

Ancaster's Lee Jerome wins

McKee brings home second

Stories and photos
by John Challinor

Lee Jerome of Ancaster was the overall Ontario Amateur Racing Club champion this past season, but Milton's Dave McKee was right on his tail.

Jerome's victories were recognized at the annual awards night and banquet at the Bingham Park Lodge in Kitchener Saturday.

Jerome, number 57 to the many Milton fans who made Flamboro Speedway a weekly affair during the summer, was honored by the O.A.R.C. for placing second at the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series at Cayuga, placing fourth at the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series at Sauble Speedway, winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series at Delaware, winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series Mid-Season Championship, winning the Ontario Stock Car Association Points Championship, placing second in the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series Annual Twin 25's, winning the Hoosier Tire Flamboro and O.A.R.C. racing championship, placing second in the

Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series Season End Championship, winning seven Feature races at Flamboro Speedway during the regular season, winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Overall Points Championship and winning the Gallinger Motors Club Championship.

McKee, a 24-year-old car and truck salesman with Gallinger Motors, fought neck-and-neck with Jerome during the entire season, losing the championship in the last race when his car, plagued by crank problems during the early part of the season, broke down.

However, McKee took his share of the limelight anyway.

McKee, who drove the popular blue and white number 37 Chev, was honored by the club for winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series at Sauble Speedway, winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series at Delaware, winning the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series Mid-Season Championship, winning the Ontario Stock Car Association Points Championship, placing second in the Rammage Transport Gold Cup Series Annual Twin 25's, winning the Hoosier Tire Flamboro and O.A.R.C. racing championship, placing second in the

Gold Cup Series Annual Twin 25's, received money from Redi-Rad Cooling Systems Specialists for winning the Little Feature at Flamboro Speedway at least once during the regular season, shared in the club's recognition for winning the Motion 77 Car Show Best Club Display, placed second in the Flamboro Track Points Championship, received money from Red Stallion Garage Supplies for winning the Feature race at Flamboro Speedway five times during the regular season, was named the most sportsmanlike competitor by the O.A.R.C. and placed second in the Gallinger Motors Club Championship race.

Dave Mogford, proprietor of Milton Rustproofing, is a hobby enthusiast who has just completed his second season at Flamboro as a driver. He was the O.A.R.C.'s rookie-of-the-year in 1976 and was the recipient of other honors this season.

Mogford, driver of the number 39 Plymouth, placed seventh in the Ontario Stock Car Racing Association Points Championship, was honored by the O.A.R.C. for his participation in the award winning Motion 77 Car Show

Club Display, and placed 10th in the Gallinger Motors Club Championship.

"I'm fairly happy with my performance this season," said Mogford, a 17-year-old veteran of the hobby racing circuit. "I'd like to be in the top seven next season. For me, it's a matter of getting the proper equipment to run with the guys in that top group. You have to have the equipment."

"To get the equipment though, you have to put a lot of money into racing," Mogford smiled. "I don't want to put too much into it. It's a hobby for me."

"As far as next year goes, I'll probably make suspension changes," Mogford said. "I have to change the front and rear springs. The motor is all right at the moment. My brother Mike and Bill Tardiff were my mechanics this season and will probably be helping me next season."

Mogford said there will be possible rule changes in the areas of safety regulations for the cars, but he isn't worried by the costs—he has instituted most of the changes in his car already.

"There is the possibility that fuel cells and window screens will be mandatory and that banning of electric fuel pumps will take place next season," Mogford said.

"I have a fuel cell in my car now and I don't use electric fuel pumps anyway. The screen will be my only modification."

Gord Hasselfeldt, Vice-President of the O.A.R.C., said there would be eight possible safety changes next season. All possible changes will be voted on at the next meeting or in the new year.

"The membership has proposed the following safety changes—the only major changes in the club so far," said Hasselfeldt.

"The addition of fuel cells (a fuel cell is basically a regular gas tank with a bladder inside it to store the fuel in), an updating of the frames, three inch lapbelts and two inch shoulder straps for the drivers, fireproof

underwear, screens on the driver's window, padded lower dash area and padded centres in the steering wheels, welded doors and filled in fender panels round out the possible changes to be instituted next season," Hasselfeldt, a Milton native and manager of Milton Memorial Arena said. "Still, with these possible changes, we have to think about costs. Hobby racing is a hobby. We have to keep it that way."

Hasselfeldt was nominated to run on the nine man committee which operates the O.A.R.C. and is seeking his 1977 position again.

