

BELLE VUE 1928

KIRKMANSHULME LANE

Updated 9.2.2025

Acknowledgements: Bob Ozanne, Matt Jackson, Les Drury and Graham Gleave

Saturday, 28th July 1928

Belle Vue's opening dirt track meeting at Kirkmanshulme Lane greyhound stadium. Attendance 18,000.

Belle Vue was one of A.J. Hunting's International Speedways tracks in 1928 and the opening ceremony was performed by W E Robbins, a director of ISL. The running of the meetings was handled by The North Manchester Motor Club.

Golden Helmet

Ht 1: Charlie Spinks, Eric Spencer, [Bert Perrigo, A J Ward]	87.1
Ht 2: Frank Arthur, Jim Kempster, [Mart Seiffert, Alec Hill]	83.6
Ht 3: Frank Pearce, Noel Johnson, [Alec Jackson, E Flynn]	89.7
Ht 4: Vic Huxley, Jack Parker, Eric Langton, Acorn Dobson]	84.1
Final: Frank Arthur, Charlie Spinks, Vic Huxley, Jack Parker (f)	82.0

The Golden Helmet was to be contested fortnightly under a points system. The helmet was won outright by the rider with the most points at the end of the year.

Manchester Handicap

Ht 1: Jim Kempster (2), Charlie Spinks (2), [Mart Seiffert (2), Alec Hill (5), R A Hickson (8), T Ashburn]	88.3
Ht 2: Frank Arthur (scr), Eric Spencer (3), [Bert Perrigo (3), A J Ward (7), R Sidebottom (8), E Kingdom (9)]	87.0
Ht 3: Jack Parker, Acorn Dobson, Frank Pearce (f), (Sid Allen (f), [Oliver Langton]	99.3
Ht 4: Alec Jackson, Vic Huxley, [Eric Langton, Cyril Manson]	95.0
SF1: Jim Kempster, Frank Arthur, Charlie Spinks, Eric Spencer (f)	81.5
SF2: Jack Parker, Alec Jackson, Vic Huxley, Acorn Dobson (f)	89.9
Final: Frank Arthur, Jim Kempster, Alec Jackson, Jack Parker (ns)	89.0

Jack Parker did not start due to engine problems.

Northern Counties Handicap

Oliver Langton	90.4
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Match Race

Charlie Spinks bt Frank Arthur

Lap Record

Jim Kempster	20.5
Frank Arthur	20.1
Vic Huxley	19.9

Saturday, 4th August 1928

Attendance 9,000/10,000

Evening Chronicle Cup (North Manchester Club Handicap)

(Restricted to English riders residing within 50 miles of Manchester)

Ht 1: Alec Jackson, Ben Wade	96.2
Ht 2: Cyril Manson, Wilf McClure, Acorn Dobson (f), Ernie Mangnall (ns)	106.6
Ht 3: Alec Hill, E Flynn	99.3
Ht 4: Tommy Hatch, G A Booth, W Stockdale (ns)	99.1
SF1: Alec Jackson, Cyril Manson	95.2
SF2: Alec Hill, Tommy Hatch	97.8
Final: Alec Hill (f, pushed), Cyril Manson	94.8

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Ben Unwin (2 secs), Eric Spencer	92.2
Ht 2: Eric Langton, Alec Jackson, [Mart Seiffert (f rmd), Dick Smythe, T Ashburn]	95.6
Ht 3: Tommy Hatch (f rmted), Colin Watson, Charlie Spinks (f)	101.8
Ht 4: Vic Huxley, Acorn Dobson	90.6
SF1: Eric Langton, Alec Jackson, Ben Unwin, Eric Spencer	95.6
SF2: Vic Huxley, Colin Watson, Acorn Dobson (f), Tommy Hatch (mf)	92.0
Final: Eric Langton, Colin Watson	96.8

Golden Gauntlet

Ht 1: Eric Spencer, Colin Watson	85.0
Ht 2: Alec Hill, Alec Jackson, Dicky Smythe (mf)	91.0
Ht 3: Mart Seiffert, Harry Pearce	95.6
Ht 4: Vic Huxley, Frank Whiting, Ben Unwin (mf)	89.0
Final: Vic Huxley, Eric Spencer	83.8

Match Race

Alec Jackson bt Acorn Dobson	90.8
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Lap Record Attempt (Holder Huxley 19.9)

Eric Spencer	21.0
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Tuesday, 7th August 1928

Postponed due to rain.

