former world champion and Hornets' captain, was in brilliant form. He dropped only one point—to Henry Long in the very first race—but proved his superiority in the eighth heat and again in the nominated riders' race, which he won from Dick Campbell in 78.8sec., the fastest time of the night.

Dick Campbell (14) and Gerald Jackson (14) also showed match-winning form.

FOUGHT BACK

Hornets, down 12-6 after three heats, fought back to draw ahead in the ninth through a shut-out by Williams and Campbell. But they lost their chance of victory in the 16th when the superior team riding of Lions became glaringly apparent.

The point scorers were: Wembley—Jackson 14, Long 13, Fred Lang 9, Bainbridge, Meade 6, Bekker, Doug, Lang 3, Collins 2. Total 56.

Durban—Williams 14, Bremner 14, Dalton, Byford, Browning, Bremmer 2, Dornelch, Clarence 0. Total 50.

Wembley and Durban riders travelled to Natal immediately after last night's meeting and the second leg will be held at the Hoy Park track to-night.

Meanwhile, Springs Stars and Pretoria Eagles, holding first and second place in their first round National Knock-out Trophy Match at Olympia Park, Springs, to-night (9). Teams: Springs: Redmond, Edwards; Genz, Boshoff, Bester, Quinn. Reserves: Van Zyl, Mosser. Pretoria: Doug Serrurier, Nygren; Briggs, Harry Serrurier; Davies, Duncan. Reserves: Mortimer, Naude.

WEMBLEY'S 2-POINT VICTORY MARGIN

Durban Speedway Plan Upset by Long

Monday Feb. 21 1955
ALTHOUGH Wembley Lions were beaten 55-51 by Durban Hornets in the second "leg" of their National Knock-Out Trophy Speedway match at Durban on Saturday night, they go forward to the next round on aggregate, 107-105.

The result was in doubt until the 18th and final heat, when Freddie Williams and Dick Campbell, Hornets' overseas stars, had to gain a 5-1 win to force a draw.

Williams and Campbell planned to get a "cliff" from the starting gate and straddle the track. But a near-capacity crowd saw Henry Long, Lion's captain, upset the plan.

Long managed to slip inside Campbell on the first bend and held on to second place. Thus Hornets' win in the final heat was cut to 4-2, and Lions go forward to the next round with a 2-point margin.

THREE FALLS

Unlucky night for Hornets' Howdy Byford. He had three falls, none of them serious, and used five machines.

Gerald Jackson, now showing his best form since arriving in the Union with the Commonwealth touring team, set the fastest time of the match when clocking 58.4 seconds. He was also top scorer for Wembley.

Points scorers: Wembley Lions: Jackson 13, Henry Long 12, Bainbridge 10, Doug, Lang 6, Fred Lang, Meade 4, Aubrey Long 2. Total: 51. Durban Hornets: Williams 16, Campbell 15, Browning 11, Dalton 6, Bremner, Byford 3, Dornelch 1. Total: 55.

Nygren Drops Only 1 Point

Monday Feb. 21 1955
OLLE NYGREN, the "Flying Swede," scored 17 points when Pretoria Eagles beat Springs Stars 59-49 in the first "leg" of the National Knock-Out speedway trophy at Olympia Park on Saturday night. Nygren dropped only one point when he was beaten by Trevor Redmond.

Point scorers: Pretoria Eagles: Nygren 17, Briggs, Davies 12, Mortimer 6, Doug Serrurier, Harry Serrurier, Duncan 4, Nel 1. Total: 59. Springs Stars: Redmond 12, Quinn 11, Genz 8, Bester 7, Edwards, Van Zyl 4, Boshoff 2, Mosser 1. Total: 49.

Durban Reply

"Run-off for Title-or We Withdraw"

DURBAN HORNETS who finished joint leaders with Springs Stars, have threatened to withdraw from next season's National League—if the East Rand team do not agree to run-off for the premier speedway championship.

Trevor Redmond, Springs Stars' captain, has claimed the championship because of a slightly better points average. "The Speedway Regulations clearly provide for the British National League being decided on points average in the event of a tie," said Redmond.

Maurice Smith, Durban's team manager, last night replied thus: "The regulation referred to by Redmond only applies to Britain and has nothing whatsoever to do with the general rules for speedway racing. We demand that the Board of Control order a run-off. Failing this we shall have no option but to voice our disapproval by pulling out of the 1955 National League."

Speedway officials will meet to-night to sort out this championship tangle.

