

BAGLEY, Ronald Leslie (Ron)

Born: February 14, 1937, Ipswich, Suffolk, England.*

Ron started his speedway career at his home town track in 1958 and was given his debut by promoter Aub Lawson in the 'Witches' side in 1959 when they had a season of Southern Area League racing. With the club returning to the top flight in 1960 Ron was an ideal candidate for the newly formed Provincial League and over the next five years became one of the most respected riders in the section.

Travelling seemed to be no object for the East Anglian as he followed a season with local side Yarmouth with spells at Plymouth and Sheffield, achieving most of his success in South Yorkshire where he developed into a rider of heat leader standard. Ron's third season at Owlerton proved to be a disappointment, mainly due to illness, and when the leagues were combined to form the British League in 1965 he initially found himself on the side lines without a club. Eventually he was signed by Coventry who were looking for riders to bolster a weak lower order, but he did not prove to be the answer the 'Bees' were looking for and was discarded after five matches had yielded just six points.



For almost four years Ron sat out of the sport before John Berry and Joe Thurley reopened Ipswich for Second Division racing in 1969 after the track had been closed for several seasons. Ron was the ideal man to lead an inexperienced line-up and for three years provided solid second string scoring to a developing 'Witches' side. Ron finally retired at the age of 34 and took up administrative roles in the sport, managing the 'Witches' in their glory years period in the mid-1970s and having a spell as promoter at Workington.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1959	Ipswich	SAL	3	8	8	1	9	4.50	-	-
1960	Yarmouth	PL	17	63	69	19	88	5.59	-	1
1960	Ipswich	NL	1	2	1	0	1	2.00	-	-
1961	Plymouth	PL	22	87	131	15	146	6.71	-	1
1962	Sheffield	PL	25	107	194.5	12	206.5	7.72	3	1
1963	Sheffield	PL	26	97	142	34	176	7.26	-	3
1964	Sheffield	PL	21	74	58	18	76	4.11	-	-
1965	Coventry	BL	5	16	6	1	7	1.75	-	-
1969	Ipswich	BL2	32	133	229	15	244	7.34	1	1
1970	Ipswich	BL2	31	132	202	30	232	7.03	-	1
1971	Ipswich	BL2	20	71	77	12	89	5.01	-	-

Team Honours: British League Division Two Knock-Out Cup winner 1970.