

THE HENRY LONG COLLECTION

Part 3 – 1949/'50 Season

For a second consecutive season a party of English riders headed south to the Union for a Test series against the home country. In what proved to be a close affair the series was only decided in the fifth and final Test at Wembley and could so easily have been in the locals' favour were it not for the tragic accident that befell second string Oscar Wessman in heat 5. With the scores locked at 12-12 Wessman, in second place behind partner Henry Long, fell and hit the safety fence sustaining multiple injuries from which he subsequently died. The touring team attracted bumper crowds at all their meetings whilst league matches and the various individual championships did not and highlighted that supporters on the Rand only wanted racing of the highest quality.

With the closure of Dunswart, and Malvern failing to re-open, all Transvaal League matches were staged at Wembley. The loss of their home tracks resulted in the Eagles changing their name from Germiston to East Rand and Benoni Lions became West Rand Dakotas. In an effort to ensure close racing handicapping was introduced, - Alan Chambers of Pretoria Tigers for instance started his races on a 120yd. handicap. The Dakotas, under the captaincy of Fred Wills, were crowned champions at the conclusion of the league campaign.

The sensation towards the end of the season was the banning of Henry Long from domestic racing. The SA Speedway Riders' Association imposed the penalty due to Henry's failure to sign a contract binding him to only ride at SRA sanctioned meetings. The impasse continued for several months and into the 1950/51 season before an amicable resolution was agreed upon.

The National title was secured by Fred Wills with a 15 point maximum but he was pushed all the way by Buddy Fuller who suffered a flat tyre when they met. A National Pairs Championship was introduced, won by Bob Serrurier and Ron Clark with 23 points out of a possible 25, and a National Handicap competition where Doug Serrurier came out on top. A third new event was the Wembley Match Race Championship, with Buddy Fuller being the first winner before he was defeated by Fred Wills, who held the title at season's end. The final two major individuals were the East Rand and the Wembley Open Championships, won respectively by Henry Long and Alan Chambers.

1949/'50 season's Roll of Honour.

Test series:	– S.Africa 2, England 3.
SA National Championship:	– Fred Wills @ Wembley
SA Nat'l Handicap Chmpshp (Yanx Trophy):	– Doug Serrurier @ Wembley
East Rand Championship:	– Henry Long @ Boksburg
Wembley Open Championship:	– Alan Chambers
Wembley Match Race Chmpshp, E-of-S:	– Fred Wills
Transvaal League Champions:	– West Rand Dakotas



BRITISH SPEEDWAY TERMS ACCEPTED AND TEAM EXPECTED SOON November 24, 1949. SPECIAL RACE FOR CHAMBERS AND WILLS AT WEMBLEY TO-MORROW NIGHT

A BRITISH SPEEDWAY TEAM will soon be in South Africa. Mr. Gilbert Brown, the Wembley promoter, has accepted the British terms and to-day cabled his partner, Mr. Reg Haswell, who completed the negotiations in London, to send the team as soon as possible.

Seven riders are expected to leave shortly and if Ted Gibson, now in South Africa, is chosen, the side will comprise eight men.

Alan Chambers, a member of last season's overseas team and now captain of Pretoria Tigers, may ride for South Africa if his application is accepted by the local control board at next week's meeting.

Transvaal's four A division speedway stars will all appear at Wembley to-morrow night in a rearranged programme. Henry Long leads his Johannesburg Pirates against Doug Serrurier's East Rand Eagles in a league match and these two riders will meet twice during the evening.

In the second half of the programme, Fred Wills, the champion, and Alan Chambers will appear in the first rounds of a special invitation silver trophy handicap event. Wills, whose daring riding last week revealed much astuteness learned overseas, will give starts to Toby Boshoff, Diggs Filer and Chris Hallenbach, and Chambers, another hard rider, will give starts to Oscar Wesman, Bob Quick and Dannie Mailer.

The first two in each event will go forward to round three and the final will be contested in about three weeks after rounds four, five and six, featuring Henry Long and Doug Serrurier have been decided.

The programme also includes attempts on Wills' one-lap record of 19.8sec. by Long, Serrurier, Quick and Chambers. Long previously held the record at 19.8sec., but the talk among speedway men is that he was timed at 19.1 in a practice run.

