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# **LIFE, LOVE & MEMORIES**



# **MEMORY LANE**

**PUBLISHED BY AGE UK OLDHAM**

Welcome to our November Newsletter. It was on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1983 Microsoft Corporation formally announced Microsoft Windows, a next-generation operating system that would provide a graphical user interface (GUI). For anyone reading this that doesn't use a computer, and there are plenty of people that aren't interested in using modern technology, it basically means that Microsoft invented something to revolutionise the way people used their computers, making it much easier to do things.

## History of Microsoft Windows



On April 4<sup>th</sup> 1975, at a time when most Americans used typewriters, childhood friends Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft, a company that makes computer software. Originally based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Microsoft relocated to Washington State in 1979 and eventually grew into a major multinational technology corporation. In 1987, the year after Microsoft went public, 31-year-old Gates became the world's youngest billionaire.



Bill Gates

It's because of this invention that we are able to construct our Monthly Newsletter. Previously it would have been impossible to produce it in its present format using a manual or even an electric typewriter. It would have had to be done by professional printers.

*People of Oldham by Rosemary Bailey*

## FRANK ROTHWELL

The eldest of five children, Frank was born in Oldham on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1950. He left school aged 14, his only qualification being 'a 75yds swimming certificate'.



His first job was as an apprentice farm tractor mechanic but at 19 after receiving a City & Guilds in Mechanical Engineering, he became a bulldozer mechanic on the M62 construction project.



From there he moved on to become a mechanic in the copper mines of Zambia and also worked as a foreman on the Dubai Dry Dock Project.

Frank married young and he and his wife had two children, Luke and Sue.

In 1979 aged 28 he set up Manchester Cabins. His first cabin was built on the drive of his family home in Royton and promptly sold after being advertised in the Oldham Evening Chronicle. Despite complaints to the council about his incessant hammering Frank was convinced he could build a viable business. Manchester Cabins is now a leading portable building manufacture with customers through out the UK.

Initially called 'Frank Rothwell Plant Hire' Frank rented a garage on Radclyffe Street in Middleton to manufacture cabins. On 5<sup>th</sup> April 1979 he employed David Proctor who remained with him for decades.

The company was renamed Manchester Cabins in 1984 and the first commercial property was purchased: 688 Oldham Road, Miles Platting. It quickly expanded into adjacent properties, formerly Louis Edwards Meat Factory. In 1962 Manchester Cabins moved into a purpose built factory in Miles Platting on the junction of Oldham Road and Hulme Hall Lane, where the Bunk-a-bin was designed and proved to be an instant success.



Once the decision was made to manufacture predominately for Manchester Cabins and Bunk-a-bin's hire fleets, a smaller factory was required so the company relocated to Tweedale Way in Chadderton, just off Junction 22 of the M60. Frank retired aged 69 and the business is now run by his son and daughter.

In 2009 Frank and his colleagues created their own version of the familiar Hollywood sign, to promote Oldham. It was 9ft high and 6ft wide and made from plywood in the company's workshop. Although the 'HOLLINWOOD' sign positioned near the M60 was much admired it was removed by the Highways Agency who said it posed a 'distraction' to motorists.



Frank when the mystery of who had made the sign was resolved.



At 70 years old Frank took the biggest challenge of his life by rowing 3,000 miles across the Atlantic Ocean solo, while raising £1 million for Alzheimer's Research UK. He set off on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020 from La Gomera near Tenerife and landed in Antigua three days before Valentine's day 2021, where he was reunited with his wife of 50 years. Frank had undertaken the challenge in honour of Roger, his 62 year old brother-in-law who died of Alzheimer's while he was away. As the oldest person to row solo and unassisted across the Atlantic, Frank entered the Guinness Book of Records.



It was the third time that Frank had sailed the Atlantic, he has also climbed Kilimanjaro and was the tenth person to circumnavigate North and South America by boat.



