

# THE HENRY LONG COLLECTION

## Part 12 - 1957/58

Much to the shock and consternation of supporters, the 1957/58 season was heralded with the news that 'Mr. Speedway' Buddy Fuller had resigned from the local speedway scene. The bitter dispute of the previous season had claimed another casualty and left Trevor Redmond and his Pretoria Speedway Association (PSA) the victors in the battle with Fuller's Speedway Riders' Association (SRA). However, this was to prove a hollow triumph and merely camouflaged the deep divisions and problems facing South African speedway. The immediate consequences of Fuller's departure were the break-up of the SRA and the loss of the spiritual home of speedway, Wembley Stadium. The riders who had allied themselves with the SRA faced a stark choice, - retire or move over to the newly created National Speedway Union, (NSU) which had been formed from the ashes of the PSA and SRA, and approved by the Speedway Control Board, (SCB). Most chose to take out licences with the NSU.

A Test series against a Europe team lead by former World Champion Ove Fundin resulted in a 3½ - 1½ victory for the Springboks. Apart from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test at Bulawayo when Henry Long and Roy Bester were unavailable for selection due to business reasons, the internationals were closely fought with few points separating the two sides. Star performers and top points scorers for South Africa were Redmond and Long whilst the Swedish duo of Fundin and Olle Nygren headed the visitors' charts.

A five team National League was initiated with four of the tracks from 1956/57 hosting league speedway – Pretoria, Durban, Springs (renamed East Rand) and Randfontein (West Rand). With Wembley no longer available for speedway, a Johannesburg Lions team entered the league in January 1958 using Pretoria Speedway Stadium as their home base. In the event the Lions only rode two matches before withdrawing from the competition. Two teams tied on points at the top of the league after all fixtures were completed, – Pretoria Eagles and Durban Hornets – , and, as had become almost a tradition, a play-off was staged to decide the championship. Despite an 18 point maximum from Hornets captain Long, the Eagles defeated the locals 54-48 at Hoy Park to clinch their third league title in as many years – two SA National League wins and the Control Board League of 1956/57.

The Transvaal Cup last staged in 1955/56 was resurrected with the Johannesburg Lions team being included despite their withdrawal from the league. Whilst the semi-final results are known, – the Lions defeating Pretoria Eagles and East Rand victorious against West Rand – , research has yet to identify the result of the 1<sup>st</sup> March final.

The South African Speedway Championship was staged on an 'Open' basis with two semi-finals at Pretoria and Durban deciding the qualifiers for the final at the capital city track. Henry Long, as so often since his riding debut back in 1946, proved again to be the master and triumphed with a 15 point maximum, two points clear of runner-up Olle Nygren, and a new track record.

Although all appeared bright on the surface, the state of South African speedway was parlous. A 14% Entertainment Tax, disenchantment with the continuous petty politics and squabbling, spectator malaise with the racing on offer and resultant poor attendances across the Union together with the public's love affair with stock-car racing, lead to speedway staring into the abyss with little prospect of avoiding the inevitable calamity.

### 1957/58 season's Roll of Honour

Test Series:

- S Africa 3½ - Europe 1½

SA Championship @ Pretoria:

- Henry Long

SA National League Champions:

- Pretoria Eagles

Transvaal (Handicap) Chmpshp @ Pretoria:

- Henry Long

Natal Open Chnpshp @ Hoy Park, Durban:

- Trevor Redmond

In the absence of cuttings from the latter part of his riding career, press articles for this and the concluding years of The Henry Long Collection are taken from the UK's 'Speedway Star & News', the majority written and submitted by S.African agents.

## Springboks are sad!

9.10.57 SSN UK  
writes Joy Greenhalgh  
Durban, South Africa.

EVERYONE in Durban was sad to hear that the Birmingham riders were fined and suspended for riding on certain tracks in the Union last year. It shook most people here because they find it hard to understand how the riders came to be penalised by a body whose connection with the running of speedway even the South Africans find hard to understand!

Buddy Fuller has resigned from the South African speedway scene, much to the regret of followers of the sport who have always looked upon him as the person who established speedway in South Africa and has done more than anyone else, South African or otherwise, for the sport.