The East Rand team, defeated by Dakotas last Friday mainly through machine failures, have re-tuned their machines and should ensure stiff opposition for Pirates who depend greatly on the brilliance of Long.

Other special features will be a reserve scratch race and a handicap in which Long and Serrurier will give 30yd. to Syd van der Vyver and Harry du Toit. This means fast riding for the scratch men.

HOSPITAL NEWS

Hospital news is that Buddy Fuller, the former champion, was successfully treated on for ruptured appendix, but will have to undergo further treatment for the facial injuries suffered in England. Syd van der Vyver, who had a piece of grit cut out of his eye, is fit again.

Boris Castellani, the well-known road motor cyclist, has been round the Wembley track and recorded good times. He is seriously thinking of turning his attention to speedway.

Because of the keen competition for the honour of establishing records, the Wembley authorities are hoping soon to install electrical timing for greater accuracy.

STRONG SOUTH AFRICAN SPEEDWAY TEAM TO MEET BRITISHERS December 12, 1949. IMPROVED RIDING IN LOCAL LEAGUE MATCH

THE FOLLOWING IS THE SOUTH AFRICAN SPEEDWAY TEAM to meet the visiting British riders in the first of a series of five international matches at Wembley Stadium on Thursday night (heat leaders given first in the pairings): Alan Chambers and Syd van der Vyver; Henry Long (captain) and Doug Serrurier; Fred Wills and Bob Quick; Reserve: Toby Boshoff.

The Britisheers will ride as follows: Jack Hodgson (captain) and Derek Talby; Peter Robinson and Ken Middleton; Harry Welch and Ron Clark. Reserve: Dave Collins.

South Africa's speedway riders had a wet and difficult track to contend with at Wembley on Saturday night but this gave them every opportunity to develop tactical moves before meeting the British riders in the first international match.

In the league match East Rand Eagles, captained by Doug Serrurier, beat Pretoria Tigers, 44-33, and Alan Chambers, who was outstanding in every appearance, won the special silver trophy which was presented to him by Jack Hodgson, captain of the British side.

Chambers was the highest points scorer, the British winning two races and gaining seconds in two others. His handicap of 120yd. was in the seventh race of the league, and he could not catch George Matthews who never faltered. In the final event, Harry du Toit, 40yd ahead of him, scored a narrow victory over Chambers in the last time of 88.1sec.

A RARE MOVE

In an earlier race, Chambers only won because he surprised Du Toit with a move rarely seen in Rand speedway riding. Rounding the final bend, Du Toit was in the lead and cut off the Pretoria captain who tried to get the inside position. Chambers dashed in and kicked Du Toit outstretched left leg to unbalance the rider, and

this opened up the way for a final dash to the winning post. The silver trophy final was the most exciting of the night. Chambers found it difficult to get through the field because Boshoff seemed to anticipate every move but Chambers caught him on a bend and forced him right out to the edge of the safety fence. He then set after Dave Collins and hit this rider's back wheel before he could get through.

Pools of water on the track affected some of the machines but crashes were fewer than usual. The riders were in form, specially Chambers, Boshoff, Du Toit, and Syd van der Vyver, and their performances indicate that South Africa will be better equipped in the international against the British than they were last year.

The British team put in an appearance at Wembley and speeded round the track on borrowed machines.

THE RESULTS

The points races in the league match were:
East Rand—Doug Serrurier 6, Harry du Toit 5, Fred Wills 4, Bob Quick 3, George Matthews 2, 44 points.
Pretoria—Alan Chambers 10, Peter Robinson 8, Toby Boshoff 5, Chris Hallenbach 4, Dannie Mailer 3, 30 points.
Silver Trophy—Chambers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

DARING RIDING BY ALAN CHAMBERS GIVES HIM WEMBLEY TITLE January 3 1950. HENRY LONG SETS FASTEST TIMES BUT MISSES CHAMPIONSHIP

ALAN CHAMBERS, of Pretoria, and Henry Long, of Johannesburg, were involved in a clash of hard riding and tactics that will long be remembered by the 7,000 spectators who attended the championship meeting at Wembley speedway track yesterday. Chambers won the title with five straight victories and Long was runner-up with four wins and one second place.