Saturday, 11th August 1928**North Manchester Club Handicap**

Ht 1: R Sidebottom, Edward Simons	103.5
Ht 2: R A Hickson, T Ashburn	102.3
Ht 3: Cyril Manson, Wilf McClure, Harold Tobin (f)	99.5
Ht 4: Bob Harrison, C A Drew	103.6
SF1: R Sidebottom, Edward Simons, [R A Hickson, T Ashburn]	103.5
SF2: Bob Harrison, Cyril Manson, [Wilf McClure, C A Drew]	102.9
Final: R Sidebottom (9), Bob Harrison (6), Cyril Manson (2), Edward Simons (14)	104.2

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Frank Varey, Alec Jackson, [Jack Bishop]	98.7
Ht 2 : Ben Unwin, Eric Langton, [T Ashburn]	94.9
Ht 3: Vic Huxley, Reg Pointer	92.4
Ht 4: Dicky Smythe, Bob Harrison, Tommy Hatch (f), G A Booth (mf)	92.7
SF1: Ben Unwin, Eric Langton, Frank Varey, Alec Jackson (mf)	94.5
SF2: Dicky Smythe, Reg Pointer, [Bob Harrison, Vic Huxley (f rmted)]	89.1
Final: Reg Pointer (3), Eric Langton (6), Ben Unwin (3), Dicky Smythe (2) (f)	91.0

Silver Sash

Ht 1: Jack Bishop, Tommy Hatch	91.8
Ht 2: Vic Huxley, Reg Pointer	83.8
Ht 3: Alec Jackson, Harry Pearce, Ben Unwin (mf), Bob Harrison (f)	91.4
Ht 4: Dicky Smythe, Cyril Manson, Acorn Dobson	89.3
Final: Dicky Smythe, Jack Bishop, Alec Jackson, Vic Huxley (f)	82.2

Lap Record Attempts (Holder Huxley 19.9)

Tommy Hatch	22.3
Alec Jackson	22.0 (British record)

Tuesday, 14th August 1928

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Ben Unwin, Harold Tobin, Alec Hill, [T Ashburn]	94.0
Ht 2: W Lewty (7 secs), Cyril Manson, Alec Jackson (f)	103.0
Ht 3: Reg Pointer, Harry Pearce, Acorn Dobson (f)	94.2
Ht 4: Oliver Langton, R Sidebottom, Tommy Hatch (f), (A J Ward (f)	92.0
SF1: Ben Unwin, Cyril Manson, Acorn Dobson (f), Harold Tobin (f)	92.6
SF2: Oliver Langton, R Sidebottom, [Reg Pointer, Alec Hill (scr)]	92.0
Final: Oliver Langton (scr), Ben Unwin, [Cyril Manson, R Sidebottom (10)]	89.2

Silver Armlet

Ht 1: Eric Langton, Cyril Manson, Tommy Hatch	88.2
Ht 2: Oliver Langton, A J Ward, [Frank Varey]	90.2
Ht 3: Ben Unwin, Acorn Dobson	92.0
Ht 4: Alec Hill, Tom Simister, Reg Pointer (f)	90.2
Final: Oliver Langton, Alec Hill, Ben Unwin (f)	84.8

North Manchester Club Handicap

Ht 1: Oliver Langton	90.4
Final: Alec Hill, Oliver Langton, R Sidebottom	91.6
Alternative: Langton (scr), Sidebottom (10), J Cookson (11), Hill (scr)	91.6

Lap Record Attempt (Holder Huxley 19.9)

Ben Unwin	20.2
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Thursday, 16th August 1928

The move from Saturday to Thursday was to accommodate the wishes of the Manchester United and City football clubs who feared the popularity of speedway would damage their attendances.