In 2017 he spent five weeks on a deserted island for Channel 4's 'The Island' with Bear Grylls.



In 2021 Frank was awarded the 'Freedom of the Borough' for his outstanding contribution to Oldham and his charity work. The same year he became Oldham's first 'Ambassador for Business'.



In July this year he became the new Chairman of Oldham Athletic as he and his family took over the club, which is now debt free due to Frank's purchase of the club, the stadium and the land.



Frank is pictured with his pint of beer at the press conference table. Along with his daughter Sue, Darren Royle and legal adviser Peter Norbury, also seated at the top table was Latics legend Joe Royle.

These days Frank and Judith live in Greenfield.

## FAMOUS QUOTES TO MAKE YOU SMILE

I'm as old as my tongue and a little older than my teeth.

*Kris Kringle, Miracle on 34th Street.*

Age is something that doesn't matter, unless you are a cheese. *Billy Burke.*

I'm 80, but in my own mind, my age veers. When I'm performing on stage. I'm 40, when I'm shopping in Waitrose, I'm 120. *Humphrey Lyttelton.*

I'm 42 around the chest, 52 around the waist, 92 around the golf course and a nuisance around the house. *Groucho Marx.*

I'll never make the mistake of turning 70 again. *Casey Stengel.*

At a church social, a little boy came up and asked me how old I was. I said "I'm 76." "And you're still alive?" he said. *Jack Wilson.*

I've often thought that the ageing process could be slowed down if it had to make its way through parliament. *Edwina Currie.*

I won't ever feel old, and I won't ever look old because I'm a cartoon - like Mickey Mouse. *Dolly Parton.*

After 40 a woman has to choose between losing her figure or her face. My advice is to keep your face, and stay sitting down. *Barbara Cartland.*

My dad's trousers kept creeping up on him. By the time he was 65, he was just a pair of pants and a head. *Jeff Altman.*

## REMEMBER WHEN - THE FIRST MOBILE PHONES.

It seems hard to believe now that the majority of people that grew up in the 1930's, 40's, 50's and even later didn't have access to a telephone, and the thought of having one that you could carry round in your pocket was in the realms of fantasy.

Do you remember the first mobile phones?

The very first mobile phone call in the UK took place on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1985.

The call was made by Comedian Ernie Wise using the Vodafone mobile network. He was in St Katherine's Dock – a bustling marina in the middle of London (next to Tower Bridge and The Tower of London) – and he called Vodafone's head office in Newbury.

Another little known fact of the time, is that the Vodafone head office was actually based on top of a curry house!



There was a problem with the above story because in fact the first mobile phone call in the UK had already been made some hours before. And that phone call involved another Ernest - Ernest Harrison, the first chairman of Vodafone. The story goes that Ernest's son, Michael Harrison, snuck out of his family's New Year's Eve party at their home in Surrey and drove to London to "surprise" his father, calling him from among a group of revellers in Parliament Square. Harrison Jnr recalls that the line was crystal clear - maybe because there weren't 20 million Vodafone users clogging up the network at the time.

Here's Michael Harrison making that Parliament Square call:



It was the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1985 when the call was made.

At the time the phones looked so big and cumbersome and the general consensus was ***‘they wouldn't catch on’***. Now going on for 40 years later the majority of the population have one and the red telephone boxes are a thing of the past.



SCHOLASTIC

# It's Bonfire Night...

Slowly, smoky, suddenly,  
Kindling catches, burning paper  
Shreds fly orange, fiery  
Like a dragon's first sneeze  
And our cat's in hiding  
Behind the settee.

It's Bonfire Night  
As a rocket bursts  
Its sparkles hang  
Like Christmas lights  
On an invisible tree  
And our cat's still hiding  
Behind the settee.

It's Bonfire Night,  
Strings of firecrackers snap  
Like someone squeeze-popping  
A huge bubble-wrap,  
From his throne of flames  
Guy grins down at me  
But our cat's still hiding  
Behind the settee.

