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OF THE **WORLD**

Summer 2024 - Issue 02

KEEPING TRACK

GBSPEEDWAYTEAM.COM

WORLD SPEEDWAY CHAMPIONS
2021/2024



EXCLUSIVE

TEAM TALK

Red White Blue & the GOLD! GB World Champions again!

GB U19 PAIRS FINAL

YOUNG LIONS ROAR

GB narrowly miss out on Bronze in Pila, but take huge leap forward

GB Son2 FINAL

HEARTBREAK

GB's U21 team unlucky with injuries in the World Championship

COVER IMAGE

GOLDEN NIGHT

GB back on top of the World in Manchester!

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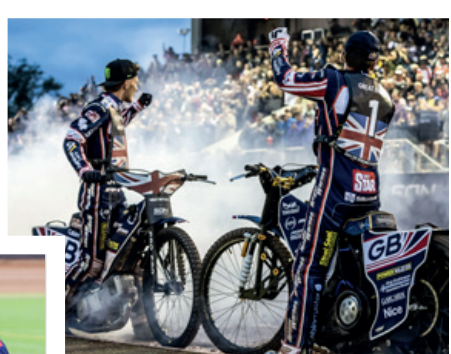
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Images throughout courtesy of Steve Hone Photography and Taylor Lanning Photography



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AND THE GOLD



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LIONS roar
in PILA!



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HEARTBREAK
FOR GB's U21s
in SoN2



OH
WHAT A
NIGHT!



06



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Roger Warnes
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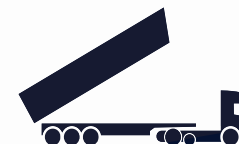


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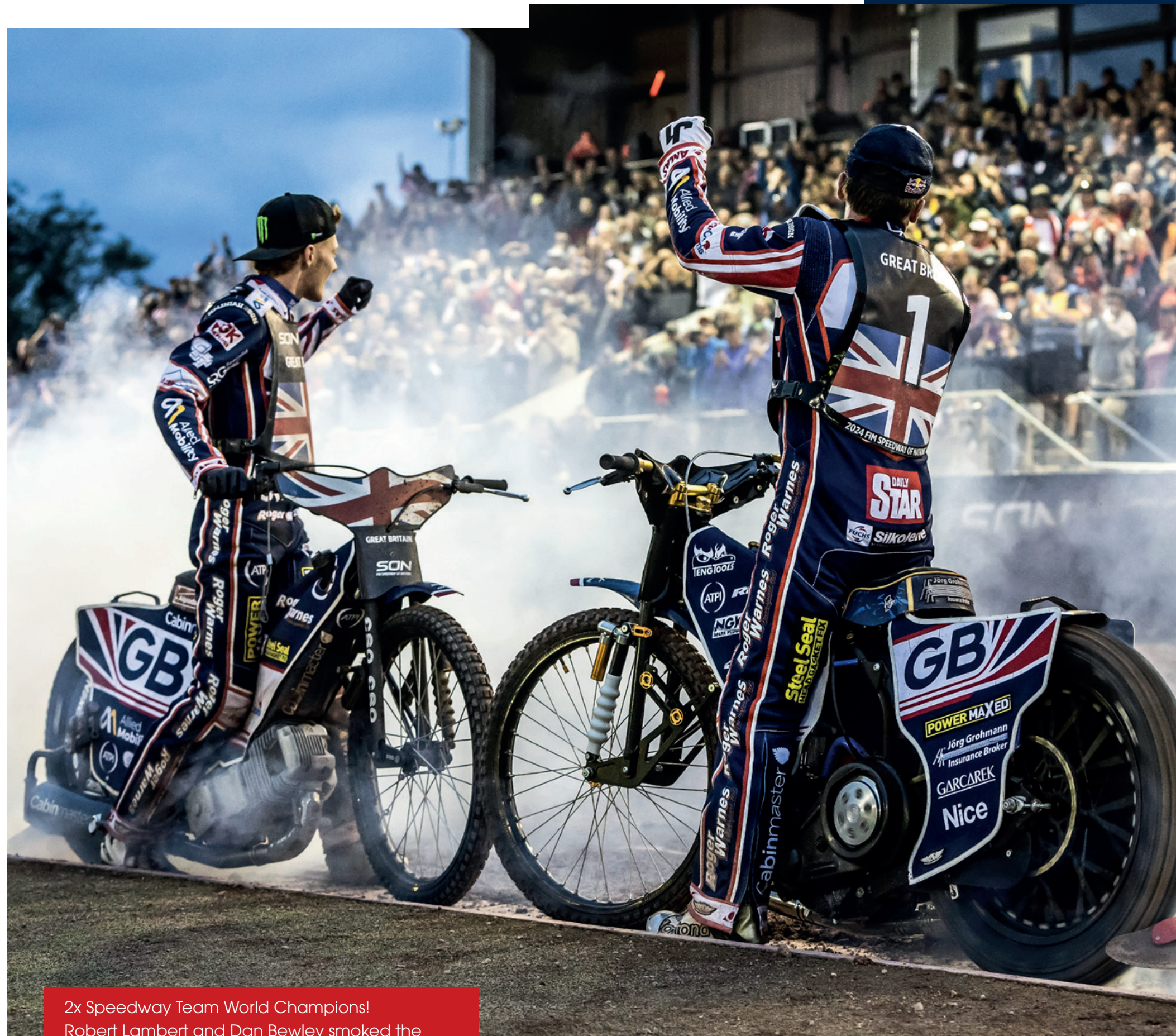
words by Phil Lanning