Many people wonder in fact if overseas riders will dare to venture to the Union this year, knowing that they can easily be caught up in local squabbles and possibly penalised when they return home.

Everyone here is very upset about the fact that the person to whom South African speedway owes so much has been virtually forced out of the sport. They will not easily forget the circumstances, as they affect them, in this matter.

## HENRY LONG UNLUCKY

reports IVAN TALJOORD

14.12.57 SSN UK Durban, Natal.

TREVOR Redmond won the Natal Open Championship with a score of thirteen points from Henry Long. Trevor was a little lucky to take the title, for speedy Henry Long only dropped his points when he had to withdraw from one race when his foot rest came adrift.

Following the trophy presentation, Redmond praised the spirited display of Trevor Blokdyk and handed the trophy over to him.

Scorers: Trevor Redmond 13, Jimmy Scott 0.

Henry Long 12, Roy Bester 11, Trevor Blokdyk 11, Bobby Andrews 11, Howdy Cornell 10, Gerry Hickson 7, Toy Edwards 7, Charlie Branders 6, Vern McWilliams 6, Graham White 6, Nic Dormehl 5, Peter Hearne 4, Des Haswell 3, Ken Goussard 2,

## SOUTH AFRICAN PROSPECTS GOOD

writes JOHN BUNTON

14.12.57, SS&N UK

Pretoria, South Africa.

SOUTH Africa certainly deserves its tag of being "sunny South Africa", for temperatures day after day in Pretoria have been soaring to over 90 degrees F.

Bobby Andrews loves the conditions and his riding is excellent. He is scoring heavily and seems very happy. Des Haswell is also becoming very popular with his wild dashes round the fence. Unfortunately he has had a lot of motor trouble and is only just beginning to settle down.

Dennis Newton and Roy Bowers have arrived and have been in action at Pretoria and Durban. Ove Fundin is due on December 15 and will be appointed captain of the Durban Hornets. This sets at rest rumours that he would be going to Australia and New Zealand.

Olle Nygren should be in action by now and it only needs the arrival of the Pole, Edward Kupczynski, to complete the touring team. An invitation was sent to Howdy Byford but leg trouble prevents him from making the trip.

Trevor Redmond is riding at the top of his form and to date has finished second in the Northern Transvaal championship; first in the Natal 1957 Open as well as scoring a maximum for Pretoria in a best pairs contest.

In this meeting he beat the one and only Henry Long, much to the surprise and delight of the Pretoria public, who love T.R. almost as much as they do Olle Nygren. The latter has been with Pretoria Eagles for four seasons and will this year start his fifth term with them.

The National League should

be underway by now, teams having been selected and submitted to the Control Board for approval. Trevor Redmond has been elected chairman of the National Speedway Union, Henry Long is vice-chairman, while the writer is secretary. Things look good, for the Union is going from strength to strength.

The S.R.A. is having a battle this season and are barely managing to keep things going. They can no longer run meetings on their own and have to rely on stock-cars to fill the second-half of the programmes.

Arthur Duncan is back with Pretoria and has taken out his licence, which means he is back on the programmes. Neil Mortimer is also making a come-back and will be in action in the near future.

Another promising youngster from Johannesburg, Johnny Ackerman, is also with Pretoria. All in all, the National Speedway Union looks to be the strongest ever riders group in South Africa.

## Bester inspires 'Stars'

11.1.58 SSN UK Durban, Natal

HARD riding from Roy Bester was the inspiration that took East Rand Stars to a 52½-48½ points victory over the Durban Hornets on their home Hoy Park raceway (reports IVAN TALJAARD).

On form the Stars look

likely to win the National League competition, although the form of the West Rand Rockets has certainly been encouraging.

As yet there is still no optimistic news regarding a revival of the famed Wembley Lions team, although negotiations are, it is understood, still in progress.

## RIDERS WITHDRAW FROM MEETING

25.1.58 SS&N, UK

Pretoria, South Africa.

JOHANNESBURG Lions made their debut in the South African National League when they met and defeated West Rand Rockets by 48-44 on January 11. Included in the Lions' line-up were the remnants of the S.R.A. riders, among them Chairman Toby Boshoff and former Birmingham star Doug Davies.

