

THE STORY OF THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Heat 14 of the 1982 individual World Final is still being hotly debated by supporters today, some 30 years after Bruce Penhall and Kenny Carter clashed in their brutal battle in the Los Angeles Coliseum. It was the race that effectively decided the destiny of the 1982 title race in Penhall's favour . . . and smashed the hopes of English stars Carter and Les Collins.

Collins, who went into the first ever final to be staged outside of Europe as the new Inter-Continental Champion, continued where he had left off in Vetlanda by defeating the heavily fancied pre-meeting favourite Penhall in their opening race. Collins, for once emerging from the shadow of his big brother Peter on the sport's biggest night of the year, actually had the audacity and skill to re-pass Penhall to win a breathtaking fourth heat that set LA alight. With Carter making light work of a badly bruised lung sustained in a bad crash at Ipswich a few weeks earlier, hopes were high among the Brits that Penhall would be denied a second consecutive world title.

But then it all unravelled in a dramatic Heat 14, the fourth round of races under the old 20-heat, one-off World Championship formula. It pitched the unbeaten Carter against Penhall, who had won his second and third outings to set up a crucial encounter that no scriptwriter in nearby Hollywood could ever have imagined.

Halifax's 'King Kenny' and Cradley Heath's 'Juicy Brucie' had been at loggerheads for more than a year, since an explosive scrap during the 1981 Overseas Final at London White City ended with them both on the deck. Carter had been England's highest placed finisher in the '81 World Final at Wembley, where Penhall was crowned champion for the first time, so the Yorkshire tyke sensed that his time had come for revenge over his American nemesis. He was desperate, perhaps too desperate.

The boisterous Californian crowd held its breath as the tapes shot up and as Peter Collins led to the first corner, all eyes were on the two riders duelling like mediaeval knights for second and third place. They took it in turns to bash into each other in a violent expression of desperation for the points that they both knew would be vital in the final analysis.

Carter dived hard under Penhall and then the Yankee superstar did the same in return. They were going at it hammer and tongs and something had to give. It was a miracle that neither rider came down until the start of the third lap – and then Carter did. Perhaps the self-proclaimed England number one had shown naivety in putting himself on the outside of his arch rival, because he had left the door ajar and Penhall went through it. Easing Carter towards the outside as they roared out of the second turn, Carter eventually ran out of track and bailed out under the safety fence.

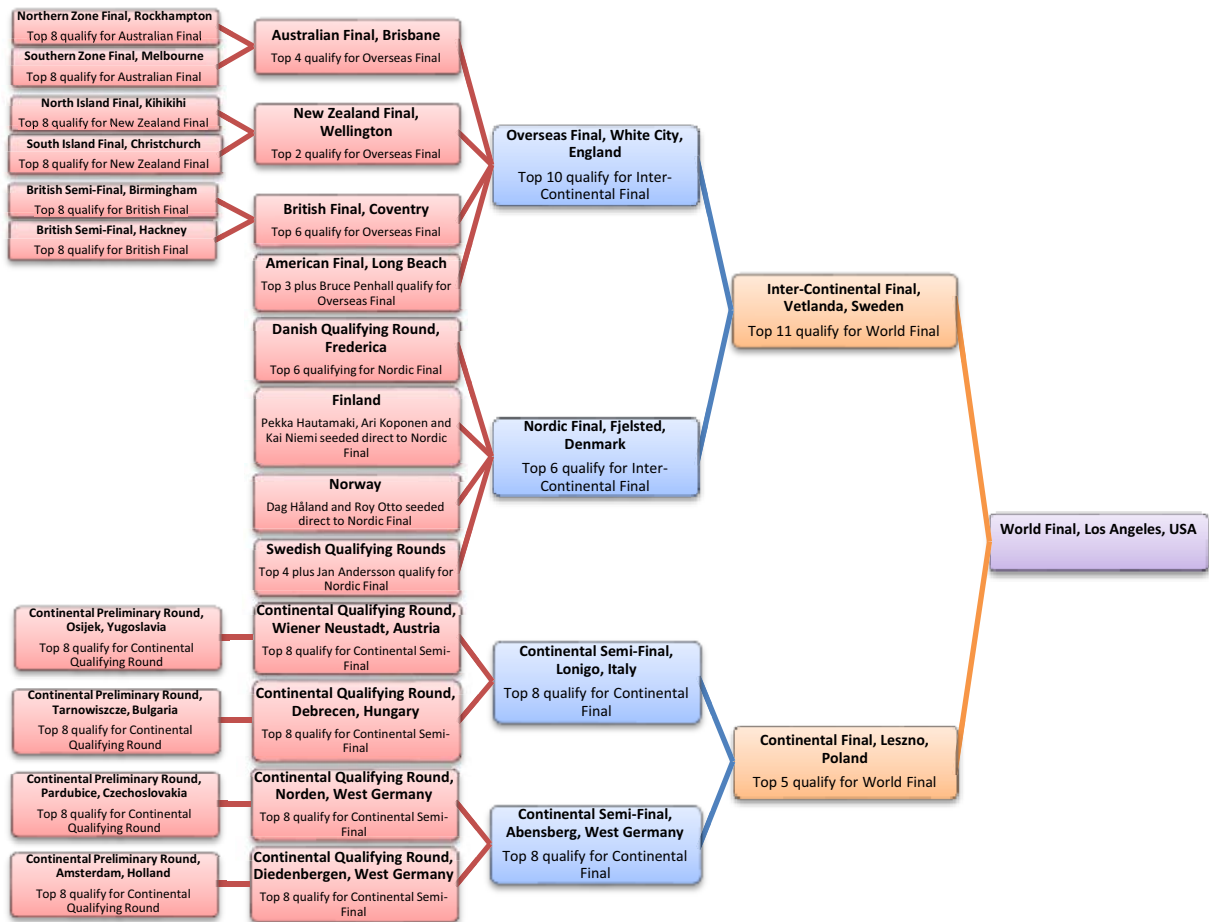
Television replays – the meeting was covered by ITV in England – suggested at first that Penhall had given Carter a nudge with his back tyre, although many believe he was entitled to keep drifting wide at that point on the track because he was slightly ahead as they both exited turn two. Subsequent TV evidence – from a camera high above the bend – proved, according to Penhall, that his wheel did not touch the front end of Carter's Weslake machine.