After Robert Lambert and Dan Bewley crossed the line in the Final to bring home a second Gold in four seasons, every single member of the backroom celebrated like it was a family occasion on New Year's Eve.

Simon Stead, GB Co Team Manager



Continued...



2x Speedway Team World Champions!
Robert Lambert and Dan Bewley smoked the
opposition in Manchester on a night to remember.

IT SAYS A GREAT DEAL ABOUT
GREAT BRITAIN NOW THAT SILVER
HAD NOT BECOME GOOD ENOUGH
AND GETTING SO NEAR WAS
HEARTBREAKING.

WE CAN BE VERY PROUD OF THE
STEPS FORWARD WE HAVE TAKEN
AND THE TALENTED PEOPLE WE
HAVE REPRESENTING US.

”

“That’s testament to the lads, how much they’ve grown over the years that we’ve been involved.

Despite the euphoria of triumph three years ago when they defeated Poland in the Final. There have always been the critics who said they only won because Maciej Janowski crashed out to hand them the title. No one could suggest anything but what a magical ride it was from GB’s top boys on this occasion.

Stead added: “I think you are right. But I think tonight there can be no doubters. We’ve ground out a result. The meeting didn’t start off like we would have liked.

“But we grew in confidence and belief and dug in to get the results when it really mattered.

“I think the disappointment of the last couple of years, when we came so very close, drove us on.

“It says a great deal about Great Britain now that Silver had not become good enough and getting so near was heartbreaking.

“We can be very proud of the steps forward we have taken and the talented people we have representing us.”

Bewley pulled off a simply breathtaking move to go past both Australians on the home straight to send the National Speedway Stadium wild. There were even chants of ‘Bewley, Bewley, Bewley’ from the ecstatic fans. The normally unflappable Cumbrian was clearly touched by the emotion of the moment.

Continued...



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Bewley said: "I try not to look at these events as anything other than just another meeting.

"You race on bikes for one meeting but it's all the work you put in all of the year, not just one night.

"My team is who I work with all year. The only difference tonight was that I had Buddy the Bandit (Leon Flint) helping me. It was cool to have him around.

"I had a couple of years as a team mate with Rob in Sweden. So it doesn't feel too different being with Great Britain."

Typically, while the Red, White and Blue section of the pits was overcome with elation, Painter and Blackwell simply sat back out of the limelight. There was a discreet hug from the pair on the centre green as the euphoria erupted. It's an understatement to say it's not been an easy task to resurrect GB's fortunes. But another Gold medal is the very least for what this unassuming, but oh so effective, partnership deserves. Painter said: "This is for the team, every single person performs such a vital role.

"We are delighted for all the team for this moment of celebration and our wonderful and loyal partners who make it all possible.

"I can't lie, this job truly is a rollercoaster, and not just in results. But it's all worth it for nights like this.



WE ARE DELIGHTED FOR ALL THE TEAM FOR THIS MOMENT OF CELEBRATION AND OUR WONDERFUL AND LOYAL PARTNERS WHO MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE.

"We are extremely proud to see Great Britain back on top of the World. That was our first and only aim when we took the job back in 2018.

"There is still so much work to do. But we have won a great deal

Continued...

WE ARE EXTREMELY PROUD TO SEE GREAT BRITAIN BACK ON TOP OF THE WORLD. THAT WAS OUR FIRST AND ONLY AIM WHEN WE TOOK THE JOB BACK IN 2018.

