

BETTS, Terence Arnold (Terry)

Born: September 15, 1943, Harlow, Essex, England.

After a stuttering start to a career which, for five or six years, never looked like getting off the ground, Terry Betts developed into one of England's finest riders of the late 1960s and 1970s and became a legend at King's Lynn where he was to spend the majority of his racing days. He had practiced at Rye House before being signed by Norwich who spotted his undoubted potential as a teenager. Four non-scoring appearances for the 'Stars' in 1960 were followed by another season largely confined to second half racing and a loan spell at Wolverhampton before he won a permanent place in the line-up at The Firs in 1962.

He fully repaid the faith shown in him by finishing second in the averages behind the great Ove Fundin with an eye-catching 15 point maximum at Belle Vue the highlight of his best season yet. After showing some superb form for Norwich in 1963 – averaging over eight points per match in the cup winning side – Terry was suspended by the Speedway Control Board for a nine month period after missing a meeting at Wimbledon but announced his retirement in any case and sat out of the sport for almost two years until 1965.



In his first meeting back in the saddle, Terry won The Lynn Trophy individual event at King's Lynn who had just opened their Saddlebow Road Stadium, and a scramble for his signature began. He joined Long Eaton but broke his leg at Poole in only his second meeting for the club and was out of action for the rest of the season. Finally, in 1966 Terry recovered from injury and removed any thoughts of retirement to sign for King's Lynn and so begin an association with the Norfolk club that was to last for 13 seasons and see him make 471 appearances in the green and yellow. He was to finish at the top of the King's Lynn averages in ten of his first eleven seasons at Saddlebow Road and only the arrival of the precocious talent of Michael Lee dislodged him from the top spot. Terry did have some individual success as he reached the World Final in Gothenburg in 1974, finishing 12th with six points, but was largely regarded for his efforts for both King's Lynn where he was an inspirational leader and team captain, and also with his country for whom he appeared with great regularity, winning the World Team Cup on two occasions and the World Pairs title with Ray Wilson in 1972 in Boras, Sweden. Terry was eventually transferred to Reading in 1979, ending his long association with speedway in Norfolk and retired at the end of the season at the age of 36.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1960	Norwich	NL	4	9	0	0	0	0.00	-	-
1961	Norwich	NL	3	10	7	3	10	4.00	-	-
1961	Wolverhampton	PL	6	25	30	9	39	6.24	-	-
1962	Norwich	NL	26	101	153	12	165	6.53	1	1
1963	Norwich	NL	27	107	209	17	226	8.45	2	1
1965	Long Eaton	BL	2	6	9	0	9	6.00	-	-
1966	King's Lynn	BL	36	159	369	5	374	9.41	5	1
1967	King's Lynn	BL	37	185	441.5	9	450.5	9.74	8	-
1968	King's Lynn	BL1	33	152	354	5	359	9.45	7	-
1969	King's Lynn	BL1	40	163	374	7	381	9.35	6	-
1970	King's Lynn	BL1	32	141	321	4	325	9.22	4	1
1971	King's Lynn	BL1	37	170	399	10	409	9.62	2	1
1972	King's Lynn	BL1	35	158	402	13	415	10.51	7	2
1973	King's Lynn	BL1	35	168	407	11	418	9.95	6	1

1974	King's Lynn	BL1	32	133	334	9	343	10.32	3	3
1975	King's Lynn	BL	32	143	306	11	317	8.87	2	1
1976	King's Lynn	BL	44	194	450	21	471	9.71	3	1
1977	King's Lynn	BL	41	173	409	14	423	9.78	3	2
1978	King's Lynn	BL	37	164	318	14	332	8.10	1	1
1979	Reading	BL	34	143	256	21	277	7.75	-	-

Individual Honours: World finalist 1974 (12th).

International Honours: World Team Cup winner 1972, 1973, World Team Cup finalist 1966, World Pairs Championship winner 1972, England international – 55 caps, 445 points, Great Britain international – 19 caps, 106 points.

Team Honours: National Trophy winner 1963, British League Knock-Out Cup winner 1977.