To the horror of Carter and his manager, meeting co-promoter Ivan Mauger, Norwegian referee Tore Kittilsen ruled that Kenny was the cause of the stoppage and excluded him from the rerun. Not only did this end Kenny's title dreams, it cost Les Collins very dearly too. For his brother, PC, had Heat 14 in the bag at the time Carter fell and another dropped point for Penhall in that outing would have left Les level on 10 points with BP going into their last rides. Unfortunately for the Leicester star, he had unexpectedly trailed in third behind mid-ranking Jiri Stancl and Jan Andersson in what, on paper, looked his easiest race. How Les would live to regret those two lost points in Heat 10.

Penhall duly got the better of Peter Collins and Phil Crump to win the rerun of Heat 14 and another win over three East Europeans in his fifth, and final, ride ensured he retained the trophy. Les Collins had to be content with the silver medal, just ahead of Penhall's Californian buddy Dennis Sigalos.

Did he fall or was he pushed? Bruce Penhall, who quit speedway immediately after the meeting to pursue a Hollywood acting career with mixed results, continues to proclaim his innocence, while Kenny Carter's protests finally disappeared when he took his own life in May 1986. In the wider speedway world, the big debate goes on . . .

The diagram below illustrates the main stages of the 1982 World Championship.



AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP SOUTHERN ZONE FINAL (Melbourne, Saturday January 2)

Phil Crump 15, Danny Kennedy 14, Terry Tulloch 12, Glyn Taylor 10, Les Sawyer 10, Rod North 9, John McNeill 8, Mark Fiora 8, Kevin O’Connell 7, Keith Wright 7, Andrew Barrett 6, Les Garside 6, Col Winzar 4, Chris Higgs 2, Darren Johnson 1, Bill Baldi 1. John Boulger and Robert Maxfield did not arrive.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP NORTHERN ZONE FINAL (Rockhampton, Sunday January 3)

Gary Guglielmi 13, Billy Sanders 13, John Titman 13, Steve Koppe 11, Steve Regeling 11, Phil Herne 9, Merv Janke 9, Rob Ashton 8, Robbie Blackadder 7, Mark Stevens 6, Graeme Robertson 6, Brett Alderton 5, Brent Nott 5, Paris Constantinides 3, Peter Christopher 1, Dale Bates 1. David Shields did not arrive.

Not all of the qualifiers took their place in the Australian Final.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Perth, Friday January 15)

Billy Sanders 14, Gary Guglielmi 14, Glyn Taylor 11, Phil Crump 10, Les Sawyer 10, John Titman 9, Steve Regeling 9, Phil Herne 9, Keith Wright 6, John McNeill 5, Rod North 5, Danny Kennedy 4, Rob Ashton 4, Mark Fiora 4, Terry Tulloch 4, Rob Townson 2.

This meeting was subsequently declared void after a dispute relating to the Australasian Final. The restaging did not feature a number of the riders that originally qualified for this event.

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Brisbane, Saturday March 13)

Billy Sanders 15, Phil Crump 14, Gary Guglielmi 11, John Titman 11, Steve Regeling 11, Phil Herne 10, Ron Schliebs 10, Neil Coddington 8, Glyn Taylor 6, Les Sawyer 4, David Foot 4, Mark Johns 4, Peter Byrnes 4, Graeme Robertson 4, Peter Carswell 2, Steve Baker 2. Reserve: Gary Finglas 0.

The top two riders from the Australian Final qualified for the Overseas Final.

NEW ZEALAND**SOUTH ISLAND FINAL (Christchurch, Saturday January 16)**

Larry Ross 15, Roger Wright 14, Alan Mason 11, Max Brown 10, Steve Hann 10, Graeme Stapleton 9, Gavin Rhodes 9, Graham Taylor 9, Trevor Chapman 8, Alan Crosbie 8, Lance Begbie 6, Terry Duff 4, Kevin Browne 3, K.Reid 3, Philip MacLintock 1.

