

ASTLEY & TYLDESLEY

MINERS' WELFARE

Cycle Speedway Club

2013 PRESS CUTTINGS

Sponsored by:

CWTS Ltd.

Partnered with:

Blackmoor Service Station

Boulter & Barrow

CTA Direct

Hypnotherapy4you

Village Carpets

A&T's Cycle prize guys

ASTLEY & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club hosted their annual presentation and social evening at the Miners' Welfare Club.

Seventy-five people attended the event, which consisted of music, DVD footage of the club's matches during the year, an appearance by Wigan's Olympics Ambassador Trevor Barton as guest speaker, a splendid buffet and of course, the presentation of many awards to the club's riders, officials and volunteers.

Forty-four rider awards were presented, with many of the club's new riders present to receive their awards on the night.

In addition to the presentation of trophies for competitions already won on the track, there were four special awards presented on the night. Callum Maguire won the North West Trophies Cup for being the Best Novice, Ciaran Collins won the Rory

Blackwell Cup for being the Best Newcomer, Matthew Snell won the Most Improved Rider Award and Max Evans won the J. Fisher & Sons Cup for being the Young Rider of the Year.

The A & T club has long appreciated the value of its officials and volunteer helpers and 17 people received their customary present from the club in recognition of their efforts during the past year. This year's winner of the Ron Hack Memorial Cup for the Volunteer of the Year was Will Evans. A special presentation was made to the Wigan Unsung Hero in Sport winner June Phillips, who is retiring after many years as the Club's Catering Manager.

It was another great evening's event, to celebrate the club's activities and successes during 2012.

The Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club are delighted to announce a new



Some of the young riders who enjoyed the presentation evening

club sponsor in CWTS Ltd. The Atherton based company's full title is Commissioning Water Treatment Specialists Ltd and they have agreed to be the club's main sponsor for the next three years. Thanks go to the club's new Social Secretary Alison Dickinson for arranging this

sponsorship deal. A & T welcome three new members on board to the 2013 Club Committee: Becky Heslop (Development Officer and Welfare Officer), Alison Dickinson (Social Secretary and Go-Ride Club Contact), Janine Murphy (Assistant Social Secretary).

New members

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club have welcomed four new members on board their committee and announced a new sponsorship.

Becky Heslop has taken on the role of development officer and welfare officer, Jayne Sweeney is the assistant treasurer, Alison Dickinson is the social secretary and Go-Ride club contact, while Janine Murphy is the assistant social secretary.

Atherton-based Commissioning Water Treatment Specialists Ltd have agreed to be the club's main sponsor for the next three years.

Pre-season cycle training starts

CYCLING

ASTLEY & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club begin their on-track pre-season training this Sunday. The sessions will be held at the cycle speedway track at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, and are open to all club members and prospective new members. First session at 2 pm is for U-13 riders, followed by the session for 13s and over starting at 3 pm.

There will also be floodlit sessions for the same groupings on Tuesday 5th February, at 7 pm and 8 pm respectively, plus a further floodlit coaching session for the club's regular team riders on Thursday February 7 at 7pm.

These sessions will continue every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday (weather permitting) until the first home league match on Sunday March 17, when Astley & Tyldesley take on Bury in Northern League fixtures at Gin Pit.

Newcomers of all ages, experience and ability will be



Mike (centre) with last year's winner Bob Prince (left) and British Cycling Board member Richard Kennedy (right)

most welcome to try out the exciting sport of cycle speedway. Riders are required to be fully covered from the neck down.

The club has bikes and helmets to loan out to riders for the on-track sessions. For further details, please visit the club's website at www.astleycyclespeedway.org.uk or simply roll up to the track 15 minutes before the start of the session.

Long serving Astley & Tyldesley club official Mike Hack was honoured at the recent Cycle Speedway

Development Conference at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. Mike was presented with the Dave Blinston Memorial Trophy for winning the Cycle Speedway Referee of the Year Award for 2012.

Mike has been a referee since 1975 and an International referee since 2004, having taken charge of international matches, European and World Championship Finals both in this country and abroad.

Get on the right track



Mike Hack (centre) with last year's winner Bob Prince (left) and British Cycling Board member Richard Kennedy (right)

INSPIRED by Great Britain's cyclists at the Olympics? Well here's your chance to try out cycle racing at your local track in Tyldesley!

Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club are holding their on-track pre-season training every Sunday afternoon.

The sessions will be held at the cycle speedway track at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, and are open to all club members and prospective new members. First session at 2pm is for U-13 riders, followed by the session for 13s and over starting at 3pm.

There will also be floodlit sessions for the same groupings on Tuesday evenings, at 7pm and 8pm respectively, plus a further floodlit coaching session for the club's regular team riders on Thurs-

day evenings at 7pm. These sessions will continue every Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday (weather permitting) until the first home league match on Sunday 17th March, when Astley & Tyldesley take on Bury in Northern League fixtures at Gin Pit.

Long serving Astley and Tyldesley club official Mike Hack was honoured at the recent Cycle Speedway Development Conference at the Alexander Stadium, Birmingham. Mike was presented with the Dave Blinston Memorial Trophy for winning the Cycle Speedway Referee of the Year Award for 2012. Mike has been a referee since 1975 and an International referee since 2004, having taken charge of international matches, European and World Championship Finals both in this country and abroad.

Season opener

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club open their 2013 season this Sunday.

A&T will take on Bury in three Northern League matches at Gin Pit, with tapes up at 2pm.

First up will be the Division One match, featuring the clubs' first teams. This will be followed at approximately 3.30pm by the Division Two match for the clubs' second teams.

The final match of the day will be the Division Three match, featuring the clubs' under 12s riders.

Racing promises to be fast and furious as the riders hurtle round the tight shale surfaced Gin Pit oval.

The track is at the Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, M29 7DW.



Danny Hughes in action

Returning Hughes in great form

ASTLEY & Tyldesley opened the 2013 season by welcoming closest neighbours Bury for a Northern League fixture.

A&T marked their return to Division 1, after a three year absence, with a spirited display, but were well beaten 97-51 by last year's league runners-up. Danny Hughes, making a return after a six year absence was in great form, battling hard for his points, with some spectacular riding and taking A&T's only race win in heat 10.

● The Division 2 match was a closer affair, as A&T gave it a real go against last year's league winners. Bury moved into a 31-19 lead before it ended 83-66. Captain Reece Politt impressed for A&T with two race wins, with the others all getting stuck in.

● A&T lined up with 17 riders for the inaugural Division 3 match, exclusively for riders aged under 12. A&T's Max Evans was the only unbeaten rider, with teammates Daniel Burns and Matthew Snell bagging 14 points each. Astley & Tyldesley 161 Bury 38.



SPEEDY The A&T team, above, and top points scorer Danny Hughes, bottom left, battles hard at the Gin Pit



No shame for A&T in opening defeat

ASTLEY and Tyldesley cycle speedway club were unable to mark their return to the Northern League top flight with a win after losing 97-51 at home to Bury Comets on the opening day of the 2013 season.

A&T went into the fixture still on a high after finishing as Division Two champions last season, and they put in a spirited display in their

first Division One fixture for three years, but last year's top flight runners-up were too strong for them at the Gin Pit.

Danny Hughes finished top points scorer for A&T with 11, winning the club's only race of the meeting in heat 10.

A more experienced Bury team had three riders who raced unbeaten - Chris Parish, Neil Howarth and former A&T rider Damian Zareba.

GET SET FOR THE SCHOOL OLYMPICS



At the Leigh Olympics launch are, from left, Andy Burnham MP, Simon Town, chief executive of Leigh Sports Village, Mike Hack, from Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club, and Hayley Smith, editor of the Journal

Event will be a celebration of our town and children

FORGET London 2012, Leigh is limbering up for its own exciting summer of sport.

The Journal can reveal that on Tuesday, July 2, the Leigh Olympics will be held at Leigh Sports Village.

And on Friday head teachers, heads of sport and representatives of clubs and agencies from across the area gathered to hear more about plans for the event.

MP Andy Burnham, who is behind the ambitious project, said: "I want people to circle the evening of Tuesday, July 2, in the diary."

"All of Leigh is invited to come down to the LSV and be a part of what promises to be a great celebration of our town and its young people."

"2012 was about London but in 2013 all eyes will be on

'2012 was about London but in 2013, all eyes will be on Leigh. We will be leading the way in keeping the 2012 spirit alive'

Leigh MP Andy Burnham

Leigh. We will be leading the way in keeping the 2012 spirit alive."

The Leigh Olympics is aimed at pupils in year seven upwards from 10 high schools across the area and will start in the afternoon and run into the evening, when family members will be able to attend.

There are also plans in the pipeline for a separate event for primary schoolchildren.

While preparations are still in their early stages, many clubs have already expressed

Continued inside

Pole star is back

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club made the long haul to Scotland to take on Edinburgh in Sunday's Northern League encounters.

Polish star Przemek Binkowski, the world number five, made a welcome reappearance in A&T colours for the first time since A&T were last in Division One in 2009.

Despite not having any track training this winter, due to severe weather in Poland, he won all his five races to record a 20 points maximum score.

The rest of A&T's riders battled hard throughout but found a solid scoring and well-drilled Edinburgh team a tough nut to crack.

