

## LAKER RODE A-LONG

W. G. DUNCOMBE from Southern Rhodesia. 5.1.57 SSNUK

**S**OUTH African star Henry Long won the Rhodesian Open Speedway Championship held at Bulawayo on December 3 with a maximum score of 15 points. Local rider Bev Bird rode exceptionally well and was well in the running for the title until his last race when he crashed.

Non-starters for the meeting were South African riders Harry Serrurier, Aubrey Long and Johnny Gander and the Englishman Eric Boothroyd. They were involved in a car accident at Balla Balla and were unable to complete the journey to the track. None of the riders was hurt.

Players from the M.C.C. cricket team watched the meeting and Jim Laker presented the Golden Helmet to Henry Long after the meeting. Henry persuaded Jim to do a lap of honour as pillion passenger after the presentation.

Points scored were:

Henry Long (S.A.), 15 points; Alan Hunt (U.K.), 12; Bev Bird (Rho.), Jimmy Gooch (U.K.) and Johnny Bekker (S.A.), 10 each; Jimmy Meade (S.A.) and Peter Williams (U.K.), 9 each; Pat McKenzie (S.A.), Graham White and Arthur Duncan (S.A.), 6 each; Toby Boshoff (S.A.), 5; Peter Maschke, 4.

## At the test

19.1.57 SSNUK

## Nick carries on despite injuries

by I. N. TALJAARD

**A** CROWD estimated to be 10,000 attended the Goodwood Showgrounds, Capetown, on December 28, to see a test match between South Africa and England. As the track was one-third of a mile in length, heats were run over three laps instead of the usual four.

The result, which was loudly applauded by the crowd, was a 57-50 win for England. Roy Bester (South Africa) also received a cheer when he recorded a time of 71 seconds to set up a speed of 51 m.p.h. This was the fastest time of the meeting.

Spills were many, six taking place on the same spot. Only serious one involved the Coventry rider Nick Nicholls. Although badly shaken he continued to race in the meeting.



Everything is nice and friendly about this smiling group of riders. It is from the South African scene, and all eyes appear to be focussed on Doug Davies as he passes a flippant remark to Fred Wills. The others, left to right, are Doug Serrurier, Henry Long and Buddy Fuller. (Where and how did you find time to acquire that smashing sun tan, Buddy?) 19.1.57 SSNUK

# BESTER : BIRD : NICHOLLS Another maximum : Gallant performance : Injured in first race 9.2.57 SSNUK ENGLAND BEAT S.A.

**T**HE fourth speedway test match between South Africa and England at the Showgrounds, Bulawayo, on January 19, provided very good racing which delighted an excellent crowd (reports W. G. DUNCOMBE).

In heat one Henry Long in number one position was away first with Hunt close on his tail, while Duncan and Nicholls fought it out for third place. On the second lap, Long, Duncan and Nicholls had engine failure which left Hunt the sole finisher in 65.6.

Davies made the gate in heat two followed closely by Boothroyd and Warne. The green light was mistaken as a signal to stop by Davies and he drove on to the centre green.

Warne won from Boothroyd and Gooch. Davies pulled out of the rest of the meeting and his place was taken by local star Bev Bird. The time was 63.4.

South African Bester took the lead on the first bend from Mountford. Williams crashed on the back straight and Mortimer moved up into third place. Time 61.0.

Jim Lightfoot replaced Nicholls in heat four. Lightfoot crashed on the back straight and Warne jumped from his bike to miss him. In the re-run, minus Warne taken away for medical treatment, Bird held Hunt and Lightfoot off to win in 60.8.

In heat five Bester and Boothroyd gated together with Gooch and Mortimer fighting it out for third place. Bester was first across the line, Boothroyd second and Gooch third to make the score 11-10 in England's favour. Time 60.4.

Mountford led all the way in heat six. Williams and Long were in the minor placings, but Long eventually dropped back to let Duncan through for the odd point. Time 61.2.

Springbok Bester again showed his class in heat seven when he gained a length's lead at the start. Hunt, Nicholls and Mortimer all made a great try to match his pace, but Nicholls dropped out with engine trouble. Mortimer edged past Hunt to make the score England 20, South Africa 19. Time 60.0.

It was Boothroyd first away in heat eight, but Long and Duncan team rode to peg Gooch back into fourth place. Time 62.2.

Heat nine, the last race before the interval, found Bird South Africa's only starter and he held the lead until a last bend incident when Mountford and Williams passed him. Time 60.8.

