

The 1930 Carntyne venture was organised by a promotion which could well have been part of the Company which ran Sheffield and Cardiff, White City. The advertising material in the contemporary press bore similarities to the Sheffield material. In addition the track was built and managed by the man who had built Owlerton, George 'Scotty' Cumming, and the imported star riders were from Sheffield and from Cardiff.

Ever-presents were the Sheffield-based rider Frank 'Broncho' Bianchi, Exeter's Richard 'Buggie' Fleeman, Polmont's Oliver Goodfellow, Blantyre's Scott-mounted Alfie Williams, Jimmy Simpson, and Jimmie McFarlane. Goodfellow had been a regular at Marine Gardens in 1929 until he fell foul of the management for his over exuberance on the seaside track. Others may have raced in all four meetings but the non-availability of results of those finishing outwith the top two in the heats rules out confirmation of this. Jimmie Pinkerton was signed to be the local star but he broke his wrist or his hand, depending on the reports, in the opening meeting and the track had closed down before his return to fitness.

Carntyne was due to boast its own lady rider. A shepherd's daughter called Nell Sinclair from Fintry, Stirlingshire was to be trained by George Cumming. However, the shortness of the venture seems to have ruled out Scotland's first lady rider. Had she been keen she would have tried her hand at the other ventures which lasted to the end of the season. Another bit of 1930s hype?

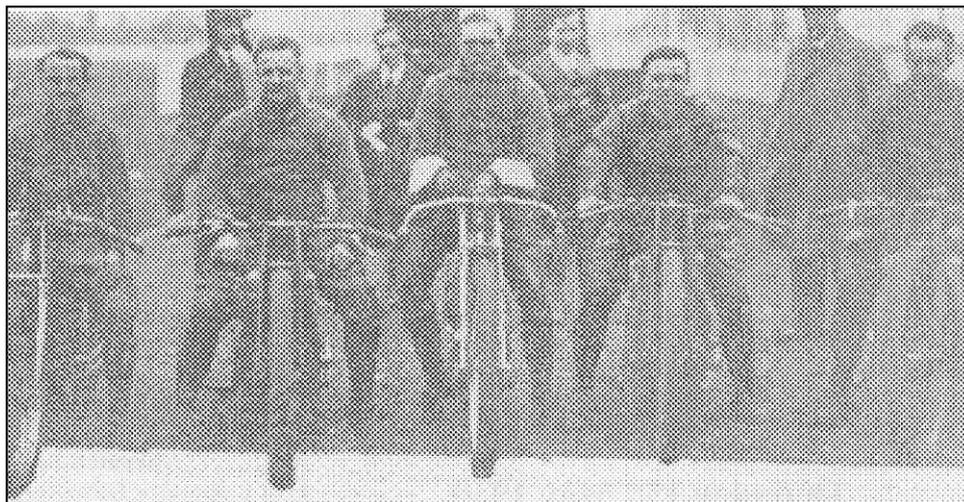
A couple of stars appeared at Carntyne. Clem Beckett was probably the best known visitor, whilst Charles 'Tiger' Sanderson from Newcastle Gosforth appeared in the last meeting. Beckett and his match race opponent Stan 'Dusty' Jenkins were Sheffield riders. This is another factor supporting the link with Sheffield. Newcastle Gosforth also sent along 1929 Glasgow favourite Jim 'Hard Luck' Holder and P.F. (Frank) Parker. None of the Scottish stars racing on contract to the other two clubs appeared at Carntyne. They were probably banned by the Marine Gardens and White City promotions, from appearing at this rival venue. The picture on page 19 shows a practice session line-up from Carntyne, although unfortunately the riders names are not known.

It was suggested that the 1930 track was built from scratch to Australian specifications using shale rather than cinders. The original idea had been to build it outside the dog track but this proposal was abandoned. It is reported to have cost the promotion £6,000. The track was recorded as measuring 420 yards per lap. The new Carntyne track opened for business on 15 May and ran four meetings in the space of 10 days. The last meeting was staged on 24 May. Crowds were poor compared with the attendances at its west end rival, White City. It was the wrong time to open a new track and try to sustain two meetings a week. A time when White City had scaled down to a single meeting each week and Edinburgh was sailing close to closure.

