

BERGQVIST, Tommy

Born: December 7, 1943, Gothenburg, Sweden.

Tommy was a protégé of the great Olle Nygren and broke into the Kaparna side in his home city of Gothenburg in 1962. He was not ranked in the top echelons of Swedish speedway but was a useful rider in his home country and attracted the attention of Cradley Heath towards the end of the 1966 season. The 'Heathens' had been decimated by injury and the tragic death of Ivor Hughes and Tommy came into the side for the last two matches of the season, scoring seven at Glasgow and paid five at Edinburgh on consecutive nights in early October.

He was signed on for the 1967 season but started the year on the injured list with a broken ankle and ended it on the side lines with a collarbone injury. In between times he was a real hit with the Dudley Wood fans, being paid for double figures on seven occasions in official fixtures and finishing as third heat leader behind the redoubtable pair of Ivor Brown and Brian Brett. Tommy further cemented his place in the hearts of the supporters by travelling from Sweden just to attend a supporter's club function.



His scoring slipped back in 1968 and he was out of the side following a mid-season crash at Newcastle which spelt the end of his time at Dudley Wood. Tommy fell out of favour with the British promoters until 1971 when he toured Second Division tracks with a Young Sweden side, despite being 27 years old. His form was so impressive that he was signed by Exeter who had run out of patience with the Czechoslovakian authorities and their delays in releasing Jan Holub. Tommy made an impressive start to his career as a 'Falcon' but he could not maintain his scoring until the end of the season.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1966	Cradley Heath	BL	2	9	11	1	12	5.33	-	-
1967	Cradley Heath	BL	23	94	151	12	172	7.32	-	-
1968	Cradley Heath	BL1	18	59	69	5	74	5.02	-	-
1971	Exeter	BL1	13	51	53	12	65	5.10	-	-

International Honours: Swedish international – 2 caps, 2 points.