

Cycle Speedway report for the 2023 British Cycling North West Region AGM.

Once again, three North West clubs operated in the 2023 cycle speedway season, which runs through until the end of October.

Bury have benefited from winter signings and have won the Manchester League Division 1 for the first time since 1987. They have also clinched victory in the Northern Fours League and are very much in contention in the North & Scotland League Division 1 title race. **Astley & Tyldesley** retained the Manchester League Division 2 title and took the win in the Northern Junior K.O. Cup. A&T lost several senior riders during the winter, which has enabled their impressive stock of juniors to move up a level. **Stockport** have again struggled, with just two active riders, as they have been forced to borrow riders in order to fulfil their fixtures in Manchester League Division 1 and the Northern Fours League.

At national level, Astley & Tyldesley's Frank White retained the British u-12 Individual title. A&T's Steve Harris was again runner-up in the British o-50s Individual Final, with A&T's John White finishing 3rd in the Junior Individual Final. Both John and Bury's Harry Radford raced for the England team in the Junior Home International match.

At regional level, Bury's Reece Pollitt won both the Northern Individual title and the Manchester League Individual title.

The British Individual Finals Weekend came to the North & Scotland Region this year. The 12 Championships were successfully promoted by the Hull, Sheffield and Astley & Tyldesley clubs.

Cycle speedway riders continue to make their mark in other cycling disciplines, as the skills developed at an early age from the intense cycle speedway discipline transfer across to other disciplines. Astley & Tyldesley's Tom Morrissey retained his National u-16 Boys Track Sprint title.

It has been a long-standing mystery and disappointment to cycle speedway officials, that since cycle speedway became part of British Cycling in 2000, no cycling clubs have added cycle speedway to their portfolio. It is an affordable and accessible discipline, ideally suited for Go-Ride Clubs to add to their portfolio, to develop young riders into competing in all forms of cycle sport. The cycle speedway fraternity would, without doubt, welcome existing cycling clubs who add cycle speedway to their range of activities.

Mike Hack
Chair, North & Scotland Cycle Speedway Region