

# Leverhulme Grand Prix Bike Race 2018

For the first time since the 1960's, elite bike racing returned to Birkenhead Park courtesy of Birkenhead North End Cycle Club and Pedalare Events.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, Birkenhead Park, the first publicly funded park in Britain, became home of the annual closed circuit race, previously hosted by Birkenhead North End Cycle Club and The Bike Factory cycle store based in Chester. This year, the event was delivered with a new and improved race schedule, including junior, youth, adult female, male and para-cycling categories. The main event was named the Leverhulme Grand Prix and featured elite and category 1 racers.



**The LeverHulme Grand Prix Bike Race gets underway.**

The event was supported by Cycling UK, British Cycling, Cycling Projects (Wheels for All) and The Bike Factory who provided e-bike demo's and Dr Bike sessions. The event village had a festival feel to it and was well attended by the public who watched some very competitive racing whilst listening to music and sampling tasty treats provided by local catering outlets. The free Cycling UK Jelly Beans were given out to the many not the few.

Amongst the competitors, we found the Lloyd family of Birkenhead North End Cycling Club, who raced hard and achieved places on the podium. Mum, Claire Lloyd, finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the women's race, whilst Oscar, aged 10 and his sister, Amelia, aged 7, finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in their respective junior categories. They celebrated in style with their retro Cycling UK hats. Well done everyone.



**Race competitors from the Lloyd family who each finished on the podium.**

**Janet Atherton, Cycling UK Trustee, said:** "Seeing the Leverhulme Grand Prix coming to fruition after months of hard work from the Pedalare team and Birkenhead North CC was fantastic. It was a real pleasure to spend the day helping out on the Cycling UK stand with Chris Alston. We talked to lots of families throughout the day and Chris's demonstrations of bike safety checks and punctures really helped attract people to our stand – and were much appreciated by everyone. It was good to be working alongside Cycling Projects who run local rides, including Wheels for All, and British Cycling – celebrating the thriving cycling scene on Wirral. And the e-bikes on the neighbouring stand were also great for a quick whizz round the park to take a bit of a break!"



**The Cycling UK Team with Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Geoffrey Watt and his wife.**

Whilst the riders pedalled around the traffic free roads, Cycling UK took the opportunity to promote



their Big Bike Revival and Community Cycle Club Programmes, initiatives designed to encourage more people to cycle. Joined by Cycling UK Trustee Janet Atherton, who took the responsibility of promoting Cycling UK campaigns such as Too Close for Comfort and Space for Cycling, local Cycling Development Officer, Chris Alston, took the opportunity to deliver workshops in puncture repair and pre-ride safety checks (M-Check).



**Cycling Development Officer, Chris Alston teaching Puncture Repair and M-Checks.**

Local resident, Jane Sumner, recently purchased a trike so that she could keep up with her son Lucas, who loves to ride his bike as much as possible. New to cycling, Jane took part in the cycle maintenance sessions, learning hints and tips on how to prevent punctures from occurring and how to repair them if they do.

Spectator, Jane Sumner said: "My son really enjoys going out on his bike, so much so that a year ago I bought one so that I could keep up with him!

I thought the Leverhulme Grand Prix would be a great local event to watch together and introduce him to bike racing.

I had just bought a new helmet for him, but it didn't seem to fit right. So, I was looking for a stand at the event to help me out.

Not only did Cycling UK do that, but they also talked me through a great list of important checks on our bikes that I had no idea about beforehand! Great, friendly people, who gave me lots of useful advice and information that has now got me interested in future events for myself and with my son.

I'm also now fully prepared for any punctures that may arise, as before I didn't even think about taking any spares or repair kits out with us and wouldn't have had a clue what to do, but now I feel confident should anything happen.

I can't wait to see where our bikes take us next!"



**Bike Race spectators Jane and Lucas Sumner visiting Cycling UK.**

Pedalare Events intend develop the event over the next couple of years, making it one of the highlights of the national cycling calendar. Not only that, they want it to become the festival of all festivals. With their passion for cycling and the expertise and desire shown by Birkenhead North End Cycling Club, we have no doubts that they will achieve their aim. There are great things to come from all who supported this event as we continue to improve the cycling culture across Wirral and the wider Liverpool City Region. We are already looking forward to the next Grand Prix event in our prestigious park.

Find out more about Pedalare Events at:

<http://pedalare.co.uk/events/>

Discover more about one of the oldest cycling clubs on Wirral/Merseyside at:

<http://www.bnecc.co.uk/>

If you're looking for a new bike/e-bike and expert advice on bike fitting and accessories, then The Bike Factory will be glad to help:

<https://thebikefactory.co.uk/>