It was Bonfire Night  
But now it's just me,  
Stroking our cat  
Who's sat on my knee,  
We sit here alone,  
I'm watching the sky  
Hoping to see a last rocket fly.

Kevin McCann



*A poem from the Internet*



# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE BIG BANDS

## Name the Band Leaders



*See next page for answers.*

*Answers to Band Quiz.*

1. **Glenn Miller** and his orchestra was an American swing dance band formed by Glenn Miller in 1938. Arranged around a clarinet and tenor saxophone playing melody, and three other saxophones playing harmony, the band became the most popular and commercially successful dance orchestra of the swing era and one of the greatest singles charting acts of the 20th century.

2. **Ivy Benson**, the pioneering bandleader whose All Girls Band risked their lives entertaining Allied troops in European warzones whilst battling inequality back at home. Ivy Benson's All Girls Band was not the only female-only band at the time, but no others were as famous. As the first nationally known and longest-running all girl band in British history, it was no surprise that they were asked to entertain the Allied troops in Europe and the Middle East with the Entertainments National Service Association. At the request of Field Marshall Montgomery, Ivy's All Girl Band would be the first act invited to perform at the 1945 VE Day celebrations in Berlin.

3. **Ted Heath**. George Edward Heath (30<sup>th</sup> March 1902 – 18<sup>th</sup> November 1969) was a British musician and big band leader. Heath led what is widely considered Britain's greatest post-war big band, recording more than 100 albums, which sold over 20 million copies. The most successful band in Britain during the 1950s it remained in existence as a ghost band long after Heath died, surviving in such a form until 2000.

4. **Syd Lawrence** (26<sup>th</sup> June 1923 – 5<sup>th</sup> May 1998) was a British bandleader, who became famous in the UK for his orchestra's Big Band sound, which drew on the 1940s style of music of Glenn Miller and Count Basie amongst others. He was a talented trumpet player during World War II.

5. **Joe Loss**. Sir Joshua Alexander "Joe" Loss LVO OBE (22<sup>nd</sup> June 1909 – June 1990) was a British dance band leader and musician who founded his own orchestra. Loss started band leading in the early 1930s, working at the Astoria Ballroom and soon breaking into variety at the Kit-Cat Club. In 1934, he topped the bill at the Holborn Empire but in the same year moved back to the Astoria Ballroom where he led a twelve piece band. In 1935, Vera Lynn appeared with the Joe Loss Orchestra in her first radio broadcast. With broadcasting, recording and annual tours in addition to the resident work the band became highly popular over the next few years. In the 1950s and early 60s, Loss was resident band leader at the Hammersmith Palais.

6. **Benny Goodman**. Benjamin David Goodman (May 30<sup>th</sup> 1909 – June 13<sup>th</sup> 1986) was an American clarinetist and bandleader known as the "King of Swing". From 1936 until the mid-1940s, Goodman led one of the most popular swing big bands in the United States. His concert at Carnegie Hall in New York City on January 16<sup>th</sup> 1938, is described by critic Bruce Eder as "the single most important jazz or popular music concert in history: jazz's 'coming out' party to the world of 'respectable' music". Goodman's bands started the careers of many jazz musicians. During an era of racial segregation, he led one of the first integrated jazz groups, his quartet and quintet. He performed nearly to the end of his life while also exploring an interest in classical music.

# THE BUILDINGS OF OLDHAM

## CHADDERTON TOWN HALL - Grade II Listed Building



After a local board of health was established in Chadderton in 1873 and the Chadderton Lyceum then got into financial difficulties, the following year the board of health acquired the Lyceum's premises at the corner of Middleton Road and Melbourne Street and converted the building into Chadderton's first town hall. A young boy was killed, the main hall damaged and the offices on the floor below destroyed when a gas lantern exploded in the town hall in February 1884. The town became an urban district in 1894 and, in the early 20th century, the new civic leaders decided to vacate the old town hall and procure a purpose-built facility. The site selected between Victoria Street and Garforth Street had been occupied by a terrace of four private properties.

