

BLACK, Thomas John (Tom)

Born: July 11, 1941, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Many riders from Australia and New Zealand rushed to England as soon as they were old enough to hold a racing licence but some remained at home for many years and left the trip until later in life. Tom Black fell into the latter category and was 31 years of age when he set off for his first racing experience in the U.K., having had quite a few seasons racing at his home town track in Christchurch.

He joined Middlesbrough for the start of the 1973 season and suffered an early season knock which kept him out of the saddle for a couple of matches before returning to the Cleveland Park line-up. His form was promising and he was showing signs of settling in when he crashed at Sunderland in early June and suffered arm and collarbone injuries which were to force him to return home early and curtail his ambitions for the year. He returned to England in 1974 and started the season with Leicester in Division One but, with the signing of Malcolm Ballard, Tom soon found himself back at Middlesbrough and looked to progress further with the Second Division club. However, a serious crash in his first match back at Cleveland Park saw him suffer a broken ankle and subsequently end his second injury hit season and his British career.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1973	Middlesbrough	BL2	7	21	23	3	26	4.95	-	-
1974	Leicester	BL1	8	22	12	7	19	3.45	-	-
1974	Middlesbrough	BL2	1	2	3	2	5	10.00	-	-

International Honours: New Zealand international – 1 cap, 2 points.