

Young riders hope Italian has recipe for success

Trio get professional help with mini Olympics in mind

CYCLING

by **Chris Slavin**
chrislavin@trinitysouth.co.uk

A TRIO of promising cyclists are hoping an Italian's magic touch can spark qualification for their 'mini Olympics' this summer.

Salesian School pupils Rory Townsend and Louis Magnani, both aged 15, along with Egham 16-year-old Dan Maslin, were all lucky enough to receive an expert bike fit from Giuseppe Giannecchini, one of the world's leading cycling mechanics.

The Italian national cycling team mechanic, who works with top professionals Francesco Chicchi and Jonathan Monsalve, made the final adjustments to the teenagers' Viner bike frames at Pure Motion Cycles in West Byfleet recently.

The boys are hoping it will help them hit the ground running this season when they compete at the Tesco International Youth Classic in Rutland, Leicestershire on Sunday – one of four qualifying events for this summer's European Youth Olympic Festival.

Townsend, Magnani and Maslin are members of newly created Prestige Velo Club, which was set up by Rory's father David to give young riders a chance to progress in junior and senior competition.

The club's link with Pure Motion Cycles, which stocks a range of Italian bikes, including Viner, led to expert guidance from Giannecchini.

"The boys were measured up for their bikes last November by Giannecchini and the frames were



■ **SETTING THE PACE:** Rory Townsend leads the breakaway during the final in Bristol

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manufactured to his specification in the Viner bike factory in Italy," said David. "This final fit gets the saddle height and forward-backward position to its best accuracy. In addition, the handlebar height, width and reach are adjusted to give the best balance between performance and comfort.

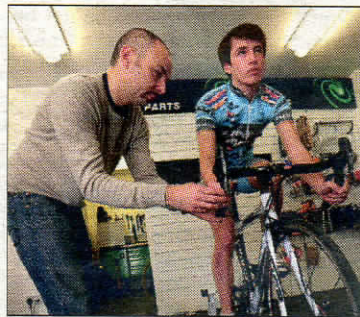
"The next big event for the boys

is the classic race on Sunday over 55km, a distance more suited to our riders. It should be a great race for the team and is also a qualifier for the Youth Olympics, which takes place in Turkey this July."

The Prestige trio warmed up for Sunday at a national circuit series event (U16 category) at Bristol recently, where both Townsend and

Maslin qualifying for the final, but Magnani, who was suffering with a chest infection, missed out in the heats.

There is also the added incentive of the Inter-Counties Regional Road Championships – an event which Townsend and Maslin qualified for last year – in Perth, Scotland, in the summer.



■ **EXPERT:** Giuseppe Giannecchini measures up Dan Maslin

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Bike expert reveals tip for London 2012

CYