

THE HENRY LONG COLLECTION

Part 8 – 1953/'54 Season

The off-season prior to the new campaign heralded the long awaited beginning of speedway in the Rhodesias. In a somewhat surprising development the first meeting in July 1953 was not staged in any of the major cities of Southern Rhodesia as anticipated but further north beyond the Zambesi River at Kitwe on Northern Rhodesia's Copperbelt. The Kitana track was first laid out in May with Bob Serrurier, the 1951 South African Champion and at the time resident in Kitwe, being heavily involved in the project. It was, therefore, appropriate that this historic first meeting for the Northern Rhodesia Open Championship was won by the former South African ace. A further meeting in July followed shortly thereafter when Buddy Fuller brought a South African team the 1,500 miles from Johannesburg to Kitana for an international challenge against the locals. In a keenly contested match Northern Rhodesia triumphed over South Africa 40-36. The local's top scorer was Bert Clark, an ex-road racer, who subsequently moved south and spent the 1953/54 season riding for the Randfontein Aces before heading for Scotland to take up a contract with the Edinburgh Monarchs, the first Rhodesian to ride in the UK.

The first meeting in Southern Rhodesia was held at Bulawayo's Agricultural Showgrounds in September when the hosts also met South Africa in an international challenge but with the visitors this time turning the tables and emerging victorious by 37 points to 34. Several Rhodesians were to make their mark in the sport and riders such as Bert Hall and Bev Bird appeared in Test sides against overseas touring teams at Bulawayo. Most of the top ranked Springboks would feature at one time or another in meetings in the Rhodesias throughout the 1950's, for instance Henry Long and Fred Wills. Wills became a perennial visitor to the Bulawayo track and captained the Bulawayo Lions in many a challenge match against the various SA National League teams. The April to September Rhodesian season that avoided the rainy season and did not impinge on the South African racing calendar would also prove beneficial for Union riders as it provided further racing opportunities for them in the close season.

In late August and with the 1953/54 season fast approaching, the main talking point was the news released by Gilbert Brown, the Wembley general manager, that an eight-man English team would tour the Union and be captained by the 1950 World Champion Freddie Williams. Little did anyone suspect that by the time he arrived in late October Williams would have been crowned World Champion for a second time after his triumph the previous month at Wembley Stadium, London.

Besides the current World Champion, the tourists fielded a combination of experience and youth including veteran Bill Kitchen and budding star Brian Crutcher that ultimately proved too strong for the Springboks. The South African team went into the 5th and final Test in the knowledge that a win would square the series and they seemed to have luck with them as both Kitchen and Freddie Williams were unavailable for the touring team. However, England drafted in Gerry Hussey who was free-lancing in the Union and against the odds secured a 57-51 victory to deny the locals.

Two further Test series were held – the Springboks beating an Overseas team 2-1 and a Dominions side comprising South Africans and New Zealanders Trevor Redmond and Dick Campbell defeating England 3-0 although the series score belies the closeness of the individual matches. A further international took place at Bulawayo in December when a British team beat the Dominions 58-50.

Individually four riders were prominent, Brian Crutcher, Freddie Williams, Henry Long and Fred Lang. With Fred Wills, Crutcher formed the backbone of the Randfontein Aces league team. His league performances were immense, - 9 maximums from 13 matches and with only five points dropped, his total of 151 points made him the league's leading scorer. Crutcher also unsuccessfully challenged Williams for the National Match Race Championship Golden Helmet in February and he capped his season by winning the Natal Championship. Williams, having won the Golden Helmet from Henry Long in December, held it until the season's end whilst he scored prolifically for the Pretoria Eagles. Long was not as prominent as in previous seasons but was still considered favourite for the SA National Championship scheduled for 26th March at Wembley until it was postponed to the beginning of the 1954/55 season. Fred Lang came of age and began to produce the scores previously predicted of him. He was South Africa's second highest scorer in the Tests against England and also contributed significantly to the series win against Overseas. His form was such that his signature was eagerly sought by several clubs for the 1954 British season. Ultimately he turned down overtures from Edinburgh and Ipswich to sign for first division giants, the London Wembley Lions.

Cont'd

Of the teams who competed in the 1952/53 National League programme, only the Durban Hornets and Wembley Lions once again came to the tapes. The former Germiston team moved to a newly built track at Olympia Park adjoining the Pam Brink Stadium and re-branded themselves as 'Springs Stars' whilst Boksburg closed their doors for good. A new team, the Aces, entered the competition and operated out of the Randfontein Showgrounds. Captained by Trevor Redmond, the Springs Stars were comfortable winners of the league finishing 6 points clear of second placed Randfontein.

After a successful defence of the Wembley Match Race Championship by holder Henry Long in October, the Golden Helmet was given a revamp and became the National Match Race Championship thereafter. Instead of a single leg, best-of-three races contest at Wembley, a home and away leg was instituted with a deciding leg at a neutral track if required, with all legs being on a best-of-three races format. The first Golden Helmet challenge under the new system saw Freddie Williams pitted against Long and the World Champion comfortably won both legs at Wembley and Randfontein by 2 races to nil. Subsequently, Williams retained a vice-like grip on the Golden Helmet although in his last defence of the season both he and challenger Brian Crutcher fell in the first race of the second leg at Wembley with the holder sustaining a broken collar-bone. However, Williams retained the title by virtue of his 2-0 win in the opening leg at Randfontein.

1953/'54 season Roll of Honour

Test Series:

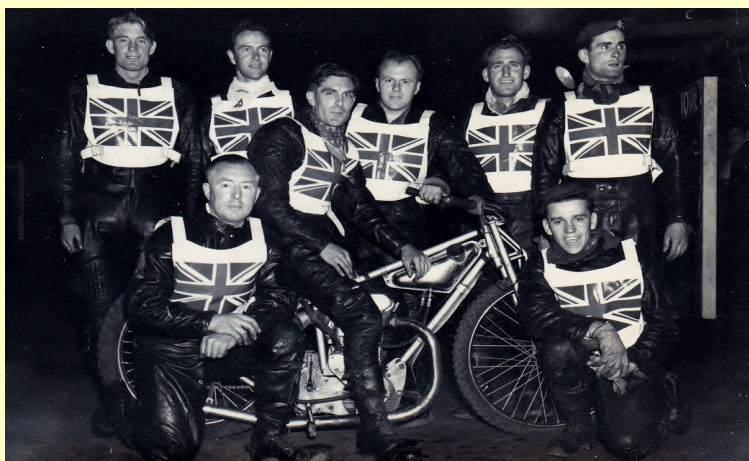
S Africa 1½ - England 3½; S Africa 2 Overseas 1; Dominions 3 England 0;

SA National Handicap Chmpshp (Yanx Trophy): – George Matthews @ Springs
Natal Championship : – Brian Crutcher @ Hoy Park, Durban
SA Match Race Championship E-o-S Holder: – Freddie Williams
SA National League Champions : – Springs Stars

S.Africa (1st Test v. England, Joburg Dec. 2, 1953.): Alec Blankfield, Fred Wills, Toby Boshoff, Henry Long (Capt. on Bike,) Harry du Toit, Roy Bester; knlg: Fred Lang, Doug Lang.



England: Ian Williams, Reg Duval, Freddie Williams (Capt. on bike), Dom Perry, Howdy Byford, Bill Griffiths; knlg: Bill Kitchen, Brian Crutcher.



SPEED TRACK

Sunday July 26 1953
BACK from a speedway trip to Northern Rhodesia, where he managed the team of South African riders which lost 40-36 to the local boys, **BUDDY FULLER** says the track at N'kana is every bit as good as that at Wembley Stadium.

And Fuller added: "When I was in N'kana three months ago, there was nothing but bush on the proposed site of the track. Now there is a granite-surface track with direct over-head lighting."

"The Rhodesian boys are good. I saw two meetings without one rider crashing into the safety-fence as novices usually do. The local star is **BERT CLARK**, a road-racer from England. A great prospect, he scored 10 points at his first competitive meeting."

TEST PLAN

THERE was nothing easy about the Rhodesian victory over a South African team. Going against the home riders were **TOBY BOSHOFF**, **HARRY SERRURIER** and **FRED VAN ZYL**, three Test Spring-boards.

"Speedway in Rhodesia will begin to boom once the tracks under construction at Salisbury and Bulawayo are completed," says Buddy Fuller, now well over the Durban crash that forced the doctors to tell him to end his active track-riding career.

South African teams will probably be flown to Rhodesia for Test matches not long after Salisbury and Bulawayo are ready to present full-scale meetings.

No, there will be no clash with the South African programme. Rhodesian speedway is run in the Union's off-or winter-season.



Soon after the Rhodesian and South African speedway teams arrived in Bulawayo yesterday they started tuning their machines at a local shop. From left to right (standing) they are Sonny James (S.A.), Doe Luyendyk (S.A.), Toby Boshoff (Rhod.), Joe Blankfield (Rhod.), Bud Messer (S.A.), Harry du Toit (S.A.), Godfrey Rabie (S.A., manager) and Bob Raw (Rhodesian captain). Seated is Doug Serrurier (S.A. captain) and kneeling are John Bekker (Rhod.) and Dave Naude (Rhod.).



Four riders get away to a good start in Saturday's speedway Test. Left to right they are Dave Naude, Stan Paulsen, Bert Clark and Sonny James.

12,000 SAW CITY SPEEDWAY

More than a quarter of Bulawayo's population packed into the showground stadium on Saturday for Rhodesia's first speedway test.

The 12,000 crowd was a Bulawayo sporting record. The gate takings amounted to just over £1,300 but it is believed that due to the rush and inadequate gate facilities for such a huge crowd several hundred did not pay.

Champion for speedway Friday Sept. 7 1953 tour of S.A.

LONDON, Friday. SOUTH AFRICANS are to see a world speedway champion in action, writes Bert Fellows. Riding before a crowd of 99,000 at the Empire Stadium, Wembley, last night Freddie Williams, last night Freddie Williams, won the title for the second time in four years. Next month he leaves for Johannesburg where he will lead a British team in test matches against South Africa.

Rhodesia Unlucky in Speedway Test

Monday Sept. 7 1953
IN Southern Rhodesia's first speedway Test at Bulawayo on Saturday, South Africa beat Rhodesia by 37 points to 34—but it could also quite easily have been a Rhodesian victory.

Bob Raw, the Rhodesian captain, was unlucky in coming off in the last lap of the first heat when he was in a good position. When he led the field round the last bend of the seventh heat, Toby Boshoff's engine cut out and he glided into third position.

Doug Serrurier, the South African captain, was the first to make an attempt on a lap record. His time was 23.5 seconds.

NAUDE BEST

The crowd cheered the announcement that Bob Serrurier, riding for South Africa on Saturday but who will captain the Kitana stars team in their match against South Africa at Kitwe on Friday, and Joe Blankfield of Rhodesia had both clocked 23.4 secs.

Most successful rider of the evening was Rhodesia's Dave Naude who scored 10 points out of a possible 12.

The last heat in the Test produced some thrilling team riding by Rhodesia. When the tapes went up Joe Blankfield swung to the front on the first bend with Raw close behind. Although Bob Serrurier could not catch the speedy Blankfield he managed to overhaul Raw in the second

lap, only for the Rhodesian captain to cut in on the inside of the last bend and race past the finish with a wheel to spare.

CAPTAIN'S DUEL

Another thrilling race was the duel between the two captains, Raw and Doug Serrurier, for the premier prize of the evening, the Golden Helmet.

The lead changed hands several times but finally Raw shot past Serrurier to win.

Despite a 30 yard start in the final of the Royal Show Handicap, Bertie Hall was no match for the other three finalists, Dave Naude was an easy winner followed by Sonny James and Bert Clark.

There were three spills, Raw coming off twice and Bekker once. All three occurred at the same bend, the second from the starting gate.

Both were uninjured and were able to resume riding.

Long opens speedway with maximum points win

Saturday Oct. 3 1953.

HENRY LONG gave an effective answer to those critics who maintain that he cannot come from the back to win a speedway race when he completed his maximum point-scoring effort and won the Supporters Trophy at Wembley last night.

In the final heat Long was beaten out of the gate by Joe Blankfield and Bob Raw, both of whom could have finished with a higher score than Long had the South African champion failed. But Long waited until his opponents bunched together on the inside of the track and passed them both with a brilliant burst on the outside and went on to score another personal triumph.

The fact that Joe Blankfield's chain snapped just as Long was passing him made no difference to the ultimate result but it did lose Blankfield second place in the final score.

Fred Lang started well by winning two heats but once again showed a lack of experience when forced to ride from the back. His brother, Doug, fell in the first heat, but then rode well to score nine points.

Harry du Toit had a chance until he met Long, and Dave Naude scored more points than ever before in a similar event.

TWO ACCIDENTS

Two accidents marred this meeting of the new season. Alec Blankfield dislocated his shoulder when he was dragged into the fence by his machine, and Doug Serrurier fractured his arm just above the wrist when he could not correct a wobble on a bend.

The meeting proved once again

the great superiority of Long over other local riders, and he showed form good enough to improve the hopes that he will provide more than a match for Freddy Williams, the world champion, next month.

HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: H. du Toit 79.4sec., A. Blankfield 78.9sec., F. Lang 78.3sec., H. Long 78.7sec., F. Lang 79.9sec., H. Long 77.2sec., H. du Toit 78.6sec., J. Blankfield 78.6sec., D. Serrurier 79.9sec., B. Raw 79.7sec., H. Long 77.6sec., J. Blankfield 79.8sec., H. Long 77.6sec., F. Lang 77.9sec., B. Raw 80.8sec., J. Blankfield 80.2sec., H. du Toit 80.3sec., D. Lang 79.8sec., T. Boshoff 80.7sec., H. Long 78.2sec.

The individual point scoring was: H. Long 15, H. du Toit 13, B. Raw 12, J. Blankfield 11, F. Lang 10, D. Lang 9, D. Naude 7, T. Boshoff 6, D. Serrurier 5, A. Blankfield 6, S. James 6, H. Serrurier 4, F. van Zyl 4, P. McKenzie 2, A. Duncan 2, N. Mortimer 2, G. Matthews 1, J. Bekker 1.



