

## **ANDREW, Erol Carroll (Bill)**

**Born:** December 13, 1940, Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Although his achievements were somewhat overshadowed by those of the New Zealand big three of Barry Briggs, Ronnie Moore and Ivan Mauger, Bill was certainly 'best of the rest' as far as the Kiwis of the 1960s were concerned and was a renowned heat leader in British speedway in a career spanning 12 years in the U.K. He did not race in Britain every season by any means, as he combined his speedway racing with his other sporting passion of being a professional jockey and he occasionally chose not to race in the U.K., with a three season stint in the mid-1960s being his longest continuous spell.

He initially came to Newcastle in 1962 to race for the Mike Parker promotion and soon settled down to some healthy points returns in the Provincial League, recording a seven point plus average, which gave him the third heat leader spot at Brough Park behind Brian Craven and Gil Goldfinch. He was back again in 1964 and figured prominently as the 'Diamonds' took the last ever Provincial League title before the two leagues combined and Bill was allocated to Poole. The step up in class proved no problem



for the Palmerston North star as he lifted his average to above the nine point per match figure and proved immensely popular with the Wimborne Road crowd. He took over as the club's number one in 1966 before choosing to miss the 1967 season, although he was back in 1968 to regain his position at the head of the score chart before a bad ankle break in the British Final curtailed his season.

The three years he spent in Dorset with the 'Pirates' were undoubtedly the peak of his career as he was never quite the same force when he returned for subsequent spells with Newport and Halifax in the early 1970s. Bill never reached a World Final but was ranked in the top 20 in the British League in 1965 and was certainly on the fringes of the world class bracket, as well as being a popular performer wherever he rode.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1962	Newcastle	PL	26	113	176.5	24	200.5	7.10	-	1
1964	Newcastle	PL	25	104	205	18	223	8.58	1	1
1965	Poole	BL	36	157	344	12	356	9.07	7	-
1966	Poole	BL	35	143	314	12	326	9.12	3	1
1968	Poole	BL1	20	89	176	7	183	8.22	-	-
1970	Newport	BL1	35	149	273	17	290	7.79	-	1
1971	Newport	BL1	36	153	255	22	277	7.24	1	-
1973	Halifax	BL1	36	149	190	43	233	6.26	-	2

**International Honours:** New Zealand international – 15 caps, 47 points, Great Britain international – 7 caps, 27 points.

**Team Honours:** Provincial League Championship winner 1964.