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Eric Langton (Scr), Bobby Hooton	93.0
Ht 2: Dicky Smythe (Scr), Cyril Manson	96.8
Ht 3: E Flynn, R Sidebottom, E O'Donnell (mf)	99.2
Ht 4: T Ashburn, Tommy Hatch, Ben Unwin (f)	90.0
SF1: Dicky Smythe, Eric Langton, R Goodson	84.0 (standing start record)
SF2: Tommy Hatch, R Sidebottom, T Ashburn	96.8
Final: Eric Langton (6), Tommy Hatch (7), R Sidebottom (9)	92.6

Silver Helmet

Ht 1: Tom Simister, Alec Hill	92.4
Ht 2: Dicky Smythe, Eric Langton	84.0
Ht 3: Oliver Langton, Tommy Hatch, Acorn Dobson (f)	87.6
Ht 4: Ben Unwin, Frank Varey (f rmted), E O'Donnell (mf)	97.6
Final: Dicky Smythe, Oliver Langton, Ben Unwin (f), Tom Simister (f)	78.2 (rolling start track record)

North Manchester Club Handicap

Ht 1: Harry Pearce, W Lewty	99.6
Ht 2: Frank Varey, J Connought	100.0
Ht 3: J Hall, Harold Tobin	100.2
Ht 4: R Hickson, E Flynn	99.4
SF1: Frank Varey, Harry Pearce	99.8
SF2: J Hall, E Flynn	103.2
Final: Frank Varey (7), E Flynn (3), J Hall (12)	100.4

Lap Record Attempts (Holder Huxley 19.9)

Dicky Smythe	19.4 (new record)
Oliver Langton	20.8

Norrthern Counties Club Handicap

Ht 1: Oliver Langton	90.4
Final: Oliver Langton, R Sidebottom	91.6

Tuesday, 21st August 1928**Evening Chronicle Cup (North Manchester Club Handicap)**

(Holder Alec Hill)

Ht 1: Oliver Langton, Tommy Hatch, [Alec Hill, Eric Langton, Acorn Dobson, E Flynn]	87.2
Ht 2: Cyril Manson, R Sidebottom, [Harry Pearce, Tom Simister, W Lewty, E Snaith]	101.8
Ht 3: R Hooten, J Sohl, [A Greenhalgh, T Ashburn, R Coll, C A Drew]	100.6
Ht 4: R Hickson, Wilf McClure, [J Cookson, G Woodall, A Simmons]	100.8
Ht 5: Frank Varey, Lloyd Flowers, [Ben Wade, C Wood, Albert Hill, S Clayton]	99.6
SF1: Oliver Langton, Tommy Hatch, [Cyril Manson, R Sidebottom, Bobby Hooton]	88.8
SF2: Frank Varey, R Hickson, [Sohl, McClure, Flowers]	97.0
Final: Oliver Langton, Frank Varey, Tommy Hatch, R Hickson (f)	89.6

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Jim Kempster (scr), Ben Wade, [C Manson, A Greenhalgh, B Wade, J Whittle]	86.6
Ht 2: Oliver Langton, Wilf McClure, [Harry Pearce, R Hooten, C Wood, H Conlan]	91.2
Ht 3: Charlie Spinks (scr), Alec Hill, Tom Simister (mf), [T Ashburn, G Woodall, Albert Hill]	89.2
Ht 4: Eric Langton, Larry Coffey, [W Lewty, C A Drew, H Woodall, J S Clayton]	90.6
Ht 5: Jimmy Stevens, Tommy Hatch, [Acorn Dobson, E Flynn, R Sidebottom]	90.8
SF1: Jim Kempster, Oliver Langton, Charlie Spinks, [Ben Wade, Wilf McClure]	85.4
SF2: Tommy Hatch, Eric Langton, Jimmy Stevens, [Alec Hill, Larry Coffey]	91.0
Final: Jim Kempster, Eric Langton, [Oliver Langton, Tommy Hatch]	85.6