H. Long

Four speedway teams to have two touring riders

Tuesday October 6/1953

AT LEAST EIGHT LOCAL RIDERS have been allocated to each of the four Transvaal teams to compete in the national speedway league this season. The eight men in the British touring team which will soon arrive in the Union have been divided into A and B class riders and one man from each class will be added to the personnel of the Transvaal teams.

In order not to keep the junior riders who will miss the senior league matches in the pits, a junior league will be run in conjunction with the national league.

Wembley Lions will be the first team to be engaged in a match. They will meet a team selected from the rest at Wembley on Friday.

Trevor Redmond has been included in the Springs Stars team, but all other riders who made private arrangements to visit the Union have been allocated to Durban.

The classifications of the touring team are: A class—F. Williams, B. Kitchen, H. Byford and B. Crutcher. B class—R. Duval, D. Perry, I. Williams and W. Griffiths.

THE TEAMS

The national league teams are: Wembley Lions—H. Long, F. Lang, D. Lang, T. Boshoff, D. Collins, J. Medicott, J. Bekker, A. Long and R. Long. Springs Stars—R. Bester, T. Redmond, F. van Zyl, H. du Toit, G. Matthews, D. Lourens, D. Luyendyk, B. Messer and J. Pienaar. Randfontein Aces—F. Willis, J. Blankfield, A. Blankfield, B. Quick, D. Naude, P. McKenzie, J. Pinto, D. Hartman and N. Nel. Pretoria Eagles—D. Serrurier, B. Serrurier, H. Serrurier, B. Raw, S. James, A. Duncan, J. Edwards, N. Mortimer, D. Davies and C. Raas. Durban Hornets—P. Dykes, D. Campbell, R. Browning, A. Hartman, W. Dalton, V. McWilliam, H. Ardendorff, P. Clarence and H. Bremner.

FIRST-BEND "SQUEEZE": Here comes the "squeeze" as the riders go rip-tearing into the bend in the first heat of the speedway international between South Africa and Britain at Wembley Stadium last night. There on the outside is Henry Long, the Springbok captain, with Toby Boshoff, his teammate, partly visible next to him. Who is coming up in the middle in the white helmet? It is Fred Williams, the world champion, and British captain. Long stayed in front to win the heat in 77.1 secs., and help South Africa to draw the Test 54-54.

3,000 Saw Raw Take Trophy

Friday Oct 16/1953

The biggest crowd ever to see a sporting event in Randfontein attended the first speedway match to be held in the town last night. Three thousands spectators saw Bob Raw win the inaugural match race trophy with 14 points, after Doug Lang, who was leading Raw by one point at the start of the last race, had crashed in the second lap.

Heat winners: Fred Lang (65.2), Raw (67), D. Lang (69.2), Du Toit (66.8), Raw (66.4), Boshoff (69.7), D. Lang (68.9), A. Blankfield (66.6), D. Lang (66.9), Boshoff (68.3), J. Blankfield (67.4), James (69.4), J. Blankfield (69), D. Lang (67.8), Raw (67.6), McKenzie (68.2), Naude (69.4), A. Blankfield (66.8), James (69.4), Raw (68).

HENRY LONG WAS 2-1 WINNER

Sat. 6 Oct. 1953

HENRY LONG, the South African speedway champion, retained his Wembley match race championship when he beat Fred Lang, the 23-year-old Johannesburg motor mechanic, by two rides to one at Wembley Stadium last night.

Lang took the champion to the full three heats and he set a three-lap record of 56.9 secs. while beating Long in the second "leg". Still, Long won the first heat easily in 57 secs. and made certain of keeping the Golden Helmet when he took the third "leg" comfortably in 57.6 secs.

Long was also beaten by Alec Blankfield in heat nine of the best pairs competition. In fact, he finished third behind his Wembley Lions team mate Toby Boshoff.

That defeat cost Long and Boshoff the best pairs title. Fred and Doug Lang won the competition with 22 points—one point ahead of their Wembley team mates.

Heat winners: Bester, 79.9; Long, 78.2; D. Lang, 78.9; J. Blankfield, 80.3; Long, 78.3; F. Lang, 79.8; A. Blankfield, 78.3; D. Lang, 80.6; A. Blankfield, 78.9; Bester, 79.8; Long, 79.9; A. Blankfield, 78.9; F. Lang, 78.5; Raw, 78.9; Long, 79.9.

Points scorers: F. Lang (11), D. Lang (11), 22; H. Long (13), Boshoff (8), 21; A. Blankfield (13), Hardman (1), 14; Bester (9), Du Toit (6), 15; J. Blankfield (8), McKenzie (1), 9; Raw (4), James (3), Van Zyl (1), reserve, 8.

S.A. speedway riders give finest performance

South African SPEEDWAY RIDERS have never put up a better performance than they did at Wembley last night when they held the strong English team in the first test and forced a draw, with each side scoring 54 points.

None of them did better than Fred Lang who broke the track record twice, showed scant respect for reputations and almost swung the result in South Africa's favour.

Luck played a part in a number of heats but, as Fred Williams, the English captain, confirmed after the match, the luck evened itself out and did not materially affect the result.

The first heat set the fashion for surprises. Toby Boshoff took the lead and surrendered it to Henry Long, only to be relegated to fourth place by Williams after it appeared that the South Africans would lead 4-2. Then Brian Crutcher broke the record for England.

With the score at 18-all after six heats, Williams seemed in grave danger of disqualification for boring Harry du Toit, but

England won the seventh heat 5-1 and an avalanche was expected to descend upon the South Africans.

Fred Lang then flashed into the argument like a meteor in the gathering gloom. In successive heats he beat Bill Kitchen, Brian Crutcher and Fred Williams — with record runs in the first two—and



F. Lang

record runs in the first two—and

South Africa were only two points behind with five heats to go.

Not to be outdone by his brother, Doug Lang inflicted another defeat on England's leading pair. Howdy Byford took a spectacular spill. Fred Williams' engine failed when going well for a 5-1 win with Fred Lang, and Roy Bester went out but showed lack of practice.

With the result in the balance, Du Toit gained his revenge on Williams, Long faded into the picture with five points after one bad heat and two points separated the teams with a heat to go.

The Lang brothers lined up with Kitchen and Don Perry. Perry was unfortunate to be eliminated from the heat after failing in the first lap and in the return the young South Africans went into the lead.

In the final bend, however, Kitchen raised Fred Lang to get second place and tie the score.

HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: South Africa 18, England 8. H. Long (S.A.) 15sec., B. Crutcher (E.) 76.9sec. (record); H. du Toit (S.A.) 77.1sec.; F. Williams (E.) 78.9sec.; B. Crutcher (E.) 77.1sec.; W. Kitchen (E.) 77.1sec.; F. Williams (E.) 77.1sec.; B. Crutcher (E.) 77.1sec.; F. Lang (S.A.) 76.9sec. (record); H. du Toit (S.A.) 77.1sec.; F. Lang (S.A.) 77.1sec.; B. Crutcher (E.) 77.1sec.; H. Long (S.A.) 78.1sec.; H. du Toit (S.A.) 77.1sec.; B. Crutcher (E.) 77.1sec.; D. Lang (S.A.) 79.1sec.

