

BOTTOMS, Alfred John Herbert (Alf)

Born: June 20, 1918, Kensington, London, England.*

Died: May, 1951.

The management at Wembley in the years immediately following the war had a fine knack of plucking riders from obscurity and thrusting them into the limelight of riding against world class stars in front of tens of thousands of spectators, often with superb results. A prime example of this policy was the progress of Alf Bottoms who came to the Empire Stadium via their training scheme at Rye House.

He was an ever present in the 'Lions' side in 1946 and won a championship medal in his first ever season, proving to be one of the discoveries of the year. After missing almost the whole of 1947 following an operation in which he had a kidney removed, Alf was allowed to join Third Division Southampton despite comments from some quarters that he was too good to ride at that level.

Those views were well founded as Alf dominated the league, scoring 35 maximums and a massive 625 points. For a rider to beat Alf that year was something of a feat and it was no surprise when he returned to Wembley in 1949, settling into a reserve berth back in Division One and playing a part in two more championship winning sides before retiring in mid-1950. Away from speedway, Alf had a passion for cars and was a successful performer on four wheels but was sadly killed in a car crash in Luxembourg in 1951 at the age of 32.



Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1946	Wembley	NL	24	101	125.5	26.5	152	6.02	-	-
1947	Wembley	NL1	2	4	2	1	3	3.00	-	-
1948	Southampton	NL3	52	224	625	7	632	11.29	28	7
1949	Wembley	NL1	40	111	135	25	160	5.77	-	-
1950	Wembley	NL1	11	23	19	6	25	4.35	-	-

Team Honours: National League Championship winner 1946, National League Division One Championship winner 1949, 1950.