North Manchester Cup

Ht 1: Frank Varey, Lloyd Flowers, J Whittle, J Conlan, E J Morris]	96.0
Ht 2: Wilf McClure, C Wood, J S Clayton, Albert Hill, E Snaith]	99.8
Ht 3: R Hickson, A Simmons, [G Woodall, J Cookson, C A Drew]	99.2
Ht 4: Harry Pearce, Bobby Hooton, [R Coll, T Ashburn, A Greenhalgh]	100.6
Final: Frank Varey, R Hickson, Wilf McClure, Harry Pearce	98.8

Silver Wings

Ht 1: Jim Kempster, Oliver Langton, [S Hobson, Cyril Manson]	84.0
Ht 2: Charlie Spinks, Ben Wade, [Eric Langton (f rmted), B Ward]	87.8
Ht 3: Alec Hill, Wilf McClure, [Larry Coffey (f rmted), C A Drew]	94.0
Ht 4: Jimmy Stevens, R Sidebottom, [Tom Simister, Harry Pearce]	89.0
Final: Charlie Spinks, Jim Kempster, [Alec Hill, Jimmy Stevens]	81.6

Lap Record Attempt (Holder Dicky Smythe 19.4)

Charlie Spinks	19.2 (new record)
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Match Race

Jimmy Stevens bt Larry Coffey (f)	87.2
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Thursday, 23rd August 1928**Belle Vue Handicap**

Ht 1: Greenhalgh*, Tom Simister, Vic Huxley (scr) mf)	104.4
Ht 2: Lloyd Flowers (9), Frank Arthur	93.6
Ht 3: Wilf McClure, T Ashburn, Larry Coffey (f)	103.8
Ht 4: Jimmy Stevens, Oliver Langton	89.6
Ht 5: Eric Langton, J E Whittle, L Jacobson (f), R Sidebottom (f)	90.6

SF1: Frank Arthur, Lloyd Flowers	86.0
SF2: Eric Langton, Oliver Langton, Jimmy Stevens (f), J E Whittle (ef)	88.6
Final: Oliver Langton, Frank Arthur, Eric Langton, Lloyd Flowers	84.2
*Believed to be N Greenhalgh	

Silver Pennant

Ht 1: Vic Huxley, Oliver Langton	80.6
Ht 2: Frank Arthur, Eric Langton	81.0
Ht 3: Jimmy Stevens, R Sidebottom, T Ashburn, Wilf McClure (mf)	92.2
Ht 4: Larry Coffey, Cyril Manson, Frank Varey (f)	85.4
Final: Frank Arthur, Jimmy Stevens, Vic Huxley (f), Larry Coffey (f)	84.0

North Manchester Cup Handicap

Final: R Sidebottom, Lloyd Flowers , Wilf McClure	98.2
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North Manchester Club Race Handicap

Final: Oliver Langton, Frank Arthur, Ben Wade (ef)	88.0
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Lap Record Attempt (Holder Charlie Spinks 19.2)

Frank Arthur	19.2 (record equalled)
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Match Race

Larry Coffey bt Jimmy Stevens (f)	84.2
There were 2 attempts to run this event. Stevens fell both times.	

Tuesday, 28th August 1928

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Larry Coffey (scr), Alec Hill, E Flynn	90.0
Ht 2: Oliver Langton (scr), E Kingdom, Lloyd Flowers (f), Booth (f)	89.6
Ht 3: Wilf McClure, Jim Kempster	99.6
Ht 4: Eric Langton, Jimmy Stevens	86.4
Ht 5: Colin Watson (scr), W Lewty, Acorn Dobson (f)	89.0
SF1: Oliver Langton, Wilf McClure	89.0
SF2: Eric Langton, Jim Kempster	88.0
Final: Eric Langton, Jim Kempster, [Oliver Langton, Wilf McClure]	89.8

Silver Wheel

Ht 1: Eric Langton, T Ashburn	89.4
Ht 2: Jimmy Stevens, Acorn Dobson	96.0
Ht 3: Jim Kempster, Alec Hill	90.6
Ht 4: Colin Watson, Oliver Langton	87.6
Final: Jim Kempster, Eric Langton, Colin Watson (f)	87.2

City Hall Cup

(First races for the City Hall Cup, a competition only open to riders residing within 50 miles of Manchester, to be held fortnightly.)