Heat seventeen was a vital heat for South Africa. One point behind the question on everyone's lips was: Will they get a vital 5-1 or even a 4-2? Long was away first and held this position until the second bend when his engine failed. With Duncan coming third to Boothroyd and Gooch England were in an unbeatable position. The time was 62.6.

Last race again saw Bird the only South African on the grid. He held the lead until the second lap when Mountford broadsided past him to win. Williams took third place and England had won by seven points with a score of 56-49. The race time was 61.6.

**SOUTH AFRICA (49):** Henry Long 7, Arthur Duncan 6, Doug Davies 0, Claude Warne 3, Roy Bester 18, Neil Mortimer 6, Bev Bird 9.

**ENGLAND (56):** Alan Hunt 11, Nick Nicholls 0, Eric Boothroyd 15, Jimmy Gooch 6, Ron Mountford 16, Peter Williams 5, Jimmy Lightfoot 3.

After the test match, the two captains, Henry Long and Alan Hunt, lined up for the "Golden Helmet" Race. It was neck and neck until Hunt's engine failed to leave Long the only finisher.

A grand climax to the meeting was the presentation of trophies by Mayor Phillips of Bulawayo.



Happy group of riders above are the West Rand Rockets from South Africa. Line up is Howdy Byford, Peter Bast, Peter Greyling, Peter Craven, Trevor Blokdyk and Ray Cresp (back row). Dave Hardman, Lou Van Varthasen (team manager) and Percy Binder. Southampton fans will doubtless agree that Binder bears a strong facial resemblance to Charlie May. 9.2.57 SSNUK



The East Rand Stars parade for a team photo and included in their ranks are several well-known British speed personalities. Left to right are Dennis Newton, Fred van Zyl, Trevor Redmond, Nic Dormehl, Ronnie Genz (back row). Trevor Bond, Rusty Gay (team manager) and Dick Scott.



## Commonwealth beat Europe cables RAY CRESP

26.2.57 SS.NUK

Pretoria, Transvaal.

THE Commonwealth speedway team made no mistakes in the first test match against Europe at Randfontein on January 31. The Commonwealth boys went into the lead in heat three after two drawn races and from thence onwards held the advantage to win by 56-50.

The nearest Europe got to taking the lead was in heat 13 when they pulled up to one point of the Commonwealth to make the score 39-38. But that was the best that Europe could do and the Commonwealth resisted the challenge to increase the lead to half a dozen points in the last four races.

Ronnie Genz crashed in heat 5 and forced Olle Nygren to stop his machine.

When they carried "Genno" off on a stretcher everyone feared that the injury was serious. The doctor's examination revealed that he had a badly strained back and wanted him to pull out of the rest of the match.

Although suffering and in obvious agony, Genz pluckily insisted on riding. They Peter Craven started the match off in his usual speedy style and clocked a new time for the track of 60.5 seconds. But for a fall in heat four, Craven might well have scored another of his customary maximums, for he won all his remaining races. In the fall Peter hurt his leg and damaged his bike after Howdy Cornell ran into him.

Barry Briggs topped the Commonwealth score chart with fifteen points while Trevor Redmond and myself scored fourteen each.

EUROPE (50): P. Craven (England) 15, Olle Nygren (Sweden) 9, Howdy Byford (England) 9, Frank Johnson (Eng.) 7, Dennis Newton (Eng.) 5, Ronnie Genz (Eng.) 4, Jim Scott (South Africa, res.) 0. COMMONWEALTH (56): Barry Briggs (New Zealand) 15, Trevor Redmond (South Africa) 14, Ray Cresp (Australia) 14, Fred van Zyl (South Africa) 5, Trevor Blokdyk (South Africa) 5, Howdy Cornell (South Africa) 3.

## Davies and Duncan may not return to England

26.2.57 SS.NUK

writes

Mrs BONNIE BOOTHROYD

Johannesburg, South Africa.

BY now the news of the fatal accident to Alan Hunt will be known to all but the details might not. The fatality happened during the second part of the meeting at Wembley Stadium, Johannesburg, on February 1, when Klerksdorp Hawks were racing Durban Hornets in a league match.

Alan was out in the lead when his motor stopped and he was thrown. Several observers are of the opinion that he hit the safety fence while others disagree with this view. He was taken to hospital with a fracture to the base of the skull and died between 2-2.30 a.m. on Saturday, February 2. Everyone was deeply shocked at the accident.

