

CLASSIC SPEEDWAY VENUES

Past & Present

UPDATED

Philip Dalling

Attending a sporting fixture, for regular supporters and occasional visitors alike, represents a real sense of occasion. Many fans, whatever their sport, have time-hallowed pre-match rituals, favourite areas of a stadium, and a liking for sharing the experience with other individuals, with whom they may have stood (or increasingly, sat) for many years.

The shelves in bookshops devoted to sport boast an increasing number of volumes which concentrate on the venues rather than the players or the matches. Books spotlighting football stadia, cricket grounds, racecourses and other arenas, photographed either from ground level or the air, abound.

Speedway today – and over the 80-plus years since it was introduced to Great Britain – offers a quite exceptionally varied range of stadia – a variety enhanced by the fact that a majority of its venues were originally designed for other sports.

Philip Dalling has visited speedway venues in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. He has also taken every opportunity to become acquainted, through photographs and film, with the delights and the idiosyncrasies of those arenas which, sadly, disappeared before he had a chance to explore them.

This is an updated edition of the highly personal and richly illustrated exploration of more than 50 highly individual homes of speedway, including all of the UK's current tracks and a selection of iconic venues from the past. For the author, and thousands of others, these speedway tracks really do have the promise of Cinder Heaven.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Philip Dalling is a journalist and author who has covered speedway racing for more than 40 years, meeting and interviewing most of its great names.

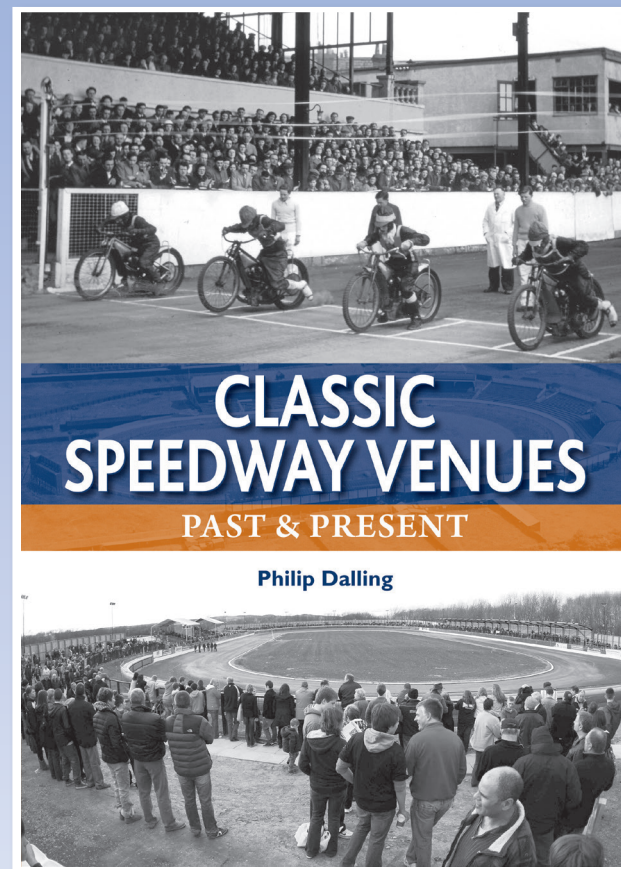
He is an associate member of the World Speedway Riders Association (WRSA) and in addition to books on the sport, he has contributed articles to magazines and websites including *Speedway Star*, *Backtrack*, *Classic Speedway*, *Speedway Plus*, and to many regional newspapers.

He is the author of many volumes published by Halsgrove, including *Speedway: the Classic Era* and *Saving Speedway*. Although his published work concentrates on the first four decades or so of speedway, from the late 1920s to the end of the 1960s, he enjoys modern day racing, attending meetings whenever possible.

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HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: *Hardback, A4, 160 pages, profusely illustrated in black and white*

Price: *£19.99*

ISBN: *978 0 85704 361 0*

Imprint: *Halsgrove*

Published: *November 2022*



Halsgrove Publishing, Halsgrove House, Ryelands Business Park, Bagley Road,
Wellington, Somerset TA21 9PZ Tel: 01823 653777 Fax: 01823 216796
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