

## WHITE CITY SPEEDWAY ANNUAL REVIEW 1940

### BOMB TARGETS NOT PETROL SUPPLIES THE PROBLEM

Many writers have suggested that the use of petrol hastened the closure of all but Belle Vue during the war. This may have been a contributory factor, but of greater concern to the authorities was the potential loss of life should the enemy decide to bomb a sports crowd. Floodlights were not acceptable as they would have presented an easy target for enemy action.

Glasgow's 1940 season lasted all of six meetings before war-time restrictions (including rider availability) bit and closed it down. It would not reopen until hostilities were over in 1945.

### FIVE TEAM MEETINGS

The Lions raced five team meetings using riders who were still available. Three defeats, by Belle Vue, Harringay and the South were compensated for by wins over West Ham and Harringay. Meeting formats varied virtually week-to-week. A league style fourteen-heat opener was followed by a Test match-style event (ie. 18 heats) against West Ham. Harringay and the South each took part in twelve-heat matches and the last encounter with Harringay was a fifteen-heat effort.

Details of the opening and closing meetings are still quite sketchy and are in need of further information.

Glasgow raced at least one match away at Belle Vue. The programme for this meeting suggested that there were hopes to stage league speedway.

### GARLAND, LUNGO AND LOWTHER EVER-PRESENTS

Gruff Garland, so named because of his very deep voice, was yet again an ever-present, as was Will Lowther. Will endured the flack of the press scribes who were less than impressed with his poor machine preparation for some of the meetings. The war effort hauled Harold Jackson and George Pepper off after four and five events respectively.

Glasgow signed the Edinburgh skipper of 1939, George Greenwood, but he lasted two races before getting injured in his third and last outing. Leo Lungo also crossed over to the West to be an ever-present.

### CHITTY CHAMPION

West Ham's crooning Canadian, Eric Chitty, was the winner of the Glasgow Open Championship for 1940. Eric qualified for the Final race with 12-points and came home ahead of top scoring Jack Parker, Gruff Garland and Bill Longley.

### NO SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

The proposed Scottish Championship of 1940 fell victim to the war. It would have been staged the week after the second fixture versus Harringay.

### CONCLUSIONS

Lack of details for the first and last meetings staged at White City currently prevents a statistical analysis of the riders efforts. It has proved impossible to calculate the scorers based on available information.

The short season appears to have been popular with Glasgow's speedway supporters, although maybe unpopular with the powers that be, who were concerned about public safety.

### 1940 WHITE CITY DETAILS

Meeting No 1	Wed	08.05.1940	Glasgow 40 Belle Vue 43 (Challenge) Scottish Silver Gauntlet Oliver Hart
Meeting No. 2	Wed	15.05.1940	Glasgow 59 West Ham 48 (Challenge)
Meeting No. 3	Wed	22.05.1940	Glasgow 29 Harringay 43 (Challenge) Scottish Silver Helmet Bill Longley
Meeting No. 4	Wed	29.05.1940	Glasgow 34 The South 37 (Challenge)

Meeting No. 5	Wed	05.06.1940	Scottish Silver Torch	George Pepper
			Glasgow Open Championship	
			First	Eric Chitty
			Second	Jack Parker
			Third	Gruff Garland
Meeting No. 6	Wed	12.06.1940	Glasgow 51 Harringay 39 (Challenge)	
			All Star Scratch Race	Bill Longley
Meeting Proposed for...		19.06.1940	Scottish Championship	Not staged

### Wednesday 8 May 1940

Crowd: Not recorded

According to the *Daily Record's* correspondent there were 'thrills and spills once more at the White City Speedway last night'. Meanwhile, 'Cinder Sifter' of the *Times* reported: 'A crowd equally as good as that which has attended any previous meeting, and a thrilling night's sport during which the record time of 82.0 seconds was repeated by Frank Varey, gave speedway racing another great send off for the opening meeting.'

The *Daily Record* went on to say: 'Glasgow had the worst of luck in the opening match of the season against Manchester. The last heat was the decider with the score previously standing at 39-points for Glasgow and Manchester 38.'

'Harold Jackson went flashing ahead from the starting gate and was six lengths in front at the end of the first lap. He gradually increased his lead and looked like winning for Glasgow when his bike stalled in the last lap.'

'Tommy Bateman, Manchester, cut in front before Jackson's bike came to life again. In his effort to catch up, Jackson came a cropper. Bateman going on for first place. Jack Gordon, Manchester, was second with Will Lowther third, Manchester winning by three-points.'

George Pepper (pictured below) was the outstanding performer for Glasgow bagging 12-points and Frank Varey, the Belle Vue skipper, was also in good form, netting 11-points.

The *Govan Press* advised: 'The weather was good, the crowd was in excellent mood, the riders were among the most popular and the only fly in the ointment was that Glasgow just got beat in the last heat of their race against Manchester after enjoying the leading position all evening.'



'Cinder Sifter' noted Frank Varey's 'daring cutting in at the corners as only an expert could do.' They also reported on the Final of the scratch event saying: 'The race proved the most exciting of the series, very little dividing the competitors all the way. Hart, however, in his old spectacular Marine Gardens style, raced home a worthy winner with Garland and Butler taking second and third places.'

'Skids Stewart' of the *News* also filed a report for his readers. He advised that Ron Johnson looped and fell at the start of his first race and that Maurice Stobart injured himself during the meeting.

