

BRETT, Brian Christopher

Born: April 3, 1938, Stanstead Abbots, Essex, England.*

Died: November, 2006.

One of the few major discoveries of the Southern Area League, Brian developed from being a raw teenage novice with Rye House in 1956 to become one of England's top riders, reaching a World Final and representing Great Britain in the World Team Cup. He was a member of the Rye House side that won the 1956 Southern Area League and cup double and was snapped up by the Southampton promoter Charlie Knott, one of the few promoters of the day willing to take a risk with young riders. He spent the next couple of seasons at Bannister Court learning from the likes of Brian Crutcher and Dick Bradley but progress was painfully slow and, at times, it appeared that Brian was not going to make the grade, with a move to Swindon initially doing little to improve his fortunes.



Eventually, after almost a decade in the saddle, everything began to fall into place and in 1964 he reached heat leader standard with the 'Robins' in what turned out to be his last year at Blunsdon. Brian also made his international debut for Great Britain against the Soviet Union and was called up to ride in the World Team Cup Final in Abensberg, Germany, although he failed to score from his two rides. Brian was ideally suited to become a new star in the combined British League in 1965 and was allocated to one of the ex-Provincial League sides, Newcastle, where he formed a fine spearhead with Ivan Mauger at the top of the 'Diamonds' score chart. He reached his only World Final that year, finishing as the top Englishman with nine points giving him sixth place in the final reckoning. This proved to be the peak of Brian's career but he spent another two seasons in the sport before retiring prematurely after a spell at Cradley Heath in 1967, at the age of just 29. Brian died suddenly in November 2006.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1956	Rye House †	SAL	13	48	45.5	11	56.5	4.71	-	-
1957	Rye House	SAL	9	28	30	3	33	4.71	-	-
1958	Southampton	NL	9	20	15	2	17	3.40	-	-
1959	Southampton	NL	16	53	67	2	69	5.21	-	-
1960	Southampton	NL	6	18	7	0	7	1.56	-	-
1960	Swindon	NL	11	31	16	3	19	2.45	-	-
1961	Swindon	NL	23	84	100	13	113	5.38	-	-
1962	Swindon	NL	30	117	129	20	149	5.09	-	-
1962	Wolverhampton	PL	2	9	16	1	17	7.56	-	-
1963	Swindon	NL	26	94	127	19	146	6.21	-	1
1964	Swindon	NL	15	58	99	5	104	7.17	-	1
1965	Newcastle	BL	33	133	280	11	291	8.75	6	-
1966	Newcastle	BL	35	140	258	13	271	7.74	1	1
1967	Cradley Heath	BL	20	86	145	11	156	7.26	-	-

Individual Honours: World finalist 1965 (6th).

International Honours: World Team Cup finalist 1964, Great Britain international – 4 caps, 13 points, England international – 3 caps, 22 points.

Team Honours: Southern Area League Championship winner 1956, Southern Area League Knock-Out Cup winner 1956.