Rob Painter, GB Managing Director

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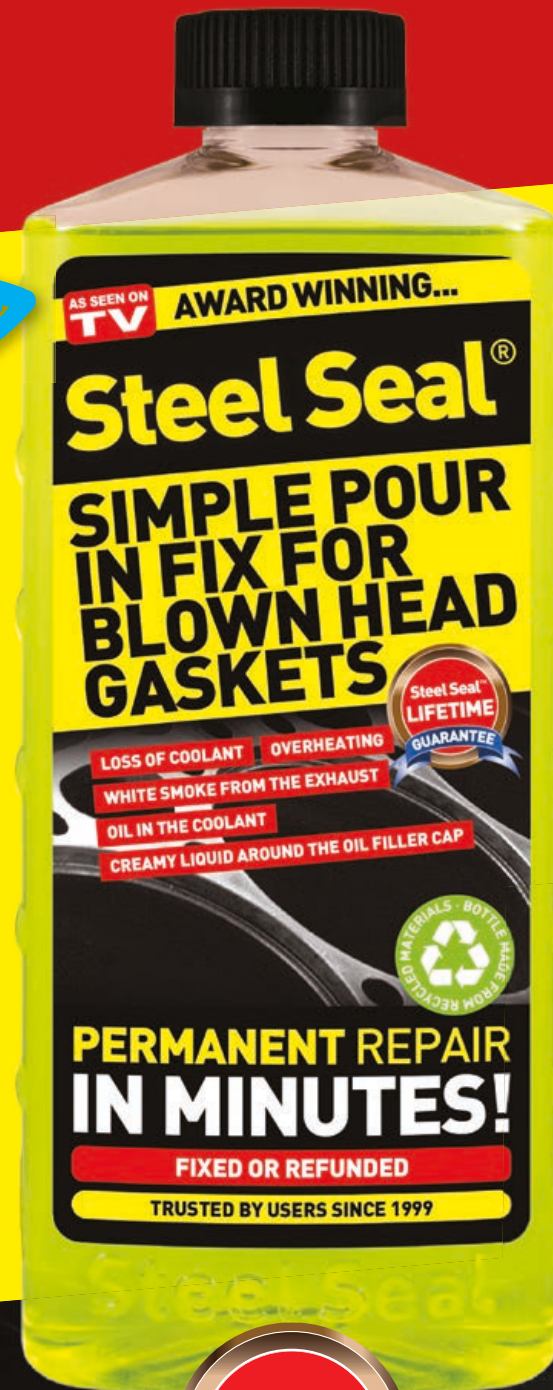
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THERE IS STILL SO MUCH WORK TO DO. BUT WE HAVE WON A GREAT DEAL OF MEDALS IN A SHORT SPACE OF TIME AT BOTH SENIOR AND U21 LEVELS



GB's U21 SoN team: Leon Flint; Sam Hagon; Dan Thompson & Team Manager Neil Vatcher



KEEPING TRACK

Great Britain turn the tables on Australia to heal the hurt of 2022

of medals in a short space of time at both senior and U21 levels.

"The disappointments are always difficult to take. The last two Silver medals, when we got so close, were particularly frustrating.

"But we are delighted that the results gave the entire team even more resolve, extra robustness and maybe even a bit more hunger to feel like we did again in 2021.

"I have to say it's a special feeling. This is a 365 day job. We have a few meetings a year but the work is quite extraordinary to bring the levels of professionalism we believe in with such a small band of people.

"The senior squad have delivered outstanding results and Great Britain are well and truly back on top.

"It's particularly pleasing that the success of the senior team certainly inspires everyone around them. Not so long ago the likes of Rob, Dan and Tom were bidding to get onto the World stage.

"Now the next generation are looking up to them. Tom has now won two Golds yet came through the British Youth Championship within the last decade.

"All the senior team were here helping the Under-21s on Friday night. That's just as important as anything for us. It shows commitment and desire for success right through the ranks."

Just 24 hours earlier, the heartbreak of missing out on a Speedway of Nations 2 medal should certainly be tempered by the contrast of result from 12 months ago. Great Britain's Under-21 side slumped to bottom of the pile in Riga and off the World map. But, fortunate with a host nation pick for 2024, GB are back in the mix at the top table. Painter admits that it's far more unpredictable underneath the senior element of the sport. He added:

"Obviously Poland are the yardstick with the Gold medals they have won over the past few years. We always knew they were a decade ahead of us with the development of young riders.

"Yet for all their winners, how many have gone on to dominate at senior level? It proves how difficult it is to bring riders through consistently.

"It was massively disappointing in Riga a year ago. To finish bottom was humiliating in lots of ways.

"But within a year Sam Hagon and Ashton Boughen have emerged so quickly. That's had such a positive impact on our Under-21 set-up.

"It proves that our targeted approach now to a select number of talented young riders is the way to go.

"Nothing is guaranteed with young athletes. They can show all the promise in the World but maintaining that focus and dedication through formative teenage years is such a challenge.

"Sometimes it's hard to define progress. But we know that with Neil and Jackie Vatcher's outstanding British Youth Championship, we have a structure and a constant stream of talent.

"There will always be half a dozen youngsters who have all the ability. Some will make it, some won't. There will also be some riders who emerge from nowhere to make the grade.

"But all we know is that by consistent hard work, you will bring through new talent.

"We are delighted with the result at the weekend. It's very frustrating for Dan (Thompson). He had embraced being in the Great Britain set-up with great enthusiasm. He has shown so much potential.

"Leon (Flint) bowed out of the Under-21 level with his best performance yet for Great Britain. Sam (Hagon) has also shown he has bundles of talent and the ability to learn very quickly.

"It proves we have exciting times ahead for the national team at every level. That's what we strive for every day of the week."

GB won the Speedway of Nations. According to Brennan, the chocolate digestive should win the World Cup of biscuits. For their rivals, there were no crumbs of comfort.



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Young LIONS roar in PILA!



IT WAS A CREDIT
TO EVERYONE THAT
WE'D GOT SO CLOSE
AND ONLY JUST
MISSED OUT
ON A MEDAL.



“

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IT WAS A GREAT
PERFORMANCE.
WE WERE ALL
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AT THE END. IT IS
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I'M REALLY PROUD
OF THE BOYS.

Neil Vatcher, GB U21 Team Manager



YOUNG LIONS boss Neil Vatcher admitted it was “bittersweet” after narrowly missing out on a medal in the FIME Under-19 European Pairs Championship.

The young Brits lost out in a three-man run-off to finish fourth in Pila, Poland at the end of June.

GB finished on 19 points with Ashton Boughen top scoring on 13 and Luke Harrison on six as they finished behind Poland on 25, Sweden 22 and Denmark also on 19. Boughen lost to Bastian Pedersen in the run-off for the Bronze medal.

However, Vatcher was delighted that the hugely-inexperienced team - which included reserve Freddy Hodder - had achieved so much.

He said: “To be honest it was a great performance. We were all disappointed at the end. It is bittersweet but I’m really proud of the boys.

“But to be fair it was a credit to everyone that we’d got so close and only just missed out on a medal.

“It was a fantastic display. Ashton was the stand-out rider. However Luke started with two zeroes, but that was



against Sweden and Denmark from the outside gates. But he was still right in the mix.

“Thereafter in his next four rides he got three second places. That’s Luke’s first time in Europe on the 500cc.

“In Poland it’s tough and I totally admire all the boys and the team for such a positive result.

“Unfortunately Freddy didn’t get a ride but that’s also credit to Ashton and Luke for the way they performed, they were so good and so on it. There just wasn’t the opportunity to give Freddy a ride.

“Just one extra point and we would have been on the rostrum, that’s frustrating.

“Ashton gets a special mention for his win against the Polish team. Wiktor Przyjemski passed him twice and Ashton re-passed him. That was absolutely sensational. He is coming of age big time.

Continued...

“

ASHTON GETS A SPECIAL MENTION FOR HIS WIN
AGAINST THE POLISH TEAM. WIKTOR PRZYJEMSKI
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I SORT OF TRIED TO CALM EVERYONE DOWN THEN
BECAUSE THAT WAS A REAL SPECIAL MOMENT.
BUT WE STILL HAD BIG RACES TO GO.

”

Neil Vatcher, GB U21 Team Manager

“I sort of tried to calm everyone down then because that was a real special moment. But we still had big races to go.”

Vatcher also vowed that the Great Britain youth structure is beginning to pay dividends with more youngsters coming through the ranks.

He added: “Luke turned 17 this week, Freddy is 17 and Ashton is still 16. They have got more chances at this level to make an impact and get a medal.

“We’ve got more boys coming through as well. We keep talking about the process and the riders coming through the Youth Championship.

“Luke has come up right through from the 125cc and is now competing on the World stage. That’s from when he was eight until now at 17-years-old. That’s a proud moment for all of us in the national squad.

“That was only Ashton’s fourth time on the World stage and Luke’s first time.

“Most of the riders in that meeting are riding on those circuits week-in and week-out in the Under-24 league in Poland.

“We are competing with Poland, Denmark and Sweden. We are not quite there yet.

“But the work and the effort that everyone puts in is starting to pay off.”





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FUTURE Events

FIME European Pairs Championship

August 10th: Semi-Final - Stralsund, Germany

FIME European Pairs Championship

October 20th: Lonigo, Italy

NEXT Event

FIME Euro Pairs Championship Semi-Final

August 10th: Stralsund, Germany

