

## **BOWKIS, Joseph Leonard (Joe)**

**Born:** May 3, 1923, Chigwell, Essex, England.\*

**Died:** October 1994.

Joe started his speedway career on the Army tracks in Germany in 1946 and signed for Harringay on being released from the services, after he was initially rejected by West Ham. He made his 'Racers' debut in May 1947 and had an eleven match run in the team, but found the going tough until a loan deal saw him move to Third Division Poole in order to gain experience.

He was appointed captain of the newly formed 'Pirates' and had a highly successful season in scoring over 300 points in official fixtures along with eight maximums. A recall by Harringay in 1949 did not produce the progress expected and in 1950 he was the subject of a £500 transfer to Leicester.

Joe's time at Blackbird Road was blighted by a serious stomach ailment that he initially overcame, but a track crash at his home circuit early in 1953 aggravated the problem and forced him to hang up his leathers. His bravery in coming back from the illness and his wholehearted style of riding had made him a popular figure with the 'Hunters' fans.



<b>Year</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Division</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>BP</b>	<b>TP</b>	<b>CMA</b>	<b>FM</b>	<b>PM</b>
1947	Harringay	NL1	11	28	8	2	10	1.43	-	-
1948	Harringay	NL1	3	6	2	1	3	2.00	-	-
1948	Poole	NL3	40	161	330	24	354	8.80	4	4
1949	Harringay	NL1	24	62	40	9	49	3.16	-	-
1950	Harringay	NL1	1	2	0	0	0	0.00	-	-
1950	Leicester	NL3	30	99	155	16	171	6.91	-	-
1951	Leicester	NL2	25	101	140	24	164	6.50	-	1
1952	Leicester	NL2	50	202	250	58	308	6.10	1	1
1953	Leicester	NL2	2	7	7	1	8	4.57	-	-