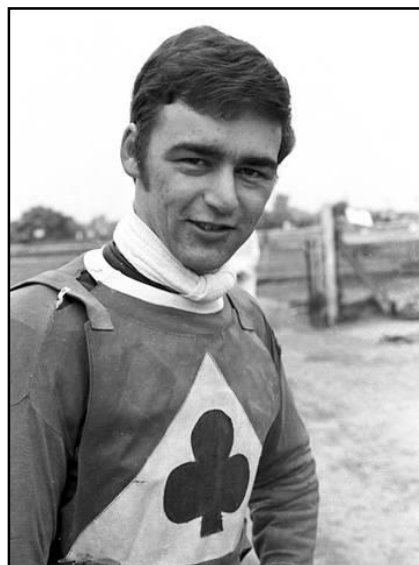


BAILEY, Christopher (Chris)

Born: January 9, 1946, Manchester, Greater Manchester, England.*

A product of the Belle Vue Training School, Chris had his big chance in league speedway in 1968 when the 'Aces' manager Dent Oliver introduced a second team at Hyde Road and entered the newly formed Division Two. Chris was a member of the side that competed in the historic opening match in the new division and got off to the perfect start with a paid maximum in the home fixture against Canterbury. He was to win back to back titles with the 'Colts' and averaged around eight points per match over the two seasons with some superbly consistent scoring.

At the end of the 1969 season Chris decided to spend the winter racing in New Zealand and was allowed to compete in the national championships, winning the meeting ahead of the locally based stars and being crowned New Zealand Champion despite having been in the country for just a few weeks. The Belle Vue management had decided to switch the 'Colts' to Rochdale for the 1970 season due to poor crowds for Division Two racing at Hyde Road and Chris again scored well, but he was strangely afforded few opportunities in the Belle Vue Division One side.



His colleagues of a similar standard such as Ken Eyre and Eric Broadbelt had been used extensively in Division One but Chris made just five appearances for the 'Aces' over three years and when he did move up into Division One in 1971 it was with local rivals Halifax. This was a rare cash transfer between clubs and caused a certain amount of controversy as some teams said that this went against the principles of Rider Control allocations. He was reserve standard with the 'Dukes' but suffered a serious neck injury in 1972 and sat out the rest of the season before returning to ride for Barrow in 1973. A further heavy crash and a recurrence of the neck injury early into his spell at Holker Street ended his career prematurely.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1968	Belle Vue	BL1	3	8	6	0	6	3.00	-	-
1968	Belle Vue II	BL2	19	78	139	12	151	7.74	1	1
1969	Belle Vue	BL1	1	3	1	1	2	2.67	-	-
1969	Belle Vue II	BL2	33	127	217	45	262	8.25	-	7
1970	Rochdale	BL2	22	89	158	25	183	8.22	1	4
1970	Belle Vue	BL1	1	4	3	0	3	3.00	-	-
1971	Halifax	BL1	28	83	73	15	88	4.24	-	-
1972	Halifax	BL1	1	3	1	0	1	1.33	-	-
1973	Barrow	BL2	9	35	52	9	61	6.97	-	-

Team Honours: British League Division Two Championship winner, 1968, 1969, British League Division Two Knock-Out Cup winner 1969.