

Speedway – Templeton funeral date confirmed

The funeral of former Edinburgh Monarchs' skipper Douglas Templeton will be on Wednesday, 8 January (midday) at Culross Abbey then 1pm at the cemetery. All are invited by the family but they request family flowers only.

Doug was one of the greatest figures in Edinburgh and Scottish speedway history, writes Mike Hunter.

He passed away before Christmas aged 91 but Doug captained Monarchs for ten years and was the rock which the 1960's team was built on.

He had not been well for some time but he did attend the club's 70th Anniversary meeting in 2018, the last time he visited Armadale.

His his first racing experience was on Scottish grasstracks and, after a recommendation from Larry Lazarus, he was given a chance by Ian Hoskins, then promoter of Glasgow Tigers in 1953.

He improved quickly enough to do well for Scotland against New Zealand in his debut season but, with the Tigers closing after two home matches in 1954, he was trackless until turning out a few times for Motherwell late in that season. Then they closed too.

Motherwell returned in 1958 for a series of meetings at intermediate level and Doug was chosen as the captain. The team that turned out was in the main the one which lined up

for the Edinburgh Monarchs on their return to the sport in 1960, including, of course, Doug's brother Willie.

He captained the Monarchs and retained that position through the eight seasons at Meadowbank and two at Coatbridge until resigning his role during 1969 and passing the baton to Bert Harkins.

Doug was one of the dominant riders in the Provincial League 1960-64 alongside team mate George Hunter, Ivor Brown, Ivan Mager, Charlie Monk and others. Thrilling days which were the foundation of so many supporters' love for speedway.

After Monarchs were forced out of the sport, Doug did sterling work for Glasgow, Berwick and Coatbridge until he retired in 1976.

He was a tough rider, described as a "chunk of Scottish granite" and an inspirational one to team mates and fans. He won the Scottish Open Championship in 1960 and 1962 and rode with distinction in Test matches for Scotland and for Britain v Overseas.

Many supporters will have known Doug personally, as friendly off track as he was competitive on it. He lost his wife Margaret, also a highly respected person in speedway circles, fairly recently. We believe Doug had been the oldest surviving Monarch and was born June 18, 1928.