

## **BLEWETT, Christopher Henry (Chris)**

**Born:** June 18, 1929, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.\*

**Died:** June 2002.

Even though Chris was a Canadian by birth, he was raised in Cornwall and was considered as a true Cornishman by the fans around the country. One of the most spectacular and fearless riders the sport has ever known, Chris often struck terror into the hearts of his opponents and team mates alike with his death defying swoops, particularly at the County Ground track in Exeter where he was at his most effective. He started his speedway career in his late 20s with training stints at his local St. Austell track before making his league debut in 1961 with Plymouth in the Provincial League. He made a promising start and scored paid eleven in only his fifth match, at home to Rayleigh, but Chris' style of riding meant that injuries were always just around the corner and he suffered a broken jaw shortly afterwards in a crash at Wolverhampton which kept him out for the rest of the season.



After a relatively incident free season in 1962 in which he upped his average to near the seven point mark, Chris suffered a broken arm at Exeter whilst riding for St. Austell in 1963 which ended his season in May and kept him out of the saddle until half way through the 1964 campaign. At the end of that season Chris joined Exeter and spent the rest of his career with the 'Falcons', proving to be a capable performer at his home track but often struggling on the tighter away circuits. Perhaps Chris' best year came in 1965 when the British League was formed and he was to make 125 official appearances for the 'Falcons' before breaking his wrist early in the 1969 season. The fracture was to prove complicated and he was unable to return to the track that year and, at the age of 40, Chris decided that he would finally hang up his leathers after a career that brought entertainment and excitement to many thousands of fans.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1961	Plymouth	PL	10	33	29	8	37	4.48	-	-
1962	Plymouth	PL	23	88	131	19	150	6.82	-	1
1962	Neath	PL	1	4	8	1	9	9.00	-	-
1963	St. Austell	PL	5	21	27	4	31	5.90	-	-
1964	Glasgow	PL	2	2	0	0	0	0.00	-	-
1964	Exeter	PL	2	6	11	0	11	7.33	-	-
1965	Exeter	BL	36	111	139	29	168	6.05	-	-
1966	Exeter	BL	30	105	111	30	141	5.37	1	-
1967	Exeter	BL	28	93	104	25	129	5.55	-	-
1968	Exeter	BL1	18	55	58.5	20	78.5	5.71	-	-
1969	Exeter	BL1	11	42	44	8	52	4.95	-	-