The first two meetings were staged on wet nights and, according to the columnist of the *Evening Citizen* (Citizen), using the pen name 'Speedway', the entertainment value was not too great. However, the third and fourth meetings appeared to get the show on the road and racing was considered to be of a much better quality. A meeting was scheduled for 29 May. It never took place. An advert in the Glasgow newspapers read as follows: 'Tonight's Carntyne Meeting Abandoned. The meeting arranged to take place at Carntyne Speedway tonight has been abandoned. Pending certain negotiations it is understood that no further meetings will be held meantime.'

What the negotiations were are not known but they were not resolved. Speedway probably never returned to the stadium. Press reports in 1947 suggested that the track was to be a professional speedway venture and a company had been formed to run speedway. It was also supposed to be a training venue but this has never been verified. In 1963 the track was used for stock car racing. The stadium no longer exists, it having been demolished after it fell into disuse. The site is now a playing field area.

Very few photographs of the venture exist in the contemporary newspapers. One shows the arrival of Broncho Bianchi at Glasgow Central Station and another shows a group of riders at the second and public practice event staged on Thursday 8 May. As far as is known, no action photographs were ever printed in the contemporary press.



PRACTICE SESSION LINE-UP. RIDERS NAMES NOT KNOWN

1930 CARNTYNE DETAILS

Meeting No. 1	Thu	15.05.1930	Carntyne Handicap	Broncho Bianchi
			Scratch Race	Alfie Williams
Meeting No.2	Sat	17.05.1930	Carntyne Handicap	Jimmy McFarlane
			Scratch Race	Broncho Bianchi
Meeting No.3	Thu	22.05.1930	Carntyne Handicap	Rev Cox
			Scratch Race	Clem Beckett
Meeting No.4	Sat	24.05.1930	Carntyne Handicap	Charles Sanderson
			Scratch Race	Jimmy Simpson

Thursday 15 May 1930

Crowd: 1,000

‘Speedway’ of the *Citizen* attended the Carntyne reopener.

He noted that rain made the new track very heavy ‘and in consequence the racing was inclined to be uncertain.’ The absence of any board for announcements was considered to be detrimental to the presentation.

Lap record attempts opened the meeting. Jimmie Pinkerton recorded the fastest lap as he was timed at 21.8 seconds. Richard ‘Buggie’ Fleeman was next best with a time of 23.0 seconds and Oliver Goodfellow was slowest at 24.8 seconds.

Junior Races were held as were the Carntyne Handicap and the Scratch Race.

The effect of the rain is borne out by the times Jimmie Pinkerton's lap time multiplied by 4 should mean a four lap time of about 1 min 27.2 seconds, but they were almost 15-20 seconds slower.

‘Speedway’ considered that heat four of the Handicap was noteworthy: ‘Jimmie McFarlane tore off on his seconds start with a very fast motor but Jimmie Pinkerton immediately bored in pursuit. Jimmie II caught Jimmie I eventually but it was not without much spectacular corner work. And then Houston Anderson popped up from nowhere to annex second place.’

In the semi-finals Ernie Willis was in a bit of bother on the pits bend. The rider over-cooked it in the wet and ended up in the wire mesh fence. The crowd had written Willis off but he managed to come out in the rerun and win the race.

For some reason the Handicap Final was kept to the end of the evening. Jimmie Pinkerton and Ernie Willis crashed in the original staging of the event and had to sit out the rerun. Jimmie ended up in hospital with a broken arm, or, a broken hand (depends on which report you read) which kept him out of the sport for just a month. Frank 'Broncho' Bianchi, the Sheffield-based rider faced Devonian Fleeman in the Final and had the win gifted when Fleeman, who was in the lead, over slid and fell. Broncho's time of 2 minutes 6 seconds reflects the ease of his victory.

Scott-mounted Blantyre man Alfie Williams won the Scratch Race Final after having to battle through from the back.

