

BEATON, John Robert Thompson (**Bobby**)

Born: May 14, 1952, Blantyre, Scotland.*

The middle of the three racing Beaton brothers from Blantyre, Bobby made his debut for the Glasgow 'Tigers' at the age of 16 and progressed to become one of the greatest riders that Scotland has ever produced. Plunged straight into Division One racing, Bobby's progress was initially slow but things started to come together for him in 1970 as he lifted his average to above the five points per match figure for the first time. Development then came rapidly as he reached heat leader standard by 1971, plying his trade at the massive Hampden Park Stadium until the club moved to Coatbridge in 1973 where he continued in the number two role, both for club and country, behind Jim McMillan.



When Coatbridge pulled out of the First Division at the end of the season, Jim and Bobby moved to Hull and he was to spend eight memorable years at The Boulevard where he was a hugely popular figure. He made almost 300 league and cup appearances for the 'Vikings' and was one of the most consistent riders in the sport, regularly averaging around seven and a half points per match. He had his best ever season in 1979 when he lifted his personal return to above the eight and a half figure as the 'Vikings' missed out on the league championship to Coventry by the narrowest of margins.

In 1982 Bobby made the decision to drop into the second tier of racing for the first time and became a member of the Newcastle side that dominated the National League for two seasons, winning the league with the 'Diamonds' in both 1982 and 1983 as well as the Knock-Out Cup in his first season at Brough Park. He occasionally doubled up with Belle Vue in the British League for those two seasons and when the 'Diamonds' elected to return to the top flight in 1984 Bobby moved back to Scotland with Edinburgh. Remarkably, his first year at Powderhall was the first time in his career he finished the season at number one with a club and he fittingly ended his 21 year career where it had all started as a Glasgow 'Tiger'. Constantly under rated, Bobby made just one appearance at international level for Great Britain - against Poland at Hampden Park on May 28, 1971 - but was a regular member of the Scotland World Team Cup Squad in the mid-1970s.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1968	Glasgow	BL1	3	8	3	0	3	1.50	-	-
1969	Glasgow	BL1	36	117	69	16	85	2.91	-	-
1970	Glasgow	BL1	37	134	153	27	180	5.37	-	1
1971	Glasgow	BL1	38	158	254	33	287	7.27	1	-
1972	Glasgow	BL1	35	151	303	21	324	8.58	3	1
1973	Coatbridge	BL1	35	147	281	13	294	8.00	1	1
1974	Hull	BL1	33	142	255	21	276	7.77	3	-
1975	Hull	BL	36	150	245	25	270	7.20	1	1
1976	Hull	BL	36	152	264	23	287	7.55	-	-
1977	Hull	BL	36	184	346.5	22	368.5	8.01	2	2
1978	Hull	BL	37	157	260	25	285	7.26	1	-
1979	Hull	BL	41	173	321	52	373	8.62	-	7
1980	Hull	BL	25	103	153	19	172	6.68	-	-
1981	Hull	BL	35	148	168	28	196	5.30	-	-
1982	Newcastle	NL	43	225	449	58	507	9.01	-	4
1982	Belle Vue	BL	3	11	9	4	13	4.73	-	-
1983	Newcastle	NL	28	142	332	30	362	10.20	3	4
1983	Belle Vue	BL	1	4	7	1	8	8.00	-	-
1984	Edinburgh	NL	27	129	294	6	300	9.30	5	-
1985	Edinburgh	NL	38	158	280	12	292	7.39	3	1
1986	Glasgow	NL	36	146	287	11	298	8.16	1	-

1987	<i>Workington</i>	<i>NL</i>	5	17	26	2	28	6.59	-	1
1988	Glasgow	NL	1	5	5	1	6	4.80	-	-

International Honours: Great Britain international – 1 cap, 0 points, Scottish international – 4 caps, 15 points.

Team Honours: National League Championship winner 1982, 1983, National League Knock-Out Cup winner 1982.