Davies started the meeting strongly and, in one ride, reduced the track record to 60.6 seconds. Heavy rain spoilt the match and made the track surface tricky and difficult to negotiate (writes Ivan Taljaard).

In the closing stages Davies withdrew from racing and was replaced by hard-riding Roy Bester.

Best of the "Rockets" was Trevor Blokdyk, who rode spiritedly throughout the meeting and fully deserved his maximum. Ove Fundin made a poor start to the meeting and, like Davies, withdrew from the meeting.

JOHANNESBURG LIONS (48): Doug Davies 8, Aubrey Long 8, Toby Boshoff 8, Claude Warne 8, Jimmy Meade 6, Roy Bester 5, Johnny Gander 3, Ernie Blignaut 2.

WEST RAND ROCKETS (44): Trevor Blokdyk 15, Dennis Newton 11, Ove Fundin 5, Arthur Duncan 5, Peter Hearne 4, George Glenn 3, Stan Coch 1.

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS, February 8, 1958

# Southampton want Long

reports IVAN TALJAARD

Pretoria, South Africa.

**B**IG news in South African speedway circles is that Henry Long, who is currently riding on top form for Durban Hornets, has been approached by Southampton Speedway, England, to race a full season with the club.

In a cable to Long, the promoter, Charlie Knott, offered to guarantee Long return boat fares for himself and his family. Long is said to be considering the offer.

Riding for his team in a match against Pretoria Eagles at Durban on January 12, Long scored 14 points. Form that justifies his rating amongst the best in the world.

**DURBAN HORNETS (51½):** Henry Long 14, Roy Bowers 11.  
**PRETORIA EAGLES (50½):** Olle Nygren 18. 8.2.58 SS&N, UK

In the return encounter at Pretoria on January 15, Nygren scored another maximum and helped the Eagles to victory by 52-49.

**PRETORIA EAGLES (52):** Olle Nygren 18, Trevor Redmond 15, Howdy Cornell 8, Claude Warne 6, Jimmy Scott 3, Charlie Branders 2.

**DURBAN HORNETS (49):** Henry Long 13, Neil Mortimer 11, Roy Bowers 11, Gerry Hickson 5, Aubrey Long 4, Vern McWilliams 3, Graham White 2.

The South African National League tables stand thus:

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	P.
Pretoria Eagles	4	3	0	1	214	191	6
Durban Hornets	4	3	0	1	208	198	6
Johannesburg L.	1	1	0	0	48	44	2
East Rand Stars	3	1	0	2	148	157	2
West Rand Rkts.	4	0	0	4	184	212	0

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS, February 15, 1958

# THERE'S A CRISIS IN S. AFRICA

**S**OUTH African speedway lovers have been viewing proceedings this season with consternation. Progressively the sport has deteriorated until now the sign upon the wall flashes words of warning: STIMULATE NEW IDEAS INTO THE SPORT OR IT WILL FOLD.

Primary reason is that there is too much personal animosity in speedway. A case in point was the recent meeting between Durban and Pretoria. I quote from the "Pretoria News", which dealt fully with the matter:

"Enmity has broken out between Pretoria Eagles and Durban Hornets who meet each other in a first round speedway match at Durban on Saturday night. Trevor Redmond, the Eagles captain, is feeling sore at the treatment meted out to him by the Durban public and is whipping up extra enthusiasm for the match."

The "Pretoria News" then dealt fully with the rivalry between Olle Nygren and Henry Long, continuing:

"Redmond is wild because when he went on to the track to wish Durban supporters a Merry Christmas he was booed. At the next meeting it was announced that the Eagles were coming and the crowd gave his team a 'raspberry'."

## Managements too

Rivalry extends to managements, as well as riders and fans. "Pretoria News" quoted Eagles manager Johnnie Bunton as telling Reg Johnson of Durban: "Go and take something for your nerves. You can't win so why upset yourself."

Redmond has never been the most popular of visitors to Durban, a circuit which, during 1956-57, operated under the Buddy Fuller banner and in opposition to the National Speedway Union, of which Pretoria and Redmond were members.

