

HAMMOND, William Harold (Paddy)

Born: February 12, 1916, Belfast, Northern Ireland.

One of the few Irish born riders ever to have made the grade in speedway, Paddy raced on the grass tracks in the pre-war era and, after serving as a Captain in the Army during the war, applied for a trial at Norwich. He made two appearances for the 'Stars' in 1946 before winning a regular place the following year when he produced some eye catching performances, including a paid maximum at home to Glasgow in May.

Despite achieving an average of over six points per match that season he was loaned to Yarmouth in 1948 and skippered the 'Bloaters' for a time until an injury crisis at The Firs resulted in Paddy being recalled to Norwich. An ill-fated move to Newcastle followed in 1949 and, after six unsuccessful matches with the Tyneside club, he dropped out of the sport and had to spend many weeks in hospital with a stomach ulcer. He also tried his hand at promoting the sport in Belfast and had pre-season trials at Liverpool in 1950 without ever riding for the 'Chads' in an official fixture.

Year	Club	Division	M	R	P	BP	TP	CMA	FM	PM
1946	Norwich	NrL	2	5	1	1	2	1.60	-	-
1947	Norwich	NL2	32	109	157	17	174	6.39	-	1
1948	Yarmouth	NL3	33	135	209	17	226	6.70	1	1
1948	Norwich	NL2	6	15	13	2	15	4.00	-	-
1949	Newcastle	NL2	6	18	5	4	9	2.00	-	-