A&T took a 6-4 race advantage in heat one, but Edinburgh hit back with a 7-3 score in the next race and were never headed after that, running out 94-55 winners. The Division Two match was a much closer affair before A&T fell 80-65. Scorers: Danny Swales 13, Ron Makin 12 (1), George Hughes 9 (3), Roy Heslop 9 (1), Max Evans 7 (1), Ciaran Collins 7 (1), Daniel Burns 6, Becky Heslop 2.

A&T's under 12s riders romped to a convincing win in the Division Three match.

Scorers: Max Evans 15, Matthew Snell 14, Daniel Burns 13, Rhys Burgess 8, Dan Smith-Makin 6.

Astley and Tyldesley stage the opening round of the A&T Go-Ride Grand Prix series this Saturday. Registrations close at 9.30am, with racing starting at 10am.



Przemek Binkowski on his way to a race win for Astley and Tyldesley at Edinburgh on Sunday. Picture: Sue Tydd.

GET SET FOR THE SCHOOL OLYMPICS:

From front page

their interest in being involved in the day, which will feature a mix of traditional and non traditional sports.

Simon Town, chief executive of Leigh SportsVillage, said: "With the Rugby League World Cup taking place later this year there will be a world class event in your back yard."

"We want to create a community village and the Leigh Olympics will be a catalyst for this. It really will be our year for sport."

Hayley Smith, editor of the Journal which is the official media partner for the Leigh Olympics, added: "We feel extremely proud to be at the start of something so exciting but we need the help of every high school to make it as successful as possible."

"Over the coming months we will be publishing more details about the event and we want schools to send us their stories, pictures and videos of their preparations in the run-up to the big day."

■ For more details about the event visit leighjournal.co.uk.

First win of Northern League season

ASTLEY & Tyldesley chalked up their first win of the season with an 80-70 scoreline at Heckmondwike in Sunday's Northern League Division 1 match. The Heckmondwike track had passed a track inspection the previous day, after being under ice and snow for the past week or so.

Astley & Tyldesley opened up with two 6-4 heat wins and were still 4 points up at the interval. The visitors were quick out of the traps with a 7-3 heat win to the Reece Pollitt and Danny Swales pairing in heat 9 to double the lead. A great ride by George Hughes saw him keep Adam Watson

at the back for a shared heat in the following race to maintain the 8 points lead. A&T put in two late 6-4 heat wins to go 12 points up, before the home side took a 6-4 heat win in the last race, to make the final score 70-80. For Heckmondwike, Pawel Idziorek rode to

an impressive 20 points maximum, with Darren Kent winning three races, losing only to Danny Hughes. A&T were excellently led by Danny Hughes, Reece Pollitt and Danny Swales, who collectively won seven races. Northern League match result Heckmondwike 70

Astley & Tyldesley 80. A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 18, Danny Swales 17, Danny Hughes 17, Ron Makin 10, George Hughes 7, Roy Heslop 7, Matthew Snell 4. Astley & Tyldesley are holding weekly club practice sessions, every Tuesday evening, starting at 7pm. New riders

are welcome to try out the exciting sport of cycle speedway. The club has bikes and helmets to use, with a first session free of charge at the track at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley. M29 7DW. Visit www.astleycyclespeedway.org.uk

White nets 11 points to gain second place

ASTLEY & Tyldesley riders enjoyed a busy weekend of cycle speedway racing at Sheffield.

On Saturday, the youngsters took part in the opening North Regional Round of the British Youth & Junior League series. This was the first appearance at this level for some of the A&T riders, but they gave it their all and turned in some good results, as A&T took 3rd place in the overall match. John White scored 11 points in the U-8 match and took 2nd place in the 'B' Final. In the U-10s match, Rhys Burgess scored 9 points and won the 'C' Final. Ben Dickinson also scored 9 and won the 'B' Final, whilst Matt Snell dropped just one point, scoring 15 points and finishing 2nd in the 'A' Final. 16 riders contested the U12s match. Daniel Burns scored 13 points and won the 'B' Final, whilst Max Evans scored 15 points and finished 4th in the 'A' Final. Ciaran Collins scored 5 points in the U14s match and finished 4th in the 'B' Final.

British Youth & Junior League North Regional Round 1 result

Sheffield 304 Hull 83 Astley & Tyldesley 77 Bury 53 Stockport 5.

A&T had several senior riders missing, so the juniors filled the gaps in the Division 1 match. Sheffield opened up with seven maximum heat wins, before Reece Pollitt took a welcome 2nd place in heat 8, relegating Niall Morton to third place. A&T performed better in the 2nd half, before going down to a heavy 99-51 defeat. Pollitt was A&T's best rider, three times beating home riders

Northern League Division 1 match result Sheffield 99 Astley & Tyldesley 51

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 12 (1), Joel Partington 10, Ron Makin 8, Roy Heslop 7, Steve Waterworth 6, Daniel Burns 5 (1), Max Evans 3, Matthew Snell dnr.

Sheffield opened with a 7-3 heat win in heat 1, but the next four races were all drawn. Sheffield held a 3 points lead at the interval, but a 7-3 heat win to the Reece Pollitt / Joe Partington pairing in heat 9 put A&T ahead by 1 point. Sheffield immediately hit back with two successive 7-3 heat wins to regain control of the match. A&T were not down though and two successive 6-4 heat wins reduced the gap to three points and forced a last heat decider. Sheffield rounded off the match with a 7-3 heat win, to win 78-71. For A&T, Reece Pollitt won all his five races, whilst Joel Partington was beaten only in heat 6. Plenty of effort from the rest wasn't quite enough to secure the points against a solid scoring Sheffield side.

Northern League Division 2 match result Sheffield 78 Astley & Tyldesley 71

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 20, Joel Partington 17 (1), Roy Heslop 9 (2), Ron Makin 9, Steve Waterworth 8, Daniel Burns 4 (1), Max Evans 3, Matthew Snell 1. The final match of the weekend was the Division 3 match. A&T had three members of the Burgess family all making their competitive debuts. Young Charlie took a fall first time out, but bravely continued and his four points proved decisive as A&T narrowly beat Sheffield 60-56. Jessica and Emily can feel well pleased with their scores. Daniel Burns, Max Evans and Matthew Snell led the way for A&T in this match. This was A&T's third win out of three in this competition.

Northern League Division 3 match result Sheffield 56 Astley & Tyldesley 60

A&T scorers: Max Evans 14, Daniel Burns 13, Matthew Snell 12, Jessica Burgess 10, Emily Burgess 7, Charlie Burgess 4.

First success

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club chalked up their first success of the season with an 80-70 win at Heckmondwike in Sunday's Northern League Division One match.

The key to A&T's win came with a solid scoring team, with every rider contributing and showing excellent teamwork.

A&T were excellently led by Danny Hughes, Reece Pollitt and Danny Swales, who collectively won seven races.

The hard work put in pre-season training paid off in testing conditions.

A&T scoring: Reece Pollitt 18, Danny Swales 17, Danny Hughes 17, Ron Makin 10, George Hughes 7, Roy Heslop 7, Matthew Snell 4.

A&T are holding weekly club practice sessions every Tuesday at 7pm. New riders are welcome. The club have bikes and helmets to use.

The track is located at the Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley.

Busy weekend for cycle speedway club

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club riders enjoyed a busy weekend of racing at Sheffield.

On Saturday, the youngsters took part in the opening regional round of the British Youth and Junior League series.

This was the first appearance at this level for some of the A&T riders, who gave their all and turned in some good results to secure third place in the overall match.

John White scored 11 points in the under eights' match and took second place in the B final.

In the under 10s match, Rhys Burgess scored nine points and won the C final.

Ben Dickinson also scored nine and won the B final, while Matt Snell dropped just one point, scoring 15 points and finishing second in the A final.

Sixteen riders contested the under 12s match.

Daniel Burns scored 13 points and won the B final, while Max Evans scored 15 points and finished fourth in the A final.

Ciaran Collins scored five points in the under 14s match and finished fourth in the B final.

For the third successive Sunday, A&T lined up in an away Northern League fixture.

With several senior riders missing, juniors filled the gaps in the Division One match.

Sheffield opened up with seven maximum heat wins before Reece Pollitt took a welcome second place in heat eight, relegating Niall Morton to third.

A&T performed better in the second half, before going down to a heavy 99-51 defeat.

Pollitt was A&T's best rider, three times beating home riders.

In Division Two, Sheffield held a

three-point lead at the interval but a 7-3 heat win to the Pollitt/Joe Partington pairing in heat nine put A&T ahead by one point.

Sheffield immediately hit back with two successive 7-3 heat wins to regain control of the match.

A&T were not down though and two successive 6-4 heat wins reduced the gap to three points and forced a last heat decider.

Sheffield rounded off the match with a 7-3 heat success, to win 78-71.

For A&T, Pollitt won all his five

matches, whilst Joel Partington was beaten only in heat six.

Three members of the Burgess family all made their competitive debuts in the Division Three match.

Charlie took a fall first time out but bravely continued and his four points proved decisive as A&T narrowly beat Sheffield 60-56. Jessica and Emily can feel pleased with their scores.

Daniel Burns, Max Evans and Matthew Snell led the way in A&T's third win out of three in this competition.

Teams look to race up the tables in weekend of speedway action

CYCLE SPEEDWAY

The next exciting cycle speedway action will take place at Astley & Tyldesley's Gin Pit raceway this Sunday (April 21). Astley & Tyldesley will take on the Northumbria Vikings in a Northern League encounter, starting at 2 pm.