Eric Langton, Oliver Langton	90.6
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Lap Record Attempt

Abandoned due to weather conditions.

Belle Vue Track Championship

Oliver Langton, Eric Langton, Ben Wade	89.8
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North Manchester Cup

Harold Tobin, Wilf McClure	94.8
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Thursday, 30th August 1928

Attendance 10,000

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: T Ashburn (15), Eric Langton, E Kingdom, [Dicky Smythe]

Ht 2: Jimmy Stevens, Alec Hill, [Cyril Manson]

Ht 3: Albert Hill, Williams*, Larry Coffey (ns) R Sidebottom (ns)

Ht 4: Billy Lamont, C A Drew, Bobby Hooton

87.0

Ht 5: J S Clayton (16), Snaith

SF1: Eric Langton, Jimmy Stevens, Alec Hill, T Ashburn

SF2: C A Drew, Snaith, Billy Lamont (f)

Final: Eric Langton, Jimmy Stevens

86.2

*Possibly Fred Williams

Golden Helmet

Ht 1: Billy Lamont, Cyril B Manson

Ht 2: Eric Langton, [Dicky Smythe]

81.2

Ht 3: Wilf McClure, W Lewty

Ht 4: E Flynn, H Pearce, Jimmy Stevens (f)

Final: Billy Lamont, Eric Langton

82.2

North Manchester Club Handicap

Final: Harold Tobin, C A Drew, J Cookson

86.4

North Manchester Club Scratch Race

Final: Eric Langton, Harold Tobin

86.4

North Manchester Cup

Final: Harold Tobin, C A Drew, J Cookson

94.8

Match Races

Eric Langton bt Larry Coffey

80.4

Eric Langton bt Billy Lamont

80.4

Lap Record Attempt

Lamont (f)

Tuesday, 4th September 1928

The Thursday meetings at Belle Vue stopped because the pressure of travelling on the ISL star riders mainly based in London became too much. It was also suggested in the press that the Thursday race night was unprofitable.

After this meeting the N.M.M.C. fully took over all aspects of the speedway with I.S.L. remaining as track owner.

Attendance 15,000.

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: E O'Donnell, Cyril Manson, Lloyd Flowers, Jimmy Stevens (f rmted)

Ht 2: Eric Langton, Larry Coffey, E Kingdom, E Flynn (f)

Ht 3: Frank Varey, Oliver Langton, [C Hiscock]

Ht 4: Wilf McClure, J Sohl (12), Noel Johnson (mf)

Ht 5: Jim Kempster, Acorn Dobson

Final: E O'Donnell, Eric Langton, Jim Kempster

93.2

Golden Gauntlet

Ht 1: Frank Varey, Larry Coffey

Ht 2: Alec Hill, E Kingdom, Oliver Langton (mf)

Ht 3: Eric Langton, Jim Kempster, [R Sidebottom, E Flynn]

81.0

Ht 4: Acorn Dobson, Wilf McClure, Noel Johnson (mf)

Final: Eric Langton, Frank Varey, [Hill, Dobson] 81.8

Evening Chronicle Cup (North Manchester Club Handicap)

(Holder Oliver Langton)

Final: Oliver Langton, Cyril B Manson, Eric Langton (f), Alec Hill (mf) 90.6

Challenge Race

Jim Kempster, Eric Langton, Oliver Langton

Lap Record Attempt (Holder Charlie Spinks and Frank Arthur 19.2)

Noel Johnson 19.6

North Manchester Club Lap Record Attempt (Holder Oliver Langton 20.8)

Frank Varey 21.4

North Manchester Club Cup

A Pratt, Wilf McClure, Ben Wade 99.2

Tuesday, 11th September 1928

Attendance 10,000.

