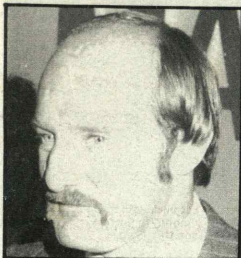


**MATCH RACE PREVIEW**

# TEAMWORK'S THE KEY



**MIKE HAILWOOD**  
British captain

**THE TENTH anniversary Easter Transatlantic Trophy road races at Brands Hatch, Mallory Park and Oulton Park promise to be the closest series of all.**

With Kenny Roberts and Barry Sheene, winners of the last four world 500cc championships, expected to be battling at the front, the Marlboro-sponsored

contest is almost certainly to be decided by the best team tactics.

Over the years, the Americans have been very much better at riding as a team than the Britons.

Britain lead 6-3 but the Americans are improving at such a rate it's frightening to Europeans who have for so long dominated the world road race scene.

Over the last six years, Britain and USA have won in alternative years. So after Britain's clean sweep of the first three years, the last six contests work out 3-3.

Both U.S. skipper Roberts and Britain's non-riding captain Mike Hailwood know it's going to be a tight struggle.

Said Hailwood: "If we can generate the same kind of team spirit as we had at the Donington Nations Cup last autumn, then we will win."

Sheene's first Easter appearance on a 750cc Yamaha-4 after his defection from Suzuki will be all-important to the British result.

Hailwood emphasises: "Britain's team is much stronger now that Barry is included. But it's definitely a team contest."

Not surprisingly, Hailwood is sure Britain will regain the Marlboro trophy.

Perhaps he's basing his judgment on the news that two of the Americans, Dave Aldana and Wes Cooley, will be riding U.S. Superbike spec 1,024cc Yoshimura Suzuki four-strokes.

Now these bikes may be the best thing since sliced bread to watch racing but they simply aren't as quick as the modern two-stroke racers on tight British circuits.

With Graham Wood injured, Alan Pacey (750 Yamaha) stands by as British reserve. Dale Singleton's Sunday crash lessens America's chances of retaining the trophy.

## FLASH-BACKS

**1971: GB 183, USA 137**  
Five-man teams all on BSA-Triumph triples. Ray Pickrell and Paul Smart shared top points, with American champion Dick Mann third. Smart pranged at Mallory, Pickrell at Oulton.

**1972: GB 252, USA 210**  
First appearance of Cal Rayborn and Herley. Cal and Pickrell won three races apiece to be top scorers. Remember Judy Nicholas' struggle with 175mph kinks, the 750 Suzuki?

**1973: GB 416, USA 398**  
Yvon Duhamel (Kawasaki) and Peter Williams (John Player Norton) top scorers in the west. The result was closer than the points show.

**1974: GB 416, USA 401**  
After winning the Imola 200, Kenny Roberts stormed Britain with four wins from six races. He'd only ridden in 40 road races. Barry Sheene next best from Stan Woods.

**1975: USA 278, GB 243**  
Brands Hatch snowed off. Dave Aldana top scorer from fellow-Yanka Don Castro and Kenny Roberts. And Roberts began his Oulton Park crashing sequence.

**1976: GB 412, USA 384**  
With four wins Steve Baker top scored from Sheene and Roberts. Roberts looped his Yamaha-4 at Clay Hill. And Ron Haslam made his British team debut.

**1977: USA 405, GB 280**  
With four wins Roberts was the star. But another American, Pat Hennen, was top scorer. Baker won at Oulton. And Sheene was only British rider. Britain lost it at Mallory.

**1978: GB 435, USA 379**  
Hennen again tops from Roberts, with Dave Potter third. The Americans threw it away at Brands Hatch where they were twice thumped 81-95.

**1979: USA 448, GB 352**  
The biggest winning margin. Mike Baldwin was top points scorer from Randy Mamola with Aldana and Sheene equal third. For the first time, the States won all three meetings.



He won at Daytona in 1979 but disappointed in Europe after that. Out to make an impression this time is the popular figure from Dalton, Georgia, Dale Singleton.