There will be three matches ridden, as the CWTS Ltd. sponsored A&T team look to move up the Division One and Division Two tables, as well as extending their unbeaten run in Division 3. Spectators are welcome, with free admission, to watch the afternoon's racing at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, M29 7DW.

Following on from this, Astley & Tyldesley host the opening round of the Manchester League series on Wednesday, April 24. Registrations are at 7pm, for a 7.30 pm race start. Astley & Tyldesley's impressive juniors will launch their defence of the Manchester League Division Two title that they won last year, whilst the seniors will contest the Division One match.

Astley & Tyldesley are pleased to announce an extension in practice sessions provided by the club, to cater for the ever-increasing large number of youngsters attending the Tuesday club nights.

Three sessions will now run – the first one for U13s between 6 and 7 pm; the second one for a different group

of U13s between 7 and 8 pm; the third one for 13s plus and seniors between 8 and 9 pm.

The sessions will be taken by the club's two British Cycling Level 1 coaches Will

Evans and Paul Whitelegg. Any interested newcomers wishing to try out cycle speedway are welcome to along to one of these sessions for a free taster.

Bikes and helmets are provided by the club. For further information, visit the club's website at www.astleycyclespeedway.org.uk.





Cycle speedway youngsters start their title defence

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Speedway Club's impressive junior section start the defence of their Manchester League Division Two title at the Gin Pit on Wednesday, registration 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

It marks the start of the Manchester League series for both the juniors and open age teams, as the seniors will also contest the Division One match.

Before that, Astley and Tyldesley will host the Northumbria Vikings in Sunday's Northern League encounter, starting at 2pm at the Gin Pit.

There will be three matches

ridden, as the CWTS Ltd sponsored Astley team look to move up the Division One and Division Two tables, as well as extending their unbeaten run in Division Three.

Spectators are welcome, with free admission, to watch the afternoon's racing at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners Welfare Club, Meanley Road.

The club are also delighted to announce an extension in practice sessions provided by the club, to cater for the increasingly large numbers of youngsters attending Tuesday's club nights.

Three sessions will now run – the first one for under 13s between 6pm

and 7pm; the second one for a different group of under 13s between 7pm and 8pm; and the third for juniors aged 13 and over and seniors between 8pm and 9pm.

The sessions will be taken by the club's two British Cycling Level One coaches Will Evans and Paul Whitelegg.

Any interested newcomers wishing to try out cycle speedway are welcome to drop by one of these sessions for a free taster.

Bikes and helmets are provided by the club and further information can be found at astleycyclespeedway.org.uk

Graham brothers debut for A&T Cycle Speedway

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club hosted Northumbria Vikings in a Northern League fixture at Gin Pit on Sunday.

Brothers Paul and Mark Graham made their A&T debuts in the Division One match.

A 7-3 from the Mark Graham/Danny Swales pairing left the gap at just one point at the interval.

Heats 10 and 11 proved to be crucial in the match.

A tangle on the first bend in heat 10 resulted in both A&T riders hitting the floor.

The race was stopped and a re-run with all four riders was called, but the referee subsequently changed his mind with Danny Hughes excluded from the re-run.

Paul Graham took second place as the Vikings extended their lead to six points.

Terry Kirkup and Gavin Parr flew out of the traps in the next race to take a 7-3 heat win over the M Graham/Swales pairing to put Northumbria in a strong position



Mark Graham leading from Danny Swales
Picture: Sue Tydd

with four heats remaining.

A&T hit back with two late 6-4 heat wins but Northumbria held on to win 77-71.

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 15 (plus one bonus), Danny Swales 14 (1), Danny Hughes 14, Ron Makin 9 (2), Mark Graham 9 (1), George Hughes 5, Roy Heslop 4, Stefan Whitelegg 1.

A&T made a storming start in the Division Two match, with three 7-3 heat wins in the first five races opening up a 10 points lead.

Northumbria cut the deficit to 42-38 by the interval but successive 7-3 wins in heats 10 and 11 effectively sealed the team's first win of the season.

Ron Makin narrowly missed out on his first ever maximum for the club when beaten in the last race.

A&T scorers: Ron Makin 18 (1), Roy Heslop 15 (2), George Hughes 14 (3), Claran Collins 12 (1), Stefan Whitelegg 10, Max Evans 9, Daniel Burns 3, Matt Snell Jnr.

Northumbria had no riders for the Division Three match as 11 A&T riders took to the track.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Daniel Burns 14, Matt Snell 14, Rhys Burgess 13, Jessica Burgess 11, Alex Semtyshin 10, Ben Dickinson 10, Emily Burgess 9, Daisy Osmand 9, Ashton Semtyshin 5, Charlie Burgess 4.

Graham brothers make debuts

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUE TIDD



Mark Graham leading from Danny Swales

The race was stopped and a re-run with all four riders was called, but the referee subsequently changed his mind, with Danny Hughes excluded from the re-run. Paul Graham

took second place in the re-run, as the Vikings extended their lead to six points. Terry Kirkup and Gavin Parr flew out of the traps in the next race to take a 7-3 heat win over the M Graham/Swales pairing, to put Northumbria in a strong position with a 59-49 lead with four heats remaining. A&T hit back with two late 6-4 heat wins, but Northumbria held on to win 77-71.

For Astley & Tyldesley, Paul Graham, Mark Graham, Danny Swales and Danny Hughes all won races, with good support from Ron Makin. It was a good hard fought match, ridden in a good spirit throughout.

Northern League Division 1 match result

Astley & Tyldesley 71 Northumbria 77

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 15 (plus bonus), Danny Swales 14 (1), Danny Hughes 14. Ron Makin 9 (2), Mark Graham 9 (1), George Hughes 5, Roy Heslop 4, Stefan Whitelegg 1.

Astley & Tyldesley made a storming start in the Division 2 match, with three 7-3 heat wins in the first five races, to

open up a 10 points lead. Back came Northumbria with a 7-3 of their own, after Roy Heslop fell in heat 7, followed by a 6-4 to make the interval score 42-38 in Astley & Tyldesley's favour. Two successive 7-3 heat wins to A&T in heats 10 and 11 effectively sealed the match, as they moved in to a 12 points lead and went on to win 81-68. This was A&T's first win of the season in Division 2.

For Astley & Tyldesley, Ron Makin narrowly missed out on his first ever maximum for the club, when beaten in the last race. Ron and fellow veteran riders Roy Heslop and George Hughes teamed up well with their young partners, as Astley & Tyldesley's youngsters turned in some fantastic racing against much older opponents. 11 years old Max Evans pulled off two terrific wins from the back, Stefan Whitelegg started off with two race wins, Ciaran Collins took a race win and Daniel Burns picked himself up after a heavy fall.

Northern League Division 2 match result

Astley & Tyldesley 81 Northumbria 68

Northumbria 68

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Ron Makin 18 (1), Roy Heslop 15 (2), George Hughes 14 (3), Ciaran Collins 12 (1), Stefan Whitelegg 10, Max Evans 9, Daniel Burns 3, Matt Snell snr.

Northumbria had no riders for the Division three match, as 11 Astley & Tyldesley riders took to the track. Max Evans raced to a 16 points maximum score, twice beating Matt Snell in the process. Daniel Burns lost only to Evans and Snell in heat 11. The other Astley & Tyldesley riders enthusiastically gave it their all, to knock up a big team score. This win makes it four wins out of four on the track for Astley & Tyldesley in Division Three matches this season.

Northern League Division Three match result

Astley & Tyldesley 115 Northumbria 0

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Max Evans 16, Daniel Burns 14, Matt Snell 14, Rhys Burgess 13, Jessica Burgess 11, Alex Semtyshin 10, Ben Dickinson 10, Emily Burgess 9, Daisy Osmand 9, Ashton Semtyshin 5, Charlie Burgess 4.

Busy week proves fruitful

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club riders have enjoyed some excellent results in a busy week.

On Saturday A&T juniors visited Bury for the second north regional round of the British Youth and Junior League series.

Sheffield riders turned out in force and easily won the team event.

A&T's eight riders performed excellently to take second place on the day and keep A&T firmly in contention to qualify as a team for the national rounds later in the season.

Top performance was by Matthew Snell in winning the under 10s A final.

Daisy Osmand belied her inexperience as she secured second in the under eights A final.

Max Evans and Daniel Burns were second and third in the under 12s A final.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 15, Daisy Osmand 14, Matthew Snell 14, Daniel Burns 14, John White 11, Alex Semtyshin 10, Ciaran Collins nine, Ashton Semtyshin seven.

On Sunday A&T returned to the Northern Fours League after a few years absence.

Again at Bury, a solid performance saw A&T take fourth place out of six teams.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 13, Mark Graham 11, Paul Graham 11, Ron Makin seven, Ciaran Collins one.

Also on Sunday, Astley & Tyldesley took the overall win in round one of the Northern Junior League match.

Ron Makin led the way, scoring a 16 points maximum in the combination category.

A&T scorers: Ron Makin 16, Reece Pollitt 14, Ciaran Collins 14, Max Evans 14, Matthew Snell 12, Emily Burgess eight, Alex Semtyshin eight, Ashton Semtyshin eight, John White six, Charlie Burgess four.

Astley and Tyldesley hosted round one of the Manchester League Grand Prix series at Gin Pit on Wednesday.

