

## **BEDDOE, Michael John (Mike)**

**Born:** May 23, 1923, Bolton, Greater Manchester, England.\*

**Died:** August 23, 2005.

A fine trials and grass track rider, Mike started speedway after the war, riding in challenge matches for Bristol in 1946 and made his debut for the 'Bulldogs' when they entered the league in 1947. For a rider with no league experience, an average in excess of eight points per match in his first season in Division Two was a marvellous achievement which marked him down as one of the hottest properties in speedway at the age of just 24.

He continued in the same scoring vein the following year but a terrible crash at Fleetwood in May led to him having part of his foot amputated and almost ended his career. Against the odds, Mike returned to the saddle for the start of the 1949 season but his bravery was not rewarded in terms of points as he was never quite the same rider after his accident, particularly away from his home Knowle track.

After winning the Second Division championship for two successive years, the 'Bulldogs' moved into Division One and Mike marked his debut in top flight racing with a score of paid nine at home to the mighty Wembley, but he was unable to maintain this form and his season was ended prematurely after breaking his leg whilst racing in Ireland. Once again, Mike returned to the sport after recovering from his injury but lost his team place at Bristol and a spell at Swindon in Division Three failed to assist to recapture his form, eventually leading to his retirement at the end of the 1952 season.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1947	Bristol	NL2	27	107	199.5	17	216.5	8.09	-	2
1948	Bristol	NL2	11	44	78	11	89	8.09	-	1
1949	Bristol	NL2	51	197	282	58	340	6.90	1	4
1950	Bristol	NL1	20	75	72	15	87	4.64	-	-
1951	Bristol	NL1	25	61	59	10	69	4.52	-	-
1951	Swindon	NL3	9	27	32	4	36	5.33	-	-
1952	Bristol	NL1	4	8	4	1	5	2.50	-	-
1952	Wimbledon	NL1	9	19	14	3	17	3.58	-	-

**Team Honours:** National League Division Two Championship winner 1948, 1949.