

BOND, John James

Born: July 5, 1938, Coventry, Warwickshire, England.

A rider with the name of James Bond was always going to attract attention, but generally speedway's version of 007 was a solid team rider who will be best remembered for his spell with Wolverhampton. He had been a grass track rider before taking to the shale at Monmore Green in 1963 and quickly broke into the side after impressive trials with the Provincial League club, playing a small role in the championship win that season.

After two seasons of solid progress James found life more difficult in 1965 when the two leagues combined and the best riders in the world were his competition each week, but he adapted well to the rigours of top flight racing and had his best ever spell in the sport in the late 1960s. During a mid-season purple patch in 1968 James won a World Championship Qualifying Round at his home track and finished in third place in the prestigious Midland Riders' Championship Final at Coventry.

He was being mentioned as a possible candidate for international honours but he was never able to make the breakthrough despite a career best 7.38 average in 1969 which saw him finish as number two in the 'Wolves' averages behind Norman Hunter. His form took a downturn in 1970 and he was badly injured in a track accident early the following year when he suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung. The crash spelled the end of his career as a Wolverhampton rider after over eight years and 231 league and cup appearances in the black and gold. On his recovery James moved to Swindon where he failed to recapture his form and, after sitting out the 1973 season, ended his career with a spell at Long Eaton.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1963	Wolverhampton	PL	19	56	51	14	65	4.64	-	-
1964	Wolverhampton	PL	20	75	83	15	98	5.23	-	-
1965	Wolverhampton	BL	20	57	47	19	66	4.63	-	-
1966	Wolverhampton	BL	31	112	125	28	153	5.46	-	-
1967	Wolverhampton	BL	27	92	106	22	128	5.57	-	-
1968	Wolverhampton	BL1	37	159	237	34	271	6.82	-	1
1969	Wolverhampton	BL1	37	154	248	36	284	7.38	-	1
1970	Wolverhampton	BL1	37	143	161	29	190	5.31	-	-
1971	Wolverhampton	BL1	3	11	7	2	9	3.27	-	-
1971	Swindon	BL1	17	49	33	9	42	3.43	-	-
1972	Swindon	BL1	13	36	24	8	32	3.56	-	-
1974	Long Eaton	BL2	21	69	57	13	70	4.06	-	1

Team Honours: Provincial League Championship winner 1963.