Matthew Snell dropped just one point in the under 10s match.

In the under 13s match, Max Evans rode to a 16 points maximum, with Ciaran Collins dropping his only points to Max and setting a new personal best time.

Bury just edged clear of Stockport, with A&T third.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Matthew Snell 15, Ciaran Collins 14, Emily Burgess 11, Reece Pollitt 11, Daisy Osmand 10, Ashton Semtyshin 10, Daniel Burns 10, John White eight, Alex Semtyshin eight, Joel Partington eight, Connor Elise seven, Charlie Burgess seven, Jessica Burgess six, Matthew Sweeney six.

A&T fielded just two riders in the Division One (seniors) match.

Both Ron Makin and Roy Heslop gave their best shot but found points hard to come by.

Astley and Tyldesley's Joel Partington won the under 15s British Schools Cycling Association National Roller event at Bradford, setting two national records in the process.

Round two at Gin Pit

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club host round two of the Northern Fours League and Junior League Series at Gin Pit this Sunday.

Six northern teams will be competing, with tapes up at noon at the Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Tyldesley.

A&T pipped at post

Astley & Tyldesley made the long trip to Edinburgh to compete in the Northern K.O. Cup competition at the weekend.

Astley & Tyldesley were drawn in the first semi-final and made a good start, holding second place at the end of the first round of races.

The team suffered a blow when Mark Graham fell and was excluded in heat five but a great win by Paul Graham in heat seven put Astley & Tyldesley back on track.

By the half way stage Heckmondwike had drawn level with Astley & Tyldesley for second place, with Bury in front and Hull fourth.

It was nip and tuck all the way through the second half of the match, but Heckmondwike riders took vital wins in the last two races to pip Astley & Tyldesley by one point and secure the second qualifying place for the final.

Disappointment for Astley & Tyldesley, but the team of veteran riders can feel well pleased with their efforts.

Northern K.O. Cup Semi-Final one result

Bury 54 Heckmondwike 35 Astley & Tyldesley 34 Hull 32

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Paul Graham 12, Ron Makin 8, Mark Graham 7,

Mike Hack 7. Edinburgh won the Final, scoring 49 points to finish ahead of Stockport (46), Bury (30) and Heckmondwike (27).

Astley & Tyldesley's youngsters were competing in the U-13 British Club Championships at Exeter at the weekend.

The riders put in a battling display and gained good experience, but some misfortune in the form of slips and falls, meant that Astley & Tyldesley missed out on a place in the final.

U-13 British Club Championship Semi-Final two result

Ipswich 55 Poole 43 Astley & Tyldesley 35 Wednesfield 26

Exeter won the Final, scoring 48 points to finish ahead of Ipswich (44), Sheffield (33) and Poole (32).

Astley & Tyldesley host Round 2 of the Northern Fours League and Junior League series at Gin Pit this forthcoming Sunday.

Six Northern teams will be competing on the day, with tapes up at 12 noon. The racing takes place at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley. M29 7DW.

For further details, visit the club's website at www.astleycyclespeedway.org.uk

Windy conditions as Gin Pit hosts junior league series

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club hosted round two of the Northern Fours League and Junior League Series at a cold, wet and windy Gin Pit on Sunday.

Team Green made a great start in the Fours League match, scoring 12 points in the first round of races to take second place.

A mid-match dip, with two last places saw A&T drop to fourth place after the third round of races, but A&T finished strongly to take third place on the day.

Paul Graham was in good form for Team Green, winning three of his five races, with Danny Hughes taking two race wins.

Mark Graham, Ron Makin and George Hughes all chipped in with valuable points.

Stockport ran out convincing winners, with Jack Lush and Ben Higham both racing unbeaten.

Bury took second place, with their reserve Steve Whitaker unbeaten in his four races.

The match was marred by a bad crash on the pits bend in heat 23, which saw racing held up for 45 minutes, while Goshen's Will Owens received first aid treatment and was subsequently taken to hospital in an ambulance, suffering back injuries. Fortunately, he was released from hospital and allowed home the same evening.

Northern Fours League Round Two match result: Stockport 72, Bury 56, Astley & Tyldesley 51, Goshen 47, Heckmondwike 38, Hull 32.

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 16, Danny Hughes 14, Mark Graham 7, Ron Makin 7, George Hughes 7. Astley and Tyldesley riders turned out in force and ran out convincing winners in the Junior League match, to make it two wins out of two in this six-round series.

The key to the win was solid scores throughout the team in all categories, with every riders' points counting towards their team's totals in this competition.

Matthew Snell won two races in

the under 10s event, with strong support from Emily Burgess and Ben Dickinson.

Ciaran Collins and Max Evans were in the points in the under 13s event, while Joel Partington was A&T's lone entrant in the under 16s event, scoring a hard-earned 13 points.

The rain came down hard and the track was really wet for the final event, the under 19s and combination categories.

George Hughes dropped just one point in the Combination category, with Reece Pollitt, Ron Makin and Roy Heslop all scoring well.

Northern Junior League Round Two match result: Astley & Tyldesley 146, Hull 80, Bury 77, Stockport 59, Heckmondwike 15.

A&T scorers: George Hughes 15, Matthew Snell 13, Joel Partington 13, Reece Pollitt 13, Roy Heslop 13, Ron Makin 13, Emily Burgess 11, Ciaran Collins 11, Max Evans 11, Ben Dickinson 10, John White 7, Charlie Burgess 6, Alex Semtyshin 6, Harvey Johnson 4.

● The previous weekend, Astley and Tyldesley made the trip to Edinburgh to compete in the Northern KO Cup competition, going out in the semi finals.

Semi-final one result: Bury 54, Heckmondwike 35, Astley & Tyldesley 34, Hull 32.

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 12, Ron Makin 8, Mark Graham 7, Mike Hack 7.

● A&T's youngsters reached the semi finals of the Under 13s British Club Championships at Exeter.

Semi-Final two result: Ipswich 55, Poole 43, Astley & Tyldesley 35, Wednesfield 26.

Astley & Tyldesley cycle speedway

It was another busy weekend for Astley & Tyldesley cycle speedway riders, as two squads took to the track for the weekend's racing.

Astley & Tyldesley made the long trek to Cramlington to take on the Northumbria Vikings in a Northern League fixture on Sunday. The new temporary track had been under water on Saturday, but hard work by the home club saw it in a raceable condition.

Northumbria ran out convincing winners in the Division 1 match, in an entertaining match on a small, but very wide circuit. The Parr brothers raced unbeaten for Northumbria, whilst the Graham brothers were best for A&T, with some clever team riding to shepherd their partners home to spilt the team points in several races.

Northern League Division 1 match result

Northumbria 95 Astley & Tyldesley 55

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Paul Graham 11 (plus 2 bonus points), Mark Graham 9 (2), Becky Heslop 9, Ron Makin 9, Steve Mills 7, Roy Heslop 7, Mike Hack 3.

The six riders that Astley & Tyldesley tracked for the Division 2 match had all raced in the first match, whilst Northumbria had the luxury of fielding a separate line-up. A&T took a 4 points lead after heat 5, but were pegged back late on for Northumbria to take a narrow 77-72 win.

Northern League Division 2 match result

Northumbria 77 Astley & Tyldesley 72

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Ron Makin 14 (1), Mike Hack 14, Mark Graham 13 (1), Roy Heslop 12 (2), Becky Heslop 11, Steve Mills 8 (2).

Once again A&T's youngsters impressed, with the team finishing 3rd on the day and remaining in contention to qualify for a place in the national series.

Astley & Tyldesley John White took 4th place in the u-8s Grand Prix 'A' Final. In the u-10s Finals, Ben Dickinson won the 'B' Final, with Matthew Snell finishing 2nd in the 'A' Final. Daniel Burns won the u-12s 'B' Final, whilst Max Evans took 2nd place in the 'A' Final. Ciaran Collins took 2nd place in the u-14s 'B' Final.

British Youth & Junior League North Regional Round 3 result

Sheffield 159 Hull 78 Astley & Tyldesley 64 Bury 53 Heckmondwike 15 Stockport 13.

Matthew Snell finishing second in the A final.

Daniel Burns won the under 12s B final, while Max Evans took second place in the A final.

Ciaran Collins took second place in the under 14s B final.

Makin and Becky Heslop all won races for Team Green.

A&T scorers: Ron Makin 14 (1), Mike Hack 14, Mark Graham 13 (1), Roy Heslop 12 (2), Becky Heslop 11, Steve Mills 8 (2).

Astley and Tyldesley's junior squad were in action at Heckmondwike in north regional round three of the British Youth and Junior League series on Saturday.

The youngsters impressed, with the team finishing third and remaining in contention to qualify for a place in the national series.

A&T's John White took fourth place in the under eights Grand Prix A final.

In the under 10s finals, Ben Dickinson won the B final, with

* Astley and Tyldesley will entertain Heckmondwike in a Northern League fixture this Sunday.

First race is at 2pm at Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Gin Pit, Tyldesley.

A&T suffer defeat on tough track

It was another busy weekend for Astley & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club riders as two squads took to the racing track.

A&T made the long trek to Cramlington to take on the Northumbria Vikings in a Northern League fixture on Sunday.

The new temporary track had been under water on Saturday and cut up badly on the bends on race day, making conditions difficult and strength sapping.

Northumbria ran out convincing winners in the Division One match. The Graham brothers were best for A&T, delivering some clever

team riding to shepherd their partners home to spilt the team points in several races.

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 11 (plus two bonus points), Mark Graham 9 (2), Becky Heslop 9, Ron Makin 9, Steve Mills 7, Roy Heslop 7, Mike Hack 3.

The six riders that A&T tracked for the Division Two match had all raced in the first match, while Northumbria had the luxury of fielding a separate line-up.

A&T held a four-points lead after heat five but tired legs were pegged back late on for Northumbria to take a narrow 77-72 win.

Mike Hack, Mark Graham, Ron

Astley and Tyldesley slip up against bottom-of-table Heckmondwike

ASTLEY and Tyldesley were rocked by bottom-of-the-table opposition in a home Northern League match at Gin Pit.

Any hopes A&T had of repeating their Division One win at Heckmondwike in March were quickly dispelled as the visitors took four maximum heat wins from the first six races.

A&T rallied with two heat wins to reduce the deficit to seven points after heat nine.

Heckmondwike held on to share the points in three successive races, before rounding off with two heat wins to take a deserved 82-67 win.

Reece Pollitt was deployed as a tactical reserve for A&T and he lost only to Darren Kent in heat 11.

Paul Graham was in the thick of the action, but he was down on points following an exclusion after clashing with Kent in heat five.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 18 (plus 1 bonus), Paul Graham 12 (2), Joel Partington 10, Ron Makin 8 (1), George Hughes 8, Mark Graham 6 (1), Roy Heslop 5.

The visitors did not field any riders for the Division Three match and so A&T's three under 12s riders took a whitewash 36-0 win to remain top of the Division Three table. Max



Astley and Tyldesley's Paul Graham leading Heckmondwike's Darren Kent in Sunday's match at Gin Pit.

Evans won all four races.

On a fast track at Stockport in round two of the Manchester League Grand Prix series, A&T's juniors put in a strong display.

Pride of place went to Ciaran Collins, who scored his first ever maximum in the under 13s event.

Matthew Snell and Ben Dickinson won races in the under 10s category, as did Max Evans in the under 13s section and Reece Pollitt in the under 16s match.

A&T looked on track to take the win in the junior (Division Two) match but there were shocks galore in the under 19s match as a series of falls, exclusions and withdrawals by the four Stockport riders let in Bury's pair to top the scores and take a narrow win from A&T in the overall scores.

A&T scorers: Ciaran Collins 16, Max Evans 13, Matt Snell 12, Ben Dickinson 10, Daniel Burns 10, Reece Pollitt 10, Emily Burgess 8.

Heckmondwike away shock

RESULTS: Astley & Tyldesley 67 Heckmondwike 82

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Reece Pollitt 18 (plus 1 bonus), Paul Graham 12 (2), Joel Partington 10, Ron Makin 8 (1), George Hughes 8, Mark Graham 6 (1), Roy Heslop 5.

The visitors didn't field any riders for the Division 3 match, so the three U12 A&T riders took a whitewash 36-0 win to remain top of the Division 3 table. Max Evans won all four races.

Astley & Tyldesley 36 Heckmondwike 0

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Max Evans 16, Matthew Snell 12, Marshall Coop 8.

Bury 67 Astley & Tyldesley 61 Stockport 47

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Ci-



Paul Graham

aran Collins 16, Max Evans 13, Matt Snell 12, Ben Dickinson 10, Daniel Burns 10, Reece Pollitt 10, Emily Burgess 8, Liam Briggs 7, John White 6, Charlie Burgess 4, Jessica Burgess 1.

The next match at Gin Pit is this forthcoming Sunday (June 2),

when Astley & Tyldesley take on Edinburgh in a Northern League fixture. The first race is at 2.30 pm, at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, M29 7DW. For details, visit astleycyclespeedway.org.uk

Upset for A&T as Edinburgh race to narrow win

Astley & Tyldesley took on Edinburgh in a Northern League fixture at a dry, warm and sunny Gin Pit on Sunday afternoon.

Edinburgh won the Northern K.O. Cup last month and are riding high in the Northern League, but a fighting display by Astley & Tyldesley made the visitors work hard throughout the Division One match. Once again, Astley & Tyldesley got off to a slow start and trailed by 8 points after just three races. A run of shared races followed, before Astley & Tyldesley took a 7-2 heat win in heat 10 to reduce the gap to just four points. Two more drawn heats followed, before Edinburgh took a 7-3 in heat 13 to effectively seal the

points. Astley & Tyldesley immediately hit back with a 6-4 heat win, but Edinburgh held on to win 77-71.

There were plenty of crashes in a hard fought match, as Astley & Tyldesley put in a much more determined effort after the previous week's shock defeat. Best for Team Green were Reece Pollitt, Paul Graham and Danny Hughes, who all won races, with solid support from Roy Heslop and George Hughes.

Northern League Division 1 match result

Astley & Tyldesley 71 Edinburgh 77

Astley & Tyldesley scorers: Reece Pollitt 17, Paul Graham 15 (plus 1 bonus), Danny Hughes 13 (2), Roy Heslop 11, George Hughes 9 (2), Ron Makin 6 (1).

Hughes 9 (2), Ron Makin 6 (1).

The Division 2 match was an even closer affair, with the first six races all drawn, before Edinburgh edged into a 2 point lead in heat 7. Astley & Tyldesley hit straight back with a 7-3 heat win, but a 6-4 win to the visitors in heat 13 levelled the scores with just two races to go. A shared heat followed, so the teams entered the last race level. Edinburgh's Gavin Kennedy suffered the agony of toppling over at the start and was subsequently excluded, leaving the Astley & Tyldesley pairing of Roy Heslop and George Hughes to take a 6-3 heat win and secure a narrow 76-73 win.



Paul Graham

Tough match

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club took on Edinburgh in a Northern League fixture at a dry, warm and sunny Gin Pit on Sunday afternoon.

Edinburgh won the Northern KO Cup last month and are riding high in the Northern League, but a fighting display by A&T made the visitors' work hard throughout the Division One match before losing 77-71. There were plenty of crashes in a hard fought match.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 17, Paul Graham 15 (plus one bonus), Danny Hughes 13 (2), Roy Heslop 11, George Hughes 9 (2), Ron Makin 6 (1).

The Division Two match was an even closer affair, with the first six races all drawn and the scores were level going into the final race.

Edinburgh's Gavin Kennedy suffered the agony of toppling over at the start and was subsequently excluded, leaving the A&T pairing of Roy Heslop and George Hughes to take a 6-3 heat win and secure a narrow 76-73 victory.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 18 (1), Roy Heslop 13 (1), George Hughes 11 (1), Max Evans 9 (3), Stefan Whitelegg 9, Curran Collins 9, Ron Makin 6 (1), Liam Briggs 1.

The club's under 12s riders kept up their winning run to make it six wins on the bounce in the Division Three match.

Max Evans raced unbeaten with good scores from Ben Dickinson, Emily Burgess and Alex Semtyshin as A&T ran out easy 62-14 winners to remain top of the Division Three table.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Ben Dickinson 12, Lewis Burgess 12, Alex Semtyshin 10, Karina Pendlebury 6, Charlie Burgess 6.

Astley and Tyldesley continue to stage their popular weekly club nights every Tuesday at Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road.

The sessions are open to all A&T club members and prospective newcomers.

Bikes and helmets are available, with sessions starting at 8pm and 7pm for riders under 13 and at 8pm for older age riders.

White sets ball rolling as A&T earn place in big finals

Astley & Tyldesley's junior cycle speedway squad were in action at Stockport on Saturday for the fourth and final North Regional Round of the British Youth & Junior League series.

Astley & Tyldesley started the day second in the league table and needed to maintain that position, with the top two teams qualifying for the National series later this summer, to meet six teams from the other three regions. A strong performance throughout by Astley & Tyldesley riders saw the team take second

place on the day, to finish in second place in the league table and secure a place in the national series, for the second year running. John White set the ball rolling in the U8 category, finishing third in the Grand Prix 'A' Final. Next up were the U10s, with Matthew Snell taking second place in the 'A' Final, Ben Dickinson fourth in the 'B' Final and Ashton Semtyshin first in the 'C' Final.

In the U12 category, Max Evans took third place in the 'A' Final, with Alex Semtyshin finishing second in the 'C' Final. Ciaran Collins took

second place in the U14s 'B' Final, with Liam Briggs fourth in the 'B' Final. Last up were the U16s and Reece Pollitt rounded off a great day by winning the Grand Prix 'A' Final. It was another great performance by a set of local riders.

British Youth & Junior League North Regional Round 4 result: Sheffield 268, Astley & Tyldesley 100, Bury 70, Hull 56, Stockport 17. Final North Regional League placings: Sheffield 21, Astley & Tyldesley 15, Hull 13, Bury 11, Stockport 4, Heckmondwike 2.



ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club's junior squad who finished in second place in the British Youth and Junior League North division

Second place joy for cycle speedway club

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club's junior squad were in action at Stockport on Saturday for the fourth and final North Regional round of the British Youth and Junior League series.

A&T started the day second in the league table and needed to maintain that position, with the top two teams qualifying for the national series later this summer, to meet six teams from the other three regions.

A strong performance throughout by A&T riders saw the team take second place on the day, to finish in

second place in the league table and secure a place in the national series, for the second year running.