Mrs. Eve Hunt flew from Durban on Saturday morning. Considering the shock she is taking everything very well. All the boys have promised to help her and see that she does not want for anything.

The funeral was scheduled for February 6 but details have not been finalised as Mrs. Hunt wants the body cremated so that the ashes can be taken back to England for burial.

RON Mountford hoped to have his foot out of plaster by February 8 and hoped to appear in the Wembley meeting of that date. . . . Peter Craven and the rest of his party will be sailing with our group on the "Pretoria Castle" on March 14.

THE meeting at Wembley Stadium on February 1 featured two league matches. The first was Wembley Lions v. Durban Hornets, the second Klerksdorp Hawks v. Durban Hornets. Eric Boothroyd again guested as captain of the Hawks. Until the fatal accident to Alan Hunt racing was very keen and exciting.

WEMBLEY LIONS (46): Henry Long 9, Peter Williams 8, Aubrey Long 7, Arthur Duncan 7, Pat McKenzie 6, Toby Bosh-off 4, John Meade 4, Stan Hopf 1. DURBAN HORNETS (32): Jimmy Gooch 9, Alan Hunt 8, Johnny Gander 7, Vern McWilliams 4, B. Motley 2, H. Bremner 2, Graham White 0, C. Slater 0.

DURBAN HORNETS (38): Johnny Gander 10, Jimmy Gooch 8, Alan Hunt 6, Vern McWilliams 5, B. Motley 3, Graham White 3, Hooky Bremner 3, C. Slater 0. KLERKS-DORP HAWKS (32): Eric Boothroyd 10, Neil Mortimer 9, Johnny Bekker 5, John Ackerman 5, B. Maddern 2, Harry Pretorius 1, Peter Mascake 0, Johnny Pinto 0.

# LONG WINS OPEN TITLE

## Gooch & Lightfoot best for England

reports  
Mrs. Bonnie Boothroyd  
(wife of Eric)

Johannesburg, South Africa.

THE meetings scheduled for January 11 and 12 were cancelled because of rain, but everything went according to plan at Wembley Stadium, Johannesburg, on January 19, when the Wembley Championship was staged.

Jimmy Gooch rode very well indeed, and with Eric Boothroyd, was the best of the English boys. In heat six Jim Lightfoot missed the gate, but battled his way through to second place to challenge Roy Bester. Unfortunately Jim fell off but was not hurt.

The climax of the meeting came in heat twenty when Henry Long, Doug Davies and Roy Bester, who had all scored twelve points, lined up with Alan Hunt. Bester missed the tapes and left Long and Davies to battle out the result. Long eventually won with Davies and Bester behind him.

Scorers: Henry Long 15, Doug Davies 14, Roy Bester 13, Eric Boothroyd 12, Jimmy Gooch 11, Claude Warne 8, Peter Williams 7, Nick Nicholls 7, Alan Hunt 7, Pat McKenzie 6, Arthur Duncan 5, Jim Lightfoot 5, Toy Edwards 4, Johnny Gander 3, Dave Collins 3.

2.3.57 SS.NUK

ON Friday, February 8, Pretoria staged the second test match between Europe and the Commonwealth team.

The match was run off under terrible conditions due to a heavy downfall of rain during the afternoon. Throughout the meeting riders battled against terrible odds and the result of 54-53 in Europe's favour was, to quote one correspondent, "rather meaningless".

Peter Craven crashed in his second race and damaged some ligaments in his left leg.

He caught his leg under his bike when he spilled, was rushed to hospital and had the complete leg placed in plaster. We all feel very sorry for him, for he has been riding very well and it seems a very cruel twist of fate that he should be cut down.

This was definitely a match in which courage played a very prominent part. Veteran Fred van Zyl of the Commonwealth team only scored one point . . . and to score it he had to push his bike home.

Olle Nygren and Barry Briggs scored seventeen points each, and each spoilt the other's maximum chances.

Actually, Olle scored another three points when pressed in as a replacement for Pete Craven in one race. Byford and Newton also had seven rides.

EUROPE (54): Olle Nygren 20, Ronnie Genz 4, Peter Craven 3, Frank Johnson 10, Howdy Byford 6, Dennis Newton 11.

COMMONWEALTH (53): Barry Briggs 17, Howdy Cornell 3, Trevor Redmond 13, Fred van Zyl 1, Ray Cresp 15, Trevor Blokdyk 3, Jimmy Scott (res.) 1.

