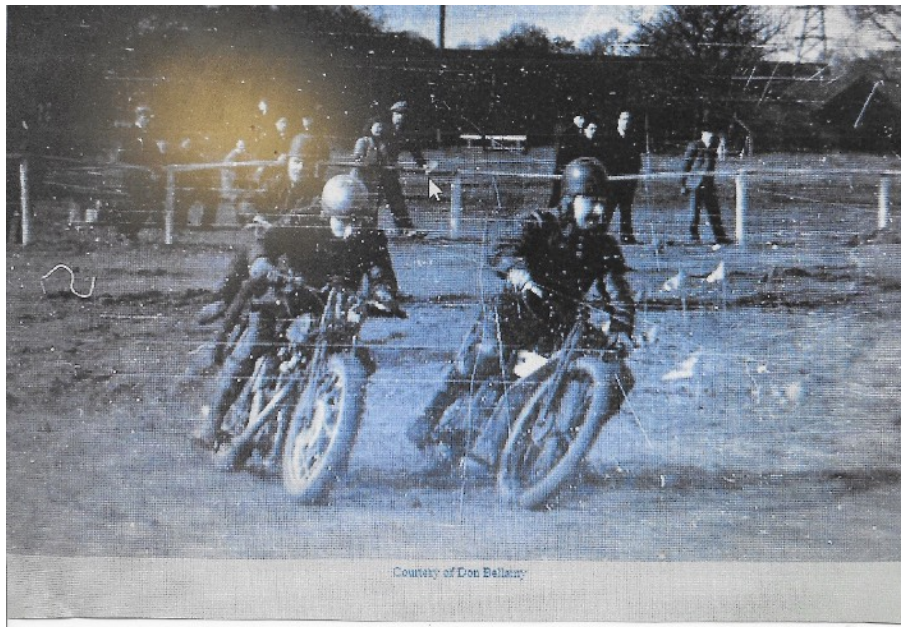




Laindon Speedway Track



Registered Charity no. 1176037

Registered address: The green Centre, Wat Tyler Country Park, Pitsea Hall Lane, Pitsea Essex
SS16 4UH

Laindon Speedway Track

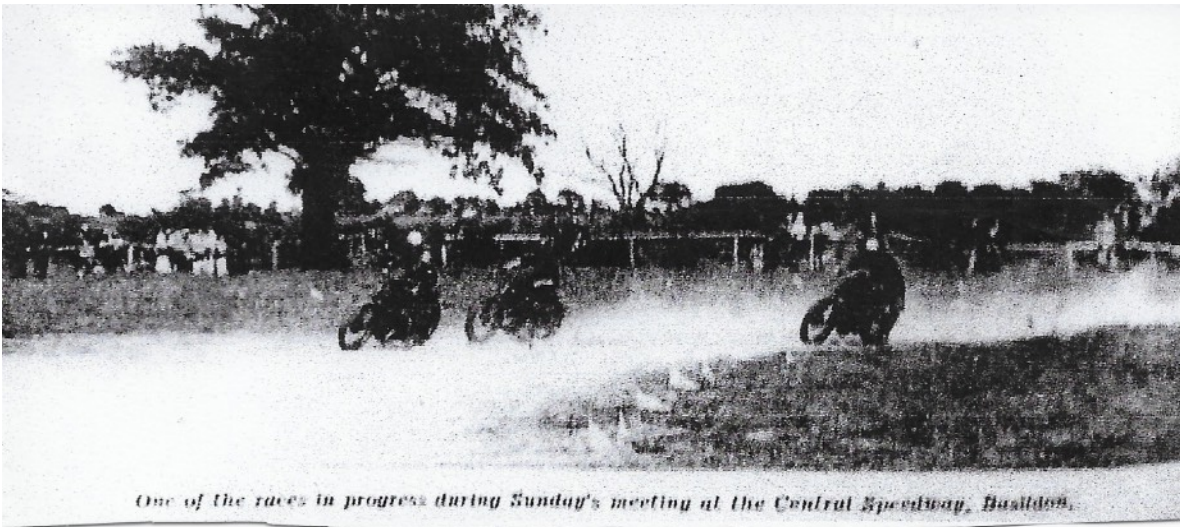
The Laindon Speedway track which was situated alongside the Arterial Road (A127), more or less behind Summerhill Garden Centre on land owned by Summerhill Farm. It was named “The Grand Central Speedway Track”. It had grass straights and cinder bends.