The climax of the competition came in the 15th heat, when Chambers, on the outside, cut across the front wheel of Long's machine to take the lead at the first bend and then daringly moved in and out on the track for the rest of the race to stop the Pirates' captain from overtaking him.

There were times when they bumped each other heavily as Long drew level, but Chambers always got the upper hand in these encounters. The crowd shouted themselves hoarse and some foolishly booed Chambers for his rough methods, but it was a championship event and called for brilliant riding over every yard of the course.

Although Long failed by a yard or two to win the championship, he nevertheless had the satisfaction of breaking his own four-lap record of 82.8sec. on three occasions with times of 82sec., 81.5sec. and 82sec. Chambers' best time of the afternoon was 82.8sec. when he beat Long.

Five of the six British riders now in South Africa took part with Ken Middleton scoring 13 points to take third place.



SPEEDWAY RIDERS HAVE A TRICKY PROBLEM TO SOLVE January 20 ARRIVAL OF WAL MORTON AS A FREE LANCE NOT LIKED

THE ARRIVAL ON THE RAND of Wal Morton, a first division British speedway rider, as a free lance has set the Speedway Riders' Association a problem which will have to be solved without delay.

By coming to South Africa without a contract and asking for permission to take part in the Wembley programmes, Morton will displace one of the local riders and this development is not liked.

The British Speedway Riders' Association do not allow more than two Empire or colonial riders to join any club in England and foreign riders are almost wholly excluded. His time of 82.8sec. for four laps at the last meeting was only exceeded by Henry Long late in the evening.

With another season or two behind him, Du Toit may yet be the star of the South African track. The speedway selectors have been asked to attend to-night's meeting at Wembley to find a substitute for Doug Serrurier, who had to have 14 stitches in a cut foot. His misfortune a few nights ago virtually eliminates him from the first Test, but nothing definite will be known until a doctor examines the wound next week.

FREE LANCES

In fact, he wants to encourage them to compete here but free lances must be excluded. If this is not done, he said to-day, nothing will stop a lot of young men wishing to escape an English winter, from getting on to a boat and causing upsets here.

But as Morton has arrived without prior notice this will probably give him every opportunity to show his worth although under no circumstances must this friendly act be regarded as a precedent.

Speedway riders have an outlay of about £300 for machines and equipment and the prize money they earn must pay off this amount. Therefore, it is obvious that if local riders, especially the C and D division men are replaced by visitors, speedway for South Africans will not progress as it should.

The novices of to-day will be the stars of to-morrow and Harry

BRITAIN WINS SPEEDWAY TEST January 23, 1950. THRILLING RIDING AT BLOEMFONTEIN

THE British Speedway touring team beat South Africa by 51 points to 33 at the Bloemfontein Sports Ground, Bloemfontein, this afternoon, in the first of a series of five Test matches.

South Africa, handicapped by the absence of injured riders, Buddy Fuller and Doug Serrurier, were behind after the second heat and the tourists gradually built up a commanding lead and thrilled the 3,000 crowd with some daring broadcasting.

Henry Long, of South Africa, was top scorer with 11 points out of a possible 12, and Ron Clark was the best of the Britons with 10 points. The fastest time during the meeting was 79.6 seconds recorded by Ken Middleton.

ENGINE TROUBLE

The tourists won most of the races at the barrier, adapting themselves more quickly to the flashing electric light, bulb which was used in place of the usual gate.

Engine trouble also went against the South Africans, Fred Wills and Joe Blankfield withdrawing from races when well placed.

The tourists went into a 7-5 lead in the second heat, which Ken Middleton got away smartly and won handily from Henry Long.

The next two heats were won by Britain's Ron Clark and Peter Robinson to make the score 16-8, but Long won the next race in the last time of 80sec.

Good team riding brought Britain nine points and a 12-point lead in the next two heats, which completed the first half of the programme and put the tourists in line for a big win. Middleton, winning from team-mate Robinson in event six, clocked 79.6sec.

BRITISH RIDERS WIN SECOND TEST

BY winning the second "unofficial" Test at Wembley, Johannesburg, on February 3, the Springboks tied the score at 1-1. After one of the finest night's racing ever seen in South Africa, the Dominions scored 44 points to the British tourists' 39.

There was no unbeaten rider on either side. Fred Wills (Liverpool) skipped the South Africans, and scored ten points to tie with Henry Long (Beauvo), followed by Allan Chambers (Poole) with 8.

Hastings rider, Ken Middleton, was responsible for nine of the tourists' total, and he was ably supported by Derrick Talby (Coventry) who in addition to scoring 8 points, set up the fastest time of the night with 82.3 sec. This was the opening heat of the match when he defeated Wills.

The next Test is scheduled for February 17 and is again at Wembley. At a recent meeting in South Africa the unusual occurred when all four riders concerned in the opening heat failed to complete the course. A. Gould's motor seized at the barrier and Mailer, Hallenbach and J. Serrurier all fell.

SPEEDWAY INTERNATIONAL February 18 1950.

Henry Long Rides Well, but Britain Wins

BRITAIN led from the first heat in the third speedway international against South Africa at Wembley Stadium last night, and eventually won 47-36, to gain a 2-1 lead in the series.

Henry Long scored maximum points as the only rider to do so — for South Africa.

He might, however, have been beaten by Derrek Talby in the fifth heat, but the British rider's machine failed when he was leading on the second lap.

As was expected, the Springbok second-string riders failed to hold the consistent British team.

Harry Welch and Ted Gibson were both injured in crashes, but Britain never looked like being headed.

SOUTH AFRICANS SQUARE SPEEDWAY TESTS AT February 24 1950. NEW TRACK

SOUTH AFRICA BEAT A DEPLETED BRITISH TEAM by 49 points to 35 in the fourth speedway Test match at Boksburg last night and are now square with one international match to be decided.

The East Rand public gave the cinder sport an enthusiastic welcome and a capacity crowd of 5,000 packed round the new circuit at Prince George Park to see the Springboks master the tricky bends on what should be built into a track second only to Wembley.

Henry Long was in brilliant form for South Africa but his races lacked interest owing to the lengthy distances he won by in his four riders. Backing Long was Fred Wills, the national captain, who had two wins and two seconds and was at his best in heat No. 10 when he came from behind to pass Ken Middleton and just failed to take first place from Peter Robinson.

There was a mild demonstration following heat No. 5 in which Peter Robinson was disqualified for forcing Alan Chambers into the safety fence. After the black flag had been waved at the British rider, team manager Harry Welch and captain Jack Hodgson rushed on to the field to question the decision of steward Charlie Edge, who insisted that Robinson had been guilty of dangerous riding.

In heat No. 6 Chambers cut sharply in front of Ron Clark and the British officials were again all for once seeking Chambers' disqualification after the South African rider had won. The decision was not altered.

LEADING RIDERS IN HANDICAP AT WEMBLEY

Buddy Fuller is in action again at Wembley speedway and the former national champion has a good chance of winning the feature race, the Wembley junior championship, and gaining his place in the last Test match against the British touring team.

It is good to see Fuller racing alongside junior riders and the outcome should restore the confidence that was well known prior to his serious accident in England last year.

Fifteen Test match riders are down on the programme and there should be some close finishes in the senior handicap which has attracted leading cindermen Henry Long, Ken Middleton, Peter Robinson and Wally Morfitt, all of whom are in backmarkers' positions. Fuller is also entered for this event.

Tuesday March 7 1950. NARROW WIN FOR BRITISH TEAM IN SPEEDWAY "TEST"

ALTHOUGH South Africa lost the fifth and final speedway Test by two points—43 to 41—at Wembley Stadium last night, it was touch and go until the end. Only a great ride by Peter Robinson prevented young Bob Serrurier and Sid van der Vyver from scoring the necessary points for a win.

The fifth heat was disastrous for South Africa. Oscar Wessman, riding in second place behind Henry Long, failed to make the turn when Ron Clark came up on the inside. He went almost straight into the safety fence and suffered serious injuries. It is possible that he would have been able to score two points in his next two rides and thus turn the tide.

The remarkable feature of the match was the fact that South African riders won 10 of the 14 heats, proof enough that the standard of the leading riders has improved. The second strings, however, were not good enough to hold the British riders and they scored only 11 out of a possible 32 minor points.