EAGLES IN FINAL

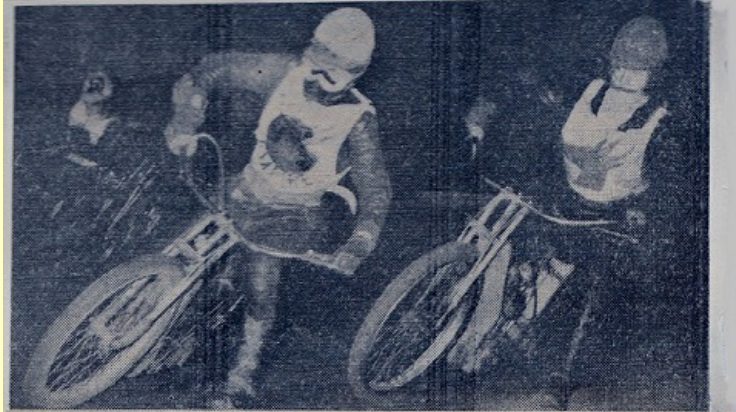
Briggs Gets Maximum

PRETORIA EAGLES cruised into the final of the National Knock-out Trophy when they beat Springs Stars 63-44 in the second "leg" at the Pretoria stadium last night. Eagles also won the first "leg" last week—59-49—to take their aggregate score to 122-93.

New Zealander Barry Briggs and Springbok Doug Davies wrecked stars' chances. They scored 31 points between them, Briggs getting a maximum 18. Davies, who netted 13 points, also set a new track record of 61.8 secs., breaking Freddie Williams' previous best time by one-fifth sec.

Pretoria now meet Wembley Lions in the final of the competition. The first "leg" is booked for Pretoria next Wednesday, with the second "leg" at Wembley on March 4.

PRETORIA: Briggs 18, Davies 13, Duncan 8, D. Serrurier, Nygren 7, Mortimer 6, H. Serrurier 4. Total 63.
SPRINGS: Bester, Genz 10, Quinn 8, Redmond 7, Edwards 5, Boshoff 3, Messer 1, Van Zyl 0. Total 44.



COMMONWEALTH WIN SERIES 4-1

ANOTHER MAXIMUM FOR BARRY BRIGGS

SOUTH AFRICA 50 **COMMONWEALTH** 57
Sat. Feb. 26 1955
BARRY BRIGGS gets the vote as the most brilliant individual speedway rider to visit the Union. Scoring a maximum 18 points and setting a new four-lap record of 76.6 seconds, he led the Commonwealth to a seven-point victory in the fifth and final Test against the Springboks at Wembley Stadium last night (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

Run-off Ordered

THE South African Speedway Control Board have ordered a home-and-away run-off between Springs Stars and Durban Hornets for the national league championship. The title will be decided on aggregate. Match dates are: Friday, March 4, at Durban; Saturday, March 5, Springs.

Briggs' maximum, his second of the week, enabled him to finish the series with a total of 73 points out of a possible 90. It was his second maximum of the series which the Commonwealth now win 4-1.

The plain, unadorned fact is that the Springboks, having only three point scorers of any consequence, could not match the brilliance of New Zealander Briggs, the determination of Ken McKinlay and they did not have sufficient speed at the gate or on the straights.

Yet, a 7,000 crowd left the stadium in a thoroughly angry mood—this, because of some amazing decisions by the steward, which went against the South Africans.

Duncan was excluded from a re-run of Heat Nine, because the steward ruled that he impeded Quinn by looping at the starting gate. But it is a fact that Duncan did not touch the Commonwealth rider.

ALLOWED RE-RUN

Then again, Ronnie Genz, coming into Heat 12 in place of Bainbridge, clearly forced Wills into the safety fence in the first bend. But he was allowed to take part in the re-run—and won it by a tyre width from Redmond.

The effect of these two incidents was apparent throughout the rest of the match, and the biggest crowd of the season, forced their disapproval in no uncertain manner. It can hardly be claimed that the steward was consistent in his rulings.

Point scorers, Commonwealth: Briggs 18, McKinlay 14, Jackson 8, Clark Genz 6, Quinn 3, Bainbridge 3. Total 57.
South Africa: Long 15, Davies, Redmond 12, Lang, Duncan 4, Wills 3. Total 50.

Barry Briggs Leads in Speedway 3 Title Series

BARRY BRIGGS, 19-year-old New Zealander, won the first "leg" of the South African match-race speedway championship with Henry Long in two straight rides before a capacity 5,000 crowd at Pretoria Stadium last night (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

Briggs equalled the three-lap record of 46.2 secs. in the first heat and had the measure of the holder in both outings.

Unless Long can regain the quicksilver starting which has helped to keep him at the top of South African speedway for so many years, it seems that he may lose this match-race title, when the second "leg" is run-off at Wembley Stadium to-morrow night.

Engine failure in his third outing probably cost Briggs yet another maximum, for he scored 15 points from six rides when Pretoria Eagles beat Wembley Lions 61-47 in the first "leg" of the National Knock-out Trophy final. Briggs was leading in this third outing when his engine "cut."

Wembley were virtually a two-man outfit—Henry Long (14) and Gerald Jackson (12)—against this hard-riding Pretoria line-up, and there will have to be a big improvement if Lions are to wipe out the 14-point deficit in the second "leg" at Wembley to-morrow.

Point scorers: Pretoria: Briggs 15, Nygren 14, D. Serrurier 10, Duncan 8, Davies 7, H. Serrurier, Mortimer 3, Raathis 1. Total 61. Wembley: Long 14, Jackson 12, D. Lang, Meade 5, Bainbridge, F. Lang, A. Long 3, Collins 2. Total 47.

Barry Briggs is New Match-race Champion

BARRY BRIGGS, hard, tough-riding New Zealander, is the new South African match-race speedway champion. He beat Henry Long, the holder, 2-1 in the second "leg" at Wembley Stadium last night (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

When Long won the first heat by a matter of 10 lengths in 58.3 secs., to equal the three-lap record, it seemed that the Wembley Lions captain was set to equalise the score—this following his defeat in the first "leg" in Pretoria.

But Briggs came with two tremendous dashes in the next two heats, each time cutting a vital cross Lion's front wheel in the first bend so much so that many in the 5,000 crowd were of the opinion that the 19-year-old New Zealander had infringed the rules of dangerous riding.

Gerald Jackson, the "Raviezh Rocket," scoring maximum points from six rides, spearheaded a great fight-back by Wembley Lions to win the second leg of the National Knock-out Trophy against Pretoria Eagles 55-52.

But Pretoria won the trophy on aggregate 114-102.

Pretoria led by 10 points after 12 heats of this second "leg," but three 5-1 heat wins enabled Lions to recover the position and win the match in the final outing.

Point scorers: Wembley: Jackson 15, H. Long 11, F. Lang, Bainbridge 6, L. Collins 5, Meade 3, D. Lang 1. Total 53. Pretoria: Briggs 15, Nygren 10, D. Serrurier, Duncan 7, Mortimer 3, Nel 2. Total 32.

Speedway 3-7 1955

Rain again caused the postponement of the first "leg" of the National League speedway championship run-off between Springs Stars and Durban Hornets at Springs on Saturday. The first "leg" will now be held at Springs on Thursday, and the return will be at Durban on Saturday.

Henry Long Scores 18

HENRY LONG scored the maximum 18 points when leading a South African combined team to a 56-52 victory against Overseas in a speedway match at Bloemfontein on Saturday night. Points scorers: South Africa: Long 18, Davies 15, Wills 7, Doug, Serrurier 7, Duncan 6, Doug, Lang 3. Total: 56. Overseas: Clark 12, McKinlay 10, Jackson 10, Briggs 9, Duval 8, Bainbridge 3. Total: 52.

Final Heat 44 was Decider

DURBAN HORNETS won the National League speedway champions for the second time in three years. They beat Springs Stars 56-51 in the second "leg" of the championship run-off at Durban on Saturday night and thus won the title on aggregate 109-105.

The last heat decided. And it was an unlucky heat for Springs. They needed only a 3-3 draw to win the title when Trevor Redmond, the new National champion, and Ronnie Genz (Springs) went to the tapes with Freddie Williams and Dick Campbell.

Genz, Williams and Redmond all collided in the second lap, but all recovered, though Redmond was adjudged to have crossed the white line. Then Genz lost a plug lead in the third lap and the Durban pair gained a 5-0 win, giving them the championship by a four-point margin.

Bester Makes it "Double"

ROY BESTER won the South African closed speedway championship with a maximum 15 points at Pretoria Stadium last night and thus completed a splendid individual "double" for the Springs Stars team who were runners-up in this season's National League.

Trevor Redmond, Springs captain who had machine trouble last night, is the South African Open champion and now his team-mate, Bester, has beaten an all-South African "field."

Fred Lang set a new four-lap track record of 60.8, clipping one-tenth of a second off the previous time set by Doug Davies who was runner-up last night after a run-off with his Pretoria team-mate, Arthur Duncan. Scores: Bester 15, Davies 12, Duncan 12, D. Serrurier 11, Henry Long 9, Fred Lang 8, Redmond 8, Collins 8, Mortimer 7, Blokdyk 5, Van Zyl 5.

