



Track season under way

LASCA Mallory beats ice sidecars and solos excite

Pictures and Report by Peter Lumley

Season opener at Mallory, when Lasca put on a High Speed Trial, was an eye-opener, too, with all the big-guns firing well. The well-established marques justified their entry and performed to high expectations. For all that the event was a triumph for Association determination, the track was completely iced over at daybreak, the riders standing around in glum groups commiserating. A decision to spend over £12 to salt the surface paid off in a meeting which certainly blew away the cobwebs. Track spectacle with the first one home the winner should liven up scootersport.

THE London Area Scooter Clubs Association have had the answer they were looking for—track events will bring in the entries and the support from clubs, riders and spectators alike. There weren't a lot of the latter at Mallory Park on the first weekend in March but with freezing cold rain, and a chilly wind to boot, you couldn't expect much else. The Lasca organisation suffered the loss of the event secretary, Brian Williams, reportedly hospitalised for running repairs, missed mainly because it was a last minute decision which kept him away from a meeting he had control of and his second-in-command, Malcolm Lake, had been expecting to ride.

If the up to 150 Class had been set the unattainable 14 laps to be completed in the 20 minutes on the full circuit, pity the 125 boys—including the 75, 80 and 90 cc machines, too—for they had to cover the same distance. This "laps to cover" target was the basis of the trial, with each group getting twenty minutes out each time. It should have been three rides each but the slow start, while the ice was liberally sprinkled with a ton of salt, meant the event was shortened.

Sidecars—a dozen of them—ranging from the big, powerful Maico pair, to the kneeler of Hampshire Union and the Team Vargus outfits did battle with Nev Frost's Santa Plod, built up from his scrambler, and the still nippy GS Vespa of Geoff Burnhill, which has more than a few laps of the Isle of Man TT circuit to its credit.

The Maicos won hands down but it was a ding-dong all the way with Malcolm Stevens losing the first leg

Top left—Purley rider J. F. West on his naked mount during the second outing. Left—Taking the boss for a ride, Malcolm Stevens (leading) has his boss in the 'chair and his wife chasing him. He lost. Above—Vega nearly in orbit, Nev Frost hanging on to a slender lead over George Pearce at the end of lap two in the second outing.

