

SIDECAR SPEEDWAY TEST MATCHES.

Over the years a number of sidecar speedway Internationals have been held in the Republic, including S.Africa v. Australia in both 1982 and in 1986. A Gt.Britain team toured in 1988 and returned again in 1993 for 5 test matches. The following information on the '82 and the '93 events has been collated:

1982 Sidecar Internationals, S.Africa v. Australia

Four meetings are known to have been scheduled, and the results from Milner Park are given below. Other Internationals may have been held but no further data is to hand.

The scoring system is unknown, and the format varied, match races being programmed for the first meeting, but it would appear that the Australians were the overall victors!

#1 - Sat. 16th Jan. Milner Park, Johannesburg.

- Event 1 - Side Car Match Race; Ron Johnson/Fred Springorum (Aus) bt. Dave Healey/Graham Morrissey (SA)
 - Event 2 - Side Car Match Race; Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman (Aus) bt. Gary Coetzee/Piet Vorster (SA)
 - Event 3 - Side Car **Final**: Ron Johnson/Fred Springorum (Aus) bt. Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman (Aus)
- (No mention of "International" but a very brief report mentions it as RSA v Oz.)

#2 - Sun. 17th Jan Milner Park, Johannesburg.

- Event 1 - Weedeater* Sidecar International, RSA v Australia;
1st Gary Coetzee/Piet Vorster; 2nd Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman;
3rd Dave Healey/Graham Morrissey; 4th Ron Johnson/Fred Springorum
- Event 2 - Weedeater Sidecar International **Final**
1st Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman; (2nd and 3rd places not known.);
4th Gary Coetzee/Piet Vorster (ret)

#3 - Tues. 19th Jan. Milner Park, Johannesburg.

- Event 1 - Weedeater Sidecar International, RSA v Australia;
1st Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman; 2nd Dave Healey/Graham Morrissey;
3rd Ron Johnson/Fred Springorum; 4th Gary Coetzee/Piet Vorster
- Event 2 - Weedeater Sidecar International
1st Phil Rauwers/George Wenneman; 2nd Gary Coetzee/Piet Vorster;
(3rd and 4th placings not known.)

#4 (?) - Sat. 23rd Jan. 1982, Dunswart. (?)

Scheduled date, but not known if the event went ahead.

n.b: * Weedeater = the sponsor.

- Gary Coetzee was an ex- solo speedway rider. Later in 1982 he and Piet Vorster won the S.African Sidecar Championship at Dunswart, the first time it had been staged since 1971.
- Ron Johnson was Australian 1000cc Sidecar Champion in 1963 and a 5 times Queensland Champion.

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1993 Sidecar Internationals, S.Africa v. Gt.Britain

The planned itinerary for the 1993 tour was as follows:

<u>Test Matches</u>	<u>Invitation mtgs.</u>
Feb. 13 Goodwood Shwgrds, Cape Town	Mar. 5 Wembley, Jo'burg
Feb. 19 East London Showgrounds	Mar. 6 Klerksdorp
Feb. 20 Port Elizabeth Showgrounds	Mar. 10 Pretoria
Feb. 26 Wembley, Jo'burg	Mar. 12 Wembley, Jo'burg
Feb. 27 * Kimberley	Mar. 13 Vereeninging

The following meeting reports were published in the U.K's Speedway Star, the report for this date* suggesting that the venue was changed to Klerksdorp: -

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“HUGE CROWD FOR FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN SIDECAR TEST”

(Speedway Star, UK, 6.3.1993.)

“ A crowd of 19,000 witnessed the ground-breaking first sidecar speedway match between South Africa and a British invitation team in **Cape Town** on Saturday, February 13, writes Dave Stallworthy.

The British team emerged narrow victors 17-14 on the 640-metre circuit. Top points scorer for Britain was Brian Ash with newcomer Dave Kimberley gaining a very creditable six points. Richard Moore suffered a few gremlins with his new Yamaha outfit but still managed a valuable five points. Roger Hill had problems adapting to the big track and crashed heavily into the wall in his second race, his passenger unfortunately sustaining a broken wrist.

The tour then moved on to **East London** and the well prepared 440-metre dirt oval. Final score was 18-18 after a very exciting match which included a spectacular crash involving Britain's Dave Kimberley clearing the Armco barriers! Roger Hill at last found form with his stand-in South African passenger and finished top points scorer for Britain followed by Brian Ash, Richard Moore and Dave Kimberley.

The next night the team moved to **Port Elizabeth**, again in front of a huge crowd and on a near-perfect track. Despite steady rain throughout the meeting, the racing was made possible by mixing car races between the sidecars. Britain again won 22-14 with Hill once more top scorer followed by Brian Ash and Richard Moore. Kimberley proved his worth by netting five points on borrowed machinery.”

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“SIDECAR SPEEDWAY” (Speedway Star, UK, 13.3.1993 - EXTRACT)

“The British team have continued to fly the flag on their tour of South Africa. Brian Ash reports back that on their first visit to **Wembley, Johannesburg**, the home track of most of the South African team, the Brits again won with a fine show of high speed racing on the beautifully prepared dirt oval. The first race, however, saw the loss of Britain’s Roger Hill in a crash which resulted in him sustaining a broken collar bone and ribs plus a broken wrist for his passenger. Final score was 24-18 with Richard Moore top scorer for Britain followed by Brian Ash and Dave Kimberley. The SASCO-sponsored finals were won by Richard Moore and Dave Kimberley.

The following night, February 27, the troupe travelled to the tarmac track at **Klerksdorp** to race against the highly specialised tarmac bikes. That’s a bit like putting a Formula Ford against a Formula 1 vehicle, but it didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the Brits who dished up plenty of entertainment for the large crowd.”

“Two new competitors on the British speedway tracks this year will be Roy Spreadbury and former Sidecar Speedway ace and veteran grasstracker Terry Phillips. Terry, one half of the British Best Pairs runners-up from the 1990 grasstrack season, should be a major force to contend with, while Roy is one of the most spectacular grasstrack drivers in the south.

The sidecar scene is looking very good now for the 1993 season with several tracks already showing an interest in the chairs, including Eastbourne, Long Eaton, Reading, Rye House and King’s Lynn. The Sidecar Speedway Association are also looking at the Wheels venue in Birmingham as a likely future race track, and talks are about to take place between SRA chairman Terry Medley and Dave Brown (500cc Grass Sidecar Association] about organising a 40-heat race meeting at Ipswich later in the season.”

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