City Hall Cup

Eric Langton, Tommy Hatch 85.2

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: Lloyd Flowers, Ben Unwin, E Kingdom

Ht 2: Fred Fearnley, Alec Hill, W Lewty, [M Crook]

Ht 3: Tommy Hatch, Cyril Manson, E Flynn

Ht 4: Wilf McClure, Albert Hill, [Harry Pearce]

Ht 5: Ben Wade (8), Acorn Dobson

SF1: Tommy Hatch, Lloyd Flowers, Alec Hill

SF2: Ben Wade, Wilf McClure, Acorn Dobson (f)

Final: Alec Hill, Wilf McClure, Ben Wade, Tommy Hatch (f) 87.8

Silver Sash

Ht 1: Tommy Hatch, Eric Langton, Ben Unwin

Ht 2: Alec Jackson, Oliver Langton, [Larry Coffey]

Ht 3: Alec Hill, E Flynn

Ht 4: Jimmy Stevens, Wilf McClure

Final: Alec Jackson, Alec Hill, [Tommy Hatch (f), Jimmy Stevens (ns)] 86.0

Jimmy Stevens was a non-starter, having fallen in 2 previous attempts to run the race.

Norman Hartley took part in the heats.

North Manchester Club Handicap

Final: Bn Wade, H Wych, [R A Hickson (f)] 90.8

Lap Record Attempts

Tommy Hatch 20.8

Oliver Langton 20.8

Ben Unwin 19.4 (record)

Tuesday, 18th September 1928

Attendance 12,000.

Evening Chronicle Cup (North Manchester Club Handicap)

Ht 1: [Acorn Dobson, Wilf McClure, Norman Hartley, T Ashburn, W Fletcher, F Whiting]
Ht 2: [Frank Varey, Alec Hill, Alec Jackson, Lloyd Flowers, Tommy Hatch, Harold Tobin]
Ht 3: [Oliver Langton, Tom Simister, E Mangnall, G Flynn, Dan Buck, J Cookson]
Ht 4: [Eric Langton, E O'Donnell, B Wade, W Lewty, A Pratt, Cyril Manson]
Final: Alec Jackson, Oliver Langton, [E O'Donnell] 86.2

Belle Vue Handicap

Ht 1: S J Clayton (10), Acorn Dobson (scr), [Wilf McClure] 96.8
Ht 2: Eric Langton, Norman Hartley, [Frank Pearce (mf)] 89.4
Ht 3: E O'Donnell, G A Drew, Alec Jackson 98.2
Ht 4: Oliver Langton, E Flynn 90.0
Ht 5: H Wych, Dan Buck, [J Sohl (f), Jimmy Stevens (f)] 103.0
SF1: S J Clayton, Acorn Dobson, [Norman Hartley] 97.0
SF2: Oliver Langton, G A Drew, H Wych 89.2
*Final: Oliver Langton (1), Acorn Dobson (4), G A Drew, S J Clayton 84.6
*An alternative source has Alec Jackson second.

Silver Armlet

Ht 1: Eric Langton, Frank Varey, [Tom Simister (f)] 83.2
Ht 2: Alec Jackson, W Kingdom 86.8
Ht 3: Acorn Dobson, Wilf McClure, [Harry Pearce (f), Norman Hartley (f)] 91.0
Ht 4: Oliver Langton, Frank Pearce 81.6
Final: Oliver Langton, Alec Jackson 83.8

North Manchester Club Race

Final: G A Drew, Fred Williams, E O'Donnell 98.2

Match Races

Oliver Langton bt Alec Jackson 86.4 (or 85.4)
Tommy Hatch v Frank Pearce

This was the last meeting to be held in 1928. The track closed for extensive work on the drainage. Relaying of the track was also needed. As things turned out the track did not reopen for 60 years, being replaced by the purpose-built Hyde Road. By 20th October 1928 work had begun on the new speedway at Belle Vue pleasure grounds under the direction of the N.M.M.C. The track was being built around the Manchester central football pitch and would be an Australian style egg shape. Accommodation for 30,000 was intended.