

HEADLINERS

The people and events that made the news in 1982

JANUARY

ITV announced that it had reached a new three-year deal with the BSPA and SCB to show at least six meetings per season on its Saturday afternoon World of Sport show.

Belle Vue team boss Eric Boocock and Ipswich promoter John Berry were named as the new England management duo following Len Silver's resignation.

Bryan Seery quit as BSPA manager after four years in office for "personal reasons". Secretary Ann Gillespie quickly stepped up as his replacement.

England skipper Dave Jessup (*pictured right*) was given the OK to race in South Africa after the SCB lifted its ban on British riders competing in the Republic.

Mike Parker abandoned plans to buy back Wolverhampton's BL licence from Birmingham boss Dan McCormick, who withdrew Wolves from the 1982 competition after a disappointing one season fling at National League level in 1981. Parker formed a new company, Pro-Am Promotions, with former Cradley Heath rider and manager Harry Bastable and declared he would stage unofficial meetings at Monmore Green in '82 featuring semi-pro riders.

Cradley Heath promoter Derek Pugh warned that admission prices at Dudley Wood could "rise sharply", from £1.70 in 1981 to as much as £2.00. Promoters feared the economic recession would cause more dwindling attendances. Champions Cradley were one of only a handful of tracks that made a profit in '81.



Six times World Champion Ivan Mauger was a shock non-qualifier from the New Zealand Final of the World Championship in Auckland, where Coventry's Mitch Shirra was victorious. Mauger scored just five points on a night of mechanical gremlins.

FEBRUARY

While racing in Australia, World Champion and Cradley Heath number one Bruce Penhall revealed on television that he was set to quit speedway at the end of the '82 season to pursue a Hollywood acting career.

Workington were forced out of the NL after failing to clear their £5,000 debts and lodge a bond of a further £5,000 with the BSPA.

A brand new Weslake engine in a complete machine was advertised for sale at £1,495; a rolling chassis (less engine) for £835; and a type IV 'Wessie' for £708.