### Glasgow 40 Belle Vue 43 (Challenge)

Glasgow					Belle Vue						
Gruff Garland	0	3	2'	3	= 8+1	Frank Varey	3	2	3	3	= 11
Harold Jackson	3	f				Tommy Bateman	3				
George Pepper	3	3	3	3	= 12	Oliver Hart					

Maurice Stobart		Alan Butler	2	2	3	2	=	9
Ron Johnson	f	Ernie Price	3	3				
Jack Hyland		Jack White						
Will Lowther	1	Jack Gordon	2'					
Laurie Packer		George Cochbone						

Ht 1: Frank Varey, [ Harold Jackson, Tommy Bateman, ] Gruff Garland, 83.0  
Ht 2: George Pepper, Alan Butler, [ Maurice Stobart, Oliver Hart, 84.2  
Ht 3: Ernie Price, [ Jack Hyland, Jack White, ] Ron Johnson (f), 85.8  
Ht 4: Gruff Garland, Alan Butler, [ Will Lowther, Jack Gordon, 84.6  
Ht 5: George Pepper, Frank Varey, [ Maurice Stobart, Tommy Bateman, 82.0  
Ht 6: Alan Butler, [ Oliver Hart, Ron Johnson, Jack Hyland, 85.0  
Ht 7: Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, [ Ernie Price, Jack White, 85.0  
Ht 8: George Pepper, [ Laurie Packer, Oliver Hart, George Cochbone, 83.4  
Ht 9: Frank Varey, [ Tommy Bateman, Ron Johnson, Jack Hyland, 83.8  
Ht 10: Gruff Garland, Alan Butler, [ Harold Jackson, Oliver Hart, 83.4  
Ht 11: George Pepper, [ Maurice Stobart, Ernie Price, Jack White, 85.2  
Ht 12: Frank Varey, [ Ron Johnson, Laurie Packer, Jack Gordon, 84.6  
Ht 13: Ernie Price, [ Will Lowther, Maurice Stobart, George Cochbone, 86.0  
Ht 14: Tommy Bateman, Jack Gordon, Will Lowther, Harold Jackson (f), 88.8

### Scottish Silver Gauntlet

Ht 1: Gruff Garland, Tommy Price, [ NI, 86.4  
Ht 2: Alan Butler, Jack Hyland, [ NI, 85.6  
Ht 3: Oliver Hart, Laurie Packer, [ NI, 87.6  
Ht 4: George Pepper, Will Lowther, [ NI, 85.6  
Final: Oliver Hart, Gruff Garland, Alan Butler, George Pepper, 84.4

### Wednesday 15 May 1940

Crowd: Not recorded

'Bill Longley of West Ham was the star at the White City Speedway, Glasgow, last night, although his team was beaten by 59-points to 48. Bill won every race in which he competed. His last heat was a smasher. Getting off to a bad start, he was well behind at the first lap but by clever, daring riding he managed to catch the field and nip through on the last bend to win by a bike length.'

'Gruff Garland and Harold Jackson make an excellent combination. Their team work for Glasgow was a pleasure to watch. George Pepper was also in grand shape for Glasgow and the surprise of the evening, Leo Lungo, a local rider, was shoved into the last heat and came through on top, beating none other than Eric Chitty, one of West Ham's crack riders. Jack Gordon came down in the second last heat and sustained a dislocated shoulder.' (*Daily Record*)

The biggest disappointment of the night was the non-appearance of Arthur Atkinson, whose place was taken by George Saunders. Arthur had broken a collarbone on the Monday evening whilst riding in London. Eric Chitty and Ron Johnson were mentioned in other reports which stated that both had experienced bike troubles. This would account for Chitty's very patchy scoring in the match. One report suggests that Eric used the track spare, which was probably a pretty dodgy machine at the best of times.

The problems of war-time are clearly shown by comparing the team sheets with the results. The advertised West Ham line-up was Arthur Atkinson, Keith Harvey, Eric Chitty, Dick Geary, Bill Longley, Kid Curtis, Wilf Jay and Ron Clarke, which should be compared with the actual line-up.

Glasgow's side saw Jack Gordon replace Maurice Stobart and Leo Lungo filled-in for Jack Hyland.

### Glasgow 59 West Ham 48 (Challenge)

Glasgow		West Ham	
Harold Jackson	3 2' 2 3 2 2 = 14+1	Kid Curtis	1 3 1 0 3 f = 8
Gruff Garland	2' 3 0 2' 1' 1' = 9+4	George Saunders	0 2' 2' 1 1 2 = 8+2
George Pepper	3 2 3 3 2 3 = 16	Ron Clarke	1 1 1 1 0 1 = 5+1
Jack Gordon	2' 1' 0 2' 1' f = 6+4	Eric Chitty	0 0 3 0 3 2 = 8
Will Lowther	2 1 2 2 2 0 = 9	Bill Longley	3 3 3 3 3 3 = 18

Ron Johnson	1' 0 0	= 1+1	Jack White	0 0 1 0 0 0	= 1
Leo Lungo	3	= 3			
Laurie Packer	1' 0	= 1			