Final meeting of a hectic week took place on the new circuit at Rustenburg on February 9 when Pretoria Eagles drew with Rustenburg Rockets 49 points all.



## S.A. win Fourth Test reports Mrs. B. Boothroyd

Johannesburg, Transvaal.

**S**OUTH Africa beat England by 57-51 in the fourth test match at Wembley Stadium, Johannesburg, on Friday, February 15. The English riders were very slow from the gate, but don't take that as an excuse for defeat, because the meeting was excellent and the racing first class.

Heat 3 was a terrific race and only in the third lap did Jimmy Gooch manage to edge past flying Roy Bester to take victory. Neil Mortimer was unable to line up in heat 4 because of engine trouble and this enabled the Springboks to "blood" Johnny Gander in international racing.

However he ran up against stiff opposition in Doug Davies, Eric Boothroyd and Jimmy Gooch and came in fourth.

The fifth heat had the crowd jumping with excitement as England's pairing of Ron Mountford and Nick Nicholls rode wheel to wheel to peg back Roy Bester. This was an unlucky race for Roy because on the last bend he experienced engine trouble.

Jimmy Gooch shook everyone in heat 6 when he jumped into the lead and led the redoubtable Henry Long for two laps. It takes a very good man though to beat "Poker Face Hal" at Wembley and he proved his superiority by overtaking Gooch. It was a splendid try though by Jimmy.

There was a nasty looking mix up in heat 10 when Johnny Gander, this time replacing Arthur Duncan, reared on the gate and brought down Jimmy Lightfoot. Jim was only bruised and took part in the re-run, won by Long from Boothroyd. Gander was excluded.

In heat 11 South Africa scored their first 5-1 of the match when Doug Davies and Neil Mortimer outpaced Ron Mountford. The score at this stage was South

Africa 32 England 34.

Heat 12 was drawn 3-3 but in the next heat Davies and Mortimer scored a second 5-1 for South Africa, this time at the expense of Eric Boothroyd who tried desperately to split them for the full four laps. South Africa went into the lead for the first time.

South Africa kept the pressure up until the end of the match and were worthy winners on this showing.

Heat results: Heat 1: Long, Boothroyd, Lightfoot, 77.8; Heat 2: Davies, Mountford, Nicholls, 78.1; Heat 3: Gooch, Bester, Williams, 77.1; Heat 4: Davies, Boothroyd, Lightfoot, 77.8; Heat 5: Mountford, Nicholls, Bester, 79.9; Heat 6: Long, Gooch, Williams, 76.9; Heat 7: Bester, Boothroyd, Lightfoot, 76.2; Heat 8: Long, Mountford, Nicholls, 77.2; Heat 9: Mortimer, Davies, Gooch, 76.2; Heat 10: Long, Boothroyd, Gooch, 78.0; Heat 11: Davies, Mortimer, Mountford, 77.2; Heat 12: Gooch, Bester, McKenzie, 81.3; Heat 13: Davies, Mortimer, Boothroyd, 78.3; Heat 14: Bester, Mountford, Nicholls, 78.8; Heat 15: Long, Gooch, Gander, 77.6; Heat 16: Bester, Boothroyd, Lightfoot, 78.7; Heat 17: Long, Mountford, Nicholls, 78.2; Heat 18: Davies, Williams, Mortimer, 77.8.

**SOUTH AFRICA (57):** Henry Long 18, Arthur Duncan 0, Doug Davies 18, Neil Mortimer 5, Roy Bester 13, Pat McKenzie 2, Johnny Gander (res.) 1. **ENGLAND (51):** Eric Boothroyd 11, Jim Lightfoot 5, Ron Mountford 11, Nick Nicholls 7, Peter Williams 5, Jimmy Gooch 12, Dave Collins (res.) did not ride.



The line-up below is not the South African team that did duty at Wembley but several of those in the photo below were members of the victorious squad that beat England in Johannesburg. Left to right are Doug Davies, Roy Bester, Toy Edwards and Pat McKenzie (back row); Arthur Duncan and Henry Long (kneeling).

## Brummies fill first three places in Hunt trophy meet

9.357 SSNUK

**J**ohannesburg, S.A. February 16, the majority of the top line riders in South Africa travelled to Durban to race in the "Alan Hunt Memorial Trophy" reports Mrs. Bonnie Boothroyd.

Doug Davies won the event with a fifteen point maximum and he was followed home by Eric Boothroyd (13) and Neil Mortimer (12). It seemed a very nice tribute to Alan to have three Brummies taking the first three placings.

