

NEW TRACKS

CYCLE SPEEDWAY RETURNS TO BRISTOL

After an absence of 14 years Cycle Speedway returned to Bristol on Saturday July 8th when the 2nd England v Poland International test match was held as the inaugural match for the newly built Filton track. A sizeable crowd turned up to witness the rebirth of the sport in the area, including a number of former riders from the Bristol St George era and a large group of young people from local schools.

After a slightly delayed start due to two of the English riders getting stuck in traffic the match got underway and was fast and furious from the start. Unfortunately a heavy rain storm at 10am had left the recently laid track very soft and it began to break up, which meant regular sweeping was required throughout the meeting. Despite this problem there was still some excellent racing, and the match provided a great spectacle for the public. Shaun Woodhouse was the strongest looking English rider and now has his own Bristol fan club amongst the watching youngsters.

Following the match the Filton club has received a great deal of interest and positive comment about the sport from people who saw the match, as well as others who didn't make it but had heard only good things about it. A prominent feature in the Bristol Evening Post and a slot on BBC West TV helped attract 20 youngsters to the first training session, which was taken by former Bristol riders Paul Gibbs and Paul Holloway. With considerable interest being shown from older riders looking to make a comeback, coupled with the signing of Polish International Lukasz Jozwiak gives the Filton club a reasonable pool of riders to build on as they prepare to start league racing next year.

Filton CSC would like to thank the Filton Town Council, Meads Civil Engineering, East Newport CSC, Graham Sutton, Geoff Gamage and Joe McLaughlin for all their help in bringing Cycle Speedway back to Bristol.

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What's in a name?

Well - quite a lot if you choose the right one. And that's exactly what 13 year old Ben Dicks did. The youngster from Bristol entered an on-line competition to find a nickname for the recently formed Filton cycle speedway team. Ben came up with the suggestion "Flyers" - and it won him a brand new cycle speedway bike.

The club received over 50 entries. Not surprisingly nine other people suggested the Flyers title but it was Ben's name that was drawn out of the hat and he stepped forward proudly to receive his prize from Local MP Doug Naysmith before the England v Poland international match.



The grand opening: pictured from left to right: Roger Hutchinson - Filton Town Council, George Peszynski - Polish Consul, Sally Challoner - BBC and Doug Naysmith MP

SOUTHMEAD RIDE AGAIN

For the first time in nearly 20 years, a group of boys from Southmead represented the Bristol area in the cycle speedway British junior championships under-14s at Oxford. Competing as part of the newly formed Filton club, the seven lads did themselves proud and earned themselves the respect of many of the sports elder statesmen *writes Andy Hewlett.*

Resplendent in their new bright yellow shirts, sponsored by Cliff Florists, they turned in some impressive displays. In what for some of them was their first time on a cycle speedway bike, they managed several wins and second places with top scorer Byron Dobbins making the A final, and Ben Dicks the B final.

The new team, which will be known as Southmead Pride, will initially share the new Filton track, but work is already underway to bring the Southmead track at Doncaster Park back into use.