Ht 1: Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, Kid Curtis, George Saunders, 85.0  
Ht 2: George Pepper, Jack Gordon, Ron Clarke, Eric Chitty, 83.6  
Ht 3: Bill Longley, Will Lowther, Ron Johnson, Jack White, 85.2  
Ht 4: Gruff Garland, Harold Jackson, Ron Clarke, Eric Chitty, 85.4  
Ht 5: Bill Longley, George Pepper, Jack Gordon, Jack White, 84.0  
Ht 6: Kid Curtis, George Saunders, Will Lowther, Ron Johnson, 87.0  
Ht 7: Bill Longley, Harold Jackson, Jack White, Gruff Garland, 85.4  
Ht 8: George Pepper, George Saunders, Kid Curtis, Jack Gordon, 87.4  
Ht 9: Eric Chitty, Will Lowther, Ron Clarke, Ron Johnson, 84.0  
Ht 10: Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, George Saunders, Kid Curtis, 85.4  
Ht 11: George Pepper, Jack Gordon, Ron Clarke, Eric Chitty, 86.8  
Ht 12: Bill Longley, Will Lowther, Laurie Packer, Jack White, 86.8  
Ht 13: Eric Chitty, Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, Ron Clarke, 86.9  
Ht 14: Bill Longley, George Pepper, Jack Gordon, Jack White, 85.6  
Ht 15: Kid Curtis, Will Lowther, George Saunders, Laurie Packer, 88.8  
Ht 16: Bill Longley, Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, Jack White, 87.4  
Ht 17: George Pepper, George Saunders, Kid Curtis (f), Jack Gordon (f), 90.0  
Ht 18: Leo Lungo, Eric Chitty, Ron Clarke, Will Lowther, 91.0

No second-half

### Wednesday 22 May 1940

Crowd: Not recorded

The *Daily Record* maintained its coverage, saying: 'At the White City Speedway last night, Harringay had a run-away victory over Glasgow, getting the verdict with a margin of 14-points. Glasgow put up a hard fight, but against such a crack First Division team they hadn't a chance.'

'Jack Parker, the Harringay captain, gave a grand show and collected the maximum points. He was pipped, however, in the Silver Helmet heat by Glasgow's best rider of the evening, Bill Longley. Gruff Garland, the Glasgow skipper, had a lot of trouble with his machines.'

The Royal Racing Cheetahs appeared at this meeting. Pitted against greyhounds, they demonstrated their turn of speed to the speedway supporting public at White City. Well, that was the idea, but 'Skids Stewart' of the *News* was clearly not impressed. 'They might be the fastest animal in the world, but they certainly did not prove it last night. If I cut out the cigarettes for a week and got my wind back, I believe I could give the Cheetah a run for its money over 100 yards.'

'Skids' also gave a match report of the speedway, stating: 'Although Glasgow were beaten by Harringay they were not disgraced. To come within striking distance of Harringay is itself an achievement.'

'The maximum crowd figure was reached last night. They closed the gates shortly after the start. I'll bet Johnnie Hoskins is congratulating himself on fixing up Bill Longley. Bill did quite a tidy spot of points collecting and in addition won the Scottish Silver Helmet, inflicting on Jack Parker his only defeat of the evening. Most thrilling event of the night was the second heat of the match race. Bill Pitcher and Alec Statham got off to a grand start. After two laps they were still in the lead, with George Pepper in third. It looked all over bar the shouting. Pepper put on a terrific effort entering the last lap and the crowd shouted themselves hoarse when he nipped through to win top honours.'

### Glasgow 29 Harringay 43 (Challenge)

Glasgow				Harringay				
Harold Jackson	2	2	0 0	= 4	Jack Parker	3	3 3 3 3	= 12
Gruff Garland	0	0	1 2	= 3	Ron Mason	1'	0 0 0	= 1
George Pepper	3	2	2 2	= 9	Bill Pitcher	2	3 3 0	= 8
Will Lowther	0	0	1' 1'	= 2+2	Alec Statham	1'	1 2' 3	= 7+2
Bill Longley	3	2	1 2	= 8	Norman Parker	2	3 3 3	= 11
Leo Lungo	1	0	0	= 1	Jack Hyland	0	1 2' 1	= 4+1

Bob Lovell 1' = 1+1

- Ht 1: Jack Parker, Harold Jackson, Ron Mason, Gruff Garland, 85.8
- Ht 2: George Pepper, Bill Pitcher, Alec Statham, Will Lowther, 86.4
- Ht 3: Bill Longley, Norman Parker, Leo Lungo, Jack Hyland, 85.0
- Ht 4: Bill Pitcher, Harold Jackson, Alec Statham, 86.0
- Ht 5: Norman Parker, George Pepper, Jack Hyland, 84.4
- Ht 6: Jack Parker, Bill Longley, Bob Lovell, Ron Mason, 85.0
- Ht 7: Norman Parker, Jack Hyland, Gruff Garland, Harold Jackson, 85.2
- Ht 8: Jack Parker, George Pepper, Will Lowther, Ron Mason, 83.3
- Ht 9: Bill Pitcher, Alec Statham, Bill Longley, Leo Lungo, 86.7
- Ht 10: Norman Parker, Gruff Garland, Will Lowther, Ron Mason, 85.2
- Ht 11: Jack Parker, Bill Longley, Will Lowther, Bill Pitcher, 83.4
- Ht 12: Alec Statham, George Pepper, Jack Hyland, Leo Lungo, 86.6

All-Star Scratch Race

- Ht 1: Jack Parker, Jack Hyland, [ Gruff Garland, Bob Lovell, 85.0
- Ht 2: Bill Longley, Alec Statham, [ Norman Parker, Harold Jackson, 84.4
- Ht 3: George Pepper, Bill Pitcher, [ Will Lowther, Ron Mason, 86.9
- Final: Bill Longley, Jack Parker, Alec Statham, George Pepper, 83.0

Wednesday 29 May 1940

Crowd: Not recorded

'In a tight affair at the White City Speedway last night, Glasgow were beaten by an English select by a narrow margin of four-points. George Greenwood, riding for the first time in Glasgow colours, had a nasty spill and fractured his elbow', so said the opening part of the report in the *Daily Record*.

