

BRANNEFORS, Bengt

Born: May 31, 1936, Gothenburg, Sweden.*

Died: January, 2008.

Something of an enigma when it came to British racing, Bengt was a renowned rider in his homeland and made 20 appearances for Sweden at international level. He was never rated amongst the top stars in Sweden but was a much respected league rider and frequently had the beating of his more celebrated countrymen. However, Bengt never really got to grips with British League speedway despite appearing for five different clubs. His debut season in the U.K. came with New Cross in 1961 but he was released by the 'Rangers' early in the season, much to the anger of many fans of the south east London club who saw Bengt as a star of the future. He also had a short spell with Oxford before signing for Ipswich in 1962.



He broke his knee in Sweden just before the 'Witches' pulled out of the league and British fans did not see Bengt in domestic league action again until 1970 when he was signed by Newport. He had, however, been a non-riding reserve in the 1966 World Final in his home city. He proved to be a frustrating figure for the 'Wasps' fans as periods of brilliance and undoubted talent were punctuated by poor form, niggling injuries and machinery problems. It looked as if Bengt would be released by the Somerton Park management at the end of the season but he gained a reprieve and continued into the following year until the signing of Ronnie Genz from Oxford saw him moved on to Wolverhampton. Bengt was something of a celebrity in Gothenburg and was reputed to be involved in the ownership of a nightclub in the city in partnership with the World Heavyweight Boxing Champion Ingemar Johansson.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1961	New Cross	NL	2	7	7	0	7	4.00	-	-
1961	Oxford	NL	1	4	6	1	7	7.00	-	-
1962	Ipswich	NL	4	12	4	0	4	1.33	-	-
1970	Newport	BL1	12	42	41	7	48	4.57	-	-
1971	Newport	BL1	13	48	50	3	53	4.42	-	-
1971	Wolverhampton	BL1	12	35	28	2	30	3.43	-	-

International Honours: Swedish international – 20 caps, 39 points.