

## **CYCLE SPEEDWAY NORTH ANNUAL REPORT - 2022**

After two Covid disrupted years, there was a return to normality for the 2022 cycle speedway season. The highlight of the season was the hugely successful staging of the European Championships, at Astley & Tyldesley, in July. Six North West riders qualified for their respective European Individual Finals - A&T's Reece Pollitt (7th) and A&T's Pawel Idziorek (8th) in the Open Final; Stockport's Terry Norman (9th) and A&T's Steve Harris (11th) in the Veterans Final; Bury's Harry Radford (4th) and A&T's John White (7th) in the Junior Final. Harry and John were both members of the England Junior team which won the Junior Nations Cup. Valuable TV publicity was achieved with a three minutes feature on Granada Reports.

The British Individual Championships took place in the Midlands region over the August Bank Holiday weekend. Astley & Tyldesley's Emily Burgess retained the British Women's title and teammate Frank White won the British u-12 Boys title. A&T's Steve Harris took 2nd place in the o-50s event and 3rd in the o-40s category. A&T's Duncan Whalley was 3rd in the u-14 Boys competition. In May, the North West based pair of Emily Burgess (A&T) and Laura Watson (Sheffield) won the Women's Regional Pairs Championship, in Scotland, for the fourth year running. A&T's Reece Pollitt was a member of the England team which won the Home International match, whilst Bury's Harry Radford was a member of the victorious England Junior team.

North West cycle speedway riders performed with distinction at the Youth & Junior Track Nationals at Newport. Astley & Tyldesley's Tom Morrissey won the u-16 Boys Sprint and 500 m time trial. Bury's Harry Radford was 2nd in the Junior Men's Sprint and Astley & Tyldesley's Emily Burgess took 2nd in the Junior Women's Keirin.

In the North & Scotland Regional League, Astley & Tyldesley currently lead in Division 1 and the Northern Fours League. The midweek Manchester League series ran with a full programme of events. Astley & Tyldesley retained the Division 1 series, as well as winning the Division 2 series.

Clubwise, Astley & Tyldesley and Bury are both pretty much back to pre-pandemic levels, in terms of officials and numbers of riders. However, the Stockport club continues to decline, with only two active riders. They have been racing in Manchester League events, and with the help of two loaned riders from Astley & Tyldesley, in the Northern Fours League.

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