

## ASHBY, Henry Martin

**Born:** February 5, 1944, Marlborough, Wiltshire, England.

One of England's finest riders of the 1960s and 1970s, Martin Ashby had a career spanning 20 years and will be mostly remembered for his association with the Swindon 'Robins' for whom he rode for 16 seasons in two separate spells. He had some second halves at Bristol in 1960 and, like many other novices, spent more time off the bike than on, earning the nickname of 'Crashby' in the process. He burst onto the scene in 1961 with outings in the National League for Swindon and won the Cornish Trophy at St. Austell, beating the vastly experienced Trevor Redmond in a run-off. By 1962 he was a regular in the Swindon side and made steady progress, recording a maximum in the second leg of the National Trophy final against Wimbledon and learning much from the likes of Neil Street and Mike Broadbank.



When the British League was formed in 1965, Martin took over the third heat leader role in support of Barry Briggs and Broadbank with the trio proving to be one of the most potent spearheads in the league. He played a major role in the 'Robins' league championship win in 1967 but his reward was being moved by the Rider Control Committee to the weaker Exeter side for the 1968 season. Out of the shadow of Briggs and Broadbank, the move proved to be a blessing in disguise for Martin's career as he blossomed into an international regular, finishing fourth in the league averages behind Ivan Mauger, Briggs and Nigel Boocock and reaching his one and only World Final. His three years at the County Ground were amongst the best of his career and he cemented his place as one of the leading riders in England. He was to return to Swindon in 1971, taking over as number one in 1973 when Barry Briggs left the club, and topped the averages at the Abbey Stadium every year until being displaced in 1978.

Rarely involved in controversy, Martin was a fine ambassador for the sport and amongst his many achievements he can list twice winning the World Team Cup with his country, making numerous international appearances for both England and Great Britain and a fine runners-up spot in the British League Riders' Championship in 1972. He made 499 league and cup appearances for Swindon alone, scoring almost 4400 points in the process and ended his career at the age of 36 after a one season stint at Reading in which he claimed a second league championship medal. Martin will long be remembered as one of the finest riders ever to race for Swindon and one of England's all-time greats.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1961	Swindon	NL	1	2	2	1	3	6.00	-	-
1962	Swindon	NL	30	108	126	13	139	5.15	1	-
1963	Swindon	NL	27	94	109	32	141	6.00	-	-
1964	Swindon	NL	16	62	77	11	88	5.68	-	-
1965	Swindon	BL	35	149	306	23	329	8.83	6	2
1966	Swindon	BL	32	131	271	24	295	9.01	3	-
1967	Swindon	BL	38	163	334	26	360	8.83	1	5
1968	Exeter	BL1	32	138	355	15	370	10.72	11	2
1969	Exeter	BL1	34	152	367	12	379	9.97	7	2
1970	Exeter	BL1	33	149	360	16	376	10.09	6	2
1971	Swindon	BL1	37	161	382	11	393	9.76	9	-
1972	Swindon	BL1	34	154	380	8	388	10.08	5	-
1973	Swindon	BL1	40	187	463	13	476	10.18	10	1
1974	Swindon	BL1	34	149	371	5	376	10.09	10	1
1975	Swindon	BL	37	175	432	11	443	10.13	6	1
1976	Swindon	BL	40	177	415	22	437	9.88	5	-
1977	Swindon	BL	29	122	287.5	9	296.5	9.72	7	1
1978	Swindon	BL	31	136	245	16	261	7.68	1	-

1979	Swindon	BL	38	155	199	36	235	6.06	-	1
1980	Reading	BL	24	80	81	25	106	5.30	-	-

**Individual Honours:** World Finalist 1968 (11<sup>th</sup>), Golden Helmet Match Race Championship holder October 1975 to April 1976.

**International Honours:** World Team Cup winner 1968, 1975, World Team Cup finalist 1969, England international – 49 caps, 425.5 points, Great Britain international – 21 caps, 156 points.

**Team Honours:** British League Championship winner 1967, 1980.