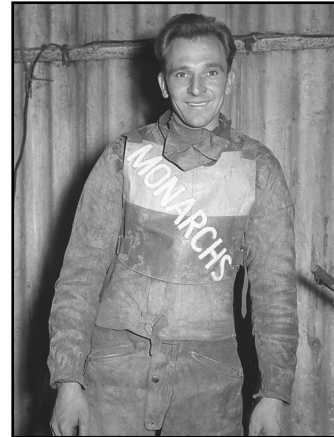


BOOTH, Harold

Born: November 28, 1921, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England.*

A former grass track rider, Harold had second half rides at Hull in 1949 before finally breaking into a league side at Halifax the following year. He was named in the team for the start of the season but was dropped in favour of Dyson Harper after four matches had brought only five points.

Edinburgh manager Clem Mitchell must have heard good reports, however, as he agreed to pay £250 for Harold's services and he was to spend the rest of his career at Old Meadowbank, making 47 appearances for the club. He scored seven, paid eight, on his debut but never topped that score and usually featured in a reserve berth before retiring from speedway after being dropped three matches into the 1952 season. He did attend pre-season trials at Edinburgh with Dyson Harper in 1954 but was unsuccessful in his quest for a team place.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1950	Halifax	NL2	4	8	5	0	5	2.50	-	-
1950	Edinburgh	NL2	23	59	47	9	56	3.80	-	-
1951	Edinburgh	NL2	21	53	37	6	43	3.25	-	-
1952	Edinburgh	NL2	3	8	3	1	4	2.00	-	-

BOOTH, William Albert (Bill)

Born: September 21, 1934, Southampton, Hampshire, England.*

A Southampton dock worker, 'Big Bill' was mainly confined to second half races at Aldershot in 1957 and made his debut in the club's last league match of the season, scoring a single point against the Rayleigh 'Rovers' on October 5. He took part in open meetings in 1958 as the Southern Area League failed to get off the ground and started the 1959 season with second half rides at Poole. Bill suffered serious head injuries in a crash at Wimborne Road on April 3 that year and did not appear in official competition again.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1957	Aldershot	SAL	1	2	1	0	1	2.00	-	-

DAVIES, Doug

Born: August 6, 1936, Germiston, South Africa.

For a short time, Doug Davies was one of the hottest properties in the world of speedway and only Henry Long can challenge him for the honour of being the best South African rider the world has ever seen. He came to prominence as a 17 year old in the 1953-54 season where he rode as team partner to Freddie Williams in the Pretoria 'Eagles' side in the South African League and, when Birmingham star Arthur Payne decided to return to Australia in mid 1954, Doug was tempted to Britain by the 'Brummies' promoter Les Marshall. He made his official debut in a league match at Norwich the day before his 18th birthday and struggled for points until the very last league match of the season when he scored eleven from four rides against Belle Vue.



After starting the 1955 season with a two ride duck against Bradford, Doug hit a rich vein of form over the next few months to lift his average to almost seven points per match despite suffering a mid season shoulder injury. Regardless of this handicap he rode in the World Championship Qualifying Rounds and gathered sufficient points to reach the World Final at Wembley in what was his first full season. Sadly, he was struck down with meningitis and was unable to take his place in what would have been the biggest meeting of his career so far. He recovered from the illness well and took his place in the red and yellow of the 'Brummies' again in 1956, improving still further with an average of 8.44 points per match, which propelled him into the top ten of the Division One standings. He again reached the World Final and managed to take part on this occasion, becoming only the second South African to reach the event and performed creditably to finish the night in 13th position with four points.

The following winter was a turbulent one for South African speedway with differing factions battling for control of the sport. Doug rode for one party on tracks that were not licensed by the authorities and was subject to a suspension with the fact contributing to his non return to British speedway that year. Indeed, Doug's whole speedway career went on the back burner for a while until he was persuaded to return to the U.K. by New Cross in May 1961. He showed much of his old dash at the Old Kent Road track but this proved to be his last season in Britain and he chose to concentrate on racing at home, winning the South African Championship for a second time in 1962.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1954	Birmingham	NL1	12	37	28	6	34	3.68	-	-
1955	Birmingham	NL1	21	98	156	14	170	6.94	-	1
1956	Birmingham	NL1	27	117	223	24	247	8.44	2	3
1961	New Cross	NL	15	63	97	13	110	6.98	-	2

Individual Honours: World finalist 1956 (13th), South African Champion 1961, 1962.

International Honours: South African international – 10 caps, 105.5 points.

SÖRMANDER, Rune Bertil Leopold

Born: November 29, 1929, Vaxjo, Sweden.

One of Sweden's greatest speedway riders, Rune was one of the new breed of Scandinavian stars who burst onto the speedway scene in the 1950s. Wembley fans got a brief look at this classy stylist in June 1953 when he was called into the side as cover for the injured George Wilks and he made a perfect start, with an unbeaten performance from two rides from the reserve berth. However, around this time New Cross closed their doors and the 'Lions' were allocated Eric French, ending Rune's association with the Empire Stadium club. The experience gained on the track was to help Rune as he qualified for the World Final later that year and finished in 11th place with a creditable five points.

He had another short spell with Belle Vue the following year but he was mainly occupied with riding in the Swedish League and appearing regularly for his country in international fixtures. He was tempted back into the National League by Leicester in 1957 as the Blackbird Road club embarked on their first season in the top flight and he was a popular member of the side although his regular absences due to his Continental commitments often caused frustration. That season also saw Rune qualify for the World Final for a second time and he was to become a regular finalist, reaching the big night for six consecutive years between 1957 and 1962. Fifth place in the 1957 final at Wembley was the closest he came to becoming champion but he made up for any disappointment by winning the World Team Cup with Sweden on four occasions, including the inaugural event at Gothenburg in 1960 when he dropped but a single point. Three times his national champion, Rune was not seen in league action in Britain again after his spell at Leicester in 1957 but he remained a leading figure in Swedish speedway, scoring an 18 point maximum for his country against England in the second test at Norwich in 1958 and was still a force to be reckoned with until injury ended his career in 1965.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1953	Wembley	NL1	1	2	5	1	6	12.00	-	-
1954	Belle Vue	NL1	5	20	36	2	38	7.60	-	-
1957	Leicester	NL	9	45	86	8	94	8.36	1	-

Individual Honours: World finalist 1953 (11th), 1957 (5th), 1958 (13th), 1959 (11th), 1960 (12th), 1961 (8th), 1962 (11th), Swedish Champion 1955, 1958, 1959.

International Honours: World Team Cup winner 1960, 1962, 1963, 1964, World Team Cup finalist 1961, Swedish international – 66 caps, 711 points.