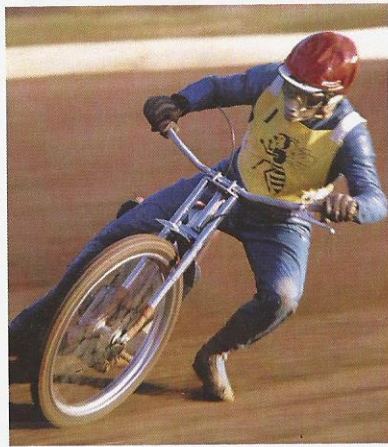
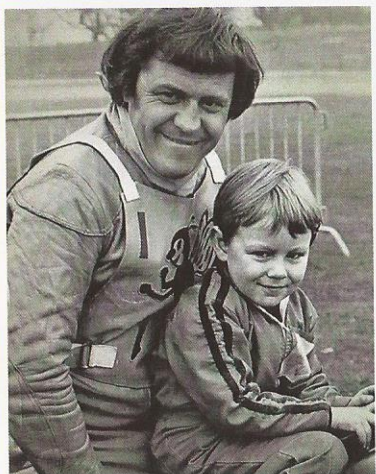


NIGEL BOOCOCK

Speedway Rider (1937–2015)



Since the beginning of Speedway at Brandon in 1928, there have been many great riders entertaining the public, all of which rightfully will take their place within the history of the Coventry 'Bees'. However, there is one such rider that, in the view of many, will sit comfortably at the top of that list, Nigel Boocock, known to many as 'Little Boy Blue' or to most as just plain 'Booey'.

ORDER OF SERVICE

THANKS TO THE STADIUM OWNERS AND
STAFF FOR PROVIDING THE FACILITIES

WELCOME

THE PETER YORK INTERVIEWS

NIGEL - 'BOOEY'

In the words of brother Eric

INTRODUCTION

The Reverend Michael Whawell, Hon. Chaplain,
of the World Speedway Riders' Association.

VERSES FROM ST JOHN, CHAPTER 14

Reading by Roy Adams - Nigel's former mechanic

Jesus said, 'Set your troubled hearts at rest.

Trust in God always; trust also in me.

There are many dwelling places in my Fathers house;

if it were not so, I should have told you;

For I am going there to prepare a place for you.

*Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace,
such as the world cannot give.*

Set your troubled hearts at rest and banish your fears.'

THE PRAYERS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN (Nigel's favourite – please join in with the choir)
Collection in aid of the Speedway Riders' Benevolent Fund

O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works they hands hath made
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder
They power throughout the universe displayed
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in:
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin:
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then shall I bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*
*Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee
How great thou art! How great thou art!*

THE FINAL LAP (please stand)

The ashes held by grandson, Thomas Darren Relph, take a final lap
around the Brandon track. (Bike ridden by 1976 World Champion
and British Lions protégé, Peter Collins)

THE COMMITTAL OF ASHES (please remain standing)

THE RELEASE OF WHITE DOVES (as a sign of peace)

THE BLESSING

FINAL WORDS AND THANKS

PLEASE HELP BY PUTTING YOUR LITTER IN THE BINS PROVIDED – THANK YOU

It was following spells at Bradford, Birmingham and Ipswich that Nigel moved to Brandon for the 1959 season, thus starting the first of 18 consecutive seasons at Brandon, a record in itself. Track historian, Dave Robottom has compiled a comprehensive record of his achievements, with some extracts kindly provided here. We are now going back to the 13 heat era, when a maximum score totalled 12 points.

Nigel had a thrilling riding style and was clearly outstanding in his distinctive blue leathers at a time when most riders wore plain black leathers. For seven seasons in a row, 1964 to 1970, his average score in league matches produced a figure of 10.70 points. The 1965 season saw Nigel topping the averages, in the newly formed British League, with 17 maximums and an end of season average of 11.09 points from the 34 league matches, with the 10 other team matches producing an 11.16 average. At this time the British League included the very best riders in the world, so we can conclude that Nigel was indeed the most successful speedway rider in the world that year. In 1968 Nigel led the Bees to victory in the British League in a thrilling match against Hackney. He appeared in 8 individual World Finals, finishing 4th in 1969, who knows how many world titles he would have won if the present SGP system was in use then! Nigel concluded his career at Brandon on the 9th October 1976, by winning his last race in Bees colours, in the second half final against the Reading Racers.

The stats speak for themselves: 748 matches, 3306 starts, 7375 points, 365 bonus points and a calculated match average of 9.36 points (including 98 full maximums, 50 paid maximums). Nigel's speedway career came to a close in 1980, following spells with Bristol, Canterbury and Exeter.

It was during the closed seasons that Nigel toured Australia with the British Lions, gathering a huge following 'down under', many of those tours as captain alongside riders like Colin Pratt and many with the up and coming British stars, including Peter Collins and Jim McMillan. Australia would eventually become the family home, after residing in Addison Road, Rugby for many years. But Brandon Speedway held a very special place for Nigel, his wife Cynthia and family. It is only fitting that after putting his heart and soul into his racing on the Brandon shale, then the final piece of that jigsaw should come together today.

In the words of Charles Ochiltree in 1976, **"His Yorkshire grit has established him in a class of his own throughout a distinguished career"** and **"If there was a Good Scout of Speedway Award there is no doubt in my mind who would win it!"**