'Skids Stewart' noted: 'Greenwood was injured in the eighth heat', then went on to say: 'George Greenwood is as tough as they make them! When he was carried off with his right arm badly smashed up he waved the other arm to the crowd as much as to say 'Don't worry about me, I'll be O.K.''

'Skids' considered: 'We certainly had a packet of trouble at the White City last night. We lost the match against the South by four-points.' After mentioning Greenwood's injury, he then goes on to state: 'Bill Longley's bike was not behaving itself and Will Lowther could not strike his form.' He then added: 'Another member of the Glasgow team who deserves a big hand is George Pepper. George and Eric Chitty came down in a nasty bump in the first bend of the Scottish Silver Torch final. The judges said 're-run it', so the bold Mr Pepper received some medical attention, jumped on his bike and romped home the winner. Eric Chitty preferred to sit that one out and the race was run with three riders.'

'By the way, Pepper was the highest point scorer for the home team. Bill Longley's bike conked out in two heats, but he won his other two in fine fashion. Will Lowther is usually a steady point scorer for Glasgow, but last night poor old Will only managed to scrape up one-point. I'm afraid William, you'll need to spend a few hours on that bike of yours to get it in tip-top order for next week.'

It was announced that the Stockport-based former newsagent Harold Jackson, had been called-up by the Army and would not be riding at Glasgow again. It was also announced that George Pepper had been called up by the Air Force.

Harold would come back from the war and go on to become a leading light at Belle Vue in an administrative capacity, while George Pepper gave his life to the defence of the realm.

Glasgow 34 The South 37 (Challenge)

Glasgow			The South		
Harold Jackson	2	2' 3 0	= 7+1	Eric Chitty	3 3 2 0 = 8
Gruff Garland	1'	3 1 3	= 8+1	Jack Hyland	0 1 1' 2 = 4+1
Bill Longley	ef	3 3 ef	= 6	Bill Pitcher	3 0 3 2 = 8
George Greenwood	1	1 f	= 2	Ron Johnson	2' 0 1 1' = 4+2
George Pepper	2	2 2 3	= 9	Norman Parker	3 2 2 3 = 10
Will Lowther	0	0 0 1	= 1	Ron Clarke	1 0 0 2' = 3+1
Leo Lungo	1		= 1		

- Ht 1: Eric Chitty, Harold Jackson, Gruff Garland, Jack Hyland, 83.6  
 Ht 2: Bill Pitcher, Ron Johnson, George Greenwood, Bill Longley (ef), 85.0  
 Ht 3: Norman Parker, George Pepper, Ron Clarke, Will Lowther, 83.8  
 Ht 4: Gruff Garland, Harold Jackson, Bill Pitcher (nf), Ron Johnson (nf), 85.8  
 Ht 5: Bill Longley, Norman Parker, George Greenwood, 85.1  
 Ht 6: Eric Chitty, George Pepper, Jack Hyland, Will Lowther, 85.0  
 Ht 7: Harold Jackson, Norman Parker, Gruff Garland, 84.0  
 Ht 8: Bill Longley, Eric Chitty, Jack Hyland, George Greenwood (f), 84.1  
 Ht 9: Bill Pitcher, George Pepper, Ron Johnson, Will Lowther, 85.1  
 Ht 10: Norman Parker, Ron Clarke, Leo Lungo, Bill Longley (ef), 86.6  
 Ht 11: Gruff Garland, Bill Pitcher, Ron Johnson, 85.2  
 Ht 12: George Pepper, Jack Hyland, Will Lowther, 84.5

**Scottish Silver Torch**

- Ht 1: Norman Parker, Ron Johnson, Leo Lungo, Harold Jackson, 86.1  
 Ht 2: George Pepper, Gruff Garland, Jack Hyland, Ron Clarke, 84.5  
 Ht 3: Bill Longley, Eric Chitty, Bill Pitcher, Will Lowther, 82.3  
 Final: George Pepper, Norman Parker, Bill Longley, Eric Chitty (ns), 83.6

**Wednesday 5 June 1940**

Crowd: Not recorded

The prize for the winner of this event was the Scottish Silver Torch and it was carried off by Canadian Eric Chitty (pictured right).

According to the *Daily Record*: 'Although Jack Parker had the highest number of points in the Glasgow Championship at the White City Speedway last night, he was pipped for the award in the Final by Eric Chitty.'

'The four highest point scorers rode in the Final and Chitty, with a daring piece of riding, managed to collar the Championship. Bill Longley was right in form last night and Gruff Garland put up a good performance. Norman Parker was well up the list considering he was riding a borrowed machine. George Pepper won his first heat, but after that his bike gave him a lot of trouble.'