Carntyne Handicap (4 laps standing start)

Ht 1: Broncho Bianchi (scr), 'Crazy' Jack Stevens (?), [NI, 1min 42.2

Ht 2: Ernie Willis (3), William Walker (6), [NI, 1min 42.2

Ht 3: Buggie Fleeman (scr), Jimmy Simpson (6), [NI, 1min 47.8

Ht 4: Jimmie Pinkerton (scr), Houston Anderson (2), Jimmie McFarlane (6), [NI, 1min 44.2

SF 1: Ernie Willis, Broncho Bianchi, [Jack Stevens, William Walker, 1min 40.2

SF 2: Jimmie Pinkerton, Buggie Fleeman, [Jimmy Simpson, Houston Anderson, 1min 39.0

Final: Broncho Bianchi, Buggie Fleeman (f), Jimmie Pinkerton (ns), Ernie Willis (ns), 2min 06.0

Scratch Race (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Rev Cox, Oliver Goodfellow, [NI, 1min 45.6

Ht 2: Alfie Williams, Alister Harvey, [NI, 1min 41.4

Ht 3: Ernie Willis, Buggie Fleeman, [NI, 1min 35.2

Ht 4: Broncho Bianchi, Jimmy Simpson, [NI, 1min 35.6

SF 1: Oliver Goodfellow, Alfie Williams, [Rev Cox, Alister Harvey, 1min 42.4

SF 2: Ernie Willis, Broncho Bianchi, [Buggie Fleeman, Jimmy Simpson, 1min 32.0

Final: Alfie Williams, Broncho Bianchi, Oliver Goodfellow, Ernie Willis, 1min 37.2

Lap record attempts

Jimmie Pinkerton, 21.8

Buggie Fleeman, 23.0

Oliver Goodfellow, 24.8

Junior races (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Bert Paterson, Andy McLean, [NI, 1min 48.4

Ht 2: James Dunlop, Taylor Wilson, [NI, 1min 06.0

Saturday 17 May 1930

Crowd: Not recorded

The second meeting took place on the Saturday evening, two days after the opener. White City had started with two meetings a week but had dropped down to one, so the Carntyne venture was operating in a dubious market.

The east end venue was not helped by the weather and another wet night was recorded. Despite this the meeting was reported by 'Speedway' of the *Citizen* as being better than the first.

Broncho Bianchi and Buggie Fleeman renewed their joust and the former won the three round race by two wins to nil. It was exciting stuff apparently. Buggie took off in front and 'Broncho tried every direction he could think of to get past - except going underground - and at the last bend his patience was

rewarded. Fleeman presented a wisp of an opportunity which Bianchi snapped up - to clock 1min 33.2 and a win.'

Alfie Williams was impressive on a 'whining' Scott machine. 'Williams sometimes used his saddle...but more often he was nowhere near it and his rather wonderful performance to win (his Handicap heat) in 1 min 45.4 made some other excellent riding pass unnoticed.'

Also singled out for attention was Jimmie McFarlane. Jimmie used his 'sand racing crouch to advantage. Coupled with terrific acceleration, he made heat four (of the Handicap) something of a gift.'

The meeting took off at a furious pace but the urgency seemed to vanish after the second Handicap semi and thereafter long waits between races were not popular with the crowd.

The Final of the Handicap was worth waiting for. 'The Final of the Handicap was responsible for a remarkable piece of riding by Bert Paterson. While trying to get past him on the indicator bend, Bianchi attempted to slip past on the inside, but found the opening closed to him. The mischief was done; however; he tipped Bert's machine and left the model at speed, what time Paterson did not even look round.'

Up front the Alfie Williams versus Jimmie McFarlane duel was in full swing. 'Williams threw his Scott round with abandon but could not catch McFarlane who rounded off some very good work with a win.'

Newcastle based P.F (Frank) Parker was in town, as was 1929 Glasgow White City rider Jim Holder. 'Hard Luck' Holder fell in his Scratch Race heat.

