

## **BENHAM, Charles William (Charlie)**

**Born:** December 22, 1942, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England.\*

**Died:** March 3, 1990.

By the time Charlie made his league debut for Romford in 1969 he had been around the speedway scene for some seven years, having toured France as a teenager back in 1962 with a group of riders that included his brother Peter. He rode in the little known and poorly organised Metropolitan League in 1963 before winning a contract with Exeter in 1964 following some impressive second half displays at the County Ground. However, it was to be another five years before Charlie was to finally get his chance in league racing when he joined Romford in the British League Second Division.

Whilst he was never a consistent high scorer for the Brooklands club, there were few riders more popular than Charlie amongst the healthy crowds that turned out to watch the 'Bombers'. He made more appearances for Romford in their three years of existence than any other rider and was an ever present in 1971 before protests from local residents about noise issues forced the club to close. After leaving Romford Charlie had short and unsuccessful spells with West Ham and Canterbury before effectively retiring from the sport in the middle of the 1972 season. Limiting his racing to occasional outings at Rye House from then on, Charlie sadly died from a brain tumour at the early age of 47.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>TP</b>	<b>CMA</b>	<b>FM</b>	<b>PM</b>
1969	Romford	BL2	28	94	68	12	80	3.40	-	-
1970	Romford	BL2	26	72	81	18	99	5.50	-	-
1971	Romford	BL2	34	129	144.5	24	168.5	5.22	-	-
1972	West Ham	BL2	6	15	12	2	14	3.73	-	-
1972	Canterbury	BL2	11	39	29	5	34	3.49	-	-