There was a nasty accident in the first race when Basil Motley fell in the path of Henry Long who could not avoid a collision.

Another mix up occurred

in heat three when Johnny Gander and Ron Mountford collided after the finish. Gander suffered concussion, while Mountford damaged his machine. Neither took any further part in the meeting.

In heat sixteen Mortimer, Boothroyd and Long rode wheel to wheel throughout the race and only on the last bend did they sort themselves out with Long winning from Boothroyd and Mortimer.

Full scorers were Doug Davies 15, Eric Boothroyd 13, Neil Mortimer 12, Henry Long 11, Roy Browning 11, Roy Bester 9, Jimmy Gooch 8, Jim Lightfoot 7, Arthur Duncan 7, Vern McWilliams 5, Hooky Bremner 5, Dave

Collins 4, Ron Mountford 2, Johnny Gander 0, Graham White 0.

On the same evening the "East Rand Handicap" was staged at Springs. Nick Nicholls rode very well from his back mark handicap and came in second to Toy Edwards.

Full scorers: Toy Edwards 15, Nick Nicholls 12, Ernest Blignett 11, Pat McKenzie 11, Peter Williams 10, Theo Nel 10, Jimmy Meade 9, Dave Naude 9, Claude Warne 7, Johnny Ackerman 6, Toby Boshoff 4, Stan Hopf 3, Ernie Loveland 2, Ron Bantjes 2, Dave Watson 1.

## S.A. WIN AGAIN reports BONNIE BOOTHROYD

Johannesburg, Transvaal.

**T**HE match between a South African Select and England at Springs on February 20 was won by the Springboks by 39-33. Ron Mountford, although riding with a cracked rib, was in terrific form.

Heat 1: Doug Davies made the gate with Ron Mountford pushing him all the way and eventually passing him on the last lap in the fastest time of the night. Mountford, Davies, Edwards, 64.1 seconds.

Heat 2: Eric Boothroyd and Nick Nicholls made the gate and held off the Springbok pairing of Henry and Aub Long for a 5-1 win. Boothroyd, Nicholls, H. Long, 65.4.

Heat 3: South Africa retaliated with a 5-1 when Roy Bester and Claude Warne made the gate and held out Jimmy Gooch and Jimmy Lightfoot. Bester, Warne, Gooch, 65.1.

Heat 4: Boothroyd made the gate and had a grand duel with Davies for the full four laps. Boothroyd, Davies, Edwards, 65.0.

Heat 5: Gooch chased Long but couldn't quite make it. H. Long, Gooch, Lightfoot, 65.2.

Heat 6: A terrific race with Mountford battling it out with Bester in the front while Peter Williams had a similar duel with Claude Warne at the back. Mountford, Bester, Warne, 65.4.

Heat 7: Davies, Gooch, Lightfoot, 65.9.

Heat 8: A very good race but this time Mountford missed the gate and couldn't make the front. H. Long, Mountford, McKenzie, 65.8.

Heat 9: All four riders fought wheel to wheel throughout the four laps. Bester, Boothroyd, Nicholls, 66.1.

Heat 10: Another grand race with the winner in doubt until the last bend. McKenzie, Bester, Gooch, 65.8.

Heat 11: Mountford, Edwards, Lightfoot, 66.3.

Heat 12: At the start of this, the final race, the score was S.A., 34, England 32. The line up was Davies, Long, Boothroyd and Williams. The tapes only rose one side and left Long and Boothroyd sitting on the gate. The race should have been re-run but wasn't.

Long and Boothroyd chased after the other two. On the last bend Boothroyd had a flat tyre and was thrown into the fence. It looked nasty but he got to his feet, badly shaken and bruised. Davies, Long, Williams, 66.9.

**SOUTH AFRICA SELECT (39):** Doug Davies 10, Roy Bester 10, Henry Long 9, Toy Edwards 3, Eric Boothroyd 11, Claude Warne 2, Aub Long 0. **ENGLAND (33):** Ron Mountford 11, Eric Boothroyd 8, Jimmy Gooch 6, Jim Lightfoot 2, Nick Nicholls 3, Peter Williams 2, Dave Collins 1.

Peter Williams had a lot of engine trouble while Jimmy Lightfoot "seized" his motor and rode borrowed bikes all through the match.

