

MOTORSPORT
MINI BIKESJack and Ryan set for
new challenges in 2021

BY CHRIS CALDWELL

TWO young local racers are excitedly counting down the days until the 2021 Irish Mini Bike Championship gets underway.

Coalisland's Ryan Coyle and Carland's Jack Burrows will both be involved in the progressive series, which is designed to provide the next generation of bike racers with a platform to get their careers off the grid.

Thirteen-year-old Ryan was the lucky recipient of the 2021 IMC Scholarship, sponsored by Chris Lennox's company, COREcut Ireland.

Lennox and his son Reece joined The IMC in 2020 and loved every aspect of it from the offset. They quickly settled into the IMC family - Chris witnessing himself the benefits Reece gained from his time in the paddock.

That inspired Lennox senior to want to provide the same opportunity to others and he offered the use of his KAYO MR150 machine.

His hope is to provide an opportunity for another youngster to join the grids of The IMC Junior MiniGP Class.

Chris reached out to The IMC Team and the COREcut Ireland - IMC Scholarship #4 was established.

Restrictions imposed since Christmas delayed the opening of applications, however, entrants were



Jack Burrows will make the switch from four wheels to two in 2021.

fast off the starting line and both parties were encouraged by the response.

After careful consideration a recipient deemed worthy was selected and the lucky recipient was Coalisland lad, Ryan Coyle.

Ryan wrote a powerful plea for help to fulfill his dreams of riding and competing in a safe and fun environment where he could be guided, encouraged and the only requirement in return was commitment and a 'can-do' attitude.

The 13 year-old novice will avail of the use of the COREcut KAYO MR150 Machine for 2021, all entry fees for the IMC Junior MiniGP Championship, guidance, support, and a warm welcome to the IMC paddock.

Michelle Sherman Boyd, spokesperson for the IMC said: "To have support for the Championship, in whichever form, is a privilege.

"When that support is offered from a parent within 'The IMC Family' it is a 'tip of the hat' to everyone. Chris has a youngster within our junior ranks who, although relatively new, loves every second that he spends with us.

"To have a parent recognise that and want another youngster to experience the same makes the grafting worthwhile.

"We are excited to welcome Ryan to the team and look forward to watching his progression, but more importantly his smiling face!"

Young Burrows, meanwhile, the son of road racing team boss, John, is also preparing for his first season on two wheels, having decided to make the switch from karting to bikes.



Chris Lennox (CoreCut Ireland), back, centre, along with IMC chairperson Mark Boyd and vice-chairperson Baylon McCaughey, with a delighted 13 year-old Ryan Coyle, onboard the Core Cut IMC 150 Kayo, which he will have the use of for 2021.

The youngster proved to be a serial winner on four wheels, winning championships at both Bambino and Cadet level along with the Irish kart GP in 2020. He also made a couple of appearances in the British Championship.

"We are leaving behind some great friends in the kart paddock and to all those people who helped both myself and Jack out I owe those great days to you," said John.

"So on to two wheels we go! We will be competing in the Irish Mini Bike

Championship. It's going to be a steep learning curve for Jack, but we are both very much looking forward to it.

"The bike arrived at Christmas and the leathers for his birthday, the equipment has been sitting for a few months but finally [last] week we got our first spin out. It was all smiles, but we have a serious [amount of] learning to do which we both fully expected.

"We are extremely proud of Jack and are excited about the days that lie ahead."

Lewis warms up for new season with 'Winter' run out



Lewis Mullen has enjoyed a positive build-up to the British Mini Bike Championship opener over the last couple of weekends.

BY CHRIS CALDWELL

LEWIS Mullen warmed up for his second season in the Rich Energy British Minibike Championship with an impressive outing in the final round of the British Winter Series on Teesside.

The Newmills youngster, who hadn't sat on his bike in anger since the end of the 2020 campaign, was almost immediately back on the pace when he recorded two third placed finishes in his class.

"It was good to get out and do something for a change!" admitted Lewis's father, Adrian, who continued: "All the wee lads are practising away in England so we thought 'if we don't get over there and do something we're going to be left behind'. So that was the idea behind going over.

"I was chuffed with how he got on - he was slower than he was the last time he was there but we're just trying to get back into it again and hopefully this country will decide to do something and open up soon!"

The 2021 British Minibike Champi-

onship gets underway at Red Lodge on the weekend of April 23rd, so it was important that Lewis got some seat time on his bike before the action resumes.

Fortunately, he was back on his steed last weekend at Cadwell Park where, as part of the MLac Vision-track Academy, he got to spend time and receive coaching from the man himself, former Moto GP star, Michael Laverty.

Lewis has been selected as one of only six young riders to be included in the inaugural Academy, which will provide him with expert advice from a host of top racers and equipment during the 2021 season.

He earned this fantastic opportunity by excelling on the track in England during his first season in the British Championship, finishing third overall.

It was a remarkable achievement by the youngster, who only started racing on tarmac around two years ago.

Last season, onboard his WM Racing Bucci Moto Ireland BR 12, he earned a host of podium finishes and

he also impressed in the Ohvale Cup under the watchful eyes of Laverty, Chaz Davies, Christian Iddon and Peter Hickman.

His talent obviously shone through at the final round because not much time had past before Adrian's phone rang. On the other end of the line was Laverty, who offered his son a place in the Academy for 2021.

"It's something dreams are made of," beamed Adrian, who explained the level of support Lewis will receive next year.

"We will run our own bikes, so the same bikes as last year, but the Academy will give us support at the tracks.

"They will help with track walks, training days with Michael and John McPhee. We are in a WhatsApp group with those guys and other stars that he knows so if there's any information you need you can just ask.

"Basically, they are going to keep an eye on you, train you, there will be free leathers and helmets and there will be tickets and behind the scenes passes to British Superbike events so you can see how it all works."