

ANDREWS, Robert Thomas (Bob)

Born: October 27, 1935, Edmonton, London, England.*

Bob entered the sport as a teenager in 1954 and joined California in the newly formed Southern Area League. He was an immediate success with the Berkshire side and showed enough promise to be offered the chance to ride at reserve for the Wimbledon 'Dons' in 1956. Joining the strongest side in speedway was a brave choice to make as competition for team places was tough, but Bob held his own at the top level of speedway and figured in five championship winning sides in his first six years at Plough Lane. His progress was steady until 1959 when he made a big breakthrough, with many rating him as one of the top prospects in the sport with an average of just under seven points per match. Bob broke into a heat leader berth in 1960 and reached his first World Final as reserve, scoring two points when called upon to ride. This was the first of four World Final appearances over the next five years as Bob confirmed his position as one of England's finest riders. His best year came in 1961 when he finished fifth in the historic World Final at Malmö - the first final ever to be staged away from its spiritual Wembley home, represented England in the World Team Cup Final at Wroclaw and achieved a career best 8.82 average with the championship winning 'Dons'.



After becoming a regular choice for England at international level, Bob emigrated to New Zealand in the mid-1960s and was granted citizenship, winning the national championship in 1966 and representing the country in international matches, often against his old English team mates. Despite settling Down Under, Bob continued to race in the British League for many years and had spells with Wolverhampton, Cradley Heath and Hackney – showing consistent and reliable form for each of these clubs without surpassing his Wimbledon form of the early 1960s. Perhaps Bob's finest moment in the sport came in September 1969 when he partnered Ivan Mauger to win the inaugural World Pairs Championship in Stockholm, although the event was not officially recognised by the F.I.M.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1954	California	SAL	9	36	68	12	80	8.89	-	2
1955	California	SAL	10	32	54	10	64	8.00	-	-
1956	Wimbledon	NL1	19	43	46	14	60	5.58	-	-
1957	Wimbledon	NL	20	71	52	14	66	3.72	-	-
1958	Wimbledon	NL	20	65	67	15	82	5.05	-	-
1959	Wimbledon	NL	21	100	150	23	173	6.92	-	-
1960	Wimbledon	NL	22	101	193	21	214	8.48	-	-
1961	Wimbledon	NL	20	83	168	15	183	8.82	3	-
1962	Wimbledon	NL	30	125	256	19	275	8.80	1	2
1963	Wimbledon	NL	26	105	174	18	192	7.31	-	-
1964	Wimbledon	NL	14	58	87	16	103	7.10	-	1
1965	Wolverhampton	BL	37	155	291	31	323	8.31	-	1
1968	Cradley Heath	BL1	32	132	228	26	254	7.70	1	1
1969	Cradley Heath	BL1	38	165	306	21	327	7.93	2	-
1970	Hackney	BL1	33	137	171	35	206	6.01	-	-
1971	Cradley Heath	BL1	38	161	286	25	311	7.73	1	-
1972	Cradley Heath	BL1	32	132	224	17	241	7.30	-	1

Individual Honours: World Finalist 1960 (15th), 1961 (5th), 1962 (6th), 1964 (13th), New Zealand Champion 1966.

International Honours: World Team Cup finalist 1961, England international – 21 caps, 114 points, Great Britain international – 12 caps, 66 points, New Zealand international - 27 caps, 194 points.

Team Honours: National League Division One Championship winner 1956, National League Championship winner 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, National Trophy winner 1956, 1959, 1960, 1962.