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS,

March 16, 1957

**T**HE major individual event of the South African season, the 1957 Speedway Championship of South Africa was staged at Wembley Stadium, Johannesburg, on Friday, February 22. Henry Long won the event with 15 points, with Ron Mountford runner-up with 14 points.

Sharing joint third place were Eric Boothroyd and Doug Davies, who scored 12 points. These four riders and Roy Bester rode very well throughout the meeting.

Heat 1: H. Long, N. Nicholls, E. Loveland, 76.2.

Heat 2: Ron Mountford broke first with Jim Gooch and Claude Warne contesting second place. Gooch took the verdict. Time 77.2.

Heat 3: A terrific fight between Jim Lightfoot and Pat McKenzie for second place. McKenzie made it by about half an inch. D. Davies, P. McKenzie, J. Lightfoot, 77.2.

Heat 4: Roy Bester was first away. Eric Boothroyd and Peter Williams fought out second place. R. Bester, E. Boothroyd, P. Williams, 77.9.

Heat 5: A terrific race; Ron Mountford and Roy Bester rode wheel to wheel and neither gave an inch. Bester fell on the last lap but suffered nothing worse than a few bruises. R. Mountford, N. Nicholls, J. Lightfoot, 77.8.

Heat 6: E. Boothroyd, P. McKenzie, E. Loveland, 78.9.

## HENRY LONG IS NEW S. AFRICAN CHAMPION

exclusive final report by (Mrs.) B. Boothroyd

Heat 7: Doug Davies was first away with Jimmy Gooch and Arthur Duncan having a battle royal for second place. D. Davies, J. Gooch, A. Duncan, 78.9.

Heat 8: H. Long, P. Williams, C. Warne, 77.5.

Heat 9: A good race between Williams and Nicholls for second place. D. Davies, P. Williams, N. Nicholls, 78.0.

Heat 10: R. Mountford, J. Meade, T. Edwards, 79.0.

Heat 11: As the race began so the rain started to fall. This made the track very slippery. Jim Lightfoot fell and the race was stopped. Jim was excluded from the re-run. E. Boothroyd, A. Duncan, C. Warne, 79.9.

Heat 12: Henry Long and Roy Bester clashed—and had a real tear up for three laps. H. Long, R. Bester, J. Gooch, 77.0.

Heat 13: Eric Boothroyd was first away. Jimmy Gooch and Jimmy Meade fought it out for second place. Meade held tight for three laps then had to give "best" to Gooch. Time 80.0.

Heat 14: Doug Davies and

Roy Bester met and both made the gate together. It was a terrific race and Davies just made it across the line. Warne was third. Time 79.5.

Heat 15: Theo Nel took the place of Arthur Duncan, who was a non-starter because of engine trouble. R. Mountford, P. Williams, P. McKenzie, 79.0.

Heat 16: H. Long, T. Edwards, T. Boshoff, 78.7.

Heat 17: A very good race with Nicholls holding his own to the finish. N. Nicholls, P. McKenzie, C. Warne, 80.8.

Heat 18: J. Gooch, P. Williams, E. Loveland, 80.7.

Heat 19: Jimmy Meade made the gate and held Bester off until the last bend. This had the crowd on their toes. R. Bester, J. Meade, T. Boshoff, 81.0.

Heat 20: This was the race of the night. In it were Ron Mountford (12), Eric Boothroyd (11), Doug Davies (12), Henry Long (12). It was every man for himself from start to finish. On the third lap Davies fell while duelling with Long. He wasn't hurt, just bruised. H. Long, R. Mount-

ford, E. Boothroyd.

After this race the three riders went to the centre and made a brief speech before doing a lap of honour on the tractor.

Scorers: Henry Long (South Africa) 15, Ron Mountford (England) 14, Eric Boothroyd (England) 12, Doug Davies (South Africa) 12, Jimmy Gooch (England) 10, Roy Bester (S.A.) 10, Peter Williams (England) 9, Nick Nicholls (England) 8, Pat McKenzie (S.A.) 7, Jimmy Meade (S.A.) 5, Claude Warne (S.A.) 5, Arthur Duncan (S.A.) 3, Toy Edwards (S.A.) 3, Ernie Loveland (S.A.) 3, Jim Lightfoot (England) 2, Toby Boshoff (S.A.) 2, Theo Nel (res.) (S.A.) 0.

As you will know from the report by Joy Greenhalgh (see page 12) England beat South Africa by 59-49 at Durban to win both the match and the ashes. The racing was good and close with England just the more solid team.

