

Riders to Remember....Peter Moore

By Dudley Jones



Peter Moore

When I first saw speedway, in the summer of 1962 at Norwich, Peter Moore was a Swindon rider of some repute.

An Australian, he had first ridden in Britain in the early 1950s, with such august teams as Long Eaton, and St Austell. To a teenager Long Eaton's first league involvement then seemed a very long time before, and Peter's introduction to the National league the only tangible link (although the Archers were, of course, soon to return).

Peter had moved to better things, and was part of the great Wimbledon era of the mid 1950s, and at Ipswich around the turn of the '60s.

Like many Australians of the time, Peter was a 'gater'. He was fast, yes, but I soon formed the view that if Fundin, Betts, etc. caught up with him they were sure to beat him.

So, my regard for Peter was not of the same level as that I had for Ronnie Moore, Peter Craven, etc., who could come from the back.

After the formation of the British League in 1965 Peter was still around, although approaching the veteran stage. He figured strongly in King's Lynns first teams, as captain at one time I believe.

By this time I was supporting West Ham, and don't recall seeing Peter often, but our paths were to cross again.

Len Silver revived Rayleigh, in the new second division, and I became a regular supporter. The track was, as always with Len, excellent, and the team were triers and well worth the regular Sunday trip (I recall that on Sundays the admission was very reasonable (free), but the cost of the mandatory programme was a bit steep!)

Anyway, at the start of a new season it was announced that Peter Moore was a new signing.

I was less than thrilled, but there was to be a surprise. I believe that Peter had been out of the sport with a serious injury and, now definitely a veteran, had dropped to the junior league level. The surprise? - Gone was the lightning gating!

Instead Peter was actually not gating well, but he was fighting for position. He was a good scorer too, coming from the back like he never did in his prime.

I believe that Rayleigh may have been his last team in the UK, but for my money those were his most exciting, and impressive, times.

I understand that Peter died a few years ago in Australia, but I shall always recall his 'Indian Summer'.

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