"I'd like to keep my old job," Hasselfeldt smiled. "And I'd like to see Dave McKee keep his entertainment job. And what can I say about the president this year? Don Cockburn provided the best leadership this club has ever had. I'd like to see him continue."

Club President Don Cockburn, who works in the poultry division of Canada Packers and is a native of Paris, Ont., said it is important for the club to carefully plot its course now for the next two to three years.

"We have to decide whether or not we are going to stay with six cylinder engines and the present age specifications of our sheet metal," he said.

"Presently, the membership can only use bodies built before 1948," Cockburn said. "We may have to change this rule because of the expense of buying bodies this old and the scarcity of them."

"The club has to look at the economy and the direction of the automotive field as well," Cockburn added. "The big three are coming out with six cylinder engines again for economy and weight. Six cylinder engines will become standard equipment in most new cars before very long."

"We are racing what the average consumer is buying now," Cockburn said. "I think that puts the O.A.R.C. in a very advantageous position as compared to the other racing clubs in Canada."



A RACE FOR THE CORNER by Milton Flyer Rick Jacklin who stands in front of the Dixie Beehives' net with the puck while Paul McCann is making his move in the slot. Flyers tied Dixie 4-4.

Flyers tie Beehives lose to Acton Sabres

By Peter McCusker

No one can understand the Milton Flyers better than their coach Gerry Inglis or owner-general manager, Vern Gooding. These two men have said, however, that they don't even figure out what is going on after the Flyers lost to the Acton Sabres on Friday evening and flying Dixie to a 4-4 tie here Sunday.

Inglis stood outside of Flyers' dressing room Sunday evening, shaking his head. He was pleased with the team tonight but just couldn't put his finger on why the Flyers will put on a top performance against the top teams in the Central Ontario Junior B League.

"Why can they do this against the top?" Inglis questioned. "Even the games we lost, we were in them at one point." Maybe Flyers don't have the killer instinct, was his conclusion.

Flyers, for whatever reasons, played a strong game against Dixie Beehives here at Milton Memorial Arena Sunday evening, drawing 4-4 and threatening to take the win late in the third period. It was Dixie netminder Orest Okpysh who robbed many Flyer shooters with his lightning glove hand.

Rod Gooding kept in the league scoring race, netting two goals while Paul McCann was back in form, marking a pair for the total Flyer tally. The game was virtually penalty free as well.

Flyer goalie Ian Roberts turned away 51 Dixie shots and should be credited with an outstanding game between the pipes.

In reflection on the string of losses suffered by the Flyers over the early part of the month, coach Inglis said they don't have the team to stay with other teams after two and three games in a week. It is the old story of lack of proper conditioning and ice time.

How can Flyers expect to compete with teams who are taking two and three practices a week, as well as games, when they hit the ice for an hour one week for practice and face two games?

The team has to sign players to give them a tryout and that hurts the lineup. New players should be given the opportunity to have their initial tryouts with Flyers on the practice ice in simulated game situations, not during a league confrontation. This frustrates the Flyers' executive.

So coach Inglis described the Flyers' present style of play as getting a goal up on the opposition and sitting back and attempting to play defensive hockey. "Juniors are not good enough checkers to do this," he said. "It's tough playing Jr. B under these circumstances."

Two regulars were out of Flyers' lineup in Sunday's game. Pierre Pilote was finishing a two game suspension and Rob Frame was suffering a shoulder injury suffered in Acton Friday evening.

Flyers-Dixie
In the first period it appeared to become another high scoring affair as both

teams netted three goals. Beehive Shawn Mombourquette scored the opening goal assisted by Mike Palmer at 17:34. Flyer McCann answered by Brian Gordon. Gooding urged Flyers into the lead with his first at 13:20 with the aid of Bruce Ellison but Mombourquette tied the game with his second score at 8:53 remaining.

Dixie jumped ahead 3-2 at 7:42 as Mark Duck took the initiative to beat Roberts after being set up by Steve Cruikshank. Less than a minute later McCann scored his second of the period to tie the score again with the hard checking Gordon grabbing the assist.

Flyers appeared to be hungry early in the second period as they pressed Dixie in their end and kept blazing shots at Okpysh. Gooding tallied the final Flyer goal early in the period on a short-handed drive which left fans gasping for more. Ron Twiss drew the assist.

McCann unleashed a number of shots, one hitting Neil McLean in the leg that dropped him instantly. Flyers enjoyed a one goal lead through most of the second period and an anxious goal judge behind Ian Roberts flashed the score light in anticipation one time.