John White set the ball rolling in the under eights category, finishing third in the Grand Prix A final.

Next up were the under 10s, with Matthew Snell taking second place in the A final, Ben Dickinson fourth in the B final and Ashton Semtyshin first in the C final.

In the under 12s category, Max Evans took third place in the A final, with Alex Semtyshin finishing second in the C final.

Ciaran Collins took second place in the under 14s B final, with Liam

Briggs fourth in the B final.

Last up were the under 16s and Reece Pollitt rounded off a great day for A&T by winning the Grand Prix A final.

It was another great performance by a set of local riders, all proudly representing their club.

British Youth and Junior League North Regional round four result: Sheffield 268, Astley & Tyldesley 100, Bury 70, Hull 56, Stockport 17.

Final North Regional League placings: Sheffield 21, Astley & Tyldesley 15, Hull 13, Bury 11, Stockport 4, Heckmondwike 2.

Ace Matthew captures title

Astley and Tyldesley had two riders competing in the Northern Individual Championships at Sheffield on Sunday.

Nine-year-old Matthew Snell turned in a great performance in the U10s Final, to record four wins and a second place in his five races, to score 19 points and take the title!

Matthew has performed consistently well all season in U10 competitions and the title

is just reward for his efforts.

Reece Pollitt, 15, was A&T's other finalist and he put in a great shift in the U16s final, to record three wins and a second place in his four races, to score 15 points and gain second place.

Astley & Tyldesley will host the Over 40 and Over 60 British Individual Championships at Gin Pit this Saturday (July 13) when 21 of the country's top veteran racers will line-up

with two British titles at stake.

The Championships will be sponsored by Commissioning Water Treatment Specialists Ltd, of Atherton and take place at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, M29 7DW.

Free admission and car parking for spectators. For further details, visit the club's website at www.astleycyclespeedway.org.uk

Team success

CYCLE speedway riders were in fine form at Heckmondwike on Sunday.

The Astley and Tyldesley club's squad took the overall team win in round three of the Northern Junior League series.

This makes it wins in all three rounds ridden to date, putting A&T top of the table midway through the six-round series.

All nine of Astley and Tyldesley's riders made valuable contributions on a dry and dusty circuit.

Reece Pollitt was in top form, winning all his four races in the under 16s match, with Matthew Snell scoring 14 points in the under 10s event and Mark Graham bagging 13 in the combination category. Northern Junior League Round Three result: Astley & Tyldesley 99, Bury 85, Hull 81, Stockport 49, Heckmondwike 37.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 16, Matthew Snell 14, Mark Graham 13, Roy Heslop 12, Max Evans 11, Ron Makin 11, Ben Dickinson 10, John White 8, Charlie Dickinson 4. League points (after three rounds): Astley & Tyldesley 15, Bury 11, Hull 8, Stockport 6.5, Heckmondwike 4.5.

Later in the afternoon, Astley & Tyldesley took fourth place in round three of the Northern Fours League series.

Mark Graham continued his recent improved form by again top scoring for A&T, with Reece Pollitt scoring strongly.

A&T were strong throughout the match, just losing out to Goshen and Heckmondwike for a higher placing on the day, as Stockport ran out big winners.

Northern Fours League Round Three result: Stockport 76, Goshen 57, Heckmondwike 54, Astley & Tyldesley 50, Bury 33, Hull 26.

A&T scorers: Mark Graham 14, Reece Pollitt 13, Roy Heslop 9, Ron Makin 8, Paul Graham 6.

League points (after three rounds): Stockport 18, Goshen 12, Bury 12, Astley & Tyldesley 10, Heckmondwike 8, Hull 3.

Matthew's title

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club's Matthew Snell won the Northern Individual Championships under 10s title at the weekend.

The nine-year-old turned in a great performance in Sheffield, recording four wins and a second place in his five races to score 19 points.

Fifteen-year-old Reece Pollitt finished second in the under 16s final.

A&T will host the Over 40s and Over 60s British Individual Championships at Gin Pit this Saturday, with 21 of the country's top veteran racers providing cut-and-thrust action from 2pm.

Matt finish...

RACING in the Northern Individual Championships at Sheffield, nine years old Astley & Tyldesley cycle speedway rider Matthew Snell turned in a great performance in the u-10s Final.

He recorded four wins and a second place in his five races, to score 19 points and take the title! Matthew has performed consistently well all season in u-10 competitions and the title of Northern u-10 Individual Champion is just reward for his efforts.

Another A&T rider, 15 years old Reece Pollitt, put in a great shift in the u-16s Final, to record three wins and a second place in his four races,

to score 15 points. This was sufficient to give him 2nd place, behind the winner, Sheffield's Richard Hudson, who raced unbeaten.

Fifteen-years-old Joel Partington competes for Astley & Tyldesley in cycle speedway events, as well as being an accomplished rider in other cycling disciplines. So accomplished is Joel, is that he took the gold medal by winning the U-16 Boys National Track Championship Scratch Race at the Manchester Velodrome. In addition, Joel took the bronze medal in the U-16 Boys National Track Championship Points Race at the Manchester Velodrome.

Veterans contest

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club hosted the Over 40s and Over 60s British Individual Championships at Gin Pit on Saturday.

Poole's former world champion Steve Harris raced to the Over 40s individual title, winning all his five races to score a maximum 20 points.

Wednesfield's Mark Griffiths was runner up with 19 points and Exeter's Andy Stone third on 17 points.

Birmingham's Bob Prince won the Over 60s title for the third successive year, cashing in on a starting infringement in heat seven by Wednesfield's Mick Aris, who was runner up. Bury's John Whiting was third.

The next cycle speedway action at Gin Pit takes place this Sunday when Astley and Tyldesley take on Stockport in a Northern League fixture, starting at 2pm.

Run-offs decide series placings

TWO run-offs were needed to decide the placings when Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club staged round two of their Go-Ride Grand Prix series at Gin Pit.

Due to the range of ages and abilities, a handicapping system was used to give every rider a chance of getting in the points.

Ben Dickinson lost first time out to Max Evans, but then reeled off three successive wins to finish on 15 points.

Evans lost second time out to Jessica Burgess, before winning his last two to also finish on 15 points.

Reece Pollitt was starting each time off the biggest handicap, but he showed impressive speed in making up ground to win his first two races, before narrowly losing to Evans and then Dickinson to finish on 14.

Jessica Burgess won her opening three races, before finishing third behind Dickinson and Pollitt last time out, to also finish on 14 points.

In the run-off for third place, Burgess rode a steady race to hold off the challenge of Pollitt.

And then in the first-place run-off, Dickinson took his second Grand Prix win of this series by keeping ahead of an ever pressing Evans.

Results: Ben Dickinson 15, Max Evans 15, Jessica Burgess 14, Reece Pollitt 14, Emily Burgess 11, Ciaran Collins 11, Lewis Burgess 10, Charlie Burgess 10, Charlie Dickinson 8.

Cycle speedway club lose to defending champions

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club's disastrous start to their Northern League Division One encounter with Stockport at Gin Pit on Sunday ended in defeat to the defending champions.

Stockport, currently unbeaten in this year's campaign, raced to a convincing 95-55 win after Paul Terry Norman on the first bend in heat one.

The rider was forced to pull out of the match after suffering hand and knee injuries and Stockport quickly took control to lead 54-26 at the break.

A&T's young Reece Pollitt took three excellent race wins after the interval, including two over former British champion Terry Norman.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 17, Ron

Makin 10 (plus 2 bonus), Joel Partington 9, Mark Graham 9, Roy Heslop 5, Ciaran Collins 4, Max Evans 1, Paul Graham 0.

In Division Two, A&T ran out 108-75 winners after Stockport conceded penalty points for fielding ineligible riders.

Pollitt was again best, with Ciaran Collins also impressing.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 16, Ciaran Collins 11 (3), Roy Heslop 8 (1), Joel Partington 8 (1), Stefan Whitelegg 8, Ron Makin 7 (1), Liam Briggs 6 (1), Max Evans 5 (1).

A&T continued their 100 percent Division Three record, a 57-13 victory over Stockport making it eight wins from eight as Max Evans raced unbeaten.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Matthew Snell 13, Emily Burgess 12,

Daisy Osmand 10, Charlie Burgess 6.

The hosts came second in round four of the Manchester League Grand Prix series on Wednesday as

Bury took the Division Two juniors win and Stockport came in third.

Emily Burgess, Daisy Osmand, Ciaran Collins and Liam Briggs were all in fine form as Pollitt dropped only one point in the under 16s match.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 15, Ciaran Collins 14, Max Evans 12, Emily Burgess 11, Daisy Osmand 9, Liam Briggs 9, Alex Semtyshin 8, Ashton Semtyshin 7, John White 6, Tyler Gorrie 6, Charlie Burgess 4.

Stockport rode to a convincing win in the Division One seniors match, despite Roy Heslop recording two hard-earned second places.

Reece on form

REECE Pollitt continued his recent run of form but it proved a mixed visit for Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club at Hull in the Northern League meeting on Sunday.

The hosts took the Division One match 91-59 despite Pollitt and Paul Graham scooping five wins between them.

A&T scorers: Paul Graham 16, Reece Pollitt 16, Mark Graham 10, Will Evans 6 (plus one bonus), Mike Hack 6, Roy Heslop 5.

