

BANKS, Graham William

Born: January 15, 1949, Folkestone, Kent, England.*

Died: June 4, 1978.

When the legendary promoter Johnnie Hoskins introduced Second Division speedway to the cathedral city of Canterbury, Graham Banks was a 19 year old grass track rider who had followed his father, Monty Banks, into the sport. Tempted to try speedway the following year, Graham was introduced to the 'Crusaders' team towards the end of the 1969 season and became one of the most successful of the Kent born riders to race for the club. After just four appearances that season Graham was a regular in 1970 and became one of the finest prospects in the sport as he recorded a seven and a half point average in his first full season with the 'Crusaders' in claiming the Second Division title for the first time.



He increased his average to above the eight point figure the following year but was never able to make the step up into the very top bracket in the division and decided to give the sport a miss in 1974. He returned for a short spell with Wimbledon in Division One in 1975 before making a return to Kingsmead the following year, topping the averages with a figure of eight points per match. Graham was still a major part of the Canterbury line-up in 1978 and one of the most consistent riders in the league when he was tragically killed in a grass track accident in Lydd in his home county, suffering serious head injuries in a multiple rider crash. At the time of his death he was just 29 years old and had made over 200 appearances for the 'Crusaders'.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1969	Canterbury	BL2	4	13	15	0	15	4.62	-	-
1970	Canterbury	BL2	33	128	219	22	241	7.53	2	4
1971	Canterbury	BL2	31	128	242	15	257	8.03	2	-
1972	Canterbury	BL2	29	117	212	11	223	7.62	3	-
1973	Canterbury	BL2	35	139	189	18	207	5.96	-	-
1975	Wimbledon	BL	12	31	12	5	17	2.19	-	-
1976	Canterbury	NL	33	133	254	14	268	8.06	2	2
1977	Canterbury	NL	31	122	248	5	253	8.30	3	-
1978	Canterbury	NL	10	35	69	2	71	8.11	1	-

Team Honours: British League Division Two Championship winner 1970, National League Championship winner 1978.