The foundation stone for the new building was laid by Councillor Ernest Kempsey on 30<sup>th</sup> March 1912. It was designed by Taylor & Simister of Oldham in the Edwardian Baroque style, built with red brick and stone dressings, and was officially opened by the chairman of the council, Herbert Wolstencroft, in 1913.

The design involved a symmetrical main frontage with seven bays facing onto Middleton Road; the central bay, which slightly projected forward, featured a semi-circular stone porch with Ionic order columns with an entablature and a balcony above. There was a tall stained glass, round-headed window with a stone surround on the first floor and there were sash windows in the other bays both on the ground floor and the first floor. There was a large dome and clock lantern at roof level. Internally, the principal rooms were the ballroom, which featured a barrel vaulted ceiling, and the council chamber. The design had been intended to provide "a broad and strong treatment of the English Renaissance" and it was complemented with extensive landscaping: the town hall has been described by the council as having "charming gardens".

A war memorial, sculpted by Albert Toft to commemorate the lives of local service personnel who had died in the First World War and featuring a figure of a soldier holding a rifle in his right hand, was unveiled in front of the building by Councillor Ernest Kempsey on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1921. The building continued to serve as the headquarters of Chadderton Urban District Council for much of the 20th century but ceased to be local seat of government when the enlarged Oldham Council was formed in 1974. It became the register office for the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham in 2007 and subsequently served as a licensed venue for marriages and civil partnership ceremonies.

## UPPERMILL VISITORS

The world-famous Regimental Band of the Grenadier Guards returned to Saddleworth in October for a sell-out concert and free public event. The last time they visited Saddleworth was in 2019.

The Grenadier Guards are one of the most senior infantry regiments in the British Army. Fast and mobile, they specialise in Light Role Infantry operations, often using light vehicles such as quad bikes to get around. They are ready to deploy anywhere in the world at short notice.

Renowned for their dual role, serving with great distinction on overseas exercises and on the battlefield. Providing excellence, symmetry and precision whilst carrying out ceremonial duties in London and at Windsor Castle, their scarlet tunics and bearskins are recognised across the world.

It was a magnificent sight seeing them marching up and down High Street in the October sunshine. Followed by a short performance in the George V Playing Fields.



## REMEMBER WHEN



Remember the first Laundrettes (Bendix). Any 'soap' fans will recognise Dot Cotton from Eastenders.



Can you remember your first trip to a 'Self Service' supermarket and how different it was from going to your local shop and queuing up to be served?



Remember when you first not only had the luxury of a fridge but also a freezer and how it changed the way you shopped.



The start of frozen foods - remember life when everything you bought was fresh.



Today we take these little microwave ovens for granted, warm a cup of milk, make porridge or a jacket potato but do you remember when they first appeared in the shops? Did you rush out to buy one or were you a bit sceptical about them?

## **NEW ZEALAND**

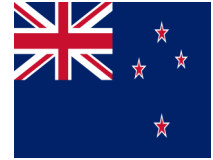


### **KIWI FRUIT PAVLOVA**

**SERVES 4**

#### **Ingredients:**

3 egg whites,  
2 tsp icing sugar,  
6oz caster sugar,  
½ pint double cream,  
½ tsp cinnamon,  
2 kiwi fruits - peeled and sliced,  
14oz tin sliced peaches, drained and juice reserved,  
1 tsp arrowroot powder.



#### **Method:**

Pre heat oven to 275°F, 140°C, Gas Mark 1

Draw a 7" circle on a sheet of greaseproof paper and place on a baking sheet.

Whisk egg whites until stiff.

Gradually add the caster sugar, whisking well between each addition.