The individual points were: South Africa: F. Lang 13, H. du Toit 13, H. Long 13, D. Lang 7, F. Williams 5, A. Blankfield 2, T. Boshoff 1, R. Bester 1. Total 54.

England: B. Crutcher 17, F. Williams 13, W. Kitchen 13, H. Byford 5, 2, Griffiths 2, D. Perry 2, R. Duval 1, 1, Williams 1. Total 54.

Speedway

Lesson in tactics for Fred Lang

Sat. Dec 5/1953

THERE did not appear to be anything sensational in the way Fred Williams beat Henry Long in two straight heats in the first leg of their South African speedway match race championship at Wembley last night.

Williams went into the lead from the gate in both heats but a rider of lesser ability would have had to give way to spirited challenges from Long. Twice in each heat the South African champion almost found an opening but they were snatched away before he could get a firm grip on them.

Williams also gave Fred Lang a lesson in tactics during the national league match between Wembley Lions and Pretoria Eagles which the Lions won 46-38. Williams, slightly in the lead at the first bend, left the line to cleverly baulk Lang, who was speeding round the outside.

TWISTED KNEE

Long missed a maximum when he started badly in his last heat. He was the last rider to make the first bend but finished second to Don Perry, whose scoring of 10 points was his best performance since coming to the Union. He was unfortunate, however, to badly twist his knee during the second half.

The match proved once again, that some of the South Africans can measure up to the standard set by the English tourists.

RESULTS

The heat winners in the league match were: H. Long (W.) 77.4sec.; F. Lang (W.) 77.9sec.; D. Lang (W.) 79.1sec.; F. Williams (P.) 78.6sec.; H. Long (W.) 79.1sec.; D. Perry (P.) 78ec.; F. Williams (P.) 78.4sec.; F. Lang (W.) 79.6sec.; H. Long (W.) 79.8ec.; F. Williams (P.) 78.8sec.; H. Byford (W.) 80.4sec.; D. Perry (P.) 79.6sec.; D. Lang (W.) 82.1sec.; H. Serrurier (P.) 81.1sec.

INDIVIDUAL SCORES

Wembley Lions: H. Long 11, F. Lang 10, D. Lang 5, H. Byford 6, T. Boshoff 5, D. Collins 3, J. Meade 2, J. Becker 0. Total 46.
Pretoria Eagles: F. Williams 10, D. Perry 10, I. Williams 7, H. Serrurier 5, A. Duncan 3, S. James 2, N. Mortimer 1, D. Davis 0. Total 38.



Mon. 14 Dec. 1953

Williams wins speedway title from Long

IT is the hallmark of a champion to win under any conditions and Fred Williams stamped his right to a title when he beat Henry Long in straight heats in the second leg of the national speedway match race championship at Springs on Saturday.

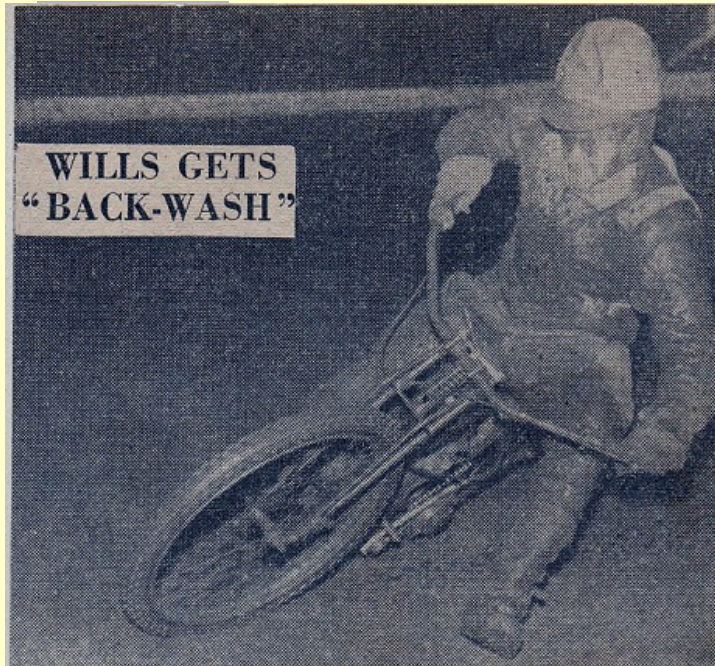
Williams won the first heat easily but Long made a strong effort in the second and only Williams's skill prevented him taking the lead coming out of the first bend in the second lap.

Springs Stars beat Durban Hornets 57-27 in a national league match in which the Durban team failed to overcome the problems of tuning their engines in the higher altitude. They often put themselves in position to score points but could not continue their challenges to the finish.

The individual scores were:—

Springs Stars.—W. Kitchen 11, H. du Toit 11, T. Redmond 10, R. Duval 9, R. Bester 7, T. Edwards 5, G. Matthews 0. Total 57.

Durban Hornets.—V. McWilliams 6, D. Campbell 5, P. Dykes 5, R. Browning 4, H. Brenner 3, W. Dalton 2, H. Ardendorff 1, P. Clarence 1. Total 27.



WILLS GETS "BACK-WASH"

It's a cinder-splashed Fred Wills coming out of the bend in the second lap of the first heat during the South Africa-Britain speedway Test at Wembley Stadium last night. The Springbok rider got the "back-wash" from Fred Williams, the world champion, who won the heat in 77.5 seconds. Wills finished second, and it was the start of South Africa's slide to a 613-441 defeat in the second international.

Williams one up in match on speedway

Mon. 4 Jan. 1954

FRED LANG made a worthy effort to regain the South African speedway match race championship for a local rider at Wembley on Saturday when he started his challenge to Fred Williams by winning the first heat but he lost the next two. Williams should win the next leg at Springs or Randfontein and it now appears that South Africa has little hope of breaking a season's monopoly by visiting riders.

Lang did not start well in the first heat but he kept on the line all the way and in the third lap forced his way through on the inside of Williams to score a thrilling and well-deserved win. In the second heat he attempted to do the same thing but the machines collided and both riders fell. In the re-run and in the third heat Williams gave Lang little chance by starting with his usual brilliant dash.

In the national league match Wembley Lions beat Pretoria Eagles 44-40. The Wembley team were more consistent—they won only half the 14 heats—but the most encouraging feature of the match was the confident riding of Bob Raw after a six weeks' absence.

HEAT WINNERS

D. Perry (W.), 76.9sec.; F. Lang (W.), 77.7sec.; I. Williams, 79.9sec.; F. Williams (P.), 78.7sec.; B. Raw (P.), 77.4sec.; F. Lang (W.), 78.1sec.; F. Williams (P.), 78.7sec.; B. Raw (P.), 78.4sec.; H. Long (W.), 77.4sec.; F. Williams (P.), 77.8sec.; B. Raw (P.), 79.2sec.; H. Long (W.), 77.4sec.; T. Boshoff (W.), 80.8sec.; D. Perry (W.), 77.8sec.

Individual point scores:—

Wembley Lions.—F. Lang 10, H. Long 9, D. Perry 9, T. Boshoff 8, H. Byford 6, D. Collins 1, J. Bekker 1. Total, 44.

