



BRITISH CYCLING PRESS RELEASE

HERO GRANDDAD SECURES OLYMPIC CYCLING'S YOUNGSTERS' FUTURE

Cycling enthusiasts, super-fans, sports people, and professionals are now celebrating the future of the sport in the UK, after proud grandfather Brian Phillips came to the rescue of British Cycling's (BC) Junior Academy Programme (JAP).

Mr Phillips, a beloved grandfather, came to the rescue of the programme as a grandfather and private individual. Despite how genuinely generous this is, we ask that you respect the family's privacy. The BC's JAP, which Mr Phillips has saved, was jeopardised earlier this year, when a major sponsor's agreement came to an end and was not renewed. JAP is open to young riders aged under 18, who regularly finish in podium positions in national youth and/or junior races.

“Suitable for all levels, British Cycling actively encourages everyone from fans and riders to cycling enthusiasts and professionals.”

- Jody Cundy

The JAP is a key step for young cyclists to join the Senior Academy, which in turn is a step on the road to the Cycling Olympic Podium Programme, the top of British Cycling. Without this programme, young cyclists who are already topping the medals tables for youth and junior cycling would have to entirely fund their own travel to international sporting competitions, as well as all their training and equipment. Olympic level bike frames alone cost £25,000, so the equipment to help the JAP youngsters achieve their best are not your

average bikes.

Whilst adult cyclists can be directly sponsored, this is not something that is easily achieved by under 18's. The JAP helps young riders with access to funds to support their athletic training and participations in competition. Although a crucial link in the chain that saw British Cycling finished at the top of the medals table, with 6 gold medals (as well as 6 silver and bronze medals), there are few able or willing to help fund junior cyclists, despite its importance in developing future Olympians. The search for a new sponsor was long and hard, but two young cycling enthusiasts persuaded their grandfather to come forward and rescue the programme, after explaining how crucial this programme was for young people like themselves and the future of the sport, as a whole.

BC is very excited and pleased to have the JAP rescued. Mr Phillips is also very excited about learning more about the sport and watching the future Olympians

develop ahead of 2020's Tokyo Olympics. Proving once again that grandparents really are the best.

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About Us

(taken from: our '[Who we are](#)' website section)

British Cycling (BC) is one of the world's leading national governing. The organisation oversees all forms of cycling in Britain. BC administer the sporting calendars in all domestic cycle sport and oversee cycling's development across all disciplines, helping to ensure those who want to race can do so in a competitive and compelling environment. Away from competition, we continue to encourage millions of people to ride their bikes through our recreational programmes, all suited to meet an individual's preferred form of cycling. We are also working hard to inspire the next generation of cyclists through our work with schools and community clubs to ensure that more young people are taking up the sport than ever before. All of this is against a backdrop of increased political influence as we look to represent our 138,000-strong membership. We lobby local and national government to make a sustained and resolute commitment to improving conditions for cyclists in order to ensure that Britain becomes a true cycling nation.

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