Henry Long and Fred Wills, the South African captain rode magnificently, and dropped only one point between them. Because of their consistency, interest never flagged. There was never more than four points between the teams, Britain having that advantage twice, after the sixth and tenth heats.

U.K. GAINS MINOR POINTS

Wills and Long took the first two heats, but Britain scored all the minor points to keep on terms. Alan Chambers took the lead in the third, but his engine stopped. Ken Middleton fell, but re-mounted and scored a point.

South Africa levelled the score when Wills and Boshoff had a 4-2 win, but in the fifth heat Wessman crashed and the score was 15-15.

Derrick Talby and Wally Morton scored the only 5-1 win of the match in the sixth heat. Long and Alec Gould, riding in place of

Buddy Fuller, the former South African champion, reduced the lead to two, but Talby and Morton picked up the two points in the tenth heat.

Toby Boshoff lost his chain the twelfth heat, but scored six points in the next. South Africa needed a 5 to 1 win in the 13th heat, and they almost made it, but Robinson got through to one of the best races of the match.

Heat winners: Wills (S.A.), 85.7; Wills (S.A.), 83.9; Long (S.A.), 84.5; Talby (B.), 82.8; Wills (S.A.), 82.9; Long (S.A.), 82.1; Chambers (S.A.), 84.6; Talby (B.), 83.1; Long (S.A.), 84.6; Chambers (S.A.), 85.4; Boshoff (S.A.), 84.2; Robinson (B.), 85.1.

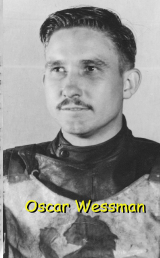
Point scores:
Britain: Talby 10, Robinson 9, Boshoff 6, Morton 6, Hodgson Clark 5, Collins 2, Total 43.
South Africa: Long 12, Wills Chambers 7, Boshoff 4, Van der Vyver 3, B. Serrurier 2, Gould 2, Total 41.

Speedway Test Star Dies

Oscar Wessman, 27-year-old South African speedway Test rider, died in Johannesburg General Hospital yesterday from severe multiple injuries received when he crashed in the fifth heat of the final international match against the British team at Wembley last Monday.

Wessman, who collided with the safety-fence, is the victim of the first fatal speedway accident in the country.

One of the most promising riders in the Union, he recently became engaged to be married. The Speedway Board of Control held a meeting in Johannesburg yesterday to inquire into the causes of the accident. A statement later said the Board is "quite satisfied that the accident was not caused by any other rider."



Oscar Wessman

A Tribute to Oscar Wessman

No more he'll race his shiny Jap,
Or try to break a record lap,
We'll never forget, that fine young chap,
That so many a night, the crowd did clap.

There's many a night the crowd he's thrilled
And many a heart with envy filled
As many a time he's nearly spilled,
Think sadly friends, His heart is stilled.

His racing kit idly lies
So very silent and so still
Surrounded now by memories,
Of many a throbbing racing thrill.

Since he has left this world behind
Ere' reaching his allotted span
May he eternal shelter find,
Farewell to Oscar Gunther Wessman.

DON TEINHOLM.

Thursday March 9 1950. MAXIMUM POINTS FOR LONG ON DIFFICULT BOKSBURG TRACK

HENRY LONG is the new East Rand speedway champion, gaining maximum-points from five rides at Prince George Park, Boksburg, last night on a track which visiting captain, Jack Hodgson, described "the most dangerous on which I have ever ridden."

That Long was undefeated was a tribute not only to his skill, but his willingness to go flat out on a track which was distinctly patchy.

As Ron Clark, the British rider, said afterwards, "it is only worth fighting for fourth place on this sort of track."

Hope of a decider between Talby and Long went astray when Talby's bike failed at the starting line in his fourth race.

When they did meet in the 18th heat, Long roared away to a comfortable win in 86.1 seconds—the fastest time of the night.

The meeting was marred by two spectacular spills. Rabie (broken nose), Morton (broken arm), Talby and Boshoff all hit the dust in a four-way crash in the fifth heat.

Then Alec Gould, riding Bob Serrurier's machine, broke his frame when he crashed into the safety fence.