## 'I'll back the U.S.'

**CHRIS LOWE**, motor cycling director Motor Circuit Developments: "I fear for the British team because the American one is so strong with Kenny Roberts, the world champion, and Freddie Spencer, the next American world champion. With Barry Sheene back in the British eight, and with some good new names, we must have a chance. As a patriot, I'd back Britain. But as an investor, I'd back the States. It's that close."

**JOHN COOPER**, member of the first British team in the Transatlantic Trophy series in 1971: "The Easter series has proved the springboard for the standard of American riding which is now so good. If fancy Roberts to win everything, but the Britons hopefully have strength in depth and could fill the next few places. And that would be good enough for a British win. It's not really a true Anglo-U.S. contest with Crosby of New Zealand riding for GB. But it's still a very good international promotion... and very good for the sport."

## The points

**ALL NINE** riders from each team compete in each of the six Marlboro Transatlantic Trophy races with the best eight finishers from each country scoring points. The winner of each race takes 16 points ascending a point a time to one for 16th place. Riders receive \$6.25 a point. In addition, £5 will be paid to the leader of each of the 92 laps plus a £1,000 bonus to the winning team.

## OVER PAGE: THE MEN WHO MATTER!



ABSENT from the American squad last year, but back with a vengeance is California star Skip Aklund. Skip has always given value for money in Europe and there's no reason to doubt his intentions this Easter.



Only two weeks before last year's Transatlantic Trophy races, Dave Potter fell and broke a shoulder at Donington Park. But just watch him go this time!



# THE GREATEST SHOW ON TWO WHEELS!

Since it began in 1971, the TransAtlantic Trophy has developed into what is, for many bikers, the greatest road racing spectacle of the year.

Six races - two on each of three different circuits - decide the result of this annual Anglo-American clash, and give enthusiasts from all parts of the country an opportunity to watch the best riders of the world in action in this thrill-packed series.

Kenny Roberts, World Champion in '78 and '79, leads a great US contingent which includes Dave Aldana, Randy Mamola, Wes Cooley, and Freddie Spencer (the 17 year-old who rode so sensationally in last year's Daytona).

The U.K. team comprises aces such as Ron Haslam, Dave Potter, Graeme Crosby, Mick Grant and, subject to confirmation, the incomparable Barry Sheene. They will be lining up determined to avenge last year's crushing

**BRANDS HATCH - Friday April 4**  
Practice from 9.30 am. First race 1.30 pm.  
Reserved Enclosures: Adults £4.00, Children £1.50.  
Paddock £2.00, Stands £2.50, Open Seating £2.00, each extra.

**Thursday April 3**  
Practice from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm.  
Adults £1.00, Children 60p. Paddock £1.00 extra.

**MALLORY PARK - Sunday April 6**  
Practice from 9.30 am. First race 1.00 pm.  
Reserved Enclosures: Adults £4.00, Children £1.50.  
Paddock £2.00, Seating £1.00, each extra.

**OULTON PARK - Monday April 7**  
Practice from 8.30 am. First race about 1.30 pm.  
Reserved Enclosures: Adults £4.00, Children £1.50.  
Paddock £2.00, Stands £2.00, each extra.

defeat by the Americans, and to give our lads the best possible chance, Mike Hailwood will be there as non-riding captain. There's no-one better for devising race-winning tactics than Mike "The Bike"!

So this year, the 10th Anniversary of the series, should see some of the most fiercely contested racing ever!

There is, of course, a full supporting programme of events on each of the circuits to add to the enjoyment and excitement, including rounds of the Honda 125 cc and ShellSPORT 500 cc championships, and Sidecar races.

Of special interest will be the British debut of Gina Bovaird, the world's fastest woman road racer, riding in the 250 and 500 events. Gina - known as the "Leadfoot Lady" - is a 30 year-old housewife from Pennsylvania who, on current performance, is going to surprise quite a few of our top male riders!



# Marlboro Transatlantic Trophy

in association with the "Sun"