

**Saturday, June 7 2008**

**Speedway Challenge Meeting**

**Weymouth Wildcats 54 - Bristol Bulldogs 38**

Weymouth Wildcats 54

J Armstrong ..... rider replacement  
B. Johnson ..... 2\* 1 2\* 1 1 - - 7 + 2  
L. Priest ..... 0 2\* 2\* 0 2 - - 6 + 2  
K. Mason ..... 2 3 3 3 2 - - 13  
J. Herne ..... 3 3 2 3 3 - - 14  
T. Webster ..... 3 3 1\* 1 1 - - 9 + 1  
K. Newman..... X 1 3 1\* 0 - - 5 + 1  
Team Manager : Jem Dicken

Bristol Bulldogs 38

J. Cockle ..... X X 2 2 1 - - 5  
B. Reade ..... X 1 0 0 - - - 1  
M. Simmonds ..... 3 6^ 3 3 3 - - 18  
J. Mudgway ..... 1 0 2\* 2 - - - 5 + 1  
M. Coles ..... 2 2 X 00 - - - 4  
O. Gay ..... 2 R 1 F - - - 3  
P. Derrick ..... 1\* R 1 0 - - - 2+1  
Team Manager : Glen Cunningham

Referee: Mr M Bates

Heat Results

1. (re-run \* 2) Herne, Johnson, Reade (f.exc), Cockle (f.exc), 56.1 5-0
2. (re-run) Webster, Gay, Derrick, Newman (exc), 54.1 3-3 (8-3)
3. (re-run) Simmonds, Mason, Mudgway, Priest, 53.7 2-4 (10-7)
4. Herne, Coles, Newman, Derrick (ret), 54.7 4-2 (14-9)
5. (re-run) Mason, Priest, Reade, Cockle (f.exc), 56.2 5-1 (19-10)
6. Webster, Coles, Johnson, Gay (ret), 53.9 4-2 (23-12)
7. (re-run) Simmonds (fact), Herne, Webster, Mudgway, 53.1 3-6 (26-18)
8. Newman, Johnson, Derrick, Reade, 55.9 5-1 (31-19)
9. (awarded) Mason, Priest, Gay, Coles, no-time 5-1 (36-20)
10. Mudgway, Simmonds, Johnson, Priest, 54.5 1-5 (37-25)
11. Herne, Cockle, Webster, Reade, 54.3 4-2 (41-27)
12. Simmonds, Priest, Newman, Gay (f), 54.1 3-3 (44-30)
13. (re-run) Herne, Cockle, Johnson, Coles (exc. tapes -15m), 53.6 4-2 (48-32)
14. Mason, Mudgway, Webster, Derrick, 54.4 4-2 (52-34)
15. Simmonds, Mason, Cockle, Newman, 53.7 2-4 (54-38)

Thirty years after the last wheel turned at the Eastville Stadium and the Bulldogs were lost to Bristol they are back on track, and had their first match at the Wessex Stadium against the Weymouth Wildcats on Saturday night. Hundreds of Bristol fans made the

journey down to Dorset and completely out sang and shouted their hosts, making for a great atmosphere.

Weymouth operated rider replacement for injured number one John Armstrong who fresh out of hospital was present at the track to lend support to his team mates. And it worked as the Wildcats put up an impressive display with all their riders recording good scores to claim a 54-38 victory. But the result was unimportant as Bristol were just glad to be back in business and happy to give debuts to two young Bristolian lads, Ole Gay and Paul Derrick who are just starting out in the sport.

However Bristol's ex-Exeter Falcon Mark Simmonds was in awesome form claiming an 18 point maximum from his five rides, including a tactical ride in heat seven which really kept the match alive. Simmonds had won his first four rides with tapes to flag rides. Only in his last ride did he really have to fight for it after Karl Mason managed to find a way past both Cockle and Simmonds down the back straight on the first lap to hit the front and he nearly held on for the win but Simmonds had pushed the Wildcats skipper for three laps before he finally found room round the outside of turn four and blasted his way past to claim the win on the line, sending the travelling hoards of Bristol fans wild and heading back up the A37 in a happy mood.

For the Wildcats Jay Herne, son of former Bulldog Phil Herne, and Karl Mason were leading the way each only dropping points to Bristol's Mark Simmonds and with the announcement that Herne's brother Lee is soon to join the Wildcats to replace the injured Armstrong. Father Phil was on hand to assist his boys and offered his 100% support in the campaign to find a new track for the Bulldogs in the Bristol area. The Bristol Speedway Supporters Club will be holding a summer social at which Phil has agreed to be the guest of honour.

So Bristol lost their first match in 30 years. But no one cared. The important thing is, the Bulldogs are back. This is the start of a number of friendly meetings to raise the profile of the campaign to find a home for Bristol's long lost team.

Further information on the club and the campaign, including the on-line petition, can be found at [www.bristolbulldogs.co.nr](http://www.bristolbulldogs.co.nr)