

## Timeline

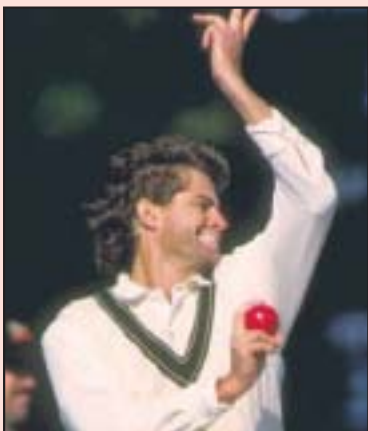
KOS Media sport takes a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 50 years

**1960** **50 YEARS AGO:** A YEAR after they courted controversy by leaving both Gillingham and Folkestone off the fixture list for 1960, Kent announced that both the Garrison Ground and Cheriton Road would stage matches during the 1961 campaign.

Both towns cried foul when they were overlooked by the county, but the Garrison was awarded Kent's opening fixture with Somerset, while Cheriton Road was handed a July date with Lancashire.

Gravesend, Tunbridge Wells, Blackheath, The Mote and Dover were also given games, with St Lawrence hosting just three fixtures.

In rugby Sevenoaks beat Reading 19-6 while Tonbridge beat Old Elthamians 19-0.



**TARGET:** Kent wanted Aussie paceman Terry Alderman to return to St Lawrence

**1985** **25 YEARS AGO:** KENT were hoping to persuade Terry Alderman to return to St Lawrence after seven years without a trophy.

Chairman John Pocock said the club were "actively considering" a move for the Australian pace bowler.

"We are looking for a fast bowler who can get us between 70-80 wickets in the championship in a season," Pocock said. "Preferably Kent born or bred, from outside Kent but England qualified, or from overseas, and in that order."

Alderman last played for Kent in the 1984 season as an emergency replacement for Graham Dilley, who was injured, and Eldine Baptiste who was on Test duty.

Kent were also fined £6,000 by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) for failing to bowl at the scandalously slow average of 18.5 overs per hour in the championship that summer.

Tonbridge Angels' five-game unbeaten run came to an end when they lost 2-0 to Dover Athletic at Longmead.

**2000** **10 YEARS AGO:** GILLINGHAM went down to their fourth defeat in five games, losing 3-1 at West Brom.

The Gills fell behind after just 89 seconds to Lee Hughes, who went to score his first ever hat-trick as a professional.

Kent chief executive Paul Millman was forced to defend the county after a significant hike in membership rates.

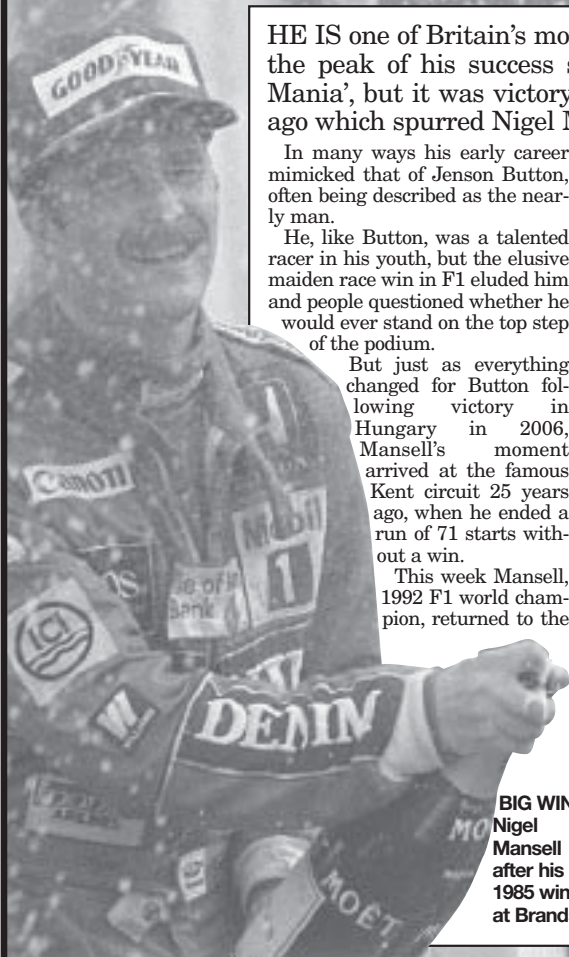
The county received £1.22 million from the TCCB but were still poised to suffer a six-figure loss on the season.

Membership rates were due to rise by up to 50 per cent and Millman said: "The increases are regrettable, but necessary in the present financial circumstances."

"The ever-present challenge of balancing revenue and expenditure has led to a complete review of Kent's commercial department."

# Brands revisited

**TOM HOWARD** meets Nigel Mansell to reminisce about the day at Brands Hatch 25 years ago which began the road to Formula One World Championship glory



HE IS one of Britain's most celebrated drivers and at the peak of his success sparked scenes of 'Mansell Mania', but it was victory at Brands Hatch 25 years ago which spurred Nigel Mansell to greatness.