NORTH ISLAND FINAL (Kihikihi, Sunday January 24)

Qualifiers for New Zealand Final: Mitch Shirra 14, David Bargh 14, Mike Fullerton 11, John Goodall 11, Greg Joynt 10, Wayne Brown 10, Barry Free 8, Colin Farquharson 8.

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Auckland, Saturday January 30)

Mitch Shirra 14, John Goodall 13, David Bargh 12, Larry Ross 11, Wayne Brown 11, Mike Fullerton 9, Roger Wright 9, Greg Joynt 8, Steve Hann 7, Ivan Mauger 5, Gavin Rhodes 5, Max Brown 4, Colin Farquharson 4, Alan Mason 3, Graeme Stapleton 3, Barry Free 1.

This meeting was subsequently declared void after a dispute relating to the Australasian Final. The restaging did not feature a number of the riders that originally qualified for this event.

NEW ZEALAND CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Christchurch, Saturday February 27)

Larry Ross 15, Ivan Mauger 14, Mitch Shirra 13, David Bargh 12, Alan Mason 11, Roger Wright 10, Max Brown 9, Graeme Stapleton 8, Kevin Browne 6, Greg Joynt 4, Graham Taylor 4, Trevor Chapman 4, Gavin Rhodes 4, Lance Begbie 2, Steve Hann 1, Wayne Brown 0. Reserves: Philip MacLintock 2, Craig Blacket 0.

The top two riders from the New Zealand Final qualified for the Overseas Final.

GREAT BRITAIN**WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Weymouth, Tuesday April 13)**

Simon Wigg 15, Ian Clark 14, Dave Perks 11, Robert Henry 10, Martin Yeates 10, Steve McDermott 8, Andy Campbell 8, Doug Wyer 8, Martin Hewlett 7, Jeremy Doncaster 5, Les Rumsey 5, Mike Sampson 5, Neil Middleditch 4, Steve Crockett 3, Mark Minett 2, Pete Ellams 1. Reserves: Rob Mather 3, Geoff Wiltshire 1.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Boston, Sunday April 25)

Colin Cook 13, Mark Courtney 13, Robert Hollingworth 12, Mike Spink 12, Steve Lomas 11, Andy Hines 10, Alan Molyneux 9, David Gagen 9, Dave Trownson 7, Phil White 6, Bobby Beaton 6, Alan Emerson 4, Martin Dixon 3, Kevin Teager 2, Pete Smith 2, Dennis Mallett 1.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Rye House, Sunday April 25)

Bob Garrad 14, Nigel Flatman 13, Steve Naylor 12, Kelvin Mullarkey 11, Joe Owen 11, Kevin Hawkins 9, Nigel Sparshott 8, Billy Burton 8, Dave Allen 7, John Grahame 6, Eric Broadbelt 5, Denzil Kent 4, Reg Wilson 3, John Jackson 2, Ian Gledhill 2, Louis Carr 2. Reserves: Paul Hilton 0, Garry Monk 0.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Crayford, Tuesday April 27)

Steve Wilcock 15, Mike Ferreira 14, Barry Thomas 12, Dave Kennett 9, Ivan Blacka 9, Mick Hines 9, Neil Evitts 8, Charlie McKinna 7, Chris Turner 7, Alan Sage 6, Mick Bates 5, Steve Lawson 5, Martin Hagon 4, Nigel Close 3, Tom Owen 2, Mike Lanham 0. Reserves: Chris Tritton 2, Keith Cornell 1.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Oxford, Thursday April 29)

Derek Harrison 15, Tim Hunt 14, Neil Collins 12, Bruce Cribb 11, Keith Bloxsome 10, George Hunter 7, John Barker 7, Colin Ackroyd 7, Steve Finch 7, Graham Drury 6, Jim McMillan 5, Peter Carr 5, Ashley Pullen 4, Nicky Allott 4, Kenny McKinna 4, Ray Bales 3.

The top three from each qualifying round plus the highest scoring fourth placed rider qualified for the British Quarter Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH QUARTER-FINAL (Peterborough, Friday May 7)

Simon Wigg 13, Mark Courtney 12, Mike Ferreira 12, Neil Collins 12, Colin Cook 11, Robert Hollingworth 9, Robert Henry 9, Derek Harrison 9, Mike Spink 8, Nigel Flatman 8, Steve Wilcock 5, Bob Garrad 4, Tim Hunt 4, Steve Naylor 3, Barry Thomas 2, Ian Clark 0. Reserves: Ian Barney 0, Neil Cotton 0.

The top eight from the British Quarter Final qualified for the British Semi-Finals.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH SEMI-FINAL (Birmingham, Friday May 14)

Alan Grahame 13, Kenny Carter 12, Andy Grahame 12, Phil Collins 12, Malcolm Holloway 11, Peter Collins 9, Simon Wigg 9, John Davis 8, Melvyn Taylor 8, Mark Courtney 7, Steve Bastable 6, Ian Cartwright 5, Malcolm Simmons 2, Dave Morton 2, Robert Hollingworth 2, Neil Collins 1. Reserve: Mike Wilding 1.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH SEMI-FINAL (Hackney, Friday May 14)

Les Collins 15, John Louis 12, Dave Jessup 11, Michael Lee 11, Paul Woods 10, Mike Ferreira 9, Kevin Jolly 9, Chris Morton 8, Gordon Kennett 7, Sean Willmott 7, Colin Richardson 5, Colin Cook 4, Kevin Smith 4, Robert Henry 3, Roger Johns 3, Derek Harrison 2. Reserve: Paul Hilton 0.

