

BETTIS, Francis (Frank)

Born: November 10, 1925, Canning Town, London, England.*

Died: February 2016

Frank rode at the Eastbourne Training School in the winter of 1947-48 but joined West Ham after a trial on the car park at the Custom House Stadium. After loan spells at Middlesbrough and Hastings in 1948 Frank was called up to ride for the 'Hammers' in 1949 - a year which proved to be his only full time season in the top flight.

With so little experience it was understandable that he struggled to adapt to racing at that level and returned to Division Three with Rayleigh in 1950. He had his best spell whilst connected to the Essex track and spent several decent seasons at The Weir, interrupted when he remained in New Zealand in 1952 after riding there the previous winter. He was part of the 'Rockets' side that won the Southern League championship in 1953, but was most successful in the late 1950s when his experience made him one of the top riders in the Southern Area League - assisting Eastbourne to the title in 1959. As the 1960s dawned, Frank drifted into semi-retirement and made his last league appearance in 1963, at the age of 37.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1948	Middlesbrough	NL2	3	7	10	0	10	5.71	-	-
1948	West Ham	NL1	2	4	0	0	0	0.00	-	-
1948	Hastings	NL3	12	43	67	4	71	6.60	-	-
1949	West Ham	NL1	32	62	46	11	57	3.68	-	-
1950	Rayleigh	NL3	21	80	100	10	110	5.50	-	-
1951	Rayleigh	NL3	32	108	113.5	25	138.5	5.13	-	-
1953	Rayleigh	SL	32	111	137.5	20.5	158	5.69	-	-
1954	Rayleigh	NL2	18	54	50	16	66	4.89	-	-
1955	Rayleigh	NL2	6	23	16	2	18	3.13	-	-
1956	Southampton	NL2	8	17	15	0	15	3.53	-	-
1957	Eastbourne	SAL	10	40	94	1	95	9.50	1	-
1959	Eastbourne	SAL	5	15	18	5	23	6.13	-	-
1961	Wolverhampton	PL	1	1	1	0	1	4.00	-	-
1962	Plymouth	PL	1	4	3	0	3	3.00	-	-
1963	Rayleigh	PL	1	4	3	0	3	3.00	-	-

Team Honours: Southern League Championship winner 1953.