

# Speedster Jack's the lad for British title

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 tomorrow, 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.

There was a triple triumph for Ossett-based motorsport team WFR at



**SPEED STAR:** Ossett speedway starlet Jack Parkinson-Blackburn, right, who has come up with a winning formula.

the weekend as all three of their riders took to the podium in the latest round of the 2011 British Superbike Evo Championship.

Graeme Gowland, placed second in the standings this season, took top spot in both races at Donington Park while James Westmoreland, in his first races for WFR, finished second

in both behind his teammate.

Glen Richards closed in on the Evo Championship title thanks to a third-placed finish in the first race and fourth-placed finish in the second race.

It was the first time since mid-season that WFR had seen three riders take to the track and they enjoyed a superb

weekend at the Leicestershire track.

Ex-Supersport front runner and Superbike rookie Westmoreland bolstered the team's ranks when he signed on to assist with the WFR 2012 development programme.

But as well as helping out the Ossett team for next year, he's enjoying instant success this year.

On his most impressive victory yet, double-winner Gowland said: "It was the best race I've ever done and I had to work really hard for it."

"Obviously when I went off I was on the dirt and didn't know how much of it was on my tyres so I just took it really careful for the first few corners. Once I knew they were okay I just

kept chipping away and chipping away but by the time I got to the front I didn't have a lot of tyre left - in fact just enough to see the job out."

Richards, leading the championship by a huge 92 points over teammate Gowland with two rounds to go, could tie up the title in the penultimate meeting at Silverstone on September 23.