The top eight from each British Semi-Final qualified for the British Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP BRITISH FINAL (Coventry, Wednesday June 2)

Andy Grahame 14, Alan Grahame 13, Kenny Carter 12, Phil Collins 11, Chris Morton 10, Peter Collins 10, Les Collins 9, Dave Jessup 8, Michael Lee 7, Paul Woods 6, Mike Ferreira 6, John Davis 5, Simon Wigg 4, Malcolm Holloway 3, Kevin Jolly 2, John Louis 0.

The top eight from the British Final qualified for the Overseas Final.



British Champion Andy Grahame leading Les Collins at Coventry

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AMERICAN QUALIFYING ROUND (Long Beach, Sunday June 12)

Dennis Sigalos 15, Shawn Moran 13, Kelly Moran 13, Scott Autrey 13, John Cook 10, Mike Faria 10, Bobby Schwartz 8, Mike Curoso 7, Brad Oxley 6, Alan Christian 5, Gene Woods 4, Mike Bast 3, Steve Lucero 3, Dave Sims 2, Steve Gresham 2, Paul Orlandi 1. Reserves: Keith Chrisco 4, John Sandona 1.

The top three riders from the American Final qualified for the Overseas Final. In addition, Bruce Penhall was seeded direct to the Overseas Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OVERSEAS FINAL (White City, Sunday July 4)

Dave Jessup 13, Kenny Carter 12, Bruce Penhall 11, Larry Ross 8, Andy Grahame 8, Kelly Moran 8, Dennis Sigalos 8, Phil Crump 8, Les Collins 7, Peter Collins 7, Shawn Moran 7, Alan Grahame 6, Ivan Mauger 6, Billy Sanders 5, Chris Morton 5, Phil Collins 1.

The top 10 riders from the Overseas Final qualified for the Inter-Continental Final.



Overseas Final action: Dave Jessup inside Bruce Penhall

DENMARK

DANISH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Frederica, Tuesday May 11)

Erik Gundersen 13, Bo Petersen 13, Hans Nielsen 13, Ole Olsen 11, Preben Eriksen 10, Tommy Knudsen 10, Finn Thomsen 9, Bent Rasmussen 8, Alf Busk 7, Jens Rasmussen 7, Finn Jensen 5, Jens-Henry Nielsen 4, Helge Hansen 4, John Eskildsen 3, Hans Albert Klinge 3, Rene Christiansen 0.

The top six from the Danish Final qualified for the Nordic Final.

FINLAND

Pekka Hautamaki, Ari Koponen and Kai Niemi were seeded direct to the Nordic Final.

NORWAY

Dag Håland and Roy Otto were seeded direct to the Nordic Final.

SWEDEN

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Motala, Friday May 7)

Lillebror Johansson 12, Lennart Bengtsson 12, Anders Michanek 12, Bernt Persson 10, Ake Fridell 10, Borje Ring 10, Pierre Brannefors 9, Jan Ericsson 9, Conny Samuelsson 8, Per-Ove Gudmundsson 8, Ake Axelsson 5, Soren Brodin 3, Lars Johansson 3, Karl-Erik Claesson 3, Thomas Hydling 2, Peter Danielsson 2.

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING ROUND (Gislaved, Sunday May 9)

Richard Hellsen 14, Hasse Danielsson 13, Tommy Nilsson 12, Bjorn Andersson 12, Uno Johansson 10, Tommy Johansson 9, Anders Eriksson 8, Roger Gustavsson 7, Lars Hammarberg 6, Gert Carlsson 6, Lars Rosberg 6, Lars Ericsson 5, Anders Kling 4, Borje Klingberg 4, Ulf Blomqvist 3, Lars-Olov Karlsson 1.

The top eight from each Swedish Qualifying Round qualified for the Swedish Championship.

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 1 (Malilla, Tuesday May 25)

Richard Hellsen 13, Lennart Bengtsson 13, Uno Johansson 11, Tommy Nilsson 10, Bjorn Andersson 9, Jan Ericsson 9, Anders Eriksson 9, Pierre Brannefors 8, Anders Michanek 7, Conny Samuelsson 7, Lillebror Johansson 6, Hasse Danielsson 6, Roger Gustavsson 6, Ake Fridell 4, Borje Ring 2, Tommy Johansson 0. Reserves: Per-Ove Gudmundsson 0, Soren Brodin 0, Gert Carlsson 0.

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 2 (Stockholm, Wednesday May 26)

Richard Hellsen 13, Tommy Nilsson 13, Bjorn Andersson 12, Lillebror Johansson 12, Ake Fridell 10, Jan Ericsson 9, Lennart Bengtsson 8, Anders Michanek 8, Uno Johansson 7, Hasse Danielsson 6, Conny Samuelsson 5, Borje Ring 5, Anders Eriksson 2, Roger Gustavsson 1, Pierre Brannefors 0. Reserves: Per-Ove Gudmundsson 5, Gert Carlsson 4, Soren Brodin 0.