It appears to have operated during the 1938/39 seasons. The following is a report from the papers on a race meeting on the Whit Monday 29th May 1939.

“Whit Monday’s meeting at the Grand Central Speedway, Southend Arterial Road, Basildon, producing a series of remarkable new track records. The London and Southend Aces were holding their individual championship, and in the first race of the afternoon, “Tiger” Lauence covered the three laps in 72 seconds, thus lowering the record by 2-5th seconds. Hard on his heels came that sensational rider, Stan Bellamy who flashed round in 71 2-5th seconds. He repeated this time a little later, and then to everyone’s amazement, Archie Duck recorded 17 1-5th seconds. In the next race, young Don Hoppe rode in splendid style and returned the wonderful time of 70 4-5th seconds for the three laps – an outstanding feat of speedway riding. Three races later he maintained his consistency with 71 2-5th seconds. There were nineteen heats for the

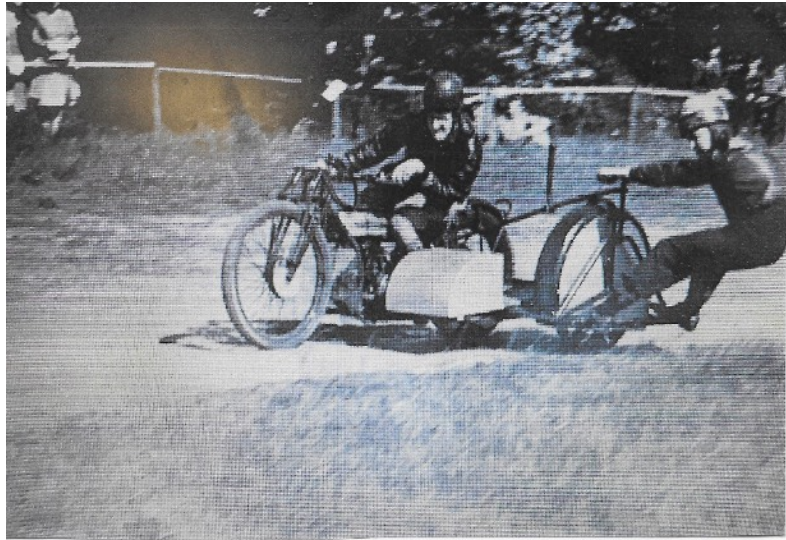
championship and Don Hoppe was deservedly ahead on points, with Stanley Bellamy and "Tiger" Laurence as close runners-up.



Further thrills came in the special flying lap record attempts. Don Hoppe and Laurence both recorded 22-4-5th seconds for one lap, but Stanley Bellamy smashed the record with 22 2-5th seconds. Laurence, who had held the record, tried unsuccessfully to regain it from Bellamy. His enthusiasm was, however, well rewarded in the Grand Prix, when he led the field in 143 seconds. Six riders started, but only three finished. There were several spills during the afternoon, but no rider was seriously injured. When Gordon Fulkes was racing neck-and-neck round the hair-pin bend with Laurence he crashed on to his head. His crash helmet saved him from a nasty spill, although he was rather badly shaken. In view of the fact that the riders had participated in the usual Sunday meeting the previous day, they all performed remarkably well and the meeting was rated the most thrilling of the season. Any local amateur rider is invited to attend for a trial; meetings are held every Sunday at 5.15pm. A cup will be given to the visitor who puts up the best show at next Sunday's meeting. A surprising innovation of Monday afternoon was a prize for special flying lap record attempts offered a few minutes before the race by a generous supporter.

Bellamy for his flying lap record was awarded 5 shillings prize money.

The site is now the home of "Maggots Fishing Lake" dug out by the current owners of Summerhill Farm.



Map of the Laidon Site

References:
DefunctSpeedway.co.uk
Ken Porter
Basildon Borough Heritage Society
27th September 2022

