

CLAY, Norman Bernard

Born: May 27, 1922, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Died: January 21, 1950.

Norman came into speedway in tragic circumstances – taking over his brother Sid's equipment after Sid was drowned in a terrible accident, but took to the shale well and was invited to ride for Exeter in Division Three by the 'Falcons' promoter Frank Buckland in 1948.

He was an immediate success in clocking up over 300 points in his debut season, recording ten maximums and assisting the 'Falcons' to the Third Division championship. An average of 8.67 was a superb effort for a first year rider and gave him the third heat leader position behind the Roger brothers, Cyril and Bert.

With the aforementioned Roger brothers moving into full time Division One racing with New Cross in 1949, Norman started the season as number one at the County Ground and overcame an early season foot injury to show sensational form and raise his average to a figure just a shade below ten points per match. Although the team was not as successful as the previous year, Norman was one of the leading lights of the division, finishing fourth in the league averages, and was tipped to



join Bristol for the 'Bulldogs' first season in the top flight in 1950. He returned home to Australia for the winter and was sensationally picked for the opening test matches against England, but was tragically never to return, being killed in a crash at the Sydney Sports Ground in January 1950 that also claimed the life of Ray Duggan - speedway's only double fatality.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1948	Exeter	NL3	44	161	315	34	349	8.67	6	4
1949	Exeter	NL3	39	154	367	14	381	9.90	6	4

International Honours: Australian international – 2 caps, 17 points.

Team Honours: National League Division Three Championship winner 1948.