Otley Cycle Club Race Team – 2026 Highlights

Season Overview



From national-level racing and championship medals to category promotions and team honours, 2026 was an exceptional season for Otley Cycle Club Race Team. The team led British Cycling's Yorkshire regional standings from the opening weeks and retained that position throughout the season, while nine riders progressed to second category.

Early-Season Momentum



Zack Stobbs and Thomas Nabb opened the year with strong rides at the National Cyclocross Championships, finishing high up in the field in demanding conditions. The road season then began with Thomas taking a 2nd place at the BKAT Circuit Races, supported by Zack and Edward Hall also in the top 10.

Daniel Middlebrooke delivered an early standout result, finishing fifth at the Clayton Spring Classic in his first open road race against a strong Elite, first- and second-category field.

National Racing and First Victories

Aden Smith claimed the team's first victory of the season at York Sport, with Ed third and Will Jowett sixth. Tom Smith followed with two breakaway wins in one week at York and Wyke, supported by Aden in second at York, while Ethan Roper and Emily Middlebrooke added top 10 finishes at Wyke.



The junior squad contested the full National Road Series programme. Daniel finished in the front group in the opening Devon round, while the demanding CICLE Classic saw Daniel and Harry Collingwood-Cooper finish strongly when fewer than half the starters completed the race.

Tom Cullen took a win in the unique Red Bull Rampage event, sprinting out of corners as he scaled a multi storey car park course.

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The team's first National Series stage race at Witham Hall produced several top 20 general-classification placings. Aden then secured an excellent eighth place in South Wales and earned his second-category licence.



Ethan Roper also completed his first youth stage race at the four-stage VCL Deux-Jours in Kent.

Mid-Season Success

May brought victories for Ed, Harry and Zack, alongside 12 further top-10 finishes. Daniel placed fourth at the summit finish on Horseshoe Pass, while Zack combined road-race and time-trial wins to secure his second-category licence.



Emily returned from a winter injury with seventh place in her opening race, then claimed bronze in the women's regional circuit championship. Ed added another bronze medal in the Yorkshire Junior Road Race Championships after an attacking ride.

The planned debut in European competition at the UCI junior stage race Acht van Bladel was cancelled because of the heatwave. The team turned the trip into a valuable training camp, gaining useful experience for future overseas racing.

Local Showcase and Championship Results

The Otley and Ilkley town-centre races provided two of the season's biggest showcases. Fifteen riders represented the team at Otley, racing prominently before a final-corner crash disrupted the team's podium challenge. Two days later, Daniel finished seventh on Ilkley's demanding circuit.



Regional grass-track competition brought one victory and three podium finishes, while Harry, Will Jowett and Ethan added further circuit-racing success. Zack's third place at the Sheffield Grand Prix was another notable result.

Late-Season Honours

August underlined the squad's development, with Emily, Daniel, Tom Smith, Thomas Nabb and Ed Hall among those progressing from third to second category.

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At the Junior Tour of the Mendips, Tom Smith spent most of stage two in the race-winning break and finished 10th. At the season-ending Junior Tour of Wales, first-year juniors Aden and Harry delivered outstanding rides to secure top 20 overall finishes.



Ed successfully defended his national junior gravel time-trial title and followed it with bronze in the bunch race. Christoz Tzelis won a European Sprint Duathlon Championship qualifier, and Tom Smith recorded personal bests in all three disciplines during Junior World Triathlon Championship qualification.

The team also secured the North-East Road Race League overall team classification, reinforcing an excellent season across both individual and team competition. Will Jowett had a deserved win at his home circuit at Brownlee after a race long breakaway.

Strong Finish to the Season



Zack opened the cyclocross season with second place at the first CXNE round. In the hill-climb season, Daniel won the junior prize at Cragg Vale by just 0.3 seconds from new team rider Patrick Kavanagh.

Harry completed the road season with two podium finishes and promotion to second category, taking the team's total number of promotions to nine.

Looking Ahead to 2027



Building on an exceptional 2026, the team is targeting national-level podiums, overseas success, personal bests in time trials and a visible presence at the front of races throughout 2027.

These ambitions are supported by a talented group of returning and new riders, all committed to progressing with the team.

The team extends its sincere thanks to Mark at MAS Designs, Sanjai at Chevin Cycles, Ian at Bike Futures, Jon at Santini, Nick at Richardson Electrical, Fraser at BBS and Bernard, our photographer. We are equally grateful to Otley Cycle Club and its members for their continued encouragement. Their support enables our young riders to compete, develop and achieve their potential.

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