Three Round Race (Match Race) (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Broncho Bianchi bt Buggie Fleeman, 1min 33.2

Ht 2: Broncho Bianchi bt Buggie Fleeman, 1min 35.8

Carntyne Handicap (4 laps standing start)

Ht 1: Bert Paterson (7), William Walker (?), [NI, 1min 49.0

Ht 2: Alfie Williams (2), Jack Hart (4), [NI, 1min 45.4

Ht 3: Alister Harvey (6), Broncho Bianchi (?), [NI, 1min 44.6

Ht 4: Jimmie McFarlane (6), Taylor Wilson (7), [NI, 1min 46.2

SF 1: Alfie Williams, Bert Paterson, [William Walker, Jack Hart, 1min 49.0

SF 2: Jimmie McFarlane, Broncho Bianchi, [Alister Harvey, Taylor Wilson, 1min 47.0

Final: Jimmie McFarlane, Alfie Williams, Bert Paterson, Broncho Bianchi (f), 1min 45.0

Scratch Race (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Buggie Fleeman, Jimmie McFarlane, Jim Holder (f), [NI, 1min 38.8

Ht 2: Oliver Goodfellow, Hector Bruce, [NI, 1min 37.0

Ht 3: P.F. Parker, Jack Hart, [NI, 1min 43.2

Ht 4: Rev Cox, Broncho Dixon, [NI, 1min 39.4

SF 1: Buggie Fleeman, Hector Bruce, [Jimmie McFarlane, Oliver Goodfellow, 1min 38.0

SF 2: Broncho Bianchi, P.F. Parker, [Jack Hart, Rev Cox, 1min 38.2

Final: Broncho Bianchi, P.F.Parker, [Hector Bruce, Buggie Fleeman, 1min 39.0

Junior Races (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Taylor Wilson, Andy McLean, [NI, 1min 55.0

Ht 2: Robert Barclay, Stewart Fraser, [NI, 2min 14.0

Lap record attempt

George Vallence (f)

Thursday 22 May 1930

Crowd: 2,000

Meeting three and another where the Sheffield connection is confirmed with the appearance of Clem 'Daredevil' Beckett and Stan 'Dusty' Jenkins.

It was Clem who caught the eye of 'Speedway' of the *Citizen*. 'What a rider is Clem Beckett! I do not believe that it is possible for a rider to lift his front wheel to a different course while travelling at 50 mph yet I saw Beckett do it : and that was only one incident in a very fine night.'

Clem was in all the thrilling events, he demonstrated his change of direction in the Handicap Final, yet despite it all, he could not catch Rev Cox who only had a two seconds advantage. It was not for the want of trying.

'He tried to run round, over, or through Cox - all without success, and on the last twenty yards piled on terrific acceleration to wiggle inside - then Cox slid over. Like a flash Clem headed over his wheel and averted the mother and father of a crash but lost the race by a smile.' Yes. 'Speedway' did say smile, not mile.

The flying four match race pitched Jenkins against Bianchi and the visitor won. In the next one Fleeman fell, allowing Beckett a clear run to face Jenkins in the Final. This time it was Beckett in trouble as he had machine trouble.

Buggie Fleeman was in the wars in his Handicap heat running off the track and suffering an exclusion for his troubles.

Clem and Buggie raced against each other again in the Final of the Scratch Race. 'Neither asked nor gave any quarter and the result was a poem of a scrap that Beckett had to be himself to win in 92.0 seconds.' A new track record.

'Speedway' summed up saying: 'We can do with a lot more meetings like this.'

Unusually a bit of the programme for this match has survived and hence the greater than usual accuracy in reporting the meeting. Included as meeting reserve was Victor Devine who had been the chair man for sidecar driver Peter Coia. He was a well-known Glasgow motorcycle dealer in his day, who sponsored a few of the Glasgow Tigers in the late 1970s

Carntyne Handicap (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Bert Paterson (5), Clem Beckett (scr), [Alfie Williams (2), James Edward (3), Alister Harvey (4),
1min 43.0

Ht 2: Dusty Jenkins (scr), Houston Anderson (2), [George Vallenge (scr), Jack Stevens (3), William
Wilson (7), 1min 41.8

Ht 3: Taylor Wilson (6), Broncho Bianchi (scr), [Oliver Goodfellow (2), Jimmy Simpson (4), Hector
Bruce (5), 1min 51.4

Ht 4: Rev Cox (2), Jimmie McFarlane (4), [Jack Hart (5), William Walker (6), Buggie Fleeman (scr),
(exc), 1min 42.2

SF 1: Clem Beckett, Dusty Jenkins, [Bert Paterson, Houston Anderson, 1min 39.8

SF 2: Jimmie McFarlane, Rev Cox, [Broncho Bianchi, William Wilson, 1min 45.0

Final: Rev Cox, Clem Beckett, Dusty Jenkins, Jimmie McFarlane, 1min 37.8

Scratch Race (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Broncho Bianchi, Jimmy Simpson, [Houston Anderson, Alister Harvey, 1min 38.0

Ht 2: Clem Beckett, George Vallenge (nf), Rev Cox (nf), Jack Hart (nf), 1min 35.6

Ht 3: Buggie Fleeman, Alfie Williams, [Hector Bruce, Jimmy Edwards, 1min 34.4

Ht 4: Jimmie McFarlane, Oliver Goodfellow, [Jack Stevens, Dusty Jenkins , 1min 34.8

SF 1: Clem Beckett, Jimmy Simpson, Broncho Bianchi, 1min 34.8

SF 2: Buggie Fleeman, Jimmie McFarlane, [Alfie Williams, Oliver Goodfellow, 1min 34.8

Final: Clem Beckett, Buggie Fleeman, Jimmy Simpson, Jimmie McFarlane, 1min 32.0*

Flying Four (Match Races) (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: Dusty Jenkins bt Broncho Bianchi, 1min 33.2
Ht 2: Clem Beckett bt Buggie Fleeman (f) , 1min 32.0
Final: Dusty Jenkins bt Clem Beckett (et), 1min 44.4

Junior Races (4 laps)

Ht 1: Bill McFarlane, [Andy McLean, Joe Dickie, Sandy Smith, Fred Mort, 1min 58.0
Ht 2: William Walker, James Dunlop, 1min 49.0

Saturday 24 May 1930

Crowd: Not recorded

What was to be the very last speedway meeting at Carntyne was staged on Saturday 24 May. In order to add interest the track manager George 'Scotty' Cumming made a return to the fray. It was not a story book return as George had a medical problem, weak wrists, but this did not reduce his contribution to the meeting.

'Speedway' of the *Citizen* said: 'Despite two weak wrists Scotty took full grip of the throttle for the entire distance every time, and by sheer masterly handling came unscathed out of some ferocious slides, wobbles and bends. How the crowd loved it.'

The Handicap event appears to have been worth the admission money alone. 'For the entire handicap series the riders settled into fast, beautiful work that was a treat to watch. The whole show has smartened up tremendously and the boys are keen to the last cinder. Probably the best race was the Final. Sanderson, Bianchi, Cumming and Goodfellow all tore into the first lap desperately intent and each riding a sportsmanlike race. Cumming was particularly lurid; at one point he could have gone either way off the track but eventually he sat down on the pit bend in what must have been a record slide.'

The Scratch Race was viewed as an example of luck or the lack of it depending on your perspective. 'The luck of dirt-track racing had a classic example in the final Scratch race, which Broncho should have won. He rode for a win and earned it, and seemed certain to receive it when an unlucky overslide on the last bend allowed Simpson through to win.'

Jimmy Simpson's bike was considered to be one of the fastest on view at the meeting.

Listed in the results of this meeting is one Joe Dickie. It may well be that this is the same rider who appeared at Nelson and Celtic Park simply as J. Dickie. He appears twice in the White City results.

From 'Speedway's' comments it appears that Carntyne went out on a high. Why it closed is not known but it is suspected that low crowd numbers had something to do with. Alternatively the track was controlled by the Sheffield promotion which went bust about this time. The East End of the City did not appear popular with dirt-track fans of this era.