**Glasgow Open Championship**

Tommy Bateman	2 0 0 0	= 2	Norman Parker	1 2 1 3 3	= 10
Eric Chitty	3 2 2 2 3	= 12	George Pepper	3 0 f 0 1	= 4
Gruff Garland	nf 3 2 3 2	= 10	Bill Pitcher	2 1 1 0 1	= 5
Ron Mason	nf 0 1 0 0	= 1	Ernie Price	0 2 3 2 0	= 7
Ron Johnson	0 1 1 2	= 4	Bob Lovell	1 0	= 1
Bill Longley	2 3 3 2 3	= 13	Will Lowther (Reserve)	1 1	= 2
Jack Parker	3 3 3 3 2	= 14	Leo Lungo (Reserve)	2 1 1	= 4

- Ht 1: Eric Chitty, Tommy Bateman, Gruff Garland (nf), Ron Mason (nf), 84.5  
 Ht 2: Jack Parker, Bill Longley, Norman Parker, Ron Johnson, 84.0  
 Ht 3: George Pepper, Bill Pitcher, Bob Lovell, Ernie Price, 84.3  
 Ht 4: Gruff Garland, Norman Parker, Ron Johnson, Tommy Bateman, 83.5  
 Ht 5: Bill Longley, Eric Chitty, Will Lowther, George Pepper, 83.0

Ht 6: Jack Parker, Ernie Price, Bill Pitcher, Ron Mason, 84.5  
 Ht 7: Bill Longley, Gruff Garland, Norman Parker, George Pepper (f), 83.8  
 Ht 8: Ernie Price, Leo Lungo, Ron Mason, Tommy Bateman, 87.0  
 Ht 9: Jack Parker, Eric Chitty, Bill Pitcher, Bob Lovell, 84.0  
 Ht 10: Norman Parker, Ernie Price, Will Lowther, George Pepper, 85.5  
 Ht 11: Jack Parker, Eric Chitty, Ron Johnson, Bill Pitcher, 85.3  
 Ht 12: Gruff Garland, Bill Longley, Leo Lungo, Ron Mason, 84.4  
 Ht 13: Eric Chitty, Jack Parker, George Pepper, Ernie Price, 85.6  
 Ht 14: Norman Parker, Ron Johnson, Bill Pitcher, Tommy Bateman, 87.0  
 Ht 15: Bill Longley, Gruff Garland, Leo Lungo, Ron Mason, 84.5  
 Final: Eric Chitty, Jack Parker, Gruff Garland, Bill Longley, 84.8

Consolation Race

Ron Johnson, Ernie Price, Bill Pitcher, George Pepper (Not raced)

Wednesday 12 June 1940

Crowd: Not recorded (Sell-out)

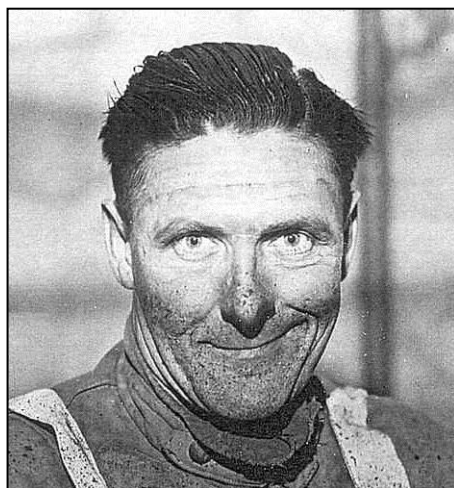
It was a revenge meeting for Glasgow. The *Daily Record* noted: ‘Glasgow had a run-away victory...last night beating Harringay by twelve-points. Bill Longley of Glasgow was undoubtedly the star performer, winning every race in which he competed, the All-Star Match Race into the bargain. Eric Chitty made the cinders fly and was second highest scorer for Glasgow. The Harringay captain, Jack Parker, and Bill Pitcher were the outstanding riders for the visiting team.’

In the *News* the meeting was reported as follows: ‘Bill Longley carried all before him at the White City Speedway last night. It was a real tonic to see him pile-up the points.’ ‘Skids’ went on: ‘We slipped across Harringay who won on the last visit to Glasgow to best us by fourteen-points.’

‘Jack Parker, the visiting captain, did not win a race. He filled second place on six occasions. Eric Chitty was in grand form. He was second highest point scorer in the team race and, but for a bit of bad luck, would have appeared in the Final. Will Lowther (pictured right) gave his best performance of the season. He collected nine-points.’

‘We put over a decisive win without George Pepper. George sent a wire yesterday that it was impossible to attend. Kid Curtis deputised and gained 7-points.’

So ended the short 1940 season. The meeting planned for the following week never took place due to further restrictions on crowd numbers.



Glasgow 51 Harringay 39 (Challenge)

Glasgow		Harringay	
Eric Chitty	3 3 3 3 0 = 12	Jack Parker	2 2 2 2 2 = 10
Gruff Garland	1 1 1 0 3 = 6	Ron Mason	0 1' 0 0 0 = 1+1
Kid Curtis	0 2' 2 1 2 = 7+1	Bill Pitcher	2' 2 2 3 1' = 10+2
Will Lowther	1 3 3 1 1 = 9	Alec Statham	3 0 0 1' 3 = 7+1
Bill Longley	3 3 3 3 3 = 15	Norman Parker	2 0 2 2 2' = 8+1
Bob Lovell	0 0 1 1 0 = 2	Laurie Packer	1 1 0 0 1 = 3

Ht 1: Eric Chitty, Jack Parker, Gruff Garland, Ron Mason, 83.1  
 Ht 2: Alec Statham, Bill Pitcher, Will Lowther, Kid Curtis, 85.3  
 Ht 3: Bill Longley, Norman Parker, Laurie Packer, Bob Lovell, 83.8  
 Ht 4: Eric Chitty, Bill Pitcher, Gruff Garland, Alec Statham, 84.4  
 Ht 5: Will Lowther, Kid Curtis, Laurie Packer, Norman Parker, 87.5  
 Ht 6: Bill Longley, Jack Parker, Ron Mason, Bob Lovell, 84.1

