

**Anya Richardson Colley: Junior  
Drag Racing World Champion!**



## INTERVIEW WITH ANYA RICHARDSON COLLEY

### Anya, how does it feel to be World Champion?

I can't explain it really – it is just amazing. I still can't believe it.

### Did you think you could win overall?

I never even thought about winning overall. My aim at this year's World Finals was to improve on my position from 2005 where I finished ninth overall, and I aimed to equal finishing top girl junior as I did in 2005. If I could achieve this then it would be great.

### What preparation did you do before leaving?

I ride most weekends but I really stepped things up this year once I broke up from school for the summer. With the help of Laurent Boucher from B7sport.com I worked on my physical fitness and riding style. I worked out and rode everyday during the summer holidays and with the dedication of my parents I gained as much race experience as I could. Since going back to school in September I have continued to work daily on my physical fitness but have only been able to ride at weekends.

### What was your most memorable moment of the event?

I loved the whole event (except James breaking down!) and have some amazing memories but crossing the finishing line in Moto 2 in first position was memorable and I am sure the feeling will always stay with me. I won the moto in the morning but I had my very fast friend Quentin Bossche hot on my tail again and I knew I couldn't make one mistake. I knew whoever won that moto would take the overall win and it was a tough race down to the last buoy. Girl Power! I will always remember the happiness on the faces of my family and friends and everyone congratulating me. It was an amazing feeling.

### Where do you go from here?

I want to carry on having fun racing but I need to concentrate hard on school this year as it's my last year. After June I am not sure. At the moment I think I may spend the summer in France, perhaps even take a year out before starting college. I know I can never make a career out of racing but I wish I could as it's got to be the best job in the world! Ultimately one day I would love to win the title that Lisa won this year – Pro Ladies! Now that is Girl Power, but that's a long way off yet.

I want to add a massive thank you to everyone who helped me to become a World Champion because it really is team work and there is no way I could have done it on my own.

him behind the lappers, which meant he lost his third overall in Pro-Am Stock Runabout – a true injustice and one which just might question his reasons for returning next year. Perry would eventually finish fifth overall in Pro Stock and fourth overall in four-stroke Limited.

After Perry's disappointment, we prayed that James Bushell would raise the British spirits with his assault on the Pro-Am Stock class. As well as being the 2006 World Pro-Am Stock Runabout Champion he tied up the European title just two weeks before, so we had high hopes. But it was not to be! Unfortunately for James the World Championships have a way of throwing up the unthinkable and just when you think you've done your home work and reached a new high in fitness levels then mechanical gremlins strike. Unfortunately for James he suffered two DNFs, both from good positions in the race and things didn't get any better for him.

This year James had kicked off his Expert status and moved up the ranks to take on the big boys in Pro Runabout. The weekend had panned out nicely for the 23 year old from Wisbech and after qualifying in second behind the Kawasaki backed Craig Warner he could smell victory. But as with the Stock, James suffered more mechanical issues and what could easily have been the UK first Pro World title slipped away for another year.

## Freestyle

Over the past five years the British freestyle scene has nurtured not one but four World Champions. A very impressive count by any country's standards and speaks volumes for the support that this particular discipline has across the nation from freestyle events, freestyle clinics and the manufacturing of freestyle parts. Although we can't claim another world title in 2007 we can certainly praise the Freestyle antics of our British number ones (Pro and Amateur) Ant Burgess and Spencer Wells who pulled in another two podium finishes to the UK's collection of silverware.

First out was 16 year old Spencer Wells in the Amateur Freestyle class. This would be Spencer's first attempt at a world title and at 6ft 10 he certainly wouldn't be missed. Spencer put together an excellent and well-executed routine full of aerial and surface tricks, a nice variation when the discipline is largely dominated by big air tricks. Spencer's hard work didn't go unnoticed and the judges rewarded him with a fantastic second overall, leaving the Russian Ivan Pojanin the winner.

After winning the Amateur Freestyle title last year, Ant Burgess was then given a free pass into the Pro Freestyle competition where he surprised everyone by finishing third overall and the highest placed Brit of all time. This year there would be no Amateur warm up, for Anthony it would be straight into the big time and what better way to do it than with the support of multi World Champion Eric Malone. He looked slightly nervous in the preliminary round on Saturday, which placed him fifth for the main competition but come Sunday Ant was on fire. Helped by the extra power of an EME boat and his athleticism, Anthony amazed us with the height and