In many ways his early career mimicked that of Jenson Button, often being described as the nearly man.

He, like Button, was a talented racer in his youth, but the elusive maiden race win in F1 eluded him and people questioned whether he would ever stand on the top step of the podium.

But just as everything changed for Button following victory in Hungary in 2006, Mansell's moment arrived at the famous Kent circuit 25 years ago, when he ended a run of 71 starts without a win.

This week Mansell, 1992 F1 world champion, returned to the

scene of his European Grand Prix win in 1985 to start the 38th Beaujolais Run, where competitors solve challenges on their way to next week's finish in Burgundy.

Even though the victory was a quarter of a century ago, he fondly remembers the day when his career took off.

Mansell said: "I've got some happy memories at Brands Hatch. The circuit is special and has its own place on the world motorsport calendar."

"The win was pivotal and it was extremely important in my career, and to do it at your home Grand Prix was unbelievable."

"The overriding feeling when I crossed the finish line was just one of joy as it got the monkey off my back, and then a week later I won again in South Africa and that was where it all started."

Turning back the clock 25 years to the start of the 1985 season, the sport was in a vastly different shape compared to today.

The 1980s has often been labelled as a golden era for the series, with Ayrton Senna, Alain Prost, Nelson Piquet and Keke Rosberg all becoming champions.

When the championship arrived in Kent that October, the title was in Prost's grasp, but it would prove to be Mansell's day, in front of



**FRENCH TRIP:** Nigel Mansell with Brands Hatch owner Jonathan Palmer and John Surtees (in car). The trio were at the circuit for the launch of this year's Beaujolais Run

more than 100,000 ecstatic fans.

The Englishman qualified in third but lost ground after a mistake at Druids. His challenge was reignited on the sixth lap when Rosberg spun at Surtees and was hit by Piquet. Mansell sneaked into second and set his sights on Senna.

He passed the legendary Brazilian at Paddock Hill bend and once he was in the lead he was uncatchable and took the checkered flag in an emotional victory on home soil.

The win opened the floodgates and was the first of 29 F1 wins, nine of which came during his triumphant 1992 season.

Mansell is still racing today and he grabbed the headlines only in June, when he suffered a nasty accident at the Le Mans 24 Hours sports car race.

## Overseas ace OJ aiming to shoot Crusaders up league

AFTER getting over the initial shock of an English winter compared to his native Virginia, OJ Reed is settling in to his role as Medway Park Crusaders' overseas player.

Visa problems held up the American's introduction to European basketball, but last weekend the college graduate showed why the Division Two club were prepared to wait.

The 6ft 6ins forward enjoyed a near-perfect game, hitting every shot inside the three-point arc to contribute 30 points as the Hemel Storm were beaten 80-72. It was the Kent side's fourth victory in five league games, taking them level on points with the leaders.

While admitting the English game is not quite what he expected, Reed is thoroughly enjoying his full-time role, which includes coaching in the Crusaders' academy in Canterbury.

He said: "As a kid you always dream of the NBA, but the reality is very slim. This is an opportunity for me to play as a professional, and for me to have that with my name is a great honour."

"I thought there would be 500 fans in the stands shouting every game, but it's not quite like that. The level of play isn't as high as I thought it would be, but it's an opportunity for me to make the most of it and lead the team to success."

With just one non-European permitted in squads, head coach James Vear is pleased the decision to sign Reed is paying off.

He said: "We get a lot of guys each year asking to come and play. It's a matter of watch-



**BORN IN THE USA:** OJ Reed is enjoying his spell with the Medway Crusaders

ing hundreds of DVDs and looking at who will fit in best. OJ's not only a great player, but a great guy as well. He creates so many problems for other teams because he's tall but handles the ball like a guard."

The Crusaders host Tees Valley Mohawks on Sunday. Tip-off at Medway Park is at 2pm.

## Hall of fame for a volley good effort

AN INFLUENTIAL figure in English volleyball has been honoured by having a new facility named after him at the sport's national headquarters.

The Don Anthony Hall of Fame was officially opened at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering with the first intake of prominent players, coaches and officials last weekend.

Anthony, who lives in Sidcup, has spent his life promoting the sport and founded the Amateur Volleyball Association of Great Britain and Ireland in 1955.

A photograph of the octogenarian (pictured) hangs over the entrance to the hall of fame, in recognition of his 60 years' loyal service.

Unfortunately due to ill health Anthony was unable to attend the ceremony, but Richard Callicott, president of Volleyball England, summed up his contribution.

He said: "I am delighted Don is pleased and that he feels honoured. Of course I understand that he was unable to be there, but be assured we made sure his presence was felt."

"We at Volleyball England do treasure him and he is greatly respected and loved within the volleyball community."