Ht 7: Eric Chitty, Norman Parker, Gruff Garland, Laurie Packer, 84.5  
 Ht 8: Will Lowther, Jack Parker, Kid Curtis, Ron Mason, 86.5  
 Ht 9: Bill Longley, Bill Pitcher, Bob Lovell, Alec Statham, 86.5  
 Ht 10: Eric Chitty, Norman Parker, Will Lowther, Ron Mason, 85.4  
 Ht 11: Bill Longley, Jack Parker, Alec Statham, Gruff Garland, 84.2  
 Ht 12: Bill Pitcher, Kid Curtis, Bob Lovell, Laurie Packer, 87.1  
 Ht 13: Bill Longley, Jack Parker, Bill Pitcher, Eric Chitty, 85.1  
 Ht 14: Gruff Garland, Kid Curtis, Laurie Packer, Ron Mason, 87.6  
 Ht 15: Alec Statham, Norman Parker, Will Lowther, Bob Lovell, 86.1

All-Star Scratch Race

Ht 1: Bill Pitcher, Jack Parker, [ Gruff Garland, Kid Curtis, 86.2  
 Ht 2: Bill Longley, Norman Parker, [ Eric Chitty, Alec Statham, 85.5  
 Final: Bill Longley, Bill Pitcher, Norman Parker, Jack Parker, 84.0

TRAVELLERS' TALES 1940

25.05.1940 Belle Vue 46 Glasgow 37 Challenge

Belle Vue, Manchester

Saturday 25 May 1940

Belle Vue intended to welcome back Joe Abbott into their ranks to face Glasgow. The programme advised that 'fans should not expect too much from from him. Long working hours and repercussions from old injuries have found their mark in past months. Give him a hand and then watch for fireworks.'

As it was Bill Kitchen took Joe's place.

The programme also featured Ernie Price a brother of the northern Tommy Price (not the Wembley man). It seems that Ernie started out at the little known New Brighton track, before going to the equally obscure Liverpool Seaforth venue. He arrived at Belle Vue via Liverpool Stanley.

On the Galasgow side Kid Curtis was an absentee and his place was taken by well-known Scots-Aussie Ron Johnson.

The programmme hinted that this was a league match and that Glasgow and Belle Vue were in a league, which was an amalgamation of tracks still running despite the wartime restrictions.

Belle Vue 46 Glasgow 37 (Challenge)

Belle Vue			Glasgow		
Eric Langton	3 3 3 3	= 12	Gruff Garland	1 1 1 3	= 6
Oliver Langton	2' 1 1 1	= 5+1	Harold Jackson	0 3 1 2	= 6
Ernie Price	2 1 1 0	= 4	Bill Longley	3 2 3 0	= 8
Oliver Hart	1' 3 3 2	= 9+1	Leo Lungo	0 0 0 1	= 1
Frank Varey	0 0 2' 2	= 4+1	George Pepper	2 2 2 2	= 8
Bill Kitchen	3 2 3 3	= 11	Will Lowther	1' 0 0 0	= 1+1
Alan Butler	0 1	= 1	Ron Johnson	2 2' 3 0	= 7+1
Jack White	0 0	= 0	Kid Curtis		DNR

Ht 1: Eric Langton, Oliver Langton, Gruff Garland, Harold Jackson, 78.8  
 Ht 2: Bill Longley, Ernie Price, Oliver Hart, Leo Lungo, 76.8  
 Ht 3: Bill Kitchen, George Pepper, Will Lowther, Frank Varey, 77.8  
 Ht 4: Oliver Hart, Ron Johnson, Gruff Garland, Alan Butler, 77.4  
 Ht 5: Eric Langton, Bill Longley, Oliver Langton, Leo Lungo, 77.8  
 Ht 6: Oliver Hart, George Pepper, Ernie Price, Will Lowther, 78.0  
 Ht 7: Harold Jackson, Bill Kitchen, Gruff Garland, Frank Varey, 78.6  
 Ht 8: Bill Longley, Ron Johnson, Ernie Price, Jack White, 77.8  
 Ht 9: Eric Langton, George Pepper, Oliver Hart, Will Lowther, 79.0  
 Ht 10: Gruff Garland, Oliver Hart, Harold Jackson, Ernie Price, 79.0



Ht 11: Bill Kitchen, Frank Varey, Bill Longley (nf), Leo Lungo (nf), 83.0  
Ht 12: Eric Langton, George Pepper, Alan Butler, Ron Johnson, 80.0  
Ht 13: Ron Johnson, Frank Varey, Leo Lungo, Jack White, 81.4  
Ht 14: Bill Kitchen, Harold Jackson, Oliver Langton, Will Lowther, 79.8

#### GLASGOW SPEEDWAY 1939-40 RIDERS A - Z

The club teams listed are those they rode for on the night. A blank indicates they rode in a representative match only. Their highest score, plus any trophy or second-half wins are also shown.

Note: ^ indicates a maximum score.