Spoon 3 tbs of the meringue onto the paper and spread out to fill the circle.

Pipe or spoon two rings of the remaining meringue, one on top of the other, around the edge to form a case.

Bake for 1 hour.

Leave to cool. Carefully remove greaseproof paper if used.

Whip the cream, cinnamon and icing sugar in a bowl until stiff.

Spoon 2 tbs into the meringue case and spread to cover base.

Spoon remaining cream around inner edge of the meringue case.

Arrange the peaches in the middle and decorate with the kiwi fruit as desired.

Make the peach syrup up to ¼ pint with cold water and blend with the arrowroot.

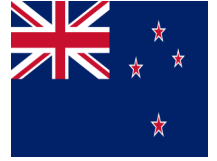
Gently bring to the boil, stirring.

Brush over the fruit before serving.

**Serve within 2 hours.**

*Jean's recipes from around the world continued...*

## **NEW ZEALAND**



### **STUFFED CUCUMBERS**

Serves 2/3

#### **Ingredients:**

3 small cucumbers,  
1oz marg or butter,  
2 tbsp finely chopped onion,  
1 tbsp flour,  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk,  
1 cup flaked cooked fish,  
1 tsp chopped parsley,  
1 tbs chopped green pepper,  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped celery,  
2 hard boiled eggs,  
3 slices of bacon.

**Optional:** Tomato Sauce

#### **Method:**

Peel the cucumbers and cut in half lengthways.  
Remove seeds and soft part.  
Drop in hot salted water and parboil for 5 mins.  
Plunge into cold water and drain.  
Melt butter in frying pan,  
add onion and fry until light brown, then add flour, mix well, stir in milk gradually.  
Add fish, parsley, pepper, celery and eggs, chopped. Season.  
Stuff cucumber halves with mixture.  
Arrange in shallow baking dish, top with bacon.  
Bake in oven 400°F to re-heat cucumbers and brown bacon.  
Serve with tomato sauce.

## ANIMAL CORNER

### ZARAFKA



Zarafa was a Female Nubian beauty, the first giraffe in Paris in the 1820s.

Zarafa was a diplomatic gift from Muhammad Ali, Viceroy of Ottoman Egypt, to King Charles X of France. She was also one of the first three giraffes in Europe, only preceded by the Medici Giraffe sent to Florence three centuries before.

**Born:** 1825 Sennar, Sudan, **Died:** 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1885, Paris.

**Height:** 3.9 m

Pictured with her groom who looked after her for 18 yrs.

Zarafa lived peacefully in Alexandria (Egypt), and the journey to transport her to France by boat was epic and the journey from Alexandria in Egypt to Marseille in France needed some preparation, mainly because of the size of the precious animal. Zarafa travelled on a special boat with the deck altered to stick her head out through a hole. She arrived in Marseille in October 1826. To brave the winter in France, the giraffe was dressed in a tailored coat and carefully transported to Paris by what seemed the least dangerous way, on foot!

During this 880km trip that lasted six weeks, the giraffe was accompanied by her two Sudanese caretakers, the Director of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, and a few milk cows to provide her with drinking milk. To see a giraffe for the first time was an extraordinary thing for the French, and in each place, the giraffe generated a genuine uproar. Before arriving in Paris, Zarafa was already a superstar!

Finally, the giraffe arrived in Paris in 1827, where King Charles X welcomed her. She found a home at the Jardin des Plantes (known at that time as Jardin du Roi).

During her first months in Paris, some 600,000 visitors stopped by to see her, with her long neck, seductive eyes, and moving with surprising elegance, some people called her 'la Belle Africaine' (the Beautiful African), while others simply called her 'the giraffe' because there were no others.

