

ANWCC

Young drivers star in championship

■ East Lancashire drivers take top two positions

EAST Lancashire duo Simon Robinson and Hazel Johnson have finished first and second in the ANWCC Junior Drivers Championship for 2013.

Seventeen-year-old Robinson, from Blackburn, has clinched the title for under 25 drivers after impressing in a range of events this year.

The best 10 results counted from three different types of motor sport.

Robinson, who represents the Under 17 Motor Club and Accrington Motor Sport Club, won the championship with 134 points after the final event of the season at Blackburn with Darwen Services.

A total of 64 of his points were collected in the autosolo discipline, while 30 came from the production car autotest and 27 were from the autotest.

Robinson also completed his total with 13 points from hill climb events.

He finished in fourth position in a Mazda MX5 at the under 17 autotest at the weekend, and 10th in the national B section of the Accrington autosolo.

Johnson finished in second place in the championship, only five points behind Robinson on 129 points.

The 21-year-old Accringtonian is affiliated to the Under 17 Motor Club, Accrington Motor Sport Club and the CSMA. She collected 41 of her points from autotests, 36 from autosolos and 15 from production car autotests – finishing ninth in the national B section at the Accrington autosolo in a Nissan Micra.



Simon Robinson and Hazel Johnson (inset) in action at the weekend
Pictures: dwmotorsportphotography.com

During the year Johnson also amassed 39 points from stage rallies.

She competed in six stage rallies across the north of England and finished first in the junior rally driver category.

Daniel Barker, of Accrington Motor Sport Club, finished third in the standings with 101 points.

He was fourth in the CSMA autotest on Sunday in a Nissan Micra.

James Williams was fourth in the overall standings on 90 points after victory in the Accrington production car autotest at the weekend.

Fellow Under 17 Motor Club member Jamie Foster was fifth in the overall standings and second in the under 17 autotest.

Andrew Williams won the under 17 autotest, while Dave Graves won the CSMA autotest.

David Robinson, father of Simon, was third in the national B section of the Accrington autotest.

Victory was taken by Stephen Mather, with Alec Tunbridge winning the clubman section.

Robinson and Johnson both used Falken road tyres in this year's championship.

Johnson will return to action early in 2014 when she competes with Steve Butler at the North West Stages.



BIKES

Carne set for Easter debut in Challenge

HASLINGDEN'S Tom Carne will start his debut season in the Triumph Triple Challenge on Easter weekend.

Carne won the 125GP class of the British Motostar Championship this year and then earned a step up to the Triumph Triple Challenge after winning the Triumph Young Guns scheme.

That scheme saw a number of young riders go through a series of assessments during the year, before 20-year-old Carne was selected as the winner by a panel of judges.

The calendar for the 2014 season has now been announced and Carne will start the Triumph Triple Challenge with three races at Brands Hatch on Easter weekend between April 18 and 21.

There will then be two rounds at Oulton Park between May 3 and 5, before

rounds six and seven take place at Donington Park between May 23 and 25.

The championship moves on to Snetterton for three races between June 13 and 15, before two rounds at Thruxton between August 1 and 3. Cadwell Park is the venue for rounds 13 and 14 between August 23 and 25, before a return to Donington Park for two more races between September 5 and 7.

Silverstone then hosts rounds 17 and 18 between October 3 and 5, before the season ends where it started at Brands Hatch with rounds 19 and 20 between October 17 and 19.



Tom Carne



DIARY 2013/14



Sledging 'not over the top'

Adam Gilchrist says he does not believe the level of sledging between Australia and England players during the current Ashes series has overstepped an acceptable mark. "I have not seen anything that has been out of line or different to anything historically over the course of Test cricket," says the ex-Australia star. "If anything, it is probably a sign of respect. "If you have someone challenging you, you feel threatened."

Mitchell Johnson is vowing to continue his intimidation of England batsmen, and appears amused by the tourists' plans to fight fire with fire.

England captain Alastair Cook and his Australian counterpart Michael Clarke will both earn their 100th cap in the third Test in Perth.

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Lancashire bowler Kate Cross has been named in the England women's squad for their forthcoming Test and ODI series in Australia.



Prior believes in England

ENGLAND still believe "100 per cent" they can win the Ashes from 2-0 down, and are planning to start the series all over again in Perth.

Matt Prior issued a stirring battle cry at the WACA, insisting Alastair Cook's tourists have the mettle to make history as only the second team – Australia managed it in 1936/37 – to recover from defeats in the first two Tests to win the urn.

Prior cites "brutal honesty" and a readiness to learn from mistakes as the methods by which England can win in Perth for only the second time, and first in 35 years.

England's wicketkeeper-batsman, back to form with a half-century in the 218-run defeat in Adelaide on Monday, has no doubt about the tourists' ability to defy the odds.

Asked if they can still win the Ashes this winter, he said:

"Absolutely, 100 per cent. "One thing I do know about this cricket team is that when we get to this place we come out fighting."

"You have no option." The third Test in Perth begins at 2.30am UK time tonight.



Spinner Nathan Lyon is likely to retain his place in the Australia side for the third Ashes test despite the attractions of going with a four-pronged pace attack in Perth, coach Darren Lehmann has said.

Michael Lumb will pass up the chance to return to the Indian Premier League after signing a new contract with Nottinghamshire. The England Twenty20 opener has penned a three-year deal.

Runs scored by Gary Ballance for the Performance Team in Perth, to give him a chance of an England call-up for the third Test.

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