

## Sheffield Tigers racer backs young speedway ace



Jack Parkinson-Blackburn

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A SCHOOLBOY from Ossett is on his way to becoming a speedway star of the future after acquiring a bike from Sheffield Tigers racer Josh Auty.

Jack Parkinson-Blackburn, 10, has already enjoyed considerable success in grasstrack racing but he has put that on hold after receiving a bike from the Premier League rider from Mirfield.

The Southdale Junior School student scooped two major championships during his first four years in grasstrack racing where he has been a regular competitor on the northern circuits.

However, the chance to compete as a speedway rider in the six-round National Youth Championships proved to be one that Jack couldn't turn down and he has made a fantastic start to his debut campaign.

A 125cc youth class is a relatively new addition to the championships and riders compete at tracks in Plymouth, Sittingbourne, the Isle of Wight, Buxton and Stoke-on Trent.

The series, previously known as the U15s Championship and won twice by Auty in 2004 and 2005, is run under the control of Great Britain U21s managers Phil Morris and Neil Vatcher.

And the 2011 season got off the line last month when a field of 16 of the best young racers in the country competed in the first round in Newport and Jack rose to the occasion by finishing in joint-third place.