Dixie's Jim Doherty marked the tying goal late in the second from Tom Raptopoulos to conclude scoring in the game.

In third period play, Flyers appeared to slow in the skating department and were being beaten to the puck too often. No goals were scored

but Ian Roberts came up with a number of saves to hold onto the tie.

Acton game
Flyers were not home on their usual Friday night date at Milton Arena but ventured north of the 401 to Acton Sabre country and were backed to a 4-2 loss.

Acton Sabres are not in the habit of winning hockey games but the basement bruisers made short work of the Milton Flyers in their win slump and defeated Milton 4-2 Friday evening.

Flyers took 22 minutes in minor penalties and outshot the Sabres 42-35. But the work of Acton Sabre captain Dave Chapman won the day for the northerners.

Chapman banged a hat trick past Milton goalie Don Murray. Wade Vickery lit the scoreboard first and opened the Sabres scoring at 18:10 of the first period. Flyer captain Ron Twiss answered with Milton's first period marker at 13:04, assisted by Bruce Ellison.

The Flyers jumped ahead 2-1 in the second period as Gasper Paul completed the setup, firing one home from Rod Gooding and Rick Jacklin.

The third period belonged to the Sabres as Chapman scored his hat trick with Brian Walker, Rob Millican and John Buni taking assists on the goals.

Milton played Streetsville Derbys Tuesday evening in Streetsville and the Derbys were in Milton Sunday evening to watch Flyers and Beehives go at it here. Friday's home game, the Flyers will host Oakville Blades.

Sports Scoreboard

ONTARIO CENTRAL JUNIOR HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS												
Team	G	W	L	T	F	A	Pts	INTERMEDIATE STANDINGS				
								NORTH DIVISION				
Derbys	15	11	2	2	120	59	24	Paris	7	1	0	14
Dixie	15	11	2	2	97	59	24	Dumville	6	2	0	12
Burlington	13	6	5	2	65	64	14	Ayr	4	3	0	8
Oakville	13	6	6	1	66	57	13	Plattsville	4	2	0	8
Brampton	17	6	10	1	75	102	13	Milton	4	4	0	8
Georgetown	15	5	8	2	55	72	12	Six Nations	2	6	0	4
Milton	15	3	8	4	75	99	10	Smithville	2	6	0	4
Acton	13	3	10	0	52	94	6	Caledonia	0	7	0	0

O.C.L. LEADING SCORERS										
Player-Team	GP	G	A	Pts	Pen	SOUTH DIVISION				
Baker-Derbys	13	17	28	45	11	Dorchester	8	0	0	16
Prestidge-Derby	13	10	24	34	11	Simcoe	6	3	0	12
Gooding-Milton	14	11	22	33	28	Delhi	4	0	0	8
Gordon-Milton	13	15	17	32	40	Aylmer	3	0	0	6
Milton	13	3	8	7	29	Port Dover	3	0	0	6
Chandler-Derby	13	21	8	29	43	Tilsonburg	3	0	0	6
						Norwich	2	6	0	4

GAMES THIS WEEK: Tues. Streetsville 4, Dixie 1, Wed. Dixie 14, Brampton 2, Fri. Acton 4, Milton 2, Burlington 5, Oakville 4, Sat. Georgetown 3, Brampton 1, Burlington 8, Acton 6, Sun. Oakville 4, Brampton 1, Dixie 4, Milton 4.									
GAME RESULTS					NORTH DIVISION				
Milton 5 Six Nations 4, Dumville 4 Ayr 3, Milton 6 Caledonia 5, Plattsville 13 West Lincoln 3, West Lincoln 6 Caledonia 5.									



DRIVER DAVE MCKEE of Milton was among those honored at the Ontario Amateur Racing Club's awards night in Kitchener Saturday. He's pictured, centre, surrounded by his trophies and his pit crew, brother Dave (left) and Hank DeBoer (right).

McKee 'satisfied' with performance this season

Dave McKee of Milton was a popular man at the Ontario Amateur Racing Club's annual awards night and banquet as he picked up over a dozen pieces of silverware as well as most of the applause.

"What else can I say—it's been a super year," said the popular Milton hobby driver. "There was a lot of work put into the car this season, especially by my pit crew—Bob McKee (Dave's brother) and Hank DeBoer."

"We put in a lot of hours on the car this year," McKee said. "If it wasn't for Bob and Hank, and especially my sponsor Danny Allan, we wouldn't be where we are today. It was just a great team effort."

