

APPLEBY, Ernest (Ernie)

Born: January 14, 1913, Oldham, Greater Manchester, England.*

Died: November, 1989.

Ernie was one of the less publicised members of a post-war Birmingham side that contained such characters as Tiger Hart, Stan Dell and Roy Dook, but was nevertheless a popular second string who provided solid back up to this heat leader trio.

The arrival of Graham Warren in the red and yellow of the 'Brummies' cost Ernie his team place early in 1948 and he moved to Fleetwood via a spell at Cradley Heath, which was ended by an intervention from the Speedway Control Board after just one match. After spending much of his first season at Highbury Avenue in the reserve berth, he made good progress in 1949 – being paid for double figures on six occasions and recording maximums at home to Walthamstow and Glasgow.

Whilst in the best run of form of his life, Ernie suffered a serious accident in August 1949, hitting the Fleetwood safety fence and breaking a thigh after losing his footrest during a race. This saw him miss the whole of the following year and he unluckily broke his ankle at Halifax in July 1951, shortly after making his comeback. After retiring from the sport, Ernie was heavily involved in the running of the Newton Heath (Manchester) Training School, which was responsible for discovering several riders.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1946	Birmingham	NrL	22	86	77	17	94	4.37	-	-
1947	Birmingham	NL2	30	93	101	20	121	5.20	-	-
1948	Birmingham	NL2	3	7	5	1	6	3.43	-	-
1948	Cradley Heath	NL3	1	5	10	4	14	11.20	-	-
1948	Fleetwood	NL2	16	45	36	13	49	4.36	-	-
1949	Fleetwood	NL2	32	127	163	23	186	5.86	1	1
1951	Fleetwood	NL2	5	8	6	5	11	5.50	-	-