It was shattering news for Natal fans when Durban linked up with the Union for the 1957-58 season. The resignation of Fuller from the S.R.A. was also disturbing news for fans, not only at Durban, but Bulawayo, Springs and several smaller centres.

*writes*  
**FARLEY SPENCER**  
from Johannesburg

## Small fires

The Durban-Pretoria incident is but one of several small fires smouldering in the Union. There are others, each of which threatens to break out into volcanic eruptions at the slightest provocation.

A test series, South Africa v. Europe, were arranged. The first match was scheduled for Bulawayo but, due to road conditions, the effect of heavy rain, the teams could not reach the

centre. This was, understandably, abandoned.

Another test was publicised for Pretoria on January 17, but an ordinary team event was raced off instead.

All these events are upsetting the fans and, as a consequence, the gates have been below the level of previous years. Explanations which have been put forward about this state of affairs include: Lack of interest by the visiting European riders; lack of drive by the National Speedway Union and too many petty differences between riders.

A lesson to South Africa to learn from is the failure of speedway in New Zealand a few years ago. National League racing folded and the sport is virtually extinct there. The same state of affairs is creeping into Springbok racing.

Several theories have been expressed as to the best way to re-kindle interest.

The soundest of the lot is the move to reinstate Buddy Fuller. Once known as "the man who built our speedway" to South Africans, he can, given the chance and support, become "the man who saved our speedway!"



South African rider Roy Bester (photo above), like other riders in the Union, watching developments in the sport very closely. Bester was, at one time, a member of the Edinburgh and Leicester teams.

# Long on form

Pretoria, South Africa.

**H**ARD riding by Swedish "ace" Olle Nygren, coupled with strong support from Bobby Andrews, took Pretoria Eagles to a 52-44 victory over Johannesburg Lions on January 24 (reports IVAN TALJAARD).

**PRETORIA EAGLES (52):** Olle Nygren 15, Bobby Andrews 13, Trevor Redmond 9, Howdy Cornell 7, Jimmy Scott 4, Charlie Branders 4.

**JOHANNESBURG LIONS (44):** Ove Fundin 10, Claude Warne 9, Toby Boshoff 7, Dennis Newton 6, Johnny Gander 6, Jimmy Meade 5, Johnny Ackerman 1.

The following week, January 31, the Transvaal Handicap Championships, open only to South African riders, was raced off. This resulted in a victory for Henry Long.

**SCORERS:** Henry Long 16, Claude Warne 13, Roy Bester 13, Neil Mortimer 11, Charlie Branders 11, Johnny Ackerman 8, Toby Boshoff 8, Peter Gast 8, Kevin Robertson 7, Stanley Coch 6, Johnny Gander 5, Dick Scott 5, Cliff Raats 3, Stan Hopf 3, Peter Hearne 3, Jimmy Meade 0.

# SOUTH AFRICANS BEAT EUROPEAN TEST TEAM

Pretoria, South Africa.

**"T**HE most exciting international ever seen in South Africa." That was the verdict of a large crowd who saw South Africa defeat Europe 53-52 in the third speedway test match at Pretoria on February 7 (reports IVAN TALJAARD).

Much of the credit for the Springboks' victory can be attributed to the sparkling displays of Trevor Redmond, Neil Mortimer, Henry Long and, to a lesser extent, Trevor Blokdyk.

Outstanding for the Europeans were Olle Nygren—who dropped only one point to Mortimer—and Ove Fundin. Only Dennis Newton of the rest of the team reproduced anything like international form.

Especially disappointing was the display of Bobby Andrews. In recent meetings he has turned in double figure scores consistently.

When Mortimer beat Nygren, the Swede pushed him so hard that new figures of 59.9 were recorded for the four laps.

**SOUTH AFRICA (53):** Trevor Redmond 14, Henry Long 13, Neil Mortimer 9, Trevor Blokdyk 8, Roy Bester 7, Claude Warne 2.

**EUROPE (52):** Olle Nygren 17, Ove Fundin 15, Dennis Newton 9, Roy Bowers 4, Des Haswell 4, Bob Andrews 3. (Third test match).

