

## **GARLAND, Cecil Alfred (Gruff)**

**Born:** January 29, 1915, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

**Died:** 1989.

Gruff was a former rugby league player in his native Australia and first rode speedway at the Sydney Royale Stadium in 1936. He travelled to the U.K. in 1939 to join non-league side Glasgow, marrying a local girl later in the year, and rejoined the 'Tigers' after the war had ended.

In that first post-war season Gruff finished fourth in the Glasgow averages behind Joe Crowther, Will Lowther and Wal Morton but this proved to be his best season in the sport as injury problems - including a burst blood vessel in his foot and a broken arm - ruined his 1947 campaign. He was never able to recapture his form in later spells at Bradford in Division One or at Glasgow's city rivals, Ashfield, and returned home at the end of the 1949 season.

He continued to ride in Australia but suffered a badly broken arm at Paramatta in the winter of 1950-51 and had a lengthy stay in hospital as a result. Gruff reportedly took on his nickname as he felt that the name Cecil was not one suitable for a speedway rider.



<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>
1946	Glasgow	NrL	21	85	143	19	162	7.62	-	-
1947	Glasgow	NL2	9	33	46	2	48	5.82	-	-
1948	Glasgow	NL2	6	13	9	0	9	2.77	-	-
1948	Bradford	NL1	3	6	2	1	3	2.00	-	-
1949	Ashfield	NL2	41	123	97	24	121	3.93	-	-