

BENNETT, Geoffrey Edwin (Geoff)

Born: February 24, 1924, Birmingham, West Midlands, England.*

Died: July, 2014

A product of the Army tracks in Italy during the war, Geoff joined his home town club, Birmingham, on his release from the services and went out on loan to Cradley Heath in Division Three to gain experience. His season at Dudley Wood was sensational and he recorded an average in excess of nine points per match which included four successive full maximums in mid-season, and also broke track records on several Division Three circuits.

This form guaranteed him a full time call up to the Birmingham side in 1948 and he did not disappoint, starting off with a paid maximum against Edinburgh and scoring almost 300 points in the middle tier of racing. The 'Brummies' were promoted to the top flight in time for the 1949 campaign and Geoff recorded double figures on six occasions as he made his mark as a potential international star.

He continued his good form throughout 1950, finishing second in the 'Brummies' averages behind Graham Warren, and was on the verge of being selected for the England test side when he suffered a broken leg at the Chapelizod circuit in Ireland in April 1951, forcing him to miss the whole season. Although he did return to the saddle in 1952 he was unable to recapture any sort of form and finally quit the sport in 1954 after several abortive comeback attempts. Geoff was team manager of the 'Brummies' on their return to league speedway in 1971.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1947	Birmingham	NL2	4	10	14	1	15	6.00	-	-
1947	Cradley Heath	NL3	28	109	243	12	255	9.36	4	3
1948	Birmingham †	NL2	44	187	299	55	354	7.57	-	4
1949	Birmingham	NL1	44	178	239	34	273	6.13	-	1
1950	Birmingham	NL1	36	149	290	7	297	7.97	3	1
1952	Birmingham	NL1	4	6	3	1	4	2.67	-	-
1952	Cradley Heath	NL2	13	47	45	7	52	4.43	-	-