

Speedway – Courtney praises his squad



Scott Courtney, happy with his Bandits who have risen to joint top of the Championship. Picture by Colin Poole

Berwick Bandits boss Scott Courtney was full of admiration for his side's efforts in the 47-43 defeat at near neighbours Newcastle Diamonds.

He said: "The guys rode out of themselves and, to man, I'm so very, very proud of what they did here (at Newcastle).

"It's a track we're not renowned for doing well at yet we took seven first places out of 15.

"And we really gave a team, who are excellent on their own track, some real work to do.

"I can't complain at that. Oh, we got one championship point too which can't be bad."

The two meetings in two days have seen the Diamonds rise to fifth place in the SGB Championship on seven points from six matches.

Berwick are second on points difference with 13 points from five matches in the 11-strong championship, the same points total as pace-setting Lakeside Hammers.

Newcastle team manager, George English said: "it was a good performance from the side, even more so when Tero (Aarnio), one of our very best, only took one point after engine issues and a seriously bad fall.

“The rest of lads rallied and we took a win, probably harder-fought than expected, as Berwick are getting into a bit of a groove at the moment.”