

Speedway

Ossett racer gets off the line in bid for British Youth Championships crown

MARK BERRY
mark.berry@press.co.uk
Twitter: @WExo_Mark

Ossett speedway rider Jack Parkinson-Blackburn begins the chase to become the British Youth 500cc champion when he competes in the first championship round, in Scunthorpe, on Sunday.

The championship will be staged over six rounds taking in Eastbourne, Leicester, Rye House and Northside, in Workington, before the final round is raced in Redcar on September 5.

The winner of the final in each round is awarded 18 points and points tallies from five of the six rounds are counted towards the final total, with each rider able to drop their lowest scoring round.

Jack, 14, was runner-up in the 250cc class last year and this success resulted in his selection for the Great Britain team that competed in the Czech Republic last October.

The Ossett Academy student celebrated his 14th birthday last September by moving up to the 500cc class.

And that switch has brought about a huge devel-

opment in Jack's riding technique.

His speed and riding style has improved significantly and he has already won several individual meetings at Redcar, Northside and Scunthorpe, out-performing more experienced adult riders and recording the fastest times in the process.

Jack's impressive performances have attracted the attention of a number of professional speedway clubs and he may well have several offers to consider when he reaches his 15th birthday next September.

Before then he will have to concentrate on challenging for the British Championships, the winner of which

The winner of the Youth title will also ride in the British U19s Finals

will receive a wildcard to the British Under-19s Finals, in Berwick, a week after the conclusion of the under-16s championships.

At present, Jack can only ride against other youth riders aged under 15 years-old but after his next birthday he will be eligible to race in the National League, which is the third tier of professional speedway racing.

More information on Jack's progress can be found on his website at www.jackparkinsonblackburn.co.uk



Jack Parkinson-Blackburn starts his challenge for the British Youth 500cc title on Sunday. Main picture: Bullet Images. Inset picture: Paul Devine.