

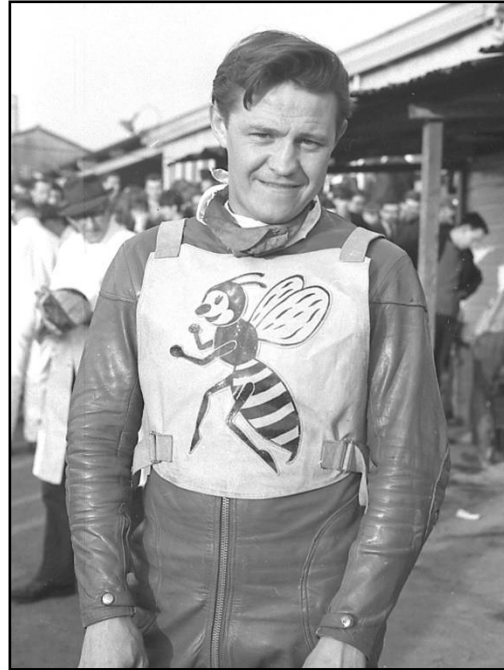
BOOCOCK, Nigel

Born: September 17, 1937, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England.*

Died: April 3, 2015

One of England's all-time great riders, Nigel Boocock spent over 25 years in British League racing after making his debut for Bradford as a 17 year old in July 1955. He was something of an overnight sensation at Odsal as he reached the World Final at Wembley as non-riding reserve in his first full season in the sport in 1956, finished second in the club's averages behind Arthur Forrest with a highly impressive average of 6.23 points per match and made his international debut against Sweden – all whilst still a teenager.

The Yorkshire side closed temporarily in 1957 and the year began with Nigel at Birmingham but, when the 'Brummies' pulled out of the sport in mid-season, Bradford stepped in to take over the fixtures and Nigel was back at Odsal, only for the shutters to go up again at the end of the year. A season at Ipswich in 1958 proved to be hugely disappointing and Nigel looked as though he may join the ranks of those who had faded from the scene after a whirlwind start to their careers.



However, a move to Coventry in 1959 saw Nigel back on track and he began an association with the Brandon club which would last for 18 fantastic seasons and see him break all appearance and point scoring records with the 'Bees'. He made his World Final debut in 1963 and missed only two finals over the next ten years as, for a time; he took over the mantle of England's undisputed number one rider following the death of Peter Craven in 1963. The advent of the British League in 1965 saw Nigel in almost unbeatable form in his distinctive blue leathers and spectacular style, averaging over eleven points per match and recording maximums in over half of the 'Bees' official fixtures as he topped the league averages.

An automatic choice in the international set-up, Nigel's best World Final showing came in 1969 with a fourth place finish and he had the honour of being part of the 1968 World Team Cup winning side as well as leading the 'Bees' to league championship and knock-out cup success. He showed remarkable consistency by recording a double figure average every year between 1964 and 1970, and by the time he had ended his Coventry career in 1976 he had made a outstanding 543 league and cup appearances for the 'Bees' and clocked up 5477 points. His move from Brandon did not spell the end of his career and he rode on for four more seasons, taking in spells with Bristol, Canterbury, Exeter and Swindon before hanging up his leathers at the age of 43. He had been a regular in the international set-up for both England and Great Britain and between 1956 and his last appearance in Brisbane in January 1979, Nigel had recorded over 150 caps and more than 1500 points. He particularly enjoyed his tours to Australia and emigrated Down Under after his racing days were over.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1955	Bradford	NL1	8	30	13	2	15	2.00	-	-
1956	Bradford	NL1	26	104	146	16	162	6.23	-	-
1957	Birmingham	NL	9	43	78	7	85	7.91	-	1
1957	Bradford	NL	10	54	97	10	107	7.93	-	-
1958	Ipswich	NL	20	105	112	15	127	4.84	1	-
1959	Coventry	NL	18	96	188.5	18.5	207	8.63	-	-
1960	Coventry	NL	20	103	191	19	210	8.16	1	1
1961	Coventry	NL	22	89	162	9	171	7.69	-	-
1962	Coventry	NL	26	110	199	24	223	8.11	1	-
1963	Coventry	NL	28	122	287	10	297	9.74	4	2
1964	Coventry	NL	14	58	147.5	1	148.5	10.24	3	-
1965	Coventry	BL	35	150	395	22	417	11.12	10	8
1966	Coventry	BL	36	159	395	24	419	10.54	6	6
1967	Coventry	BL	40	178	455	13	468	10.52	8	4
1968	Coventry	BL1	31	152	392	16	408	10.74	3	4
1969	Coventry	BL1	37	171	451	10	461	10.78	9	5
1970	Coventry	BL1	34	146	377.5	11.5	389	10.66	12	2
1971	Coventry	BL1	36	160	381	17	398	9.95	4	3
1972	Coventry	BL1	32	146	326	11	337	9.23	4	2
1973	Coventry	BL1	36	184	377	18	395	8.59	3	1
1974	Coventry	BL1	26	113	228	12	240	8.50	-	-
1975	Coventry	BL	36	162	310	15	325	8.02	1	1
1976	Coventry	BL	36	146	214.5	24	238.5	6.53	-	-
1977	Bristol	BL	36	159	207	34	241	6.06	1	1
1978	Bristol	BL	38	156	193	37	230	5.90	-	-
1979	Canterbury	NL	35	148	284	24	308	8.32	2	1
1979	Exeter	BL	19	62	81	13	94	6.06	-	-
1980	Exeter	NL	37	156	324	13	337	8.64	6	2
1980	Swindon	BL	10	30	13	2	15	2.00	-	-

Individual Honours: World Finalist 1963 (7th), 1964 (10th), 1965 (8th), 1966 (15th), 1968 (15th), 1969 (4th), 1971 (10th), 1972 (10th).

International Honours: World Team Cup winner 1968, World Team Cup Finalist 1960, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1969, 1970, England international – 94 caps, 881 points, Great Britain international – 64 caps, 625 points.

Team Honours: British League Division One Championship winner 1968, British League Knock-out Cup winner 1967.