Zarafa became a sensation making her mark on the fashion scene. Everything was 'giraffe fashion,' and the giraffe mania was everywhere: giraffe-themed fabrics and hairstyles (inspired by the animal's horns) for ladies; giraffe-themed wallpapers for home; porcelain, accessories, combs, soap, and fans with the image of Zarafa for visitors...Zarafa was a real trendsetter! The giraffe mania faded by 1830, together with the reign of King Charles X. However, Zarafa lived peacefully until 1845, after which she was taxidermied. She's still on view at the Musée d'Histoire Naturelle in La Rochelle, Western France.



## SPORTING GREATS - BELLE VUE ACES



The Belle Vue Aces are a British speedway club, based in Manchester. The club hold the record of having won the top tier League championship 13 times. They currently compete in the SGB Premiership, racing at The National Speedway Stadium.



The sport of '**Speedway**' in the UK was first organised by the North Manchester Motorcycle Club in 1928, which was controlled by E.O. Spence. John Henry Iles was the man who ran the Belle Vue Company in the late 1920s, and it was him that first recognised Speedway's potential and was so convinced of Speedway as an attraction he bought a controlling interest in the club and moved it to Hyde Road in 1929. He was first team manager until 1941.

As the sport's popularity grew, Spence wanted to bring the best of the best riders to Belle Vue, the aces of their craft. With a stadium of 40,000 to fill each week, Belle Vue resigned from the English Dirt Track League in late 1929, citing its unpopularity. The following season they joined the Northern League and quickly established themselves as one of the front-runners for success.

Between 1933 and 1937, Belle Vue won four consecutive League Championship titles, five National Trophies and four ACU Cups. E.O. Spence's dream of having only the best riders in his team had come true and by 1934 they were officially dubbed 'Belle Vue Aces'. Alice Hart, addressed by the riders as Miss Hart, took over as promoter of Belle Vue in 1941, the first woman to take charge. Under her command, 176 meetings were successfully staged throughout WWII, attended by 2,816,000 spectators.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

**League Champions:** 1930, 1931, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1963, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1982, 1993, 2022. (See photo on next page)

**Britannia Shield:** 1957, 1958, 1960.

**British League cup winners:** 1983.

**English Speedway Trophy (Reserves):** 1938

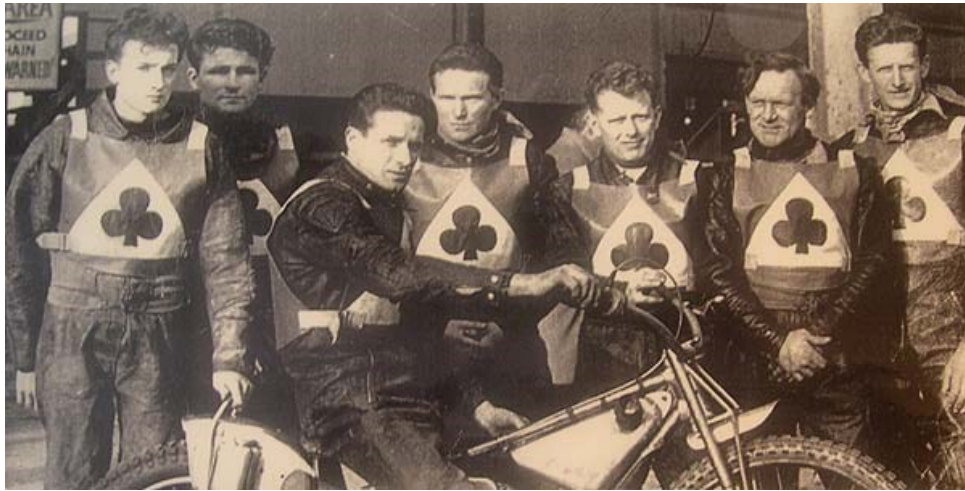
**Knock out Cup Winners:** 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1939, 1946, 1972, 1973, 1975, 2005, 2017.