# ABSENCE OF LONG AND BESTER LOST S.A. TEST

22.2.58 SS&N, UK

reports JOHN BUNTON

Pretoria, South Africa. THE second speedway Test match between South Africa and Europe was brilliantly won by Europe in Bulawayo on Saturday evening, February 1, before one of the biggest crowds to attend a sporting function in the Federation.

The 500 yard track was as smooth as a billiard table for the big match and the racing was keen and hard throughout the evening. The South Africans put up a great fight but being without the services of riders of the calibre of Henry Long and Roy Bester who were unable to travel for business reasons and Neil Mortimer who was not selected for this test the substitutes found the going tough.

Trevor Redmond was top scorer for South Africa with 10½ points and the surprise of the evening was the return to form of Toy Edwards who scored a fine 9 points while the rapidly improving Trevor Blokdyk was once again amongst the points with 10.

Jimmy Scott, always a fine rider on the larger circuits did well to notch 5 while Cornell scored four which was disappointing for a rider of his ability.

Bev. Bird of Rhodesia only scored two while the reserves Neilson and Dormehl failed to score in two rides each.

Ove Fundin made a fine debut in Rhodesia with a maximum of 18 points and Olle Nygren dropped only one point during the meeting to Trevor Blokdyk to finish with 17. Dennis Newton proved that he is now a top class rider and his 13½ points were hard-earned and well deserved. Roy Bowers scored 4, Des Haswell 7 and Bob Andrews 5 but they were foils to the top scoring Fundin, Nygren and Newton more than kept their end up.

Fastest time of the night, 61 seconds, was set up by Trevor Blokdyk with 61.5 being registered by both Fundin and Nygren. A civic reception in the Town Hall after the show at which the skiffle trio of Dennis Newton, Roy Bowers and Bob Andrews completed a most successful week-end.

The trip up to Rhodesia and back in the speedway bus was not entirely without incident for heavy storms on the way North delayed the bus in many parts and on the return trip the bus skidded in the thick mud and all but overturned having to be pulled out of the mire by the native driver of a great Mercedes truck.

At another stage the truck ran into a herd of impala which suddenly crossed the road resulting in one buck being killed.

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS, March 22, 1958

# Long hits top form TAKES TITLE FROM ACE RIVALS

mond 15, Roy Bester 14, Olle Nygren 13, Howdy Cornell 11, Neil Mortimer 11, Jimmy Scott 10, Johnnie Ackerman 9

## Long wins S.A. title

THE 1958 South African Open Speedway Championship staged at the Pretoria Stadium in the capital of South Africa on Friday, February 28, 1958, proved to be a meeting of thrills and spills, climax and anti-climax.

For a start the two Durban riders, Vern McWilliams and Gerry Hickson, who had been seeded into the final because of the distance involved refused to ride unless they received return air fares from their home town to Pretoria and back.

The Durban Supporters' Club offered to pay their petrol from the coast to the Transvaal but felt that they could not run to air fares and the Pretoria Speedway Association, which has taken a hard knock this season, also felt that it could not foot the bill to this extent although it promised to give them free board and lodging during their sojourn in Pretoria.

This meant that Charlie Branders, Nick Dormehl and Des Haswell automatically qualified for the three remaining berths in the championship.

The first race promised to be a thriller and Dennis Newton chased Olle Nygren hard for two laps with Trevor Redmond a good third on a badly misfiring machine. Newton went out on the second lap and this left the field to finish in the above order.

In the second heat Johnny Ackerman crashed on the last bend and in the third stanza Jimmy Scott looped at the gate leaving Henry Long to win easily from Howdy Cornell who caused a sensation by beating Neil Mortimer.

Event 5 saw a great tussle between the two Swedes Olle Nygren and Ove Fundin which Fundin managed to win by inches much to the disappointment of the Pretoria fans who idolise Nygren.

The sixth event saw trouble in a big way with Mortimer crashing badly and Newton falling heavily in avoiding him. Bester had in the meantime packed up with a strained arm and this left Blokdyk to collect three easy points. [Latest news is that Mortimer's condition is serious.—Ed.]