Fred Wills' only defeat was at the hands of Henry Long in the 12th heat, and the Springbok captain might have got much closer to Long, but for an uncertain start.

RESULTS

Heat winners: Wills 87.1, Long 86.2, Talby 88.3, Chambers 87.3, Talby 91, Robinson 85.6, Long 87.5, Wills 87.4, Chambers 88.8, Middleton 89.4, Long 88.1, Long 86.5, Talby 90, Van der Vyver 91, Robinson 87.1, Wills 88.8, Robinson 87.6, Long 86.1, Clark 89.1, Wills 88.5.
Leading point scorers: Long 15, Wills 14, Robinson 12, Talby 11, Chambers 11, Middleton 9, Van der Vyver 9, Hodgson 7.

Serrurier and Clark Pairs Champions

Salisbury, Wapiti 1950.

BOB SERRURIER and Ron Clark won the best pairs speedway championship at Wembley last night with 23 points out of a possible 25. Serrurier scored four wins and his only defeat was by Fred Wills.

Henry Long just managed to beat Wills but he suffered his first defeat for several meetings when Peter Robinson headed him in the 13th heat. Robinson's time of 82.6 secs. was the fastest of the night.

Heat winners: Wills 85.9; Matthews 85.5; Chambers 85.4; Middleton 83.6; Wills 89; Serrurier 88.8; Robinson 83.7; Middleton 84.2; Long 82.7; Robinson 82.2; Serrurier 81.8; Middleton 81.8; Robinson 82.6; Serrurier 86.2; Wills 85.8; Serrurier 87.2; Fuller 86.8; Long 86.5; Middleton 84; Robinson 86.7.

LONG BARRED FROM RIDING BY S.A. SPEEDWAY ASSOCIATION April 5 Wednesday 1950

HENRY LONG, the Union's outstanding speedway rider, did not appear at Wembley Stadium last Friday owing to a difference with the South African Speedway Riders' Association, and in view of domestic troubles the sport is in danger of losing its present crowd-drawing appeal.

The association, which has approximately 30 members, recently called upon all riders under its control to sign a contract which bound members to ride only at meetings which were sanctioned by the S.R.A. Long refused to sign and has been barred by the S.R.A.

Long, who left on Sunday for England, where he will ride for Belle Vue, the Division I team, had planned to return to the Union in October in time for the 1950-51 season, but it is expected that the S.R.A. will lift its ban.

A prominent speedway official said yesterday: "The S.R.A. is apparently trying to emulate a similar association in England which is virtually a trade union, and I do not think South African promoters will tolerate being dictated to by a band of riders."

"It is the promoters who have invested the money which has established the sport and good wages have been paid to the riders, who earn more than men of a similar class overseas."

"Promoters have been losing money and will go on losing money if they have to pay whatever wages may be demanded by the S.R.A. and cannot use a rider of Long's calibre."
The staging of meetings should also be left to promoters. Owing to ideas emanating from the S.R.A. recent programmes have lost the right touch. It is admitted that the departure of the British team caused a slump in the sport, but Wembley Stadium has been practically deserted for the last two meetings and not more than 1500 were present on the night set apart for the Oscar Wessman Memorial Fund.

"Speedway racing in South Africa has stopped and started many times in the last 20 years, and it looks like stopping again."

Wednesday April 5. Banned From Riding



Henry Long, the Union's outstanding speedway rider, who has been banned from riding by the South African Speedway Riders' Association.

SERRURIER WINS SPEEDWAY April 11 TROPHY

Although Doug Serrurier won the Yanx Trophy at Wembley Speedway yesterday it was not until he had beaten Toby Boshoff in a run-off.

Serrurier had previously beaten Boshoff in the 18th heat, which was the fastest of the meeting, and one in which Fred Wills and Alan Chambers lost their chances by falling. Up to that stage they were unbeaten, were a point in front of Boshoff and two ahead of Serrurier. Had Serrurier not pushed his machine for 120 yards to the finishing line in the eighth heat, Boshoff would have won by one point, but at the finish they were level with 13 points each.

A feature of the meeting was the better form shown by some of the short handicap men. With the track playing tricks, the back markers could not open up going round the bends and found it difficult to pass riders on the straight. The result was slower times than usual, but the racing produced some fine finishes.