SWEDISH CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND 3 (Mariestad, Thursday May 27)

Tommy Nilsson 13, Lillebror Johansson 13, Uno Johansson 12, Anders Michanek 12, Richard Hellsen 11, Bjorn Andersson 11, Lennart Bengtsson 10, Jan Ericsson 8, Hasse Danielsson 7, Roger Gustavsson 7, Borje Ring 5, Conny Samuelsson 4, Anders Eriksson 2, Ake Fridell 1, Pierre Brannefors 0. Reserves: Per-Ove Gudmundsson 4.

Aggregate scores: Richard Hellsen 37, Tommy Nilsson 36, Bjorn Andersson 32, Lillebror Johansson 31, Lennart Bengtsson 31, Uno Johansson 30, Anders Michanek 27, Jan Ericsson 26, Hasse Danielsson 19, Conny Samuelsson 16, Ake Fridell 15, Roger Gustavsson 14, Anders Eriksson 13, Borje Ring 12, Per-Ove Gudmundsson 9, Pierre Brannefors 8, Gert Carlsson 4, Tommy Johansson 0, Soren Brolin 0.

The top four from the Swedish Championship qualified for the Nordic Final. In addition, Jan Andersson was seeded direct to the Nordic Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP NORDIC FINAL (Fjelsted, Sunday July 4)

Hans Nielsen 12, Erik Gundersen 12, Bo Petersen 11, Kai Niemi 11, Ole Olsen 11, Jan Andersson 10, Tommy Knudsen 10, Richard Hellsen 10, Preben Eriksen 10, Lillebror Johansson 6, Bjorn Andersson 5, Ari Koponen 5, Tommy Nilsson 3, Pekka Hautamaki 2, Dag Håland 1, Roy Otto 1.

The top six riders from the Nordic Final qualified for the Inter-Continental Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP INTER-CONTINENTAL FINAL (Vetlanda, Friday July 23)

Les Collins 12, Kenny Carter 11, Dennis Sigalos 10, Hans Nielsen 10, Kelly Moran 9, Bruce Penhall 9, Dave Jessup 8, Kai Niemi 7, Phil Crump 7, Jan Andersson 7, Peter Collins 6, Andy Grahame 6, Bo Petersen 6, Larry Ross 5, Ole Olsen 4, Erik Gundersen 3.

The top 11 riders from the Inter-Continental Final qualified for the World Final.



Inter-Continental Final action: Kenny Carter leads Bo Petersen and Dennis Sigalos

CONTINENTAL QUALIFYING ROUNDS

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL PRELIMINARY ROUND (Amsterdam, Holland, Saturday April 24)

Alfred Siekierka 14, Vaclav Verner 13, Petr Kucera 11, Eugeniusz Blaszak 11, Siegfried Eder 10, Peter Wuerterle 9, Henny Kroeze 8, Boleslaw Proch 7, Ladislav Hradecky 7, Piet Seur 7, Ralph Geurtz 5, Robert Funk 5, Hylke Dijkema 4, Willi Stroes 3, Henk Steman 3, Patrice Blondy 2.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL PRELIMINARY ROUND (Tarnowiszcze, Bulgaria, Sunday April 25)

Roman Jankowski 13, Mikhail Starostin 12, Jan Verner 12, Armando dal Chiele 12, Ryszard Buskiewicz 11, Janos Oresko 9, Emil Sova 9, Francesco Biginato 8, Angel Eftimov 8, Orlin Janakiev 6, Yuri Pavliuchenko 6, Antal Tamcsu 5, Albert Kocmut 4, Veselin Markov 3, Pier Mario Zanin 1, Jose Zibert 0.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL PRELIMINARY ROUND (Pardubice, Czechoslovakia, Sunday April 25)

Petr Ondrasik 14, Viktor Kuznetsov 13, Milan Spinka 12, Christian Brandt 11, Jiri Svoboda 10, Vladimir Klytschov 10, Jan Hadek 9, Jindrich Dominik 9, Marcel Gerhard 6, Luigi Bazan 6, Hubert Fischbacher 4, Rudy Muts 4, Lorenzo Franchetti 4, Manfred Trisko 3, Leo Bathoorn 3, Felix Weiss 2.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL PRELIMINARY ROUND (Osijek, Yugoslavia, Sunday April 25)

Josef Aigner 14, Valeri Gordeev 12, Nikolai Manev 12, Stefan Kekec 12, Mauro Ferraccioli 11, Christoph Betzl 10, Gianni Famari 9, Vlado Kocuvan 8, Roberto Incao 7, Josef Sziraczki 6, Kosovan Bertolan 6, Sergei Denisov 4, Walter Grubmuller 4, Stojan Todorov 2, Herbert Engelmaier 2, Vlado Koroulejovic 0.

