

Starlet on grid for British speedway title challenge



Ossett speedway rider Jack Parkinson-Blackburn

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OSSETT youngster Jack Parkinson-Blackburn is hoping to put his name in the record books this weekend when he endeavours to become the first-ever winner of the 125cc British Youth Championships.

The 11 year-old former grasstrack racer has been in spectacular form during his debut speedway season and now he is only one round away from lifting the championship trophy.

The chance to become British champion is an unexpected delight for the riders taking part in the 125cc class, which started in May as a support class for the 500cc and 250cc British Youth Championships.

However, the competition has been transformed this year with the introduction of a grand final, which will be raced at Eastbourne Speedway on Saturday.

For the first time in the history of the class, a field of 12 riders will compete in 12 qualifying heats for a place in the grand final, the winner of which will be crowned British 125cc champion.

It is an exciting prospect for the Ossett starlet who goes to Eastbourne in fine form.

In the fifth round at Sittingbourne last Saturday, Jack was undefeated in four races and set the fastest time of the day but had to settle for second place after a first-bend tussle in the final.

Jack races a bike donated by Mirfield's Josh Auty, rider with Premier League outfit Sheffield Tigers, but he has also attracted the support of another ex-Tigers rider, German international star Robbie Kessler.

Former German under-21 champion Kessler, who now lives in Wakefield, has helped tune and develop Jack's bike.