Pretoria Eagles.—F. Williams 11, B. Raw 9, I. Williams 8, H. Serrurier 4, A. Duncan 3, N. Mortimer 2, S. James 2, D. Davies 1. Total, 40.

Dominions were worth win over English speedway team

Sat. 9 Jan. 1954

THE TOURING ENGLISH speedway team suffered their first defeat in South Africa when a side selected from all other riders available in the Union beat them 59-48 at Wembley last night in what was probably the most successful meeting ever held on the track.

Nearly 9,000 spectators—there were many more waiting for admission—saw Fred Williams start off with a record-breaking ride in Heat 1 with his brother, Ian, splitting Dick Campbell and Fred Lang. But from then on the visitors battled against misfortune—and some top-class performances by their opponents.

The only English riders to maintain their reputations were Fred Williams, who dropped his only point in his last heat when he was beaten by Trevor Redmond, and Brian Crutcher, who won five heats but was excluded from another because he broke the starting tapes.

HIT FENCE

Don Perry, Bill Kitchen and Howdy Byford had trouble with their machines and Ian Williams had most of the dash taken out of him in the fourth heat when he finished second and was disqualified. He hit the fence approaching the line and Henry Long had to leave the track and crash into the track marshall's enclosure to prevent a bad accident.

In spite of the bad luck which dogged the visiting team, the Dominions side were well worth their win. The riding of the South Africans in the side improved the hopes of success in the third test.

Fred Lang won only one heat, but he teamed well with Campbell. They were the top-scoring pair in the match. Henry Long helped his partner more than he has ever done in the past and Bob Raw made a satisfactory return to international events by equalling the 10 points scored by Redmond.

FINAL FLOURISH

The Dominions side looked safe from defeat at the interval when they led by nine points, but the visitors brought in Reg Duval and Bill Griffiths, who helped to reduce the deficit to three points with four heats to go. But then Campbell and Lang scored a 5-1 win over Kitchen and Duval. The next two heats were divided and Long and Toby Boshoff put in the final flourish with another 5-1 win.

Scored well



Bob Raw, who was the most successful second string rider in the match between the English speedway team and a Dominions side at Wembley last night. Raw missed the first two tests against the tourists because of a broken collar bone, but last night he raised South Africa's hopes for the remaining matches.

It is unlikely that there will be another chance of the teams meeting. Campbell is to return to Scotland in two weeks' time and without his experienced leadership a selected side might not be able to reproduce last night's grand effort. But Campbell and his team provided a filip to speedway racing which has been missing in recent weeks and put a new aspect to the two remaining test matches against England.

Redmond's Record—And 15 pts.

Monday Jan. 18, 1954

ALTHOUGH Trevor Redmond, the Overseas captain, scored 15 points and set a 4-lap track record of 62.4 secs., his team was still beaten 62-46 by South Africa in the 18-heat speedway challenge match at the Olympia Park track, Springs, on Saturday night.

Henry Long was the South African star. The Springbok captain also scored 15 points and then equalled Redmond's record in the 10th heat.

Gerry Hussey, 21-year-old West Ham rider, came into his best form and scored 12 points for Overseas with some rip-tearing riding. He came from behind to beat Long and Harry du Toit in the sixth heat.

Dick Campbell scored nine points for Overseas. The New Zealand star was held up with two engine failures to his machine.

South Africa: Long 15, F. Lang, Wills 12, Raw 9, Bester 8, Du Toit 5, H. Serrurier 1. Total 62.
Overseas: Redmond 15, Hussey 12, Campbell 9, Dalton 5, Collins 3, Browning, Dykes 1. Total 46.

Williams Keeps Title

FRED WILLIAMS is still the South African speedway match race champion. The England captain beat Fred Lang, 22-year-old Johannesburg motor mechanic, in two straight record-breaking rides at Randfontein last night to retain the title.

Williams had a 2-1 lead from the first "leg" decided at Wembley

Stadium, and the world champion, made no mistake about retaining the Golden Helmet last night.

Williams won the first three-lap challenge in 52 sec. to set a track record. It was an easy victory for rip-tearing British star because Lang fell off his machine.

While the Springbok remounted his bike Williams was sporting enough to slow down and wait for Lang to get started again. Then the world champion opened out and rode to an easy win.

There was no hard-luck story for Lang in the second heat. This time he could not match Williams' quicksilver start, and the champion tore away to win in 47.3 sec. and break his first-heat record.

Although Brian Crutcher, the 19-year-old British rider, scored maximum 12 points for Randfontein, his team was still beaten 45-39 by Springs Stars.

Heat Winners: Edwards (S.) 63.9; Crutcher (R.) 63.4; Duval (S.) 64.8; Redmond (S.) 64.9; Bester (S.) 64.2; Crutcher (R.) 64.7; Redmond (S.) 65.5; Crutcher (R.) 64.3; Wills (R.) 64.9; Crutcher (R.) 62.8; Bester (S.) 65.6; Du Toit (S.) 64.8; McKenzle (R.) 63.9; Duval (S.) 64.5.

Point Scorers: Springs: Redmond 9, Bester 8, Edwards 7, Duval 6, Du Toit, Matthews 5, Kitchen 4, Van Zyl 1. Total 45.

Randfontein: Crutcher 12, Wills 8, McKenzle 6, A. Blankfield 5, J. Blankfield 4, Griffiths 2, Naude, Clark 1. Total 39.

Williams Sets 4-Lap Record

Monday Jan. 25, 1954

Henry Long has yet to beat Freddie Williams on the Olympia Park track, Springs. On Saturday night, the rip-tearing world speedway champion continued his long line of successes by beating the South African titleholder in the record time of 62.2 secs.

Still, there was some consolation for Long. That was his only defeat, and his Wembley Lions team beat Pretoria Eagles 49-35 in the National League match. Williams, Eagles' captain, scored maximum 12 points.

Wembley Lions: Long 11, Byford 10, Perry, Boshoff 8, F. Lang 7, D. Lang 4, Collins 1. Total 49.

Springboks Outclassed At Starting Gate

Saturday Jan. 23 1954

South Africa ... 45 England ... 62

'FREDDIE WILLIAMS' maximum, including a new four-lap record ... another maximum for nineteen-year-old Brian Crutcher ... to 'break' first at the starting gate ... these are the real reasons for the Springboks' heavy defeat in the third speedway Test at Wembley Stadium last night. (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

England are now down to two in the Test series—and it will require a better all-round effort from South Africa to have any hope of winning the rubber.

O. J. Henry Long, Fred Lang and to a lesser extent, Harry du Toit, showed any sort of form. But usually the Springboks were battling for the back after being badly beaten at the starting gate.

Lang, who sacrificed first place in the interests of team riding in the first heat, beat two, showed a lot of his old dash without being able to master Freddie Williams or Crutcher.

Fred Lang battled bravely, especially in heat eight, when he gained first place to break even with Ian Williams and Kitchen, after Joe Blankfield had been excluded for "breaking the tapes."

Freddie Williams gave the sort of display you expect from a world champion. In heat one, before the track had been churned up, he dashed away from the field to set a new Wembley four-lap record of 75.6 secs. — one fifth of a second better than his previous time set a fortnight ago.