A&T overcame defeat in the first heat, responding with a 79-70 win in the Division Two clash.

Youngster Pollitt was unbeaten by any opponent in five races, with Will Evans recording his best score in an A&T jersey.

A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 19 (1), Will Evans 14 (2), Mark Graham 14 (1), Roy Heslop 12 (3), Mike Hack 8, Matthew Snell 7 (1), Max Evans 5 (1).

Despite Hull fielding a rider more than A&T in the Division Three fixture for under 12s, great riding by Max Evans – suffering with an injured back following a heavy crash in the previous match – saw him race unbeaten.

Matthew Snell weighed in to give A&T a 27-23 win and maintain their lead at the top of the Division Three table, making it nine wins from nine this season.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Matthew Snell 11.

The A&T veterans' team travelled to Norwich on Saturday, but failed to make it through a tough qualifying group in the Veterans' British Club Championships.

Paul Graham was top scorer for Team Green, with the other riders battling hard for their points, as Leicester won the final for the third year running, Poole finishing the runners-up.

Veterans' British Club Championship, Qualifying Group Three result: Poole 50, Kesgrave 45, Northumbria 40, Astley & Tyldesley 25. A&T scorers: Paul Graham 9, Mark Graham 6, Roy Heslop 5, Mike Hack 5.

Speedway second

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club scooped second place in round four of the Northern Fours League at Stockport on Sunday.

Danny Hughes and Reece Pollitt continued their impressive form to jointly top score with 16 points for A&T.

Paul Graham bagged 14 points from four rides, before giving the reserve his last race, while Mark Graham scored four valuable third places for A&T.

Despite league-leaders Stockport running out convincing winners at home, and maintaining their 100 percent league winning record, A&T moved up to third spot in the table.

Northern Fours League Round Four result: Stockport 75, Astley & Tyldesley 55, Goshen 51, Bury 47, Heckmondwike 45, Hull 14. A&T scorers: Danny Hughes 16, Reece Pollitt 16, Paul Graham 14, Mark Graham 8, Roy Heslop 1.

A&T suffered their first defeat of the campaign in the Northern Junior League Round Four after low turnouts across all categories.

Pollitt lost only once to score 15 points in the under 16s event and A&T's four veterans piled up the points in the Combination category.

A&T's second place finish means they maintain a realistic chance of winning the Northern Junior League, with the club sitting top ahead of the two remaining rounds.

Northern Junior League Round Four result: Bury 83, Astley & Tyldesley 63, Stockport 40, Heckmondwike 34, Hull 15. A&T scorers: Reece Pollitt 15, George Hughes 13, Mark Graham 13, Roy Heslop 12, Mike Hack 10.

John White, under 8s, Matt Snell, under 10s, and Max Evans, under 12s, turned out for A&T in the second national round of the British Youth and Junior League series at Leicester on Saturday.

The three riders took third place in their respective Grand Prix B finals.

A&T congratulated rider Marc Osmand on completing the UK Ironman course last week.

Astley & Tyldesley take on Sheffield this forthcoming Sunday, in a Northern League fixture at Gin Pit, 2pm. The racing takes place at the Astley & Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, M29 7DS. For further details, visit the club's website at astleycyclespeedway.org.uk.

Tomasz stars on his comeback

POLISH star Tomasz Wlodarczyk marked his return to Astley & Tyldesley with a stellar performance as the club hosted Sheffield Rockets in the Northern League fixture on Sunday.

Wlodarczyk won Heat One at the Gin Pit and rode to an immaculate 20 points maximum score to help A&T to victory in Division One.

The Polish star's win and Danny Swales fall saw Heat One shared, as were the next two heats, before George Hughes and Mark Graham's heat win gave A&T the lead.

Sheffield then moved ahead for the first time in the meeting, before brothers Mark and Paul Graham clawed back the hosts' advantage.

A&T provided the race winner in 10 of the 15 races, but astonishingly all seven races were drawn after the interval as A&T held on to move off the foot of the table.

Northern League Division 1 match result: Astley & Tyldesley 75 Sheffield Rockets 74. A&T scorers: Tomasz Wlodarczyk 20, Danny Hughes 16, Paul Graham 13 (plus 2 bonus), Mark Graham 12, George Hughes 5 (1), Roy Heslop 5 (1), Danny Swales 3, Ciaran Collins 1.

A&T's young riders were undone by an experienced Sheffield team in the Division Two match, despite Roy Heslop and George Hughes taking a race apiece.

Northern League Division 2 match result: Astley & Tyldesley 59 Sheffield Rockets 91. A&T scorers: Roy Heslop 11, Mark Graham 8 (1), George Hughes 8, Ciaran Collins 8, Max Evans 8, Matthew Snell 7 (2), Ben Dickinson 5 (2), Alex Semtyshin 4.

A&T produced an emphatic 87-29 win in Division Three in a match that could go a long way to determining the eventual league winners.

James Bunting rode to maximum points for Sheffield, but all eight A&T riders rode well and scored plenty of points to make it 10 wins out of 10 matches ridden.

Northern League Division 3 match result: Astley & Tyldesley 87 Sheffield Rockets 29. A&T scorers: Matthew Snell 14, Max Evans 14, Alex Semtyshin 12, Jessica Burgess 12, Ben Dickinson 10, Emily Burgess 9, Joe Quarby 9, Charlie Burgess 7.

For more information on A&T Cycle Speedway Club visit astleycyclespeedway.org.uk



Reece Pollitt maintained his top form in the final round of the Manchester League Grand Prix

Reece unbeaten to win Grand Prix

REECE Pollitt's stellar form continued this week as Astley and Tyldesley's cycle speedway riders competed across the country.

The 15-year-old raced unbeaten at Bury on Wednesday night during the final round of the Manchester League Grand Prix to win the overall under 16s Grand Prix series.

Pollitt followed up with another unbeaten score in round five of the under 16s Northern Grand Prix series at Hull on Sunday, moving one point shy of the leader with one round remaining.

The youngster concluded an

impressive week's racing by winning four of his five races in the Northern Senior Fours League match, top scoring for A&T with 19 points from a possible 20.

Elsewhere for A&T, Max Evans was victorious in the under 12s Grand Prix C final during national round three of the British Youth and Junior League series at the Underwood track, Newport on Saturday.

Ciaran Collins, Matt Snell and Ben Dickinson also performed well to reach major finals at the event.

A&T managed to fulfil all

league fixtures this week, despite the club's resources being stretched by the breadth of participation from their riders.

A&T team results:

Manchester League Division One, round six: Stockport 61, Bury 55, Astley & Tyldesley 14.
Manchester League Division Two, round six: Bury 68, Stockport 51, Astley & Tyldesley 36.
British Youth and Junior League National round three: Kesgrave 212, Exeter 150, Sheffield 131, Ipswich 93, Poole 89, Wednesfield 86, Astley & Tyldesley 40, Bretford 33.

Northern Fours League round five: Stockport 63, Goshen 51, Hull 50, Bury 49, Heckmondwike 46, Astley & Tyldesley 35.
Northern Junior League round five: Hull 158, Bury 132, Heckmondwike 66, Stockport 42, Astley & Tyldesley 40.

A&T newcomers seize their chance in the spotlight

ASTLEY and Tyldesley riders enjoyed a successful evening of cycle speedway under the Gin Pit floodlights as the club hosted the under 10s and under 16s Manchester League Individual Championships.

Eight A&T riders lined up in a field of 13 for the under 10s championships, with Matthew Snell taking third place on 18.

Impressive performances from A&T's less experienced riders saw Ben Dickinson and Emily Burgess score 16 apiece with newcomer Joe

Quarmby scoring 15. Thomas Whitwam completed an unbeaten season, winning all five races in the under 10s section to take a maximum 20 points, enough to crown him under 10s champion.

The five race wins made it 24 from 24 this season, as Stockport's James Barry came in second.

Manchester League under 10s individual Championship result: Tom Whitwam (Bury) 20, James Barry (Stockport) 19, Matthew Snell (A&T) 18, Ben Dickinson (A&T) 16, Emily Burgess (A&T) 16, Louis Turner (Bury) 15, Joe Quarmby (A&T) 15, John White (A&T) 13,

Charlie Burgess (A&T) 12, Daniel Miller (Bury) 11, Charlie Dickinson (A&T) 10, Dylan Paulden (A&T) 9, Duncan Whalley (Bury) 8.

A smaller field for the under 16s event saw Stockport's Connor Simpson and A&T's Reece Pollitt set the pace, both winning their opening three races.

Pollitt pulled a trademark start from grid three in the heat 11 decider to clear Simpson and pull away for the win and a maximum score.

Manchester League under 16s individual Championship result: Reece Pollitt (A&T) 16,

Connor Simpson (Stockport) 15, James Elston (Bury) 14, Adam Watson (Bury) 13, Danny Taylor (Bury) 12, Claran Collins (A&T) 11, Liam Briggs (A&T) 10.

Astley and Tyldesley take on Hull in a Northern League fixture at Gin Pit on Sunday, September 15, the first race commences at 2pm.

To witness the racing head to the Astley and Tyldesley Miners' Welfare Club, Meanley Road, Gin Pit, Tyldesley, M29 7DW.

Visit astleycyclespeedway.org.uk for more information.

Astley riders seal title triumph with clean sweep

ASTLEY and Tyldesley's young riders clinched the Northern League Division Three title at Stockport on Sunday.