Bobby Andrews, the young Wimbledon rider (above) did extremely well in the recent South African Open Championships finishing joint third; behind Henry Long and Olle Nygren but ahead of riders like Trevor Redmond and Ove Fundin.

THE first qualifying round of the South African Open Speedway Championship was raced at Pretoria on Friday, February 21, and was marked by the dominance of Ove Fundin and Henry Long over the rest of the field.

Swedish ace Fundin raced to a 15 point maximum in sensational style. Long dropped his only point when he came up against Fundin in heat ten.

This race will long be recalled by supporters at Pretoria. Fundin and Long were having a terrific duel for first place when the Swede drove hard inside the Springbok, then started to drift towards the fence.

Long managed to control his machine but by the time he had driven off the fence was in last place. Displaying terrific trackcraft and pace he passed two opponents to draw up on Fundin. The advantage, however, was Fundin's and he resisted all the attempts of "Poker-face Hal" to gain the verdict, amidst a storm of boing.

Eight qualifying scorers: Ove Fundin 15, Henry Long 14, Bobby Andrews 13, Dennis Newton 10, Roy Bowers 9, Des Haswell 8, Charlie Branders 8, Nick Dormehl 8.

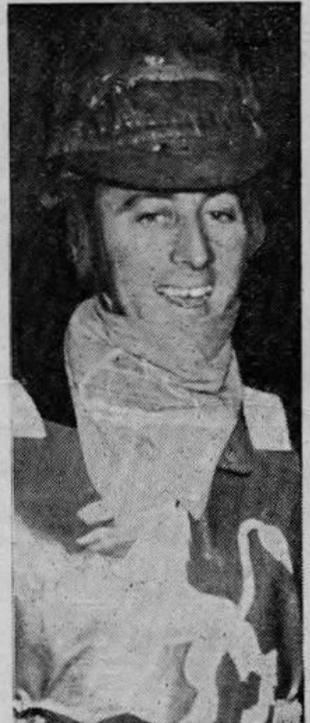
## Redmond's max

THE following evening the second qualifying round of the Championship was raced at Springs. This time it was the turn of Trevor Redmond to record maximum points, which he did with comparative ease.

Three times the tubby ex-Kiwi broke Fundin's four lap record time. Terrific riding indeed by one of the most popular riders in South African speedway.

One rider to catch the eye was Johnnie Ackerman, who turned in what was probably his best ever performance to score nine points. In one heat he crashed when about to overtake Olle Nygren on the run-in to the finishing line.

Eight qualifying scorers: Trevor Red-



Henry Long, South Africa's leading rider since 1948, proved that there is no one to match him on South African circuits by winning the Open Championship at Pretoria. His form this season has been little short of sensational.

Henry Long then beat the much-fancied Trevor Redmond and in doing so equalled the track record of 59.9 secs., but the ninth race was tame with only two starters and here Nygren took things easy to beat Dormehl in slow time.

Event 10 was the vital number with Long and Fundin unbeaten and opposed to one another. Fundin touched the tapes and in withdrawing lost the advantage as Henry Long flashed out of the gate with Bob Andrews hard on his rear wheel.

With Andrews riding in top form he hindered Fundin who was unable to catch Long and it must be admitted that the top was, in fact, unable to beat Andrews. A record of 59.5 secs. was credited to the flying and popular Henry Long.

From this stage onwards it was

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# top form

## FROM ACE RIVALS

a matter of crooked riders or damaged machinery and very few races saw the full four riders come to the line. This detracted somewhat from the thrills expected of the meeting although

Roy Bowers 8; Jim Scott 6; Nic Dormehl 6; Des Haswell 5; Charles Branders 3; Johnny Ackerman 1; Neil Mortimer 1; Roy Bester 0; Dennis Newton 0.

### Excitement at test

**T**HE fourth Test match in the series South Africa versus Europe was run at Olympia Park, Springs, on Saturday, March 1, in perfect weather conditions. A bright moon shone from a cloudless sky and so warm was the weather that hundreds of people sat in their shirt sleeves while none of the ladies wore coats.

Enthusiasm throughout was at fever pitch and there was a delay of 15 minutes at the start as the crowd outside the stadium threatened to break down the gates if the meeting started before everyone was admitted.

