

BRADLEY, Derrick Edwin (Dick)

Born: November 28, 1924, Netheravon, Wiltshire, England.*

The late 1940s was an era in which a host of fine riders were produced at the Knowle Stadium, Bristol – the home of the famous 'Bulldogs'. Despite the success of Billy Hole, Salmon, Mountford and Boss, the greatest of them all was undoubtedly Dick Bradley. Dick was a grass track rider who turned to speedway in 1948 and made three appearances for the West Country club that year. He cemented his place in the team in 1949, claiming a Division Two championship winner's medal, and was one of the few 'Bulldogs' to settle into top flight racing when the club were promoted to Division One in 1950. Ironically, he had requested a move due to the fact that he did not think himself good enough for Division One and wanted to join up with Swindon in Division Three. Dick hit the big time in 1951 when he recorded a nine point average for Bristol and qualified as reserve for the World Final – the first 'Bulldog' to reach the final since Cordy Milne in 1938.



Although his league average dropped slightly the following year, he qualified for the World Final outright - proving a shock merchant as he finished 5th with a nine point haul - and also scored 16 points from reserve on his England debut as he helped to beat the Australians in the final test at Harringay. This season established Dick as one of England's top riders although he rarely took the headlines away from the London based speed men who attracted most of the media attention, preferring to stay in the south west throughout his career. One of the sport's most loyal servants, he showed great devotion to Bristol when he stayed with the club as they dropped into Division Two in 1954 and later joined Southampton when the 'Bulldogs' closed during the following season. He continued to be a superb ambassador for the sport, both at Second and First Division level at Bannister Court for over eight years and ended his spell with the 'Saints' when they were also forced to close at the end of the 1963 campaign. Approaching 40, Dick joined Newport in 1964 and was still scoring well in his second season at Somerton Park when a badly broken arm finally forced him to retire.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1948	Bristol	NL2	3	7	3	0	3	1.71	-	-
1949	Bristol	NL2	54	151	182	42	224	5.93	-	1
1950	Bristol	NL1	34	138	198	25	223	6.46	1	-
1951	Bristol	NL1	34	136	286	21	307	9.03	4	2
1952	Bristol	NL1	37	149	272	30	302	8.11	1	2
1953	Bristol	NL1	22	99	205	16	221	8.93	1	2
1954	Bristol	NL2	23	97	254	5	259	10.68	7	3
1955	<i>Bristol</i>	<i>NL2</i>	16	88	228	5	233	10.59	7	1
1955	Southampton	NL2	21	110	254	13	267	9.71	3	-
1956	Southampton	NL2	28	149	375	7	382	10.26	7	-
1957	Southampton	NL	19	97	218	12	230	9.48	2	1
1958	Southampton	NL	24	127	246	20	266	8.38	3	-
1959	Southampton	NL	22	95	122	21	143	6.02	-	-
1960	Southampton	NL	22	92	120	17	137	5.96	-	-
1961	Southampton	NL	26	99	123	24	147	5.94	-	2
1962	Southampton	NL	28	88	109	22	131	5.95	-	1
1963	Southampton	NL	10	33	52	14	66	8.00	-	-
1964	Newport	PL	25	108	213	11	224	8.30	-	2
1965	Newport	BL	21	84	145	21	166	7.90	-	-

Individual Honours: World Finalist 1951 (16th), 1952 (5th), 1953 (15th).

International Honours: England international – 24 caps, 160 points.

Team Honours: National League Division One Championship winner 1962, National League Division Two Championship winner 1949, 1954, National Trophy winner 1961, Provincial League Knock Out Cup winner 1964.