Toby Boshoff finished third in Heat Nine, but was disqualified for dangerous riding which brought down Bill Griffiths. On an appeal Griffiths, who was disqualified for receiving assistance—and there was no third place in this heat.

Heat Winners: F. Williams (B.), 75.6; Boshoff (S.A.), 77.4; Crutcher (B.), 76.7; F. Williams (B.), 75.8; Kitchen (B.), 78.9; Crutcher (B.), 75.6; F. Williams (B.), 77.5; F. Lang (S.A.), 75.3; Crutcher (B.), 75.3.

F. Williams (B.), 77.5; Long (S.A.), 77.2; Crutcher (B.), 78.3; F. Williams (B.), 76.6; Kitchen (B.), 79.3; Crutcher (B.), 79.2; F. Williams (B.), 79.4; F. Lang (S.A.), 79.2; Crutcher (B.), 79.3.

Point Scores: British: F. Williams, Crutcher 18, Kitchen 1, Williams, Perry 3, Dural, Byford 1. Total 63. South Africa: F. Lang, Long 12, Du Toit 7, Boshoff 6, H. du Toit 4, D. Lang 3, Blankfield 2. Total 43.

Oxygen Plan
"Blew Up!"
Tuesday Feb. 9 1954

Dominions ... 55, England ... 53

So Freddie Williams' "O-Plan"—oxygen—rebounded at Wembley Stadium last night. And New Zealander Dick Campbell, making his farewell appearance, led the Dominions side to a last-heat victory in this return "Chocolate Boot" speedway challenge match (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

The Dominions, trailing 32-30 at the end of the 17th heat, needed a 4-2 win in the last heat to save the match. But they did even better. Henry Long and Fred Lang broke clear at the gate and never looked like being headed by either Bill Kitchen or Ian Williams, scoring the 3-1 win which gave Dominions their second victory in the challenge series.

It was a speedway night to remember—thrills and drama. And none better than Dick Campbell, the thinly-thatched captain of the Dominions side. He set the tempo for the night's racing by beating the champion Freddie Williams in the first heat. Later Campbell became the only man to defeat 19-year-old Brian Crutcher.

But his machine accomplished even more. He loaned it to Henry Long in heat four and the South African champion became the second man to defeat Williams.

Then, in heat 10, as his partner Alec Blankfield broke clear, the Dominions captain again kept out Freddie Williams—and the world champion was in fact forced into fourth place.

England, leading 32-19 at the end of heat seven, pulled out the oxygen cylinder for Brian Crutcher and Don Perry. The plan "blew up." Crutcher lost his only race of the night, Perry failed to score—and this was the poorest performance in an otherwise immaculate display of team-riding by the two Englishmen.

Trevor Redmond's body swerve—the nearest seen at Wembley—brought Ian Williams in heat 12. Fred Lang pushing a quarter-of-a-lap for a point in heat 13. The ups and downs of the two teams in the second half when England three times drew level before taking the lead in heat 18. These were the "incidents" coupled with a "renewed racing" which made this the "night of the season."

Heat winners: Campbell (D.) 76.2, Crutcher (B.) 75.8, Redmond (D.) 76.9, Long (D.) 75.9, Crutcher (B.) 77.7, Campbell (D.) 76.9, F. Williams (B.) 75.8, Campbell (D.) 76.9, Long (D.) 77.1, Blankfield (D.) 76.9, Crutcher (B.) 76.9, Boshoff (S.A.) 76.6, F. Williams (B.) 76.4, Crutcher (B.) 76.2, Campbell (D.) 77.8, F. Williams (B.) 76.9, Crutcher (B.) 76.4, Long (D.) 77.2.

Point scores: Dominions: Campbell 15, Long 12, Redmond 9, Lang 8, Boshoff 6, Blankfield 4, Boshoff 1, total 53. England: Crutcher 17, Williams 13, Perry 1, Williams 1, Kitchen 5, Griffiths 3, Byford 1, total 33.

S.A. BEATEN IN THIRD SPEEDWAY 'TEST'

Sunday Tribune Feb. 7 1954

THE Overseas Riders won the third speedway "Test" against South Africa at the Hoy Park Stadium last night by 61 points to 45. This is their first win in the present series and South Africa lead 2-1.

The visitors were the better combination, with the team riding of world champion Fred Williams and Bill Griffiths outstanding. Bill Dalton injured his ankle in the third heat and took no further part in the meeting; his place in the overseas team was taken by Roy Browning who, with unexpected success, won two heats.

In the 11th heat some first class riding by Henry Long and Boshoff saw Williams pushed into third place—a position he also occupied in the 16th heat when Fred Williams and Fred Lang rode into first and second places.

D. Lang (S.A.) crashed into the fence in the 12th heat and was taken to hospital with suspected fractured ribs.

No rider gained a "possible," but Fred Williams, Dick Campbell and Henry Long all tied for top honours with 14 points each.

Point scores: Overseas: Williams 14, Campbell 14, Hussy 12, Griffiths 7, Dikes 7, Browning 7, Dalton 6. Total, 61 points.

South Africa: H. Long 14, F. Williams 12, F. Lang 7, D. Lang 4, T. Boshoff 1, H. Berrurier 1, McWilliams 2. Total, 45.

Heat winners: 1. F. Williams (overseas) 54.6sec.; 2. D. Campbell (overseas) 52.3sec.; 3. G. Hussy (overseas) 59.7sec.; 4. D. Campbell (overseas) 57.1sec.; 5. D. Lang (S.A.) 58.8sec.; 6. F. Williams (overseas) 57.3sec.; 7. R. Browning (overseas) 58.8sec.; 8. B. Williams (overseas) 58.1sec.; 9. F. Williams (S.A.) 57.4sec.

11. T. Boshoff (S.A.) 58.3sec.; 12. P. Dikes (overseas) 58.6sec.; 13. R. Browning (overseas) 57.8sec.; 14. H. Long (S.A.) 57.3sec.; 15. G. Hussy (overseas) 58.8sec.; 16. F. Williams (S.A.) 58.2sec.; 17. H. Long (S.A.) 57.6sec.; 18. F. Williams (overseas) 58.0sec.; 19. D. Campbell (overseas) 57.7sec.

Heat 10 (injured riders) was cancelled as there were no entries.

REDMOND IS CHALLENGER
Monday Feb. 8 1954

Trevor Redmond, Springs Star New Zealand captain, has been nominated by the South African Speedway Control Board as the challenger for Fred Williams' South African match race title.

The first "leg" of the challenge race on at the Olympia Park track, Redmond's home circuit—next Saturday. The world champion defends the second "leg" at Wembley Stadium on February 20.

Williams wins first leg of match race
Sunday Feb. 13 1954

Redmond, not the faintest hope of winning either heat in the first leg of their South African speedway match race challenge at Wembley last night. In the first heat Williams took the lead, hung on to the line after coming in from the outside and equalled Fred Lang's three lap record. In the second Williams was never in trouble.

But Redmond did lead his Springs Stars team to a six point win over Wembley Lions to give them an unassailable lead in the national league. Roy Bester put up the best performance in scoring 11 points. Bill Kitchen did not score many points but he gave considerable assistance to his team mates. Redmond came from behind to win two heats, failed at the gate in his third heat and could not catch Dave Collins in his fourth.