**Elite League Pairs Champions:** 2006.

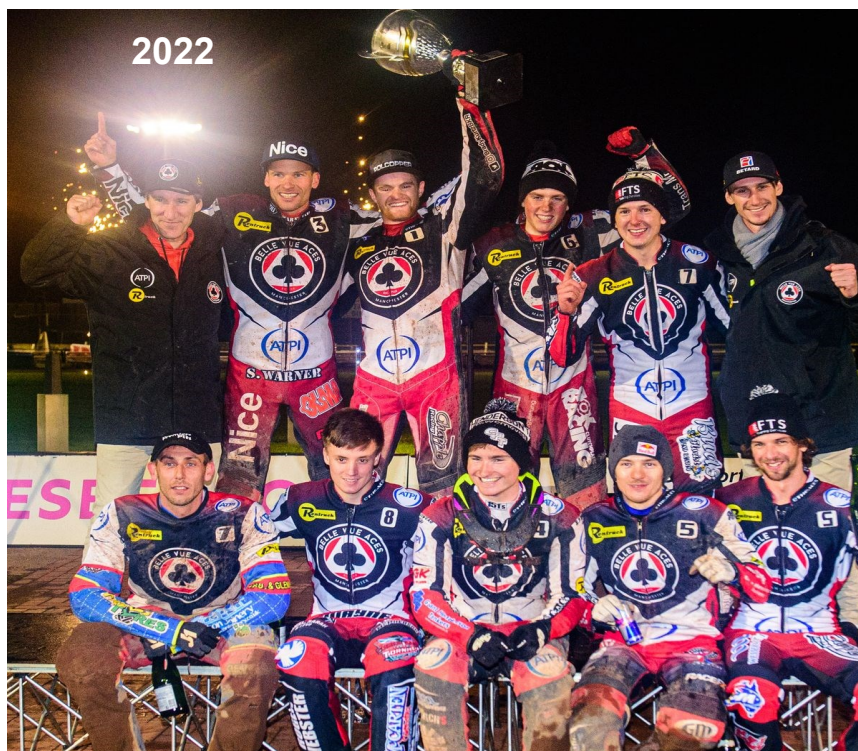
**British League Pairs Champions:** 1984.

**Record of Top Tier League Championship:** 13 times.

## 1948 ACES



After 59 years, the Belle Vue Aces found themselves homeless after the demise of Hyde Road, which was sadly demolished in 1987. For 28 years thereafter they raced on, saved from extinction by the Belle Vue Stadium, though it was a far cry from their former life but with the appointment of Mark Lemon as team manager in 2015, success started to gradually creep back into the Belle Vue pits and with the completion of the National Speedway Stadium in May 2016, they finally had a place to call home.



Today, Belle Vue is once again the team that every rider wants to be a part of, as our uninterrupted legend continues to unfold. Recently they have won Speedway's Premiership title for the first time in 29 years after a nail biting night at Sheffield Tigers.

**Remembrance Day** (also known as **Poppy Day** owing to the tradition of wearing a remembrance poppy) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries. In most countries, Remembrance Day is observed on 11<sup>th</sup> November to recall the end of First World War hostilities. Hostilities formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, in accordance with the armistice signed by representatives of Germany and the Entente between 5:12 and 5:20 that morning. ("At the 11th hour" refers to the *passing* of the 11th hour, or 11:00 am.) The First World War officially ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1919.

The tradition of Remembrance Day evolved out of Armistice Day. The initial Armistice Day was observed at Buckingham Palace, commencing with King George V hosting a "Banquet in Honour of the President of the French Republic" during the evening hours of 10<sup>th</sup> November 1919. The first official Armistice Day was subsequently held on the grounds of Buckingham Palace the following morning. During the Second World War, many countries changed the name of the holiday. Member states of the Commonwealth of Nations adopted Remembrance Day, while the US chose Veterans Day.

"THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD:  
AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN.  
AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE SUN AND IN THE MORNING  
WE WILL REMEMBER THEM."



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# Life Story

Every life has a story...