A request record quarter hour and some rock 'n' roll numbers kept everyone happy until the march on of the riders and the formal introduction of the teams to the crowd.

It was soon evident that the South Africans were out for blood although the absence of Neil Mortimer who was badly

Well known South African speedway personality John Bunton, on these pages recounts the story of the major meetings held in South Africa recently. His account of the Open Championship at Pretoria is one of the most interesting and gripping speedway reports to be penned for many years. In addition to being one of South Africa's leading motor sport journalists, Bunton is also secretary of the National Speedway Union.



injured at Pretoria on Friday weakened the Springboks somewhat.

Trevor Redmond thrilled the crowd by running round Ove Fundin in the first heat and Cornell easily beat Des Haswell to give the South Africans an early lead of 4-2. Nygren then beat Henry Long who seemed slightly jaded after his terrific effort in winning the Open Championship the night before but Johnny Ackerman beat Roy Bowers and S.A. kept a slender lead.

Newton and Andrews then rode well to score a 5-1 over Bester and Blokdyk but in the next race Redmond brought the fans to their feet by diving under Nygren at high speed and moving him out to the fence while Cornell beat Bowers and the scores were 12-12.

Two 3-3's had the teams level-pegging at 18-18 after six heats but some excellent team riding by Nygren saw Bowers through to second place and Europe scored another 5-1 over Bester and Blokdyk.

Trevor Redmond and Howdy Cornell then accounted for Newton and Andrews in perfect style to score a 5-1 and when interval arrived after nine heats the visit-

ors led by 28 to 26. A complete change of heat partners for the second half seemed to give the South Africans the edge and with Howdy Cornell riding in top form and Trevor Redmond being unbeatable and Henry Long going faster and faster as the night wore on, things began to hum.

Fundin broke his primary chain at the start of his second half race with Long and had to receive medical attention but Redmond continued to ride brilliantly eventually finishing with a well deserved (if hard) maximum. The last four heats were all drawn three-all and as the teams were level at 45-45 after Long and Blokdyk had scored a five-one against Fundin and Bowers in the 14th race which was the one in which Fundin was injured, the result of a draw at 54-54 was a very fair reflection of the night's racing and the crowd left the stadium in good spirits as the war-cry of the Stars, which was used as the Springbok war-cry, reverberated through the track area.

South Africa (54): Redmond 18, Long 15, Cornell 9, Blokdyk 6, Bester 3 and Ackerman 2.

Europe (54): Nygren 15, Fundin 14, Newton 10, Andrews 8, Bowers 4 and Haswell 3.

Springbok  
News Cable  
from  
**JOHN BUNTON**

it must be admitted that the top four, Long, Fundin, Redmond and Nygren were in fine fettle as were both Cornell and Andrews.

Haswell was excluded from event 13 for breaking the tapes and Fundin was excluded from event 15 for dangerous riding out of the gate when he blatantly, in the eyes of steward Dennis How, came across Dormehl and Cornell and forced Cornell off the track.

Nygren and Redmond continued to ride excellently but Long was not to be flustered and a time of 59.7 secs. in beating Nygren stamped him as the best rider of the night.

When Trevor Redmond, overcoming his machine troubles in the last race, decisively and fairly easily beat Ove Fundin, the championship was sealed for another year with Henry Long once again proving his all round ability, excellent machine preparation and unmatched skill on the big occasion.

For eleven years he has now been at the top and at the age of 28 seems set for another ten years of supremacy on the tracks of Southern Africa and do not forget that he was supposed to be a Johannesburg Wembley rider only. His riding this year has belied this theory and he has finished a fine season with a fantastic record.

Results: Henry Long 15; Ollie Nygren 13 (lost to Long and Fundin); Howdy Cornell 12 (lost to Long, Andrews and Nygren); Bob Andrews 12 (lost to Long, Nygren and Redmond); Trevor Redmond 11; Trevor Blokdyk 10; Ove Fundin 9,

Ollie Nygren turned in his usual top class display in both the Open Championship, in which he was runner up, and in the test match at Springs. Proof indeed that he is one of the finest trackmen in the World.