Wembley dropped six points in the first four heats but pulled four back before the 11th. But Kitchen joined Bester in the lead in that heat and in a grand team effort scored a 3-1 win and practically ensured success for Springs.

HEAT WINNERS
1. Redmond (S.) 76.3sec.; 2. Bester (S.) 77.1sec.; 3. Boshoff (W.) 77.8sec.; 4. Redmond (S.) 76.5sec.; 5. H. Long (W.) 77.6sec.; 6. Duval (H.) 78.1sec.; 7. Byford (W.) 76.6sec.; 8. F. Lang (W.) 76.7sec.; 9. H. Long (W.) 77.6sec.; 10. D. Collins (W.) 78.4sec.; 11. Bester (W.) 75.9sec.; 12. H. du Toit (S.) 78.5sec.; 13. Redmond (S.) 76.6sec.; 14. D. Perry (W.) 77.8sec.

The individual score was: Springs Stars: Bester 11, T. Redmond 8, Duval 7, W. Kitchen 5, H. du Toit 4, van Zyl 4, T. Edwards 3, B. Meiser 2. Total 45.

Wembley Lions: H. Long 10, F. Lang 9, H. Byford 6, D. Perry 6, T. Boshoff 5, Collins 5, J. Meade 4, Bester 0. Total 39.

England's Rally Just Failed
Saturday Feb. 20 1954

SOUTH AFRICA ... 56 ENGLAND ... 51

ENGLAND'S tremendous second half rally—they were 14 points down at the half-way stage—failed against the most fiercely determined post-war Springbok side, magnificently led by Henry Long, in this fourth speedway Test at Wembley Stadium last night (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

Nothing has been seen like it in years—the Springboks "will to win." This coupled with the individual performances of Long, Alec Blankfield and Fred Lang, all of whom beat world champion Fred Williams in the Springboks' last season's "live" England are now down to two in the Test series—and it will require a better all-round effort from South Africa to have any hope of winning the rubber.

O. J. Henry Long, Fred Lang and to a lesser extent, Harry du Toit, showed any sort of form. But usually the Springboks were battling for the back after being badly beaten at the starting gate.

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Toby Boshoff finished third in Heat Nine, but was disqualified for dangerous riding which brought down Bill Griffiths. On an appeal Griffiths, who was disqualified for receiving assistance—and there was no third place in this heat.

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F. Williams (B.), 77.5; Long (S.A.), 77.2; Crutcher (B.), 78.3; F. Williams (B.), 76.6; Kitchen (B.), 79.3; Crutcher (B.), 79.2; F. Williams (B.), 79.4; F. Lang (S.A.), 79.2; Crutcher (B.), 79.3.

Point Scores: British: F. Williams, Crutcher 18, Kitchen 1, Williams, Perry 3, Dural, Byford 1. Total 63. South Africa: F. Lang, Long 12, Du Toit 7, Boshoff 6, H. du Toit 4, D. Lang 3, Blankfield 2. Total 43.

Oxygen Plan
"Blew Up!"
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Point scores: Dominions: Campbell 15, Long 12, Redmond 9, Lang 8, Boshoff 6, Blankfield 4, Boshoff 1, total 53. England: Crutcher 17, Williams 13, Perry 1, Williams 1, Kitchen 5, Griffiths 3, Byford 1, total 33.

Williams wins first leg of match race
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The individual score was: Springs Stars: Bester 11, T. Redmond 8, Duval 7, W. Kitchen 5, H. du Toit 4, van Zyl 4, T. Edwards 3, B. Meiser 2. Total 45.

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England's Rally Just Failed
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ENGLAND'S tremendous second half rally—they were 14 points down at the half-way stage—failed against the most fiercely determined post-war Springbok side, magnificently led by Henry Long, in this fourth speedway Test at Wembley Stadium last night (writes ERIC LITCHFIELD).

Nothing has been seen like it in years—the Springboks "will to win." This coupled with the individual performances of Long, Alec Blankfield and Fred Lang, all of whom beat world champion Fred Williams in the Springboks' last season's "live" England are now down to two in the Test series—and it will require a better all-round effort from South Africa to have any hope of winning the rubber.

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F. Williams (B.), 77.5; Long (S.A.), 77.2; Crutcher (B.), 78.3; F. Williams (B.), 76.6; Kitchen (B.), 79.3; Crutcher (B.), 79.2; F. Williams (B.), 79.4; F. Lang (S.A.), 79.2; Crutcher (B.), 79.3.

Point Scores: British: F. Williams, Crutcher 18, Kitchen 1, Williams, Perry 3, Dural, Byford 1. Total 63. South Africa: F. Lang, Long 12, Du Toit 7, Boshoff 6, H. du Toit 4, D. Lang 3, Blankfield 2. Total 43.

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Tuesday Feb. 9 1954

Dominions ... 55, England ... 53

So Freddie Williams' "O-Plan"—oxygen—rebounded at Wembley Stadium last night. And New Zealander Dick Campbell, making his farewell appearance, led the Dominions side to a last-heat victory in this return "Chocolate Boot" speedway challenge match (writes ERIC LITCH

WILLIAMS LEADS 2-0 AND BREAKS RECORD

Williams chopped 2.7 secs. off his own three-lap record while winning the first heat in 46.6 secs. He drew the inside position at the starting gate and pulled away from Crutcher when the Randfontein Aces rider drifted slightly in the first bend.

The world champion's quicksilver starting helped him to go tearing away from Crutcher in the second heat again. Once Williams was ahead he never gave Crutcher an opening and won in 56.6 secs.

Williams now has a 2-0 lead and will be a clear favourite to clinch the match race title when he rides against Crutcher in the second "leg" at Wembley Stadium to-night.

Crutcher did score two victories over Williams in the challenge match between Randfontein Aces and Northern Transvaal. Randfontein won 45-29.

Point scores: Randfontein: Crutcher 11, A. Blankfield, Griffiths 8, Wills 7, Clark 5, J. Blankfield 4, Total 43.

Northern Transvaal: Williams 10, Perry 8, H. Serrurier 5, Bester 3, Duncan 2, James 1, Total 29.

Scratch Race Final: P. Williams, 65.6.

Teams for to-night:

Pretoria Eagles: Freddie Williams, James, Ian Williams, Duncan, Harry Serrurier, Doug Serrurier, Reserves: Davis, Mortimer.

Randfontein Aces: Wills, Clark, Griffiths, Alec Blankfield, Crutcher, Joe Blankfield, Reserves: McKenzie, Walker.

Fred Williams

In Hospital

Sat. Feb. 27 1954

Freddie Williams, world speedway champion, was detained in the Johannesburg General Hospital last night, following a fall in the third lap of his first heat with Brian Crutcher in the South African match-race championship at Wembley. Williams has a suspected fracture of the right collar-bone.

The match-race was abandoned. If Williams is unable to ride for England in the fifth Test match at Wembley on Friday, his place will be taken by Gerald Hussey.

Williams won the first "leg" 2-0 at Randfontein on Thursday, and the Speedway Control Board will meet to decide what must happen to this February challenge.