Cyril 1939	ANDERSON 1 meeting	Southampton 4	Australia
Arthur 1939	ATKINSON 1 meeting	West Ham Second-half only	England
Tommy 1939 1940	BATEMAN 2 meetings 2 meetings	Middlesborough; Belle Vue 4 2	England
Bob 1939	BAUSKILL 4 meetings	Glasgow Second-halves Only	Canada
Fred 1939	BELLIVEAU 10 meetings	Glasgow 7	Canada
Bill 1939	BIRTWELL 1 meeting	Edinburgh 0	England
Philip Edward 'Phil' 1939	BISHOP 3 Meetings	West Ham; Glasgow 6	England Winner Clydeside Scratch 06.05.39
Ken 1939	BLAIR 1 meeting	New Cross 2	Australia
Jim 1939	BOYD 1 meeting	Southampton 3	England
Edward 'Ted' 1939	BRAVERY 2 meetings	9	England
Cyril 'Chick' 1939	BRINE 2 meetings	Wembley 1	England
Alan 1939 1940	BUTLER 2 meetings 1 meeting	Belle Vue 4 9	England
Jack 1939	CHAPMAN 4 meetings	Southampton; Edinburgh 4	Australia
Eric Stephenson 'Rickey' 1939 1940	CHITTY 2 meetings 4 meetings	West Ham; Glasgow 10 12	Canada Winner Silver Torch 28.05.39 Glasgow Open Champion 05.06.40
Ron 1939	CLARKE 2 meetings	Southampton; West Ham 4	England

1940	2 meetings	5	
Jack 1939	CLEMENTSON 1 meeting	Glasgow 1	Australia
George 1940	COCHBONE 1 meeting	Belle Vue ?	England
Jack 1939	COOLEY 1 meeting	New Cross 0	England
Roy Allan 1939	CRAIGHEAD 2 meetings	West Ham 1	England
Gilbert 1939	CRAVEN 5 meetings	Wembley; Glasgow 1	England
Malcolm 1939	CRAVEN 1 meeting	Glasgow 9^	England Winner Gold Helmet 03.06.39
Joe 1939	CROWTHER 14 meetings	Glasgow 8	England
Frederick George 'Kid' 1939 1940	CURTIS 4 meetings 2 meetings	Newcastle; West Ham 7 8	England
Dick 1939	DENNIE 10 meetings	Glasgow 0	Scotland
Jack 'Broncho' 1939	DIXON 3 meetings	Sheffield 10	England
George 1939	ENRIGHT 1 meeting	West Ham 0	England
Ernie 1939	EVANS 2 meetings	Sheffield 12^	Australia Winner Silver Gauntlet 20.06.39 Winner Gold Helmet 22.07.39
Cecil 'Gruff' 1939 1940	GARLAND 12 meetings 6 meetings	Glasgow 10 9	Australia Winner Silver Gauntlet 10.06.39 Winner Silver Torch 08.07.39 Third Glasgow Open Champ 05.06.40
Leonard Edgar 'Dick' 1939	GEARY 2 meetings	Glasgow 5	England
Jimmy 1939	GIBB 1 meeting	8	Canada
Will 1939	GOODALL 2 meetings	Newcastle 2	England
James Alan 'Jack'/ 'Cloggie' 1940	GORDON 2 meetings	Belle Vue; Glasgow 6	England
Stan 1939	GREATREX 1 meeting	New Cross 8	England

(Actually born in Russia as Stan GREATOREX)

George	<b>GREENWOOD</b>	Middlesbrough; Edinburgh; Glasgow	England
1939	5 meetings	12 <sup>^</sup>	Winner Gold Helmet 13.05.39 Winner Silver Torch 24.07.39 Winner Silver Gauntlet 12.08.39 Winner Best Pairs 26.08.39
1940	1 meeting	2	
Syd	<b>GRIFFITHS</b>	Southampton	Wales
1939	1 meeting	6	
Jock	<b>HAMILTON</b>	Glasgow	Scotland
1939	3 meetings	5	
Jack	<b>HANCOCK</b>	Glasgow	Australia
1939	6 meetings	5	
Jens Fisker Henning 'Morian'	<b>HANSEN</b>	Glasgow	Denmark
1939	2 meetings	8	
Norman	<b>HARGREAVES</b>	Newcastle	England
1939	2 meetings	5	
Oliver	<b>HART</b>	Edinburgh; Belle Vue	England
1939	3 meetings	10	Winner Best Pairs 26.08.39
1940	1 meeting	?	Winner Silver Gauntlet 08.05.40
Reg	<b>HAY</b>	Newcastle	Australia
1939	4 meetings	3	
Don	<b>HOUGHTON</b>	Sheffield	England
1939	1 meeting	1	
Jack	<b>HYLAND</b>	Middlesbrough; Edinburgh; Glasgow	Australia
1939	5 meeting	6	
1940	3 meetings	4	
Norrie	<b>ISBISTER</b>	Edinburgh	Scotland
1939	3 meetings	0	
Harold	<b>JACKSON</b>	Glasgow	England
1939	15 meetings	12 <sup>^</sup>	
1940	4 meetings	14	
Bert	<b>JAMIESON</b>	Glasgow	Australia
1939	1 meeting	0	
Laurie	<b>JAMIESON</b>	Glasgow	Australia
1939	2 meetings	2	
Bert	<b>JONES</b>	Southampton	Australia
1939	1 meeting	4	
Clune	<b>JOHNSTONE</b>	Edinburgh	Canada
1939	1 meeting	Second-half only	