Vic Ridgeon came in as reserve for England in place of Nick Nicholls in the last race (Continued on page 14)



TWELVE

SPEEDWAY STAR &amp; NEWS, March 16, 1957



Former Rye House and Southampton rider Vic Ridgeon (photo above) was reserve for England in the fifth test match. In his only race Vic created a very good impression indeed.

# South Africa were beaten by England

by JOY GREENHALGH

**HEAT 2:** Doug Davies was well to the fore and never looked like being beaten, though Eric Boothroyd and Jim Lightfoot rode fast and well.

Result: D. Davies, E. Boothroyd, J. Lightfoot. Time 55.6 secs.

**HEAT 3:** With the points still even excitement mounted, and this race proved most exciting. Jim Gooch showed that he has mastered the tricky circuit, and excelled himself. He is popular in Durban, for his many good rides for the Hornets, and he was cheered to victory in spite of being on the opposing side!

Result: J. Gooch, R. Bester, N. Nicholls. Time 56.2 secs.

**HEAT 4:** Once again Doug Davies proved himself, although Williams and Mountford were in the lead, team riding, for two laps. On the pits bend of the third lap Mountford rode slightly wide, and Doug was through and to the front like a flash, with the crowd going wild.

Result: D. Davies, P. Williams, R. Mountford. Time 55.1 secs.

**HEAT 5:** The defeat of the S.A. team really started in this heat, and the British team riding tactics were well to the fore. Roy Bester tried hard for an opening which never came.

Result: J. Lightfoot, E. Boothroyd, R. Bester. Time 55.8 secs.

**HEAT 6:** Gooch and Nicholls hit the first bend together, closely followed by Browning and Long, who simply could not break through, in spite of all their efforts.

Result: Gooch, Nicholls, Browning. Time 55.9 secs.

**HEAT 7:** Different riders, but very similar to the two previous heats!

Result: P. Williams, R. Mountford, R. Bester. Time 56.2 secs. South African hopes were now very low, with a 14 point deficit.

**HEAT 8:** This was definitely Roy Browning tried hard he simply did not have either the speed or skill to keep Boothroyd and Lightfoot from breaking through.

Result: H. Long, E. Boothroyd, J. Lightfoot. Time 55.6 secs.

**HEAT 9:** Result: D. Davies, J. Gooch, N. Nicholls. Time 55.3 secs.

**HEAT 10:** The crowd went wild with excitement to see Long and Browning turning the tables on the British riders—could they keep up the team riding or would the opposition prove too much for Roy? It didn't, and they treated us to a 5-1 victory.

Result: H. Long, R. Browning, P. Williams. Time 55.1 secs.

**HEAT 11:** This time team riding almost defeated Doug Davies, but he managed, after a terrific battle, to break through and pass Boothroyd, but could not catch Lightfoot.

Result: J. Lightfoot, D. Davies, E. Boothroyd. Time 55.7 secs.

**HEAT 12:** But for an engine failure for Nick Nicholls, team riding would have again beaten us.

Result: R. Bester, J. Gooch, A. Duncan. Time 55.9 secs.

**HEAT 13:** Result: D. Davies, R. Mountford, P. Williams. Time 55.8 secs.

**HEAT 14:** Eric Boothroyd came to grief but was fortunately not hurt.

Result: J. Lightfoot, R. Bester, A. Duncan. Time 56.1 secs.

**HEAT 15:** Once again Henry Long defeated the team riding tactics and rode brilliantly.

Result: H. Long, J. Gooch, N. Nicholls. Time 56.0 secs.

**HEAT 16:** Roy Bester retired

with engine trouble.

Result: R. Mountford, A. Duncan, P. Williams. Time 56.3 secs.

**HEAT 17:** Jim Lightfoot was too much for Roy Browning and soon broke up the team riding.

Result: H. Long, J. Lightfoot, R. Browning. Time 55.9 secs.

**HEAT 18:** It says much for the standard of racing, for interest did not wane in the last event of the evening, even though South Africa were well and truly beaten.

Vic Ridgeon had his first ride and proved to be fairly capable.

Result: D. Davies, J. Gooch, V. Ridgeon. Time 60 secs.

Scorers were:

**SOUTH AFRICA:** H. Long (capt.) 14, R. Browning 5, D. Davies 17, P. McKenzie 0, R. Bester 9, A. Duncan 4, V. McWilliams (res.) 0. Total 49.