McKee has just finished his fourth year of hobby racing at Flamboro Speedway and intends to race next year. He has shown a steady improvement each season he has competed on the Flamboro oval.

"As long as I can afford to do it, I'm going to keep racing," McKee said. "It's been a lot of fun, and it keeps me busy on the weekends."

club is also a social thing, as well," McKee said. "You meet a lot of interesting people in the O.A.R.C. and associated drivers in this club, and with all the social activities we have in a year, you don't want to leave."

McKee said he was happy with his finish this year, but definitely intends to take a good shot at the championship next season.

"I never finished worse than fourth place this season in the feature races," McKee smiled. "I've never done that before. I had some tough breaks early in the season—with cranks and clutches—but I'm satisfied with my finish."

"I'm disappointed in my finishes at the other tracks the club raced at during the season," McKee said. "I failed to finish a few races at Delaware and Cayuga."

McKee and his crew plan to take it easy this winter, concentrating on building a new trailer for the blue and white 1937 Chev.

"As far as the car goes, it's going to get a minor facelift," McKee said. "The motor has already been rebuilt so we'll be working on the clutches."

"It can be an expensive hobby to race in the club," McKee said. "But I never got into hobby racing with the intention of trying to make money. I like the sport and so does my crew. I'm in this club for the sport and for the social activities."

McKee has been nominated by members of the O.A.R.C. to run for the nine-man committee which handles the club's business. He served this past season on the committee in the entertainment end of the organization. He would like to continue in this capacity next season, and at the same time take a shot at the championship.

"The track champion this season, Lee Jerome, had a great season," McKee said. "His car was working for him, his crew was working for him, his luck was great and so was his driving. He had it all together for almost every race."

"He was a tough guy to beat—when I beat him," McKee smiled. "There are going to be some good races next year when my car is ready to go again."

O.A.R.C. pres happy with '77 Hobby season

If you ask Ontario Amateur Racing Club President Don Cockburn about his club's highlights this past season, he prepared to sit down and listen for a while—the President is very happy about the O.A.R.C. happenings in 1977.

"Highlights, there's been plenty this year," smiled Cockburn, a 15-year veteran of hobby racing. "The special races at Delaware, Sauble Beach and Cayuga certainly rank as highlights. The owners of those tracks have expressed an interest in having the club back, which is a tribute to the Club and the show we put on."

"The number of members and the quality and appearance of the cars this season is another highlight which cannot be overlooked," Cockburn said. "The competition was excellent and we had between 55 and 61 cars in the club—all racing at certain times during the season."

"However," Cockburn said. "In my mind the most impressive aspect of this season was the co-operation between the drivers and the committee with myself. We all pulled together."

"The committee really followed through on all aspects of the organization of the club," Cockburn said. "If the safety committee asked a guy to pull his engine and replace it, you can believe it has done. This is one of the reasons this club stands together. This kind of respect

and co-operation makes it go."

The O.A.R.C. is the oldest, chartered, incorporated stock car club in Canada. It began in 1964 and was chartered as a club in 1966. It is a non-profit organization.

"The important thing to remember is that it is not a racer's club totally," Cockburn said. "It is a social club as well. It's difficult to use figures in a case like this, but the O.A.R.C. is probably 60 per cent racing and 40 per cent socializing."

Cockburn just completed his sixth year on the club committee. He served for four years beginning in 1969, before taking a two year stint on the track. In 1975 he retired officially, although he raced once this season, winning the Mid-Season Little Feature. Cockburn has been nominated to run on the committee for the 1978 season but has not decided if he will run or retire.

"I haven't made a firm decision," said Cockburn. "I certainly don't intend to walk away if I think there is anything I can do to improve the club. The only reason I might not run for a 1978 position on the committee is because of family commitments. Every Saturday night, every spring and summer for the past 15 years adds up to a lot of lost time with my family. But, you have to be prepared to put in a lot of time to operate a successful club."

TRI-COUNTY LEAGUE GAME RESULTS

Juvenile Auctioneers 3, Streetsville 4
Juniors 1, Streetsville 3
Grant Haulage Bants 1, Burlington 1
Docs and Dents 7, Chinguacousy 9
Docs and Dents 4, Burlington 2
Pee wee Thunderbirds 2, Georgetown 1
Pee wee T-Birds 1, Georgetown 1
Streetsville 5, T-Bird pee wees 1

FLYERS' SCORES

Flyers 4, Dixie Beehives 4
Acton Sabres 4, Flyers 2

TRIDENTS SCORES

Tridents 6, Caledonia 5
Tridents 5, Six Nations 4