

Speedway – Thomas in for Tigers



Jack Thomas hoping to make his debut on Friday. Picture from Kent Kings

Jack Thomas could make his debut for Glasgow Tigers in the Scottish Cup against Edinburgh Monarchs at Ashfield on Friday (tapes-up 7.30pm).

The 18-year-old from Norwich has been snapped up at reserve after Jack Parkinson-Blackburn's decision to step away from the sport on the eve of the new season.

The call came as a shock to the teenager, who has raced for Kent Kings in the third-tier National League for the past two seasons.

The young rider lives just minutes away from reigning World Champion Jason Doyle and says he can rely on the Australian superstar for help when he needs it as he makes his first foray into championship speedway.

He said: "I didn't really expect it, (the call from Glasgow) to be honest but I'm chuffed to bits and really grateful at getting the call to ride in the red and white colours.

"I had some opportunities to ride in the championship last

year but didn't want to run before I could walk, so I kept a watch on it, took some guest bookings and had a taste of it.

"But it's the next step up the ladder. I'm just trying to keep working my way up as far as I can get.

"I live near Team GB star Robert Lambert and he's always been there to give me tips and has always pointed me in the right direction. When I practised at King's Lynn he used to come out on the track and ride with me to help.

"I've also got Jason Doyle down the road too. It's great having these riders local to me.

He added: "I'm quite a smooth rider and confident on the bike. I don't take stupid risks, but I'm aggressive and if I see a gap and I can get it, I'm taking it.

"However I know sometimes you're better sitting back than doing something stupid.

"I've had good races with some of the other boys at reserve in the championship and I think I'm on a par with a lot of them. I can give it my best and hopefully do what I've done in the National League."

Thomas will be on track this Thursday at the Tigers' press and practice, with gates open from 6pm.

He then hopes to make his Glasgow debut against Edinburgh in the Scottish Cup first leg at 7.30pm on Friday.