Carntyne Handicap (4 laps standing start)

Ht 1: Broncho Bianchi (?), Alfie Williams (?), [NI, 1min 39.6
Ht 2: Tiger Sanderson (?), Jimmy Simpson (?), [NI, 1min 46.6
Ht 3: Buggie Fleeman (?), Oliver Goodfellow (?), [NI, 1min 39.0
Ht 4: George Cumming (?), George Vallenge (?), [NI, 1min 37.6
SF 1: Tiger Sanderson, Broncho Bianchi, [Alfie Williams, Jimmy Simpson, 1min 37.6
SF 2: Oliver Goodfellow, George Cumming, [Buggie Fleeman, George Vallenge, 1min 37.0
Final: Tiger Sanderson, Broncho Bianchi, Oliver Goodfellow, George Cumming (f), 1min 38.0

Scratch Race (4 laps flying start)

Ht 1: George Vallence, Houston Anderson, [NI, 1min 37.4

Ht 2: Jimmy Simpson, Hector Bruce, [NI , 1min 42.0

Ht 3: Tiger Sanderson, Oliver Goodfellow, Alfie Williams, [NI, 1min 27.6

Ht 4: Broncho Bianchi, Jack Hart, [NI, 1min 37.6

SF 1: Jimmy Simpson, Houston Anderson, [George Vallence, Hector Bruce, 1min 39.8

SF 2: Broncho Bianchi, Jack Hart, [Tiger Sanderson, Oliver Goodfellow, 1min 39.4

Final: Jimmy Simpson, Broncho Bianchi, Houston Anderson, Jack Hart, 1min 37.6

Junior heats (4 laps)

Ht 1: William Walker, Joe Dickie, [NI, 1min 50.0

Ht 2: Taylor Wilson, Andy McLean, [NI, 1min 50.0

Final: William Walker, [Joe Dickie, Taylor Wilson, Andy McLean, 1min 47.2

Lap record attempts

Tiger Sanderson, 21.2*

Broncho Bianchi, 21.8

CARNTYNE SPEEDWAY 1930 RIDERS A-Z

Houston	ANDERSON	Scotland	Robert	BARCLAY	Scotland
3 Meetings	(2)		1 Meeting	(?)	
Clem	BECKETT	England	Frank 'Broncho' BIANCHI		England
1 Meeting	(scr) Winner Scratch 22.5.1930		4 meetings	(scr) Winner Handicap 15.5.30 Winner Scratch 17.5.30	
Hector	BRUCE	Scotland	Joe 'Rev' *	COX	England
3 Meetings	(5)		2 Meetings	(2) Winner Handicap 22.5.30	
			* There was also a rider called Dudley Cox		
George 'Scotty'	CUMMING	Scotland	Joe	DICKIE	Scotland
1 Meeting	(?)		2 Meetings	(?)	
James	DUNLOP	Scotland	James	EDWARD	Scotland
1 Meeting	(?)		1 Meeting	(3)	
Richard 'Buggie'	FLEEMAN	England	Stewart	FRASER	Scotland
4 Meetings	(scr)		1 Meeting	(?)	

Oliver	GOODFELLOW	Scotland	Jack	HART	Scotland
4 Meetings	(2)		3 Meetings	(4)	
Alister	HARVEY	Scotland	Jim	HOLDER	England
3 Meetings	(6 - 4)		'Hard Luck'	(?)	
1 Meeting	(scr)		1 Meeting		
Stan 'Dusty'	JENKINS	England	Jimmie	McFARLANE	Scotland
1 Meeting			2 Meetings	(6 - 4) Winner Handicap 17.5.30	
Andy	McLEAN	Scotland	Fred	MORT	Scotland
4 Meetings	(?)		1 Meeting	(?)	
P.F.(Frank)	PARKER	England	Bert	PATERSON	Scotland
1 Meeting	(?)		3 Meetings	(7 - 5)	
Jimmie	PINKERTON	Scotland	Charles 'Tiger'	SANDERSON	England
1 Meeting	(scr)		1 Meeting	(scr) Winner Handicap 24.5.1930	
Jimmy	SIMPSON	Scotland	Sandy	SMITH	Scotland
3 Meetings	(6 - 4) Winner Scratch Race		1 Meeting	(?)	
	24.5.1930				
Jack 'Crazy'	STEVENS	England	George	VALLENCE	Scotland
2 Meetings	(3)		2 Meetings	(scr)	
William	WALKER	Scotland	Alfie	WILLIAMS	Scotland
4 Meetings	(6)		4 Meetings	(2) Winner Scratch 15.5.30	
Ernie	WILLIS	England	Taylor	WILSON	Scotland
1 Meeting	(1)		4 Meetings	(6)	
William	WILSON	Scotland			
1 Meeting	(7)				