



# HAWK TALK

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## WHAT A WEEKEND!!

The Hawks ventured North to take on some of the best the UK can offer and eight Polish teams and came away very tired, definitely very cold but with a mass bundle of pride in what they had achieved. It didn't start too well after an early start on their travels to make round 1 at 12 noon in Saturday. Faced with Wednesfield and two crack Polish teams we expected a hard time on a Bury track we had not mastered on previous visits. Things got worse in heat 11 when Leon Wild did a somersault in the most spectacular crash of the weekend and was lucky to escape with nasty grazes and double vision. He was unable to continue in the match so up stepped Dave Chambers for a couple of rides. That result put us in the last match of Saturday and the temperature dropped as the wind got stronger. In match 6 we faced Sheffield, a Polish side and our old friends from Norwich who were forced to put a scratch side together when car problems robbed them of Mower and Osborne. On the corner and two third The Hawks rode the best they have down for ages and were so unlucky not to win the round and go through to the quarter-finals. As early as heat 4 Leon was leading the race from grid one, had a slight slip on the first corner and a couple of riders got tangled. Instead of all four back referee Mark Winwood excluded Leon in which most observers concluded was a very harsh decision. He put this behind him to get 11 from his last

three rides and with Dan Chambers and Ben Collins getting wins we were still in it. The referee did us no favours again when a Sheffield rider clearly moved at the start but got away with it and in the end we missed the target by four points but did beat the Poles into second place. The bad news was we were then out at 1 a.m. the next morning and, because of a strange race programme, could have faced five matches during Sunday. As it was we had three matches on the trot before being eliminated. More absurdly the first and third of these matches were against the same three Polish teams!! In the first we were leading at half-time without having won a race but we slipped away after not fully fit Dave Martin got excluded for crossing the inside line. The second match was entertaining and the Hawks were on fire here. They easily disposed of Bury and Norwich to go forward but again only won four races – in the end not winning races was our downfall coupled with extreme tiredness to the whole squad having to contest 48 races in four hours. The biggest cheer came in heat 13 when Barry Copping won from start to finish, defeating a top Polish junior. Dave Chambers also had his moment with a second place in heat 17. As hinted earlier match 3 was a bridge too far but only missed out by six points and we were left to watch the quarter-finals. A fantastic performance – we will be back! Note I have not mentioned our captain pole-dancing in a gay bar – allegedly!!

TORUN 53 WEDNESFIELD 46  
CZESTOCHOWA 40 HETHERSETT 21  
D.Martin 6 Dan Chambers 5 B.Collins 5  
L.Wild 3 Dave Chambers 2

SHEFFIELD 49 HETHERSETT 45  
SWIETOCHOWICE 44 NORWICH 20  
Dan Chambers 13 B.Collins 11 L.Wild 11  
D.Martin 10

SWIETOCHOWICE 45 CZESTOCHOWA  
41 OSTROW 36 HETHERSETT 32  
L.Wild 11 B.Collins 8 Dan Chambers 7  
D.Martin 5 Dave Chambers 1

OSTROW 53 HETHERSETT 48 BURY 32  
NORWICH 26  
Dan Chambers 14 B.Collins 13 L.Wild 9  
D.Martin 8 Dave Chambers 4

CZESTOCHOWA 47 OSTROW 40  
SWIETOCHOWICE 39 HETHERSETT 34  
Dan Chambers 12 L.Wild 9 B.Collins 7  
D.Martin 5 Dave Chambers 1

### **NEW BOYS SHINE**

Highlight of the first Norfolk Grand Prix on a dusty Harford Park track was the form of new boys Oliver Buxton and Calvin Grimes. In the U13/Novice event they reached the A final and their close rivalry sped them to first and second – Oli taking the flag. Carly Grimes came second in the new Under-16/Women's category and three Hawks took the minor places in the U19/Senior/Vets Final – David Adams second, Dan Chambers third and Dave Martin fourth.

### **TIFFANY GETS 1<sup>ST</sup> WIN**

The ever-improving Tiffany Collins put together four good rides to win Rider of the Night with 12 points at a Club Night which saw 16 members there, including season debuts for three vets Dave Chambers, Simon Wilcox and Roger Carter. Things are certainly looking up. And we will have teas and coffees from this week!!

### **NORFOLK TITLE NEXT**

A chance to take part in one the sport's longest-running events – the Norfolk Open Championship – comes along this Wednesday at Eaton Park (7 p.m.) Don't be put off by the age category - normally there are not many top seniors there so if you are U13 and above I would encourage you to come along and make the match worthy of its name. There is an entry fee of £2 but this will cover all over Norfolk finals that you are eligible to, i.e. U19 U16. Anyone needing a lift meet at Playing Field at 6.30.

### **YOUTH & JUNIOR WEEK**

The only weekend racing for Hawks this week is on Saturday at Kesgrave for the second round of the British Youth & Junior League. Racing gets under way at 12 with the U8s progressing through the U10s U12s U14s U16s U18s and Girls. All members are encouraged to take part but will need to make transport arrangements, offering £3 to a driver. Note I am unavailable this Saturday.