The top eight from each Continental Preliminary Round qualified for the Continental Qualifying Round.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL QUALIFYING ROUND (Wiener Neustadt, Austria, Sunday May 9)

Karl Maier 12, Josef Aigner 12, Valeri Gordeev 11, Gianni Famari 10, Georg Gilgenreiner 10, Edward Jancarz 10, Istvan Sziraczki 10, Ferenc Farkas 9, Christoph Betzl 8, Stefan Kekec 7, Mauro Ferraccioli 5, Jerzy Rembas 5, Nikolai Manev 5, Vlado Kocuvan 2, Anton Wannasek 1, Walter Elefant 0.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL QUALIFYING ROUND (Debrecen, Hungary, Sunday May 9)

Ales Dryml 14, Mikhail Starostin 14, Zoltan Hajdu 13, Jiri Stancl 11, Zoltan Adorjan 10, Roman Jankowski 9, Emil Sova 8, Francesco Biginato 7, Piotr Bielajew 6, Armando dal Chiele 6, Evgeny Tokunov 5, Ryszard Buskiewicz 5, Janos Oresko 4, Jan Verner 2, Adi Funk 2, Herbert Szerecz 1. Reserve: Laszlo Juhasz 0.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL QUALIFYING ROUND (Norden, West Germany, Sunday May 9)

Egon Muller 12, Georg Hack 12, Zenon Plech 12, Anatoli Maximov 11, Alois Weisbock 9, Jindrich Dominik 9, Viktor Kuznetsov 9, Christian Brandt 9, Henryk Olszak 8, Nikolai Kornev 7, Vladimir Klytschov 7, Milan Spinka 6, Jan Hadek 3, Andrzej Huszcza 3, Jiri Svoboda 3, Marcel Gerhard 2.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL QUALIFYING ROUND (Diedenbergen, West Germany, Sunday May 9)

Henny Kroeze 12, Leonard Raba 12, Vaclav Verner 12, Zdenek Kudrna 11, Petr Kucera 11, Marek Kepa 10, Alfred Siekierka 10, Wojciech Zabialowicz 7, Rif Saitgareev 6, Hubert Diener 6, Siegfried Eder 6, Ladislav Hradecky 5, Eugeniusz Blaszak 4, Andy Cusworth 3, Boleslaw Proch 3, Anatoli Frolov 1.

The top eight from each Continental Qualifying Round qualified for the Continental Semi-Finals.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL SEMI-FINAL (Lonigo, Italy, Sunday June 13)

Valeri Gordeev 13, Francesco Biginato 12, Jiri Stancl 11, Ales Dryml 11, Edward Jancarz 11, Mikhail Starostin 10, Gianni Famari 9, Josef Aigner 8, Emil Sova 8, Roman Jankowski 8, Istvan Sziraczki 4, Georg Gilgenreiner 4, Ferenc Farkas 2, Karl Maier 2, Zoltan Hajdu 2, Zoltan Adorjan 1. Reserves: Piotr Bielajew 2, Christoph Betzl 1.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL SEMI-FINAL (Abensberg, West Germany, Sunday June 13)

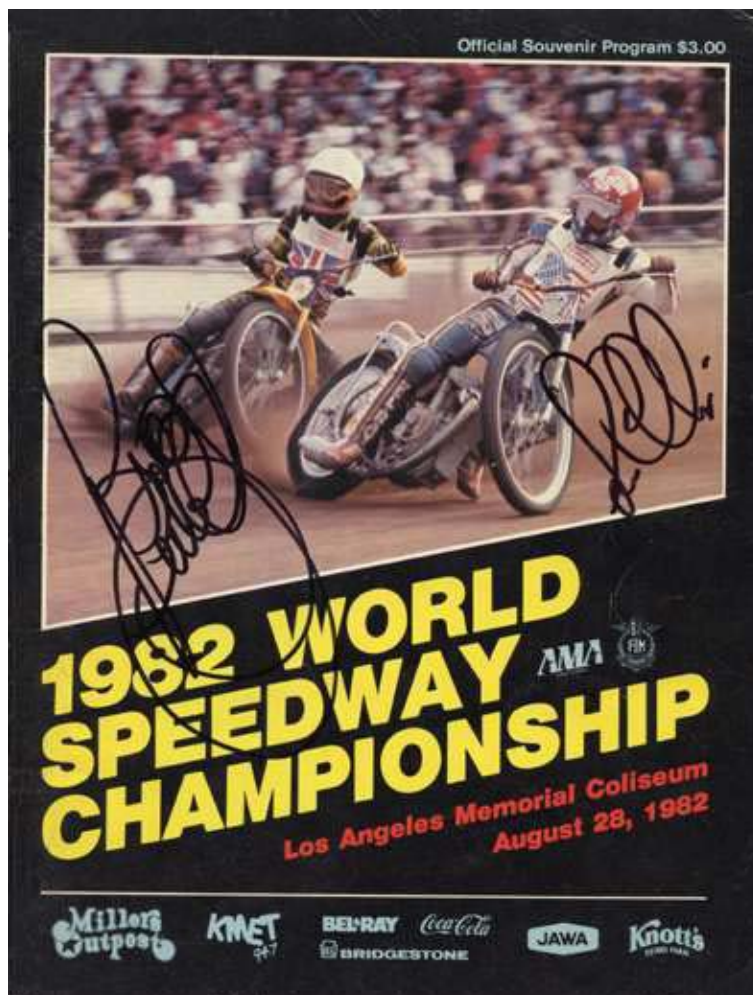
Viktor Kuznetsov 12, Marek Kepa 12, Rif Saitgareev 11, Vaclav Verner 10, Henny Kroeze 10, Georg Hack 10, Leonard Raba 9, Jindrich Dominik 8, Christian Brandt 7, Wojciech Zabialowicz 6, Petr Kucera 6, Anatoli Maximov 5, Alois Weisbock 4, Zenon Plech 4, Alfred Siekierka 3, Egon Muller 0. Reserves: Hubert Diener 2, Henryk Olszak 1.