RESULTS

The results were:—
T. Boshoff, 1; B. Fuller, 2; D. Collins, 3; 90sec. F. Wills, 1; A. Gould, 2; M. Panton, 3; 89.1sec. D. Serrurier, 1; G. Wilmot, 2; J. Blankfield, 3; 90sec. A. Chambers, 1; B. Fuller, 2; A. Serrurier, 3; 89.7sec. A. Chambers, 1; B. Fuller, 2; D. Collins, 3; 89.1sec. J. Blankfield, 1; M. Panton, 2; D. Serrurier, 3; 89.6sec. D. Serrurier, 1; A. Gould, 2; D. Collins, 3; 89.5sec. B. Raw, 1; T. Boshoff, 2; A. Blankfield, 3; F. Wills, 1; J. Blankfield, 2; A. Blankfield, 3; 89.7sec. B. Raw, 1; J. Blankfield, 2; T. Boshoff, 3; 88.4sec. T. Boshoff, 1; O. Eva, 2; A. Serrurier, 3; 89.1sec. D. Serrurier, 1; B. Raw, 2; F. van Zyl, 3; 88.8sec. A. Chambers, 1; G. Wilmot, 2; A. Gould, 3; 89.1sec. F. van Zyl, 1; G. Wilmot, 2; 89.5sec. D. Serrurier, 1; T. Boshoff, 2; 89.7sec. A. Gould, 1; A. Blankfield, 2; B. Fuller, 3; 89.1sec. B. Raw, 1; J. Blankfield, 2; A. Serrurier, 3; 89.2sec. Run-off: D. Serrurier, 1; 87.6sec.
Points scoring: D. Serrurier and T. Boshoff, 13; F. Wills and A. Chambers, 12; B. Raw, 10; van Zyl, 9; Blankfield, 9; J. Blankfield, 8; B. Fuller, 7; G. Wilmot and F. van Zyl, 6; M. Panton, Serrurier and O. Eva, 3; D. Collins, 2; H. Serrurier, 1.

Saturday April 14 1950. Fuller Beats Time Limit and Wins

BUDDY FULLER beat a two-minute time limit imposed on him when his bike had engine trouble and went on to enter the final of the match race championship at Wembley Stadium last night. He then beat Alan Chambers and one in two straight heats to win the title.

Fuller put up the fastest time—84.2 seconds—when he beat Chambers and Fred Wills to enter the final.

Chambers had engine trouble to his bike in the first heat of the final and in the next was beaten decisively by Fuller in 64 seconds.

RESULTS

Match Race Championship — Fuller 85.2, Wills 87.1, Chambers 86.8, Wills 88.9, Wills 85.1, Gould 88.3, Fuller 85.8, Fuller 84.2. Final — Fuller 76.8 and 64.
Handicap Stakes — Gould 90.3, Boshoff 89.4, Wills 88.4. Final — Gould 88.2.

Saturday April 22 1950. Wills Holds Match Race "Crown"

FRED WILLS, the Springbok captain, is the new speedway match race champion. He beat Buddy Fuller, holder for one week, in two straight matches on the Wembley circuit last night, clocking 63.2 and 62.8.

In the first race Wills led from the start, but in the second outing it was only on the last lap that Fred passed Fuller to become champion.

In the qualifying heats for the South African Championship, Maller, Harry Serrurier, Eva, Hillenbach, Rees and Matthews led the points scorers and will return to Liverpool Chads, while Promoter Jimmy Baxter is also

Results were:
Heat winners (S.A. Championship qualifying round): Hillenbach 92.2; Eva 97.8; Maller 102.4; Maller 92.7; H. Serrurier 94.1; Maller 90.6; Wills 95.5; Maller 93.4; H. Serrurier 92.2. Points scorers: Maller 9; H. Serrurier 7; Eva 7; Hillenbach 5; Rees and Matthews 4 each.
Handicap Stakes: D. Serrurier 88.1; Hillenbach 87.9; H. Blankfield 88.4; Wills 88.3; D. Serrurier 86.5.

Flat tyre cost Buddy South African title

by YVONNE FULLER

Johannesburg, S.A.

