



Stef laps up karting victory

Stefanos Charalambous ... remember the name. This young racing driver is beginning to forge a reputation for exhilarating kart racing that belies his 16 years, and he has just pulled off a series of fine performances to win British karting's London Cup.

Stef, of Ringwood Avenue, N2, races in karting's Mini Max category, for 11-17 year olds. At the Rye House Kart Raceway in Hertfordshire, where Formula 1 motor racing's Lewis Hamilton began his career, Stefanos raced brilliantly throughout the day to set himself up for the final. His performances were televised on Sky Sports' 'Men & Motors' programme.

On receiving the coveted trophy, Stefanos movingly dedicated his victory to his late friend Joshua O'Malley, a popular figure at Rye House and on the karting scene generally, who tragically lost his brave fight against cancer last year.

Dad's support

Like Lewis Hamilton, Stef has been racing karts since he was 12. His father Bambos has played no small part in his development, taking his son all over the UK every weekend, with valuable advice and encouragement drawn from his own years of rallying.

These long and tiring weekends have meant that Stef has had to keep up with his school work at any hour of the night or day that he can. It's a great



On the podium: Stefanos Charalambous picks up his winner's trophy.

credit to him that he managed to achieve good results in his recent GCSEs, and is moving on to his A-level studies.

As we go to press, Stef has just claimed another victory at the Kimbolton track, near Peterborough, finishing nearly 100m ahead of his nearest rival and winning the trophy for the fastest lap time.

Helpful public, heartless thieves

By Linda Sansom

An East Finchley man suffered a double blow when thieves stole the bike he had had to abandon after seriously injuring himself in an accident.

Gareth Brahams, a lawyer from Twyford Avenue, was on his usual cycle ride to work along the Parkland Walk to Finsbury Park when he braked suddenly and was thrown over the top of the bike.

Kind passers-by

"From Crouch End to Finsbury Park the path narrows and is overgrown with nettles and brambles," he said. "I was trying to slow down and must have jammed on my brakes a bit hard which caused the wheels to buckle, and I went over the top. It was a minute or two before anyone saw me, but then everyone stopped and was very helpful, which was life affirming."

Someone helped him to chain the bike to a wooden fence. Gareth, who had a stomach pain but didn't realise how badly he was hurt, continued his journey but couldn't face the train and went home to dose himself with painkillers. As things didn't improve he called a cab to take him to the Whittington Hospital, but blacked out on the way and called an ambulance. He was later transferred to the Royal

London Hospital for emergency major surgery to remove a ruptured spleen.

Opportunist strikes

As if things weren't bad enough, Gareth's wife Amanda went to retrieve the bike, only to find that someone had sawn through the wooden fence and stolen it.

"It's so depressing. Everyone else had been so nice, and then someone stole it," said Gareth, who was in hospital for a week, and still off work when THE ARCHER went to press. "To think you cannot leave a bike in broad daylight in Crouch End without it being stolen. I don't know how they managed to move it as the wheels were buckled."

A cyclist all his life, he's vowed to get back on a bike as soon as possible. Meanwhile he is hoping the thief, or thieves, will be shamed into returning his bike.

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Joel is a qualified counsellor based in East Finchley.

Contact Joel on 07787 226 376 or email kornjoel@hotmail.com www.2-life.co.uk

RSPCA clinic still taking patients

The RSPCA is hoping to open its new shop in the High Road by the middle of October, while their animal clinic in Park Road will continue to be the place to take your animals for neutering and minor treatments.



RSPCA local chair Ann Lewis and Roger Fargher outside the Park Road clinic

The charity is moving into the shop that was once Teaching Trends, where it will be selling donated clothing, bric-a-brac and any other small items, although not furniture.

RSPCA's Roger Fargher said: "Please do not leave them on the pavement overnight or when the shop is not manned, but we will be very grateful for all donations, in particular clothes, from the local community."

We reported in April that there were concerns over the future of the Park Road clinic pending rent discussions with Barnet Council but as yet there is no decision either way so it will remain operating.

It is open, with an appointment system, on Mondays and Thursdays from 5.45pm to 7.15pm. To book an appointment, call 07928 628771 between 10am - 4pm Monday to Thursday.

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