The top eight from each Continental Semi-Final qualified for the Continental Final.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINENTAL FINAL (Leszno, Poland, Sunday July 25)

Jiri Stancl 15, Edward Jancarz 11, Vaclav Verner 11, Georg Hack 10, Mikhail Starostin 9, Emil Sova 9, Henny Kroeze 8, Ales Dryml 8, Viktor Kuznetsov 7, Valeri Gordeev 7, Jindrich Dominik 7, Marek Kepa 6, Leonard Raba 4, Francesco Biginato 3, Rif Saitgareev 3, Gianni Famari 1.

The top five from the Continental Final qualified for the World Final.



1982 World Final Programme Cover (signed by Bruce Penhall and Les Collins)

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL (Los Angeles, United States of America, Saturday August 28)

1. Bruce Penhall	2 3 3 3 3	14
2. Les Collins	3 3 1 3 3	13
3. Dennis Sigalos	3 2 2 2 3	12
4. Kelly Moran	2 1 3 3 2	11
5. Kenny Carter	3 3 3 fx 1	10
6. Dave Jessup	3 2 ef 3 0	8
7. Hans Nielsen	1 0 2 2 3	8
8. Jan Andersson	1 2 2 1 2	8
9. Jiri Stancl	0 1 3 1 2	7
10. Edward Jancarz	2 2 1 2 0	7
11. Georg Hack	2 0 2 1 1	6
12. Kai Niemi	0 3 1 0 1	5
13. Peter Collins	1 0 0 2 2	5
14. Phil Crump	1 1 1 1 0	4
15. Vaclav Verner	0 1 0 ex 1	2
16. Mikhail Starostin	ef 0 0 0 0	0

- Heat 1: Dennis Sigalos, Kelly Moran, Peter Collins, Mikhail Starostin (ef), 73.6.
 Heat 2: Kenny Carter, Edward Jancarz, Jan Andersson, Vaclav Verner, 74.2.
 Heat 3: Dave Jessup, Georg Hack, Phil Crump, Jiri Stancl, 75.1.
 Heat 4: Les Collins, Bruce Penhall, Hans Nielsen, Kai Niemi, 74.0.
 Heat 5: Bruce Penhall, Jan Andersson, Kelly Moran, Georg Hack, 73.8.
 Heat 6: Kai Niemi, Dave Jessup, Vaclav Verner, Peter Collins, 73.5.
 Heat 7: Les Collins, Edward Jancarz, Phil Crump, Mikhail Starostin, 73.9.
 Heat 8: Kenny Carter, Dennis Sigalos, Jiri Stancl, Hans Nielsen, 72.4.
 Heat 9: Kelly Moran, Hans Nielsen, Phil Crump, Vaclav Verner, 74.2.
 Heat 10: Jiri Stancl, Jan Andersson, Les Collins, Peter Collins, 72.6.
 Heat 11: Kenny Carter, Georg Hack, Kai Niemi, Mikhail Starostin, 72.7.
 Heat 12: Bruce Penhall, Dennis Sigalos, Edward Jancarz, Dave Jessup (ef), 74.2.
 Heat 13: Kelly Moran, Edward Jancarz, Jiri Stancl, Kai Niemi, 74.0.
 Heat 14: (re-run) Bruce Penhall, Peter Collins, Phil Crump, Kenny Carter (f,exc), 73.4.
 Heat 15: Dave Jessup, Hans Nielsen, Jan Andersson, Mikhail Starostin, 72.6.
 Heat 16: (re-run) Les Collins, Dennis Sigalos, Georg Hack, Vaclav Verner (exc), 72.8.
 Heat 17: Les Collins, Kelly Moran, Kenny Carter, Dave Jessup, 72.3.
 Heat 18: Hans Nielsen, Peter Collins, Georg Hack, Edward Jancarz, 73.2.
 Heat 19: Bruce Penhall, Jiri Stancl, Vaclav Verner, Mikhail Starostin, 73.1.
 Heat 20: Dennis Sigalos, Jan Andersson, Kai Niemi, Phil Crump, 72.8.



Heat 10: Les Collins outside Jiri Stancl and Jan Andersson



Kenny Carter battles with Bruce Penhall and protests his exclusion (above), but at the end of the night Bruce is the Champion (below)



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ROLL OF HONOUR

The following rolls of honour relate only to those seasons in which each final was a qualifying round for the World Championship. Prior to 1976 riders from Australia and New Zealand competed in the British Championship.

