



# HG AEROSPACE SPEEDWAY ACADEMY

In March 2024, Sussex Eagle Motorcycle Club (SEMC) was given the opportunity to operate under a NORA licence and stage a number of challenge matches at Iwade Speedway Track. The first fixture saw the Eastbourne Eagles take on the Kent Kings, followed later in the year by Eastbourne Eagles versus Thurrock Hammers. Both meetings proved to be successful events.

In October 2024, discussions took place regarding the possibility of continuing operations at Iwade for the 2025 season. Michael Gray, co-owner of SEMC, was initially reluctant to continue operating under the NORA licence, and at that stage it appeared unlikely that SEMC would continue staging speedway meetings.

However, an opportunity later arose to compete in the Development League under the Speedway Control Bureau (SCB). SEMC had originally been established to support young riders through sponsorship and development opportunities, making this an ideal progression for the club. As a result, Michael Gray and fellow co-owner David Graveling decided to submit an application to join the league, which was accepted by the SCB in December 2024.

In many respects, the 2025 season was considered a success. Unfortunately, the working relationship between the two owners of SEMC became untenable, leading to the dissolution of the partnership. Mr. Graveling subsequently resigned as co-owner of the club in November 2025.

SEMC continued in the hope that SCB racing would proceed in 2026, working alongside the HG Aerospace Speedway Academy based in Lydd. This initiative would have provided an excellent pathway for young riders aspiring to compete in Development League Speedway at Iwade. Unfortunately, for understandable reasons, Iwade was unable to continue operating under the SCB.

As a result, Sussex Eagle Motorcycle Club (SEMC), the promotional company, is no longer trading. Moving forward, HG Aerospace Speedway Academy will continue as the primary club name and promotional company.

For the time being, the academy, working in conjunction with Try Speedway training schools, will continue to focus on supporting and funding youth riders, with the hope of returning to Development Speedway at an alternative venue in the future.