Three Teams in

Speed Match

Sat. Feb. 27 1954

A 12-heat triangular speedway match between Springs Stars, Wembley Lions and Randfontein Aces—two pairs ride for each team—will be held at the Olympia Park track, Springs, to-night.

Each team has picked their four best riders—all the men are past leaders—so top-class racing is assured. This is the first time a three-cornered match is being held in South Africa.

Springs: Trevor Redmond, Reg Duval, Bill Kitchen, Roy Bester.

Wembley: Henry Long, Howdy Byford, Fred Lang, Toby Boshoff.

Randfontein: Fred Wills, Alex Blankfield, Bill Griffiths, Joe Blankfield.

EDWARDS WANTED

"Sign up 'Toy' Edwards for Edinburgh." This was the text of a cable received by copper-haired Roy Bester, the Springbok who will fly to Britain on March 28 to re-join the Scottish team. But the 22-year-old Edwards, now in his second season of top-class speedway, may not be available.

"If Edwards cannot go, I shall recommend Bert Clark who is down from Northern Rhodesia," said Bester.

The Britain-bound aircraft on March 28 will have on board Bester, Fred Lang (joining Wembley), New Zealanders Trevor Redmond, Edwards or Clark, and probably Harry Serrurier who may be signed by Ipswich or Swindon.

★

The South African championship (holder: Henry Long), which was to have been run at Wembley Stadium on March 26, has now been postponed until the beginning of next season.

"The championship has always been held at the end of the season, but it has been decided to change this procedure, and in future it will be held in October or November. It will give the Springboks who have been riding overseas a chance to capitalise on their recent experience," said Mr. Gilbert Brown, Wembley Stadium general manager. So Henry Long will retain his hold on the title for another six months—at least!

Speedway duel



Howdy Byford (England) and Fred Lang (South Africa) battle for position as they go into the important first corner. Theirs was one of the many duels last night at the Wembley test which the visitors won 57-51.

Saturday March 6 1954

Crutcher and Perry give England speedway win

BRIAN CRUTCHER and Don Perry gave a masterly display of team riding when helping England to win the fifth and final speedway test against South Africa at Wembley last night. They scored 28 of England's points total of 57.

After having been in the lead twice, South Africa could score only 51, and England won the series 3-1.

Henry Long was the only South African who broke the run of Crutcher-Perry successes, but had to break the track record in the sixth heat to do so.

Put on their mettle because of the loss of Fred Williams and Bill Kitchen, the visiting riders made determined efforts to win minor points. They won seven of the 18 heats, but finished in second place 14 times.

At times it appeared that the tourists had been hounding the local riders in previous meetings, for at times they completely mastered men who had given them strong competition.

DAVIES'S SUCCESS

The brightest sparkle from the South African team came from Doug Davies, who won two heats and scored eight points in five rides in his first test.

Perhaps the biggest shock to South Africa was when Reg Duval and Bill Griffiths dashed away from Long in the first heat for a 5-1 win. After that it was a stern struggle for the South Africans to keep abreast of the Englishmen—with the Crutcher-Perry threat always materializing.

In the final heat Roy Bester led, but both Crutcher and Perry passed him together to set the seal on an outstanding performance.

HEAT WINNERS

The heat winners were: W. Griffiths (E.), 76.9secs.; R. Bester (S.A.), 77.2secs.; B. Crutcher (E.), 76.3secs.; H. du Toit (S.A.), 77.4secs.; F. Lang (S.A.), 77.1secs.; H. Long (S.A.), 75.5secs.; F. Lang (S.A.), 76.9secs.; H. Long (S.A.), 75.8secs.; D. Perry (E.), 77.5secs.; D. Davies (S.A.), 76.6secs.; H. du Toit (S.A.), 76.9secs.; B. Crutcher (E.), 77.3secs.; G. Hussey (E.), 76.6secs.; F. Lang (S.A.), 77secs.; B. Crutcher (E.), 78secs.; F. Lang (S.A.), 77.2secs.; D. Davies (S.A.), 78secs.; D. Perry (E.), 77.5secs.

The individual scores were: ENGLAND. — B. Crutcher 15, D. Perry 13, R. Duval 8, H. Byford 8, G. Hussey 7, W. Griffiths 4, I. Williams 2, Total 57. SOUTH AFRICA. — F. du Toit 12, F. Lang 12, H. Long 9, D. Davies 8, F. Wills 5, R. Bester 4, A. Blankfield 1, Total 51.

Record to Long and Crutcher

Sat. March 13 1954

Matthews is Champion



Friday March 5 1954

IT'S GEORGE! After a lean season, blond-haired George Matthews came right back to his best form on the speedway track at Springs on Saturday and won the Vanx Trophy with 13 points. And here is George (left) with the magnificent trophy, together with 17-year-old Doug Davies, South Africa's new speedway "prospect" who was joint runner-up with Henry Long.

Davies is holding the miniature trophy which goes to the winner.

In this handicap event—the only handicap championship in South African speedway—Matthews was off "Go" and received starts up to 100 yards. He won four heats and finished third in his other ride. Davies, on the 30-yard mark, continued the good form he showed in the fifth Test, but Henry Long found the 160-yard handicap just too much for him.

Leading scorers were: Matthews 13, Davies, Long 12, Hussey, Messer 10, Wills, Redmond 9.

Trevor Blokdyk, after two novice rides, scored eight points in this high-class "field."

FRI. MARCH 12, 1954

Long or Crutcher for All-comers Trophy

IT should be a Henry Long-Brian Crutcher speedway duel for the Schlesinger Trophy at Wembley Stadium to-night. The crowd-pulling clash between the two speedway stars comes in heat 36—the final outing.

The last heat has all the makings of a thrill-packed affair. There with Long and Crutcher when the tapes go up, will be Trevor Redmond and Don Perry.

Thus a tough battle is assured in heat 20. And Trevor Redmond, the determined New Zealander, and Don Perry, the hard-riding Irishman, are capable of a form upset.

The 19-year-old Crutcher has usually had the edge on Long while helping Britain win the Test series 3-1 against the Springboks this season.

Still, the South African champion did beat Crutcher in the final inter-

national, clocking the record time 75.5 secs. But it is a fact that the rtp-tearing British youngster "push him to the new mark."

Anyway, a grim battle seems certain if these two both have top points when they go out for the last time. If this is the case, then the man away at the starting gate should be the winner.

The Wembley "all-comers" championship will be the last outing for the six British riders—Don Perry, Brian Crutcher, B. Griffiths, Reg Duval, Ian Williams and "Howdy" Byford.

Crutcher Dropped Only One Point

New Zealander Trevor Redmond, captaining the Dominions, was the only rider to defeat 19-year-old Brian Crutcher (England) when his team won the speedway Challenge Match 55-53 at Springs on Saturday. Redmond's time (62.5 seconds) when he beat Crutcher was the fastest of the night. Points scorers:

Dominions: Redmond 16, Long 15, Bester 8, Fred Lang 7, Du Toit 6, Doug, Lang 4, Total: 55.

England: Crutcher 17, Perry 11, Byford 9, Ian Williams 8, Duval 6, Clarke 2, Total: 53.