

## **BENTZEN, Leslie Jack (Les)**

**Born:** January 25, 1945, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.\*

Les started his career in his native Queensland in 1964 and rode extensively at the Archerfield track in Brisbane. He made steady progress and was recommended to Halifax promoter Reg Fearman in 1967 by fellow Brisbane rider Bert Kingston who had joined the 'Dukes' the year before and had been a member of their championship winning side. Les started the season in second half events at The Shay and got his chance in the side in circumstances he would have wanted to avoid when his great friend Kingston suffered head injuries in a crash and was forced to miss a three month spell. A couple of four point returns were the best Les could offer in a difficult introduction to league racing and he dropped out of the side again when Kingston was fit to return at the end of July.

A short loan spell at Long Eaton as cover for the injured John Poyser brought little improvement and Les returned home at the end of the year. During that winter he was married and decided against a return to the U.K. for a second season. He did continue to ride in his home state until he suffered head injuries in his test match debut at Brisbane in January 1969 – injuries which threatened to force him out of the sport – before making a tentative return to the track the following Australian summer. The comeback did not prove a success and he quit in 1970.

<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>
1967	Halifax	BL	13	32	17	5	22	2.75	-	-
1967	Long Eaton	BL	5	16	7	2	9	2.25	-	-

**International Honours:** Australian international – 1 cap, 0 points.