Engine Failure Cost Match

DURBAN HORNETS were all set to win this first "leg" of the National league speedway championship at Olympia Park, Springs, last night—until skipper Freddie Williams had machine failure in the last heat.

Durban began the last heat leading 52-49, but Williams' machine failure gave Springs a 5-1 win—and they go to Durban for the second "leg" on Saturday with one point to spare. Points scorers: Springs: Redmond 14, Genz 11, Quinn 10, Bester 6, Edwards 5, Boshoff 4, Van Zyl 4. Total 54. Durban: Williams 14, Byford 14, Browning 10, Dalton 5, Dornohl 5, Campbell 4, McWilliam 1. Total 53.

Redmond Champion—by a Wheel

TREVOR ("FATS") REDMOND, New Zealander now domiciled in South Africa, is the new national speedway champion—after a tremendous struggle with the holder, Henry Long (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

Redmond—"I am proud to be a South African rider"—scored 14 points out of a possible 15, losing only to New Zealander Barry Briggs in Heat 14.

But the championship decider came in Heat 19, when Redmond and Briggs clashed on even terms, both having got one point. It was a race worthy of the class of this championship field—the strongest outside a world final.

CLEVER

Long, breaking first from the starting gate, held a slender advantage for three-and-a-half laps, but Redmond, riding a clever tactical race, slipped through on the final bend to win by no more than a wheel.

Yes, Heat 19 was the championship decider, but the majority of the huge crowd, the largest to watch a South African championship, will vote Heat 11 as probably the greatest

race seen on any South African speedway track.

Long met Briggs and Doug Davies. Although the previous champion, Long, led for two laps, he was forced back into third place in the third lap, only to make a tremendous effort and come from behind to win in a finish that had 6,000 crazily happy fans on their feet.

Briggs gained some compensation for this defeat by beating Long for the runners-up place in a run-off.

Freddie Williams, twice holder of the world championship, lost his title chance in his very first outing. He was forced into third place by Redmond and Doug Davies.

Point scorers: Redmond 14, Long 13, Briggs 13, Nygren 12, Williams 12, Davies 11, Campbell 8, Genz 6, Byford 5, D. Serrurier, Blokdyk 4, Bester 4, Duncan 4, Boshoff 2, Mortimer 2, D. Lang 2, Browning 1, Edwards 1.

REVENGE!

Wills Is Monday June 6 1955 Champion

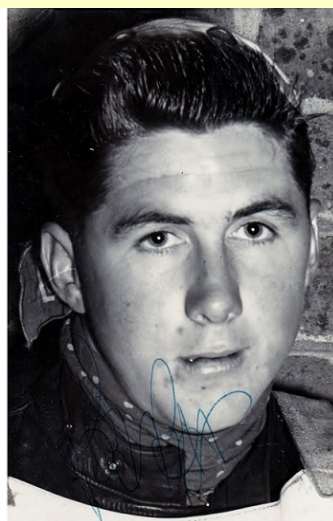
FRED WILLS, former South African speedway champion, won the Rhodesian championship at Bulawayo on Saturday night, scoring the maximum 15 points. And to win the title Wills had to overcome the challenge of his old rival, Henry Long. Wills' last big success was in 1949, when he won the South African match-race championship four years ago. Since then he has been a long list of successes. But Wills beat his rival in the 17th heat to gain the Rhodesian title. Leading scorers: 15 Wills, 14 Long, 13 Bester, 11 Dykes.

S.A. Season 1954/55 ... cont'd

The '54/55 Tourists, - "British Commonwealth", - plus a Swede.



Ken McKinlay



Barry Briggs



Trevor Redmond



Junior Bainbridge



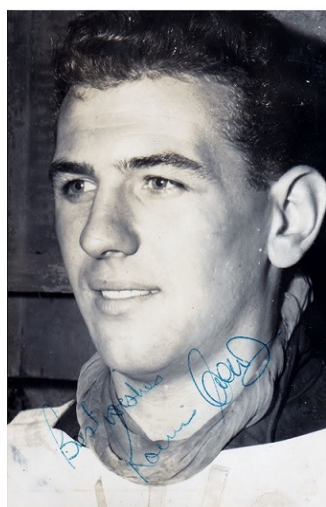
Olle Nygren



Peter Clarke



Gerald Jackson



Ronnie Genz



Allan Quinn