

British gold for Ipswich riders

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CYCLE SPEEDWAY: Ipswich Eagles Cycle Speedway club are today celebrating two new British champions.

Jack Chaplin and Gemma Hill both won the British under-10s for boys and girls respectively at Hetherset, in Norfolk at the weekend.

It was a fantastic effort from both youngsters, and to make things even more joyous for the Hill household in particular, Ashley Hill was runner-up in the British under-16 final, held at Eaton Park, in Norwich, also at the weekend. It was the most successful finals weekend the Whitton Sports Centre-based club has had on the British stage for many years.

Chaplin was the star of the show in the under-10 final.

The Needham Market youngster went to the finals as one of the favourites, and he showed plenty of character to race through the day unbeaten.

Not that he didn't have any opposition. Norwich rider Mason Parkins and East Newport's Sean Bennett, as well as Chaplin's team-mate, Sam Warner, were all to the fore in the final.

But a crucial heat 15 saw Chaplin, off the outside gate, fly past both Bennett and Warner, while he saw off Parkins in an earlier race.

His victory was fully deserved. Warner meanwhile led the final after three races, along with Chaplin, but he lost out while in gate one to Bennett and Chaplin, although an overall fourth finish saw him enjoy a fantastic final.

And there was more Suffolk pride in the final, as Kesgrave duo Harrison Bacon and Tyler Brinkhoff finished 7th and 8th respectively.

For Gemma Hill, the final proved a triumph.

Runner-up in the British girls' final last year at Hull, she went one better this time round and, to the delight of the crowd walked off with the gold medal with some brave riding.

Ashley Hill's efforts in the under-16 final were equally as impressive, although he left Eaton Park feeling he should have had gold.

With an inside gate to come in his final ride and the national title in his grasp, Hill was everyone's favourite, especially as he was up against three middle or lower order riders.

But somehow it all went horribly wrong. Leading out of the first turn but slightly off the racing line, the Suffolk youngster momentarily glanced to his right as if distracted.

In that split second the title was lost, as the rest of the field swept through on the inside.

However, a fine silver medal for Ashley.



OUCH: Ipswich's Gemma Hill takes a tumble in one of the heats of the under-10 final



CHAMPIONS: Jack Chaplin (right) and Gemma Hill with their trophies after becoming boys' and girls' British U10 champions



CRUCIAL: Heat 15 at Hetherset in the British under-10 final and Jack Chaplin, on the outside, is about to pass East Newport's Sean Bennett (centre) and Ipswich team-mate Sam Warner



GRAND PRIX WINNERS: Left to right: Oliver Wright (third U9s), Stef Farthing (fourth, U11s), Alex Butcher (fourth U9s), Jack Chaplin (winner U11s), Gemma Hill (runner-up U9s), Harrison Bacon (third U11s), Lewis Brinkhoff (winner U9s), Sam Warner (runner-up U11s)



UNDER-16S: Ipswich Ashley Hill (runner-up), left on the British rostrum with British u-16 champ Arron Morgan (Poole), centre, and Poole's Matt Mildon (third)

Lewis and Jack take the GP honours

THE Suffolk under-9 and under-11 Grand Prix finals came to a conclusion at Great Blakenham.

And it was two of Suffolk's top youngsters who came out on top. Kesgrave's Lewis Brinkhoff winning the under-nines, with a perfect score, while

Ipswich's Jack Chaplin claimed the under-11 GP series, only dropping points at the Colchester round.

Ipswich's Gemma Hill finished second in the under-nines, while Oliver Wright from Kesgrave was third and Ipswich's Alex Butcher beat Colchester's Regan

Repman for fourth place after a run-off.

Chaplin's Ipswich team-mate Sam Warner made it an Ipswich 1-2 in the under-11s, with Kesgrave's Harrison Bacon third and Great Blakenham's Stef Farthing racing a good series to pick up the fourth-placed trophy.