

## BAKER, Bryan (**Bob**)

**Born:** September 14, 1922, Epping, Essex, England.\*

**Died:** September 2004.

Bricklayer turned speedway rider, Bob started riding in 1948 and was signed on by Division One side New Cross after practicing at Rye House. Parading a team crammed with international stars, the 'Rangers' were unable to offer Bob much in the way of first team opportunities and he was loaned to Hull to gain experience of league racing.

Making rapid strides in East Yorkshire, Bob had risen to become the club's number one rider – averaging 8.83 points per match in 1949 – before the club pulled the plug on league racing and transferred their assets to Swindon in mid-season. Instead of moving to the Abbey Stadium, Bob was recalled by New Cross for their Division One side but never quite made the grade in the top flight and joined Yarmouth for £650 for the 1951 campaign.

He formed a potent spearhead with Fred Brand at Caister Road in the early 1950s in the Second Division, scoring almost 1000 points for the Norfolk club in becoming their third all-time highest scorer. Bob also had two moderately successful years at Oxford but lost form badly in 1956, prompting his early season retirement.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1948	Hull	NL3	35	127	161	31	192	6.05	-	2
1949	Hull	NL3	39	160	329	24	353	8.83	5	3
1949	New Cross	NL1	8	17	21	5	26	6.12	-	-
1950	New Cross	NL1	29	77	66	7	73	3.79	-	-
1951	Yarmouth	NL2	34	140	303	13	316	9.03	5	2
1952	Yarmouth	NL2	44	179	415	14	429	9.59	10	3
1953	Yarmouth	NL2	34	139	257	16	273	7.86	3	3
1954	Oxford	NL2	20	77	99	24	123	6.39	-	1
1955	Oxford	NL2	32	164	283	24	307	7.49	-	1
1956	Oxford	NL2	13	62	72	16	88	5.68	-	-