**ENGLAND:** R. Mountford (capt.) 11, P. Williams 8, E. Boothroyd 7, J. Lightfoot 13, J. Gooch 14, N. Nicholls 5, V. Ridgeon (res.) 1. Total 59.

**THE** British Speedway riders were in fine form for the final "Test" against S.A., and they are to be congratulated on their fine performance. The meeting was one of the best of the season at Hoy Park, Durban, and was notable for the outstandingly good team riding of the British lads in particular.

The entire match was a delight to watch, and though the South Africans tried hard, they were simply not good enough, and were out-ridden.

For all this, the rider of the night was a South African—top point scorer Doug Davies, who, with an injured ankle, rode brilliantly. Only once was he beaten by the British team riding, and even then he managed to gain second place.

Henry Long, too, rode hard and well and provided his share of thrills for the spectators.

**HEAT 1:** Ron Mountford gated fast and well and led the field from start to finish, though Henry Long and Roy Browning battled hard to catch him.

Result: R. Mountford, H. Long, R. Browning. Time 56.1 secs.

## BESTER BEST

30.3.57 SSNUK

At the Bulawayo Showgrounds and was won by the South African pairing of Roy Bester and Arthur Duncan, who scored twenty points (reports W. G. Duncombe).

Prior to the start of the meeting the crowd stood for two minutes silence as tribute to Alan Hunt while during the interval a collection was made for his dependants. The result was £103/8/4d., a very grand show and surely proof how much Hunt's skill and personality was appreciated by Rhodesian fans.

There was only one spill during the meeting when Vic Ridgeon overslid on the first bend in heat 12.

Scorers were: Bester and Duncan 20; Mountford and Gooch 19; Long and Warne 17; Boothroyd and Nicholls 16; Williams and Ridgeon 7; Gander and Bird 4. Henry Long was unbeaten as an individual, scoring fifteen points.

Long also beat Ron Mountford in a captain's challenge match. For a while both rode neck and neck but Mountford "blew" his motor. Climaxing the meeting was the "Golden Helmet," run over two heats and a final.

Bester won from Boothroyd and Warne in that order.

## EUROPE WIN TEST

23.3.57 SSNUK

**DESPITE** strong opposition from Barry Briggs, Swedish rider Olle Nygren led the European team to a 59-49 points win over the Commonwealth in the third test match at Pretoria on March 1 (cables I. N. TAJAARD).

There was a gap between the performances of Nygren and his team mates, but while they did not stand out so brilliantly as individualists, they did impress with solid scoring and it was this fact that gave them victory.

In the Commonwealth team, Briggs and Redmond were the

star men but only Cresp offered them any real support. Cornell proved that he still has much to learn and several times was forced to give way when forceful European riders challenged him.

Best time of the meeting was by Olle Nygren in heat 3 when he headed Briggs in the very fast time of 60.2 seconds.

**EUROPE (59):** Olle Nygren 18, Ronnie Genz 11, Howdy Byford 11, Frank Johnson 10, Dennis Newton 9, Kev Robertson 0.

**COMMONWEALTH (49):** Barry Briggs 16, Trevor Redmond 14, Ray Cresp 8, Howdy Cornell 4, Dick Scott 3, Trevor Blokdyk 3, Charlie Branders 1.

Recently returned from South Africa were the two English touring parties. Proof that the differences of winter have been forgotten comes in the photo above. Lined up left to right (back row) are: Ronnie Genz, a lady friend, Eric Boothroyd, Frank Johnson, Mrs. Bonnie Boothroyd, Mrs. Brenda Craven, Peter Craven, Ron Mountford, Vic Ridgeon, Ted Flanagan (Oxford manager), Howdy Byford. Front row shows Mrs. Briggs, the late Alan Hunt's children, Barry Briggs, Ray Cresp, Dennis Newton and Nick Nicholls.

## Hornets win

30.3.57 SSNUK

**BY** beating Wembley Lions 46-26, Durban Hornets made certain of being champions of the South African speedway league. This match, which took place on Tuesday, March 12, had been cancelled on the previous three days because of rain.

It was easy going for the hard riding Hornets riders. In nine races their men were in two of the point scoring slots, and the final reckoning showed that they had won twelve of the fourteen races.

Best for Durban Hornets was the Vic Ridgeon-Roy Browning pair who scored nineteen points in four races. Doug Davies took the honours as the best individual, his tally being eleven points.

Henry Long and the English rider Eric Boothroyd were best for the visiting combination.

SPEEDWAY STAR & NEWS, April 20, 1957

