

Normally the Whitsun holiday is a festival of sport; but in 1954, although the sporting events took place just the same, the glamorous sunshine was ~~not~~ unsporting enough to stop away. However --- the ~~xxx~~ Crystal Palace cycling enthusiasts refused to be put off. And the Junior Massed Start Race was started in four groups. Over a hundred and fifty competitors were on the track at the same time.

The race was over a distance of twenty miles; and the winner was 16-year old Colin Davis of Birmingham.

And here was another massed start --- but this time on the road. It was the first stage of the Daily Express "Tour of Britain" --- one hundred and twenty-eight miles, from Great Yarmouth to Lincoln. In a few years, this has become one of the outstanding sporting events of the year --- and for 1954, the thirteen daily stages cover a total distance of one thousand four hundred and sixty-one miles. The first day had its share of accidents and one Belgian rider was put out of the race for good.

Winner of the first day's ride was a twenty-five-year-old Frenchman from Brittany --- Germaine Mercier.

And now to Goodwood --- with a running start for the twenty-one lap Sports Car Challenge Trophy.

The leaders were lapping at over eighty miles an hour --- which, in a sports car, is travelling. Here's 47 --- A.C.B. Chappam in a Lotus, overtaking No. 44 --- R.W. Jacobs' M.C.

No. 33 is Roy Salvadori in a Maserati, giving it the gun to pass J. Deeley in an Austin Healey.

But from the start of the race, the leaders had been Jaguars; and here is Jimmy Stewart No. 26, cracking on the pace that gave him victory --- with Jaguars also in second and third places.

At the White City there was a big crowd to watch the International Meeting which was somewhat marred by a thunderstorm. In the Mile, C.W. Brasher soon overtook Milligan, and came home a fine winner in four minutes, nine and one-fifth seconds.

For the half-mile, all eyes were on Roger Bannister --- the first man to run a mile in four minutes. But here is S. Jungwirth from Czechoslovakia, coming up to pass him. Having done that, the Czech kept his lead, and finished the winner in one minute, fifty point seven seconds.

Now --- the three miles, an inter-counties event. In this there was a hope that Gordon Pirie might be going out to attack the world-record --- but the heavy going was against any spectacular times. Pirie went plugging on in his inimitable, clockwork style, and he was a comfortable winner; but the world record stayed where it was.

Now the Two Miles. It was a Two - Day Meeting and this Two Miles took place on the second day. Bannister and Brasher were acting as pacemakers for Chris Chataway.

Now here comes that dangerous Czech, Jungwirth --- passing Bannister and going after Chataway out in front. But Chataway was well ahead, and he stuck to his lead. Once again, the British ~~athlete~~ athlete just failed to crack the world record; but Chataway's time of eight minutes forty-one seconds, was only three-fifths of a second behind the best ever.