AUSTRALIAN FINAL

1976 Phil Crump	1979 Phil Crump	1982 Billy Sanders
1977 Phil Crump	1980 Billy Sanders	
1978 John Titman	1981 Billy Sanders	

NEW ZEALAND FINAL

1976 Ivan Mauger	1979 Larry Ross	1982 Larry Ross
1977 Larry Ross	1980 Larry Ross	
1978 Larry Ross	1981 Ivan Mauger	

AUSTRALASIAN FINAL

1976 John Boulger	1978 Mitch Shirra	1980 Billy Sanders
1977 Ivan Mauger	1979 Billy Sanders	1981 Ivan Mauger

BRITISH FINAL

1961 Barry Briggs	1970 Ivan Mauger	1977 Michael Lee
1964 Barry Briggs	1971 Ivan Mauger	1978 Michael Lee
1965 Barry Briggs	1972 Ivan Mauger	1979 Peter Collins
1966 Barry Briggs	1973 Ray Wilson	1980 Dave Jessup
1967 Barry Briggs	1974 Eric Boocock	1981 Steve Bastable
1968 Ivan Mauger	1975 John Louis	1982 Andy Grahame
1969 Barry Briggs	1976 Malcolm Simmons	

COMMONWEALTH FINAL

1980 Dave Jessup

OVERSEAS FINAL

1981 Dave Jessup 1982 Dave Jessup

NORDIC FINAL

1948 Basse Hveem	1962 Bjorn Knutsson	1973 Ole Olsen
1949 Basse Hveem	1963 Bjorn Knutsson	1974 Ole Olsen
1950 Basse Hveem	1964 Bjorn Knutsson	1975 Ole Olsen
1951 Basse Hveem	1965 Soren Sjosten	1976 Ole Olsen
1956 Dan Forsberg	1967 Ove Fundin	1977 Ole Olsen
1957 Aage Hansen	1968 Reidar Eide	1978 Ole Olsen
1958 Rune Sormander	1969 Torbjorn Harryson	1979 Jan Andersson
1959 Rune Sormander	1970 Gote Nordin	1980 Hans Nielsen
1960 Olle Nygren	1971 Ole Olsen	1981 Tommy Knudsen
1961 Ove Fundin	1972 Bengt Jansson	1982 Hans Nielsen

BRITISH-NORDIC FINAL

1966 Barry Briggs	1970 Soren Sjosten	1973 Anders Michanek
1968 Ivan Mauger	1971 Ivan Mauger	

ANGLO-AMERICAN-NORDIC FINAL

1974 Ole Olsen

INTER-CONTINENTAL FINAL

1975 Ivan Mauger	1978 Ole Olsen	1981 Bruce Penhall
1976 Peter Collins	1979 Michael Lee	1982 Les Collins
1977 Peter Collins	1980 Chris Morton	

CONTINENTAL FINAL

1965 Andrzej Wyglenda	1971 Henryk Glucklich	1977 Jan Verner
1966 Andrzej Pogorzelski	1972 Viktor Trofimov	1978 Hans Wassermann
1967 Andrzej Wyglenda	1973 Valeri Gordev	1979 Christoph Betzl
1968 Gennady Kurilenko	1974 Vladimir Gordeev	1980 Zenon Plech
1969 Antoni Woryna	1975 Edward Jancarz	1981 Egon Muller
1970 Hans Jurgen Fritz	1976 Egon Muller	1982 Jiri Stancl

EUROPEAN FINAL

1955 Henry Andersen	1962 Bjorn Knutsson	1969 Valeri Klementiev
1956 Ove Fundin	1963 Bjorn Knutsson	1970 Ivan Mauger
1957 Rune Sormander	1964 Zbigniew Podlecki	1971 Ivan Mauger
1958 Ove Fundin	1965 Ove Fundin	1972 Pawel Waloszek
1959 Ove Fundin	1966 Ivan Mauger	1973 Anders Michanek
1960 Marian Kaiser	1967 Andrzej Wyglenda	1974 Peter Collins
1961 Ove Fundin	1968 Pawel Waloszek	1975 Ivan Mauger

WORLD FINAL

1936 Lionel Van Praag	1959 Ronnie Moore	1972 Ivan Mauger
1937 Jack Milne	1960 Ove Fundin	1973 Jerzy Szczakiel
1938 Bluey Wilkinson	1961 Ove Fundin	1974 Anders Michanek
1949 Tommy Price	1962 Peter Craven	1975 Ole Olsen
1950 Freddie Williams	1963 Ove Fundin	1976 Peter Collins
1951 Jack Young	1964 Barry Briggs	1977 Ivan Mauger
1952 Jack Young	1965 Bjorn Knutsson	1978 Ole Olsen
1953 Freddie Williams	1966 Barry Briggs	1979 Ivan Mauger
1954 Ronnie Moore	1967 Ove Fundin	1980 Michael Lee
1955 Peter Craven	1968 Ivan Mauger	1981 Bruce Penhall
1956 Ove Fundin	1969 Ivan Mauger	1982 Bruce Penhall
1957 Barry Briggs	1970 Ivan Mauger	
1958 Barry Briggs	1971 Ole Olsen	