WIFELY sympathy tempts me to emphasise the bad luck which cost my husband, Buddy Fuller, the 1950 South African Championship at Wembley Stadium here, but you can rest assured that Buddy wouldn't thank me for doing so. The title went to Liverpool favourite, Fred Wills, and on his showing Fred certainly deserved his success.

When Buddy and Fred met in Heat 19, the second last race of the tournament, both were unbeaten with 12 points, and the 5,000 crowd was worked up to fever pitch when Fred snatched the lead on the last bend and won in the fastest time of the evening.

Buddy had led all the way, showing much of his old skill and certainly riding better than he has done since his serious crash while riding for Hastings last summer when he fractured his skull. It was, however, a flat tyre that cost Buddy the title which he first won in 1940.

It was an unfortunate night for Bob Raw and Alan Chambers. Raw fell in his first heat and went to hospital to have a leg wound stitched, while Chambers was beginning to make Buddy go all out until his counter-shaft slipped.

Wills, who was the title-holder, proved his ability to win from behind, and his success against Chambers and Doug Serrurier in Heat 10 showed him at his best.

Thus the best-ever season in British speedway ended on an exciting note. Doug Serrurier and Buddy are due to leave for England as soon as ship passages are available. Doug is returning to Liverpool Chads, while Promoter Jimmy Baxter is also

very keen on securing Buddy's services.

Buddy, of course, is at the moment a man without a track in English racing since his old team, Hastings, was so unfortunately compelled to close down. I suppose that the majority of English fans will be surprised to see him back in the saddle, for most of us thought that his racing days were over following his split last season. He has, however, made a wonderful recovery, and his form in the Championship proved that he is far from being a back-number.

CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS

Point-scorers: F. Wills 15, B. Fuller 14, D. Serrurier 12, A. Chambers 11, A. Blankfield 10, J. Blankfield 10, A. Gould 9, G. Matthews 8, H. Serrurier 8, R. Nicholls 6, T. Boshoff 5, G. Wilmot 4, C. Hollenbach 4, O. Eva 3, D. How 1, B. Serrurier 0.

A. Chambers 1, T. Boshoff 2, G. Matthews 3, 85.5 secs. F. Wills 1, A. Gould 2, B. Serrurier 3, 85.3 secs. B. Fuller 1, A. Blankfield 2, O. Eva 3, 85.9 secs. D. Serrurier 1, J. Blankfield 2, C. Hollenbach 3, 85.3 secs. J. Blankfield 1, A. Gould 2, G. Matthews 3, 85.3 secs. D. Serrurier 1, A. Blankfield 2, H. Serrurier 3, 87.4 secs. B. Fuller 1, B. Serrurier 2, R. Nicholls 3, 85.4 secs. F. Wills 1, A. Blankfield 2, G. Matthews 3, 84.9 secs. B. Fuller 1, D. Serrurier 2, T. Boshoff 3, 84.5 secs. B. Fuller 1, H. Serrurier 2, G. Matthews 3, 85.0 secs.

A. Chambers 1, J. Blankfield 2, H. Serrurier 3, 84.9 secs. C. Hollenbach 1, G. Wilmot 2, R. Nicholls 3, 85.3 secs. A. Blankfield 1, J. Blankfield 2, D. How 3, 84.5 secs. A. Gould 1, G. Wilmot 2, R. Nicholls 3, 87.7 secs. F. Wills 1, A. Chambers 2, D. Serrurier 3, 85.1 secs. B. Fuller 1, O. Eva 2, D. Serrurier 1, G. Matthews 2, O. Eva 3, 87.9 secs. R. Nicholls 1, H. Serrurier 2, 89.8 secs. F. Wills 1, B. Fuller 2, J. Blankfield 3, 85.1 secs. Chambers 1, A. Gould 2, A. Blankfield 3, 84.5 secs.



SA Test team: F.Wills; dignitary; H.Long (obscured); O.Wessman;
A. Chambers (shaking hands); S.v.d.Vyver; T.Boshoff; D.Filer.

Syd v.d.Vyver

below: England team: D.Collins, R.Clark, H.Welch,
K.Middleditch, P.Robinson, D.Tailby, J.Hodgson.



Henry Long, Bob Quick, mascot Quick Jnr, Alan Serrurier.