Ron 1940 (Real name: Ron JOHNSTON)	JOHNSON 4 meetings	Glasgow 4	Scotland
Benny 1939	KAUFMAN 1 meeting	Southampton 12	USA
Benny 1939	KING 1 meeting	New Cross 0	England
Dave 1939	LAMB 2 meetings	Edinburgh Second-halves only	Scotland
Wilfred Spencer 'Billy' 1939	LAMONT 3 meetings	Newcastle 8	Australia
Wilbur 1939	LAMOREAUX 1 meeting	Wimbledon 15^	USA Second Glasgow Champ 15.07.39
Aub 1939	LAWSON 1 meeting	Middlesbrough 6	Australia
Bill 1939	LITTLE 1 meeting	Glasgow Second-half only	
Syd 1939	LITTLEWOOD 3 meetings	Newcastle 8	Australia
Bill 1939 1940	LONGLEY 1 meeting 5 meetings	Glasgow; West Ham 9^ 18^	Australia Winner All-Star Scratch 22.05.40; & 12.06.40
Bob 1939 1940	LOVELL 2 meetings 2 meetings	West Ham 9 1	England
Will 1939 1940	LOWTHER 10 meetings 6 meetings	Middlesbrough; Glasgow 11 9	England
Leo 1939 1940	LUNGO 14 meetings 5 meetings	Edinburgh; Glasgow 4 4	Scotland
Doug 1939	McLAUGHLAN 2 meetings	Sheffield 2	Australia
Ron 1940	MASON 3 meetings	Harringay 1	England
Andy 1939	MENZIES 5 meetings	Glasgow; Wembley 9^	Australia Winner Silver Gauntlet 01.07.39
Horace Albert 'Paddy' 1939 (Real name: Horace BURKE)	MILLS 1 meeting	Sheffield 8	England
Croydon 'Cordy' 1939	MILNE 1 meeting	West Ham 14	USA Third Glasgow Champ 15.07.39

Jack 1939	MILNE 1 meeting	New Cross 13	USA Winner Glasgow Champ 15.07.39
George Thomas Nicholas 'Mick' 1939	MITCHELL 1 meeting	Edinburgh 2	England
Norman 1939	NEWTON 1 meeting	Unattached Second-half only	England
Bill 1939	NISBET 5 meetings	Glasgow 3	Scotland
Laurie 1939 1940	PACKER 11 meetings 2 meetings	Edinburgh; Glasgow 8 1	Australia
John 'Jack' 1940	PARKER 3 meetings	Harringay 12^	England Second Glasgow Open Cha 05.06.40
Norman 1940	PARKER 4 meetings	Harringay 11	England
Cliff 1939	PARKINSON 7 meetings	Glasgow; Wembley 9^	England Winner Gold Helmet 24.06.39
Jimmy 1939	PECK 1 meeting	Wembley 0	
George 1939 1940	PEPPER 5 meetings 5 meetings	Newcastle; Glasgow 12^ 16	Canada Winner Silver Helmet 26.08.39 Winner Silver Torch 29.05.40
Harwood 1939	PIKE 1 meeting	Sheffield 1	England
Matthew 'Chuck' 1939	PINKERTON 7 meetings	Glasgow Second-halves only	Scotland
Bill 1940	PITCHER 3 meetings	Harringay 8	England
Wilf 1939	PLANT 1 meeting	Edinburgh 2	England
Ivor 'Aussie'/'Ossie' 1939	POWELL 2 meetings	Sheffield 2	England
Ernie 1940	PRICE 2 meetings	Belle Vue 7	England
Lionel 1939	VAN PRAAG 1 meeting	Wembley N/A	Australia
Emerson 'Crocky' 1939	RAWDING 1 meeting	New Cross 4	USA
Godwin 'Goldie' 1939	RESTALL 1 meeting	New Cross 7	Canada

George 1940	SAUNDERS 1 meeting	West Ham 8	England
Tom 1939	SHEARER 3 meetings	Glasgow Second-halves only	Scotland
Charlie 1939	SPINKS 2 meetings	Glasgow 9^	Australia Winner Silver Torch 17.06.39
Alec 1940	STATHAM 2 meetings	Harringay 7	England
Harold 'Tiger' 1939	STEVENSON 3 meetings	Glasgow : West Ham 12^	England
Elwood 1939	STILLWELL 10 meetings	Glasgow 7	Canada
Maurice 1939 1940	STOBART 3 meetings 1 meeting	Newcastle; Glasgow 12^ ?	England
Roland 'Rol' 1939	STOBART 5 meetings	Glasgow; Newcastle 11	England
Noel 'Curly' 1939	THOMPSON 5 meetings	Glasgow 1	Australia
Jack 1939	TIDBURY 1 meeting	Edinburgh 1	England
Frank 1940	VAREY 1 meeting	Belle Vue 11	England
Colin 1939	WATSON 4 meetings	Glasgow; West Ham 9^	England Winner Silver Helmet 05.08.39
Vic 1939	WEIR 1 meeting	Glasgow 6	England
Bob 1939	WELLS 7 meetings	Glasgow; Middlesbrough 10	England
Jack 1940	WHITE 2 meetings	Belle Vue; West Ham 1	England
Syd 'Buck' 1939	WHITBY 2 meetings	West Ham 2	Australia
Harry 1939	WHITFIELD 2 meetings	Sheffield 3	England
George 1939	WILKS 2 meetings	Glasgow; Wembley 9^	England
Stan 1939	WILLIAMS 2 meetings	Sheffield 8	England

? 'Rusty'  
1939

WILSON  
1 meeting

Glasgow  
Second-half only

Frank  
1939

WOODROOFE  
3 meetings

Glasgow  
6

Australia