Needing a victory in their final match, the under 12s won 91-15 to seal the title and complete a clean sweep of winning every match this season.

Max Evans raced to a 16 points maximum score.

A&T scorers: Max Evans 16, Matthew Snell 14, Alex Semtyshin 12, Ben Dickinson 12, Jessica Burgess 11, Emily Burgess 9, Joe Quarmby 8, Charlie Burgess 8.

In Division One, A&T could not stop Stockport clinching the title in emphatic fashion as the hosts won 101-48.

Danny Hughes was in the thick of things for A&T and deserved more than his 11 points return.

A&T scorers: Danny Hughes 11, Reece Pollitt 11, Roy Heslop 8, George Hughes 7, plus 1 return.

Mark Graham 6, Roy Makin 5, Claran Collins 0.

Stockport fielded two ineligible riders for the Division Two match, conceding 39 penalty points.

A&T had enough strength to take the win on the track 74-65.

increased to 113-65 after the inclusion of the penalty points. A solid team performance by A&T saw all the riders in the points.

A&T scorers: Roy Heslop 12 (1), Ben Makin 11 (2), Max Evans 11 (2), Reece Pollitt 10, Matthew Snell 9 (2), Ben Dickinson 9 (1), George Hughes 7 (1), Alex Semtyshin 5 (2).

Astley & Tyldesley stage their Club Individual Championships on Sunday, 2pm at Gin Pit raceway.

Pollitt pips rival in last race to retain title

ASTLEY and Tyldesley enjoyed an exciting day of racing at their Club Individual Championships at Gin Pit.

The senior match turned into a battle between defending champion Reece Pollitt and Danny Hughes.

Hughes took first blood only for positions to be reversed next time out, leaving the club individual title hanging on the last race.

Pollitt started in the unfavourable outside position, but pulled out a superb start to clear the field into the first bend and retain his title with Hughes runner-up.

The championship was split into

senior and junior groups to cater for the varied age range of riders.

Max Evans finished on 19 points to force a run-off for first place, eventually taking the win with Alex Semtyshin runner-up.

Matt Snell finished third overall, but took first place in the under 10s category.

Ben Dickinson and newcomer CJ Darby both rode hard for their 16 points, with John White's terrific performance scoring 15 and taking first place in the under eight category.

George Hughes won the veterans category, Roy Heslop was runner-

up and Ron Makin third.

A&T stage their final meeting of the season on Sunday, the fourth round of the A&T Go-Ride Grand Prix series, with registrations at 1.30 pm and first race at 2 pm.

Visit www.astleycycle.org.uk for details.

Astley and Tyldesley Club Individual Championships results:

Under 12s: George Hughes 8, Roy Heslop 7, Ben Makin 6, Ben Dickinson 5, Claran Collins 0.
Under 14s: Reece Pollitt 15.
Under 16s: Max Evans 14, Alex Semtyshin 10, CJ Darby 9, Emily Burgess 8, Ben Dickinson 7, Ben Hughes 6, Ben Makin 5, Ben Dickinson 4, Ben Hughes 3.
Under 18s: John White 15, Charlie Burgess 11, Joe Quarmby 10.

Trophy meeting

ASTLEY & Tyldesley riders started during the Dave Blinston Memorial Trophy meeting in Stockport on Saturday.

Matthew Snell was a runner-up in the under 10s age class, with club-mate Ben Dickinson claiming third position.

James Barry, from host club Stockport, pipped them to first place.

In the combination category, Astley's Reece Pollitt finished second overall behind Jake Wood (Hockliffe) as the club finished the campaign on a high.

Meanwhile Polish duo, and Astley members, Przemek Binkowski and Lukasz Marchlewski will compete for their country at the Cycle Speedway World Championships in Adelaide, Australia, from next week.

Newcomer CJ rides to maximum points haul

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club rounded off their 2013 season by staging the final round of the Go-Ride Grand Prix series at Gin Pit.

The 12 riders were handicapped according to age, ability and experience with in-form Reece Pollitt given the biggest handicap.

Despite pulling off some great rides he was unable to catch newcomers Leanne Hall in heat 11 and CJ Darby in heat 15.

BMX rider CJ won all his five races to win on the day with a maximum 20 points.

Young Joe Quarmby enjoyed his best match to date, scoring 17 points, setting up a run-off for third place with series leader Ben Dickinson.

Dickinson drew inside gate and took the win to finish third on the day and take the overall series win.

Hall recovered well after a last place first time out, while Ashton Semtyshin enjoyed his best match.

Jessica Burgess rode steadily, whilst Alex Semtyshin recovered well following a last place first time out.

Astley & Tyldesley Go-Ride Grand Prix round four race points: CJ Darby 20, Reece Pollitt 18, Ben Dickinson 17, Joe Quarmby 17, Ashton Semtyshin 15, Leanne Hall 15, Alex Semtyshin 14, Jessica Burgess 14, Charlie Burgess 12, Emily Burgess 12, Max Evans 10, Dylan Paulden 10.

Sixteen riders competed in the four-round series, with all

but two in their first full season or complete newcomers – capturing the ethos of Go-Ride Racing.

Astley & Tyldesley Go-Ride Grand Prix Overall Series Grand Prix points: Ben Dickinson 86, Claran Collins 57, Reece Pollitt 52, Max Evans 47, Jessica Burgess 46, Emily Burgess 37, Charlie Burgess 33, Alex Semtyshin 25, C.J. Darby 25, Liam Briggs 20, Dylan Paulden 18, Joe Quarmby 16, Ashton Semtyshin 14, Leanne Hall 14, Lewis Burgess 12, Charlie Dickinson 9.

The club bid a fond farewell to Noel and Pam Buxton, retiring after years of providing St John Ambulance first aid cover.

Speedway club welcomes grant for gear

ASTLEY & Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club welcomed the award of a grant worth a total of £1,170 from Wigan Council this week.

The donation from the small grants awards will go towards bikes, helmets, gloves, a gazebo, carrier, coaching and first aid courses in readiness for next season.

The club has been awarded

£5,000 by Wigan Council, the maximum sum they grant to an organisation within a financial year, this season.

The club also held their annual general meeting with all existing committee members stating their willingness to continue to serve in 2014 and all re-elected.

Mike Hack stepped down as team manager after 13 years at

the helm and is replaced by Paul Graham. Hack remains as club secretary and one of the club's founder members. Steve Mills, has returned to the committee and will accompany Joanne Whitelegg as an additional welfare officer.

Paul Graham and Danny Hughes declared their intention to take coaching courses this winter.

Cycle speedway club celebrates successful season

ASTLEY and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club members celebrated a successful 2013 season at the annual presentation and social afternoon.

The function room at the Astley and Tyldesley Minors' Welfare Club was packed as close to 100 club members, families and friends attended. Forty-five rider awards were presented, along with 23 volunteer awards.

In addition to the trophies won in direct competition on the track, the club's five annual awards were

made. The Northern Under 10s Individual Champion, Matthew Snell, was awarded the J. Fisher & Sons Young Rider of the Year Trophy on his 10th birthday to make it a very special day for him.

The Rory Blackwell Cup for best newcomer was presented to Joe Quarumby, who has really taken to the sport after starting in mid-season.

Alex Semtyshin was the winner of the North West Trophies Cup for best povice as recognition for the progress she has made over the

past 15 months.

John White received the Most Improved Rider of the Year Cup. The final award of the day was the coveted Ron Hack Memorial Cup for the club's volunteer of the year.

This year's winner is Joanne Whitelegg, the club's welfare officer, who has ensured the wellbeing of club members throughout 2013 as well as carrying out sterling work at the club's weekly club nights and on match days.

Cash boost for cycle stars

A SUCCESSFUL season for Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club was topped off by the receipt of a grant for more than £3,000 this week.

The club were awarded the grant of £3,830 from Wigan Council's Small Grants Awards to help towards purchasing bikes, helmets, gloves, coaching and first aid courses ahead of next season.

The club has increased its membership to a record 75 riders over the past 12 months, recording the fourth highest number of under 18

recruits from all the cycling clubs in the UK during the summer.

This led to the club receiving a British Cycling Go-Ride racing jersey, signed by the Great Britain women's cycling team, along with a coaching bursary worth £150.

On the track, the club recorded plenty of good results with pride of place going to the Astley and Tyldesley under 12s team, who took the Northern League Division Three title after winning every league match they competed in.

Adam shines

ADAM Phillips captained England under 16s football team against Brazil during the Nike International Tournament in Florida last week.

The former Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club rider figured in a 2-1 defeat before skipping England in a 5-1 loss against USA under 17s.

He bounced back as a goal scorer when England won their final game of the tournament, beating Portugal in a 4-3 thriller.

The 15-year-old has this season been a regular in Liverpool's under 18s team, playing in midfield.

It was the move to the Reds from Blackburn Rovers' Academy that led to him focusing on his football progress.

He had been racing for A&T for six seasons, following in the footsteps of his father Lee and his uncle, Martin.

Phillips' grandfather, Bill, has been the A&T chairman for 14 of the past 17 years and his grandmother, June, won the Wigan Unsung Hero in Sport Award in 2012.

As well as Phillips being an excellent team rider for Team Green, he won three British individual titles in that time.



Members of the successful Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway Club



Adam Phillips playing for England and, right, in his younger days with Astley and Tyldesley Cycle Speedway