

## Wolverhampton Wheelers Track League Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

As is the custom at the track league racing commenced with the Freewheelers. Enthusiasm and determination abounds amongst these young riders and started with Scratch races. At this age most competitors are Wheelers and Ed Pibworth won Scratch B with Harry Sandland third. The Scratch A race was won by Adam Phillips with Hollie Owens second and Alice Hopkins third. The B 500 metre Handicap produced a close finish: Samuel Hanchor took first place closely followed by Ferne Roberts and then Isaac Stephenson. The A event was won by Ethan Roberts with Adam Phillips second. Third place went to Newport Shropshire CC rider Ed Adams.

Youth rider Ben Hardwick (see photo that accompanies this report) is looking increasingly unstoppable. In the Youth 6 lap Scratch he made a break after two laps which he held until the end of the race when he was more than half a lap ahead of his nearest rival Will Manfield-Yorke who took second with Josef Feiven of Solihull CC in third place.

The 20 lap Handicap was moved to the middle of the evenings racing and proved to be another opportunity for Ben to demonstrate his abilities first by winning the 10 lap Intermediate Sprint. It was good to see John Cooper (a former Track League winner) racing tonight. He now spends most of his time studying at the University of Manchester; working with Jack Escrit (Velocity WD-40) they built up a sizable lead from the rest of the field. Jack ultimately won this race, with John second. Jason Colledge took third place and Ben took fourth.

The racing finished with Youth and Senior 500 metre Handicap races which produced some very interesting results not least because it gave other riders a taste of the glory. Wheelers Lewis Allen and Matthew Radford took first and second with Ben only able to manage third place. In the Senior B race Carl Hardwick took a much deserved win with Lichfield riders Julie Cooper and Nick Selibas in second and third places. Fourth place was secured with much crowd approval by Wheelers Chair John Ireson. Former league winner Jack Hibberd (Team V-Sprint Racing) won Senior A with University of Birmingham CC rider in second and Jack Escrit third place. Jack is now currently leading the Rankings, however there's a long way to go yet and everything to play for!