

## Rising Stars have now been allocated for new season

Contributed by John Walsh  
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BRITISH SPEEDWAY'S Premiership League is pleased to announce the younger riders and their respective teams for this year's Rising Star programme.

As revealed last week, the programme adopted by British Speedway aims to promote and develop Britain's next generation of speedway riders and has been hugely welcomed by all Premiership clubs knowing the future for British progression has a structure.

British Speedway Promoters Ltd Vice-Chairman and Sheffield Promoter Damien Bates said: "It's a great incentive for British Speedway, not just for the now but for the future of the sport.

"This provides us with a unique opportunity and platform to develop and nurture the younger talent to become future speedway champions."

Clubs up and down the country have had the opportunity to track one rising star rider for 2021, increased to two from 2022 onwards.

Riders are given a 1 to 4 star rating based on the Rising Stars criteria, eventually progressing to Pro Star status.

The rider selection for this year's Rising Star Programme has been chosen as follows (in alphabetical order by club): Belle Vue Aces - Tom Brennan, Ipswich Witches - Drew Kemp, King's Lynn Stars - Ryan Kinsley, Peterborough Panthers - Jordan Palin, Sheffield Tigers - Josh Bates, Wolverhampton Wolves - Tom Bacon.

Rising Stars riders are 24 as of the 1st January of the current year or have less than three years professional league experience to also allow other motorbike sport crossovers ie: motocross, grasstrack etc, have an average under a Premiership League CMA (Calculated Match Average) of 5.50, or under a Championship League CMA of 6.50.

Riders whose average is above a Premiership League CMA of 3.00 and a Championship League CMA of 3.50 are classified as a 4-star rider.

Riders whose average is below a Championship League CMA of 3.50 and above 3.00 are classified as 3-star rider.

Riders whose average is assessed or has a minimum Championship League CMA of 2.00 and below 3.00 are classified as a 2-star rider.

Riders who have not competed in any professional league are classified as a 1-star rider.

JORDAN Palin (pictured above) has become the youngest member of the Rising Stars programme to seal a Premiership place having joined Peterborough.

The former British Youth Champion, 17, enjoyed a tremendous debut campaign in the National League in 2019 with Belle Vue, and now steps up to senior level for the first time alongside his Championship commitments for Scunthorpe.

Palin said: "I'm really excited to be a part of the Peterborough team. It's a well-established club with a great atmosphere, and the shape and size of the track really suits my riding style.

“It came as a huge surprise when the Peterborough promotion got in touch and offered me a place in the team.

“I would like to thank Dale (Allitt) and Rob (Lyon) for giving me this opportunity, I’m certainly fully committed and will be giving it my all for the club.”

TOM Brennan will make his Premiership debut with Belle Vue after being named as the Aces’ Rising Star reserve.

Brennan impressed in last September’s British Final at the National Speedway Stadium with his performance carefully noted by club boss Mark Lemon ahead of the selections.

Said Brennan: “The Rising Star programme is a huge opportunity for young riders like me. Getting into a top league club can be tricky and I am very grateful for this chance.

“It was quite a surprise when Belle Vue approached me, but don’t get me wrong, it was a nice surprise and I couldn’t be happier. It’s an unbelievable feeling.

“This is my first full season in the Premiership. It’s a professional club and to know that there are so many people there who want me to do well is very reassuring.”

KING’S Lynn have handed their Rising Star berth to club asset Ryan Kinsley (pictured below right).

The 22-year-old previously rode for the Norfolk side at National League level and now gets his chance in the Premiership with the Stars.

Co-promoter Dale Allitt said: “I have been quite involved with Ryan and I have helped him with bits in other leagues, so we have a good relationship which I will continue to develop in 2021.

“I am sure Ryan will take this with both hands as he has invested heavily in equipment and he has got some help from good people around him, so I think he’ll be ready for the challenge.

“Peter (Schroek, manager) and I spoke about it and we all felt that it was best to use our asset. We have signed assets to the club recently and it is important that when the time is right, they’re given a chance.”  
JOSH Bates is back with parent club Sheffield as their pick from the Rising Stars list for the new season.

Bates won the Championship title with the Tigers in 2017 but was severely hit by injuries in the following two campaigns, crashing out two years ago when racing in the Premiership for Peterborough.

He said: “I told my uncles, Damien and Marc, that I wanted to be back with Sheffield one day, that was my dream.

“Now that dream has come true and I’m absolutely over the moon about it, I just can’t wait to get back racing around Owlerton.

“I’ve always said throughout my career that Owlerton has been my favourite track and I can promise every at Sheffield I’ll be giving it my very best as I always do.”

WOLVERHAMPTON owner Chris Van Straaten is delighted with the signing of Tom Bacon as their Rising Star reserve.

Bacon, 28, has enjoyed success around Monmore Green in Birmingham colours when facing Cradley in the National League, and also guested for Wolves in the Premiership in 2018.

Said Van Straaten: “We carefully considered our options and we are delighted to add Tom to our team.

“We know what a good rider he can be and although he’s not one of the youngest on the Rising Stars list because he was a relatively late starter to the sport, he’s still got plenty of potential combined with a useful bit of experience.

“It’s a great opportunity for him. He’s very keen to take it with both hands and we know he has some quality.”  
IPSWICH have confirmed club asset and reigning British Under-19 Champion Drew Kemp as their choice from the Rising Stars list.

Kemp was already lined up to make his Premiership debut with the Witches in 2020 before the domestic league season was cancelled.

He now completes the side at Foxhall along with skipper Danny King, Jason Crump, Nicolai Klindt, Cameron Heeps, Jordan Stewart and Anders Rowe.  
LEICESTER promoter Stewart Dickson has paid tribute to Danyon Hume (pictured left) who has been released from the club’s National League team.

Hume captained the Lion Cubs to a league and KO Cup double in their first season of third-tier racing in 2019, but last year’s planned line-up is now being tweaked with the full league structure to be confirmed in the near future.

Dickson said: “Danyon was great for Leicester. Although I was always very mindful that I wasn’t the manager of the Cubs, I built the team with Dave Howard in charge on race-nights, and he said what a good captain Danyon was.

“He scored really well for us in 2019 and now he has a chance in the Championship with Poole, which he has to grab.

“He was the captain of the double-winning Cubs side so he was really good for us, and I would always say ‘never say never.’ You never close the door on any rider because you don’t know what’s ahead in this sport twelve months or so down the line.”