

BELL, Michael John (Mick)

Born: October 14, 1945, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England.

A vital cog in championship winning teams for Reading and Coventry, Mick was often an unsung hero who got few plaudits in teams that contained the likes of Anders Michanek and Ole Olsen. He was however, one of those middle order scorers so vital to the success of a team and regularly weighed in with match winning scores. He rode at the Swindon Training School in the winter of 1967-68 and joined his home town club, Oxford, where he made his debut in Division One. It was in 1969 that Mick really made his name when he joined Reading in the Second Division and became the 'Racers' number one, averaging over nine points per match in his only season in the lower league and crowning a superb season by finishing as runner-up to Geoff Ambrose in the Division Two Rider's Championship at Hackney.



A full-time Division One career beckoned but after a season at Oxford, Mick returned to Reading and spent five of the next six seasons with the club – joining Leicester for a year when the 'Racers' were between their old Tilehurst and their new Smallmead homes. Regularly averaging between five and six points per match, Mick was a safe rider who was hardly ever injured and rarely missed a match, making him a valuable team member and an essential cog in the Reading championship winning side of 1973. He moved to Coventry in 1977 and was to win two further league championships with the 'Bees' before retiring at the end of the 1979 season at the age of 34. Mick became one of the sport's most successful managers and administrators after his retirement.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1968	Oxford	BL1	5	9	7	2	9	4.00	-	-
1969	Oxford	BL1	12	40	35	5	40	4.00	-	-
1969	Reading	BL2	32	131	277	19	296	9.04	2	1
1970	Oxford	BL1	36	128	122	26	148	4.63	-	-
1971	Reading	BL1	37	126	133	32	165	5.24	-	-
1972	Reading	BL1	37	134	180	29	209	6.24	-	-
1973	Reading	BL1	44	170	203	45	248	5.84	-	1
1974	Leicester	BL1	36	145	183	26	209	5.77	-	-
1975	Reading	BL	34	112	119	27	146	5.21	-	-
1976	Reading	BL	37	124	130	30	160	5.16	-	-
1977	Coventry	BL	29	100	108	21	129	5.16	-	-
1978	Coventry	BL	40	145	152.5	26.5	179	4.94	1	1
1979	Coventry	BL	38	126	130	26	156	4.95	-	-

Team Honours: British League Division One Championship winner 1973, British League Championship winner 1978, 1979.