COLNE GRAND PRIX 2016

Including the FORT VALE Sprint for Success race...

And introducing The Colne Town Council Youth Race
Welcome to the 13th Colne Grand Prix & the Grand Final of the Men’s UK Elite Series.

We’re proud to be picked by British Cycling to host the final for the first time. Cyclists from top British cycling teams will be battling it out to win the Colne Grand Prix and be overall winner of the prestigious 2016 Circuit Series.

Eight races in the series have been taking place across the UK from Staffordshire to Beverley, Wales to Sheffield, with the dramatic finish here in Colne.

It’ll be an evening of action-packed high speed racing starting with talented young riders competing in a new youth race. Fort Vale’s Sprint for Success up-and-coming riders will be hot on their wheels for the second race. And UK and world class riders power through town in a blur of team colours for the cottages.com Colne Grand Prix.

Enjoy a fantastic free evening of racing in Colne. Many of our local businesses are opening late so come and support them too and make a great event of it. And re-live the highlights on EuroSport on 6th August 1 p.m.

Councillor Sarah Cockburn-Price
Chairman of Colne Town Council
For your safety – barriers are placed around the circuit. Please do not attempt to enter the riding area – you will put yourself and others in danger. There are designated crossing points and marshals will be there to ensure you can cross safely.

Proud sponsors of the Colne Grand Prix

The Crown Hotel
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John Herety, a former Olympic cyclist, is manager of JLT Condor, Britain’s longest standing Union Cycliste Internationale team. He says:

“You won’t see faster racing. Colne is the fastest circuit in the series. It’s got swingers – great corners you don’t have to brake on. You just throw a bike at them!”

John’s team of top cyclists look forward to coming to the town.

“We love Colne. It’s a great circuit with good crowds. It’s fitting that a town which has supported cycling for so many years has been picked by British Cycling to host the final,” adds John.

John has a great team lined up for Colne – although there may be changes on the night. Look out for sprinter Graham Briggs. His ability to last the distance and gear up for a final rapid turn of speed won the night at Colne in 2014, the same year he was a Tour de France stage winner.

Cherie Pridham, manager of Team Raleigh GAC says:

“We won last year with Andrew Hawdon and hope to repeat our success!”

“It’s a fast attacking race in Colne and there’s always an exciting finish,” she adds.

Cherie is bringing an eight man international team to Colne, wearing their distinctive 80s retro red and yellow strip.

This year’s team should include Morgan Kneisky from France and Albert Torres from Spain – both former world track champions. And Sebastian Moro, a world scratch champion from Spain, is lined up for the big final in Colne, too.

Ask a marshall or call by the media/VIP area for the up to date riders’ list on the night.

STOP PRESS! There’s an exciting cycling event at the Steven Burke Sports Hub on Saturday 17 September – news updates on www.visitpendle.com

Sunlight, camera, action! Two short films have just been released which put Pendle in the spotlight as the place to cycle and a vital part of the UK’s cycling capital – Lancashire!

One celebrates the exciting Tour of Britain Race which powered to a dramatic finish in Colne on 7th September 2015. Spot where you were on the day and look out for the man with the flag who helped to bring the Grand Prix and National Road Race to Pendle – Brian Cookson - now President of the Union Cycliste Internationale.

And the cameras have been rolling this summer, capturing great footage of cycle routes around Pendle from off road leisure rides to the challenging hills.

Watch the videos via www.visitpendle.com and download some great routes and get out more!

Two teams dominating the winners’ podium in Colne for the past five years are JLT Condor and Team Raleigh GAC. Will they be popping champagne corks for the final of the Elite Series in Colne in 2016?
Roll on Rio for the Colne Cyclone!

Get ready to cheer on Colne’s gold medallist, Steven Burke MBE! The Colne Cyclone will be racing for Great Britain in Rio de Janeiro 11th – 16th August. Steven is one of five world class cyclists picked by Team GB to compete in Team Pursuit and he says: “I’m very proud to represent Team GB for a third time at this summer’s Olympic Games.”

Steven competed at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic and he congratulated fellow experienced Olympians on his team for their selection for Rio. They include Ed Clancy MBE, our 2011 and 2013 winner of the Colne Grand Prix and Sir Bradley Wiggins, as well as Mark Cavendish, who’ve all raced the circuit at Colne.

Steven Burke, who now rides for Team Wiggins, was given the Freedom of the Borough by Pendle Council in 2012 in recognition of his gold medal achievement at the London Olympics. And there’s a gold postbox in his honour near the bottom of Albert Road in Colne and a fantastic Steven Burke Cycle Track in Pendle which he opened in 2014.

British Cycling Programmes Director, Andy Harrison, says: “I am pleased to announce such a strong squad of riders who will represent Team GB in Rio this summer. “Our team has been proven to be the leading nation for cycling in the past two Olympic cycles and our aim is to continue that momentum and be a sports team that Britain can be proud of.

“I’ve every confidence we can step it up once more for the Rio 2016 Olympic Games,” he says.

A much loved legend in his own lifetime, Billy Dixon – or Billy Bantam as he preferred to be known – will be sadly missed at this year’s Colne Grand Prix. Billy was always game for something new! From chopper dashes on Colne Grand Prix night wearing his trademark denim to barmy chopper jousts with his son Jake, his sense of fun was totally infectious.

Andy Bayes, Sports Reporter for BBC Radio Lancashire interviewed Billy several times, describing him as “the life and soul of the place”.

Billy helped launch the new Steven Burke Cycle Track in 2014 wearing 1970s gear in the chopper race. He was always there for us in our bid to promote cycling in Pendle and rode his chopper for our twilight cycling video Ride the Light Fantastic! It was filmed just before the Tour of Britain race in September.

He was widely considered the coolest and friendliest guy in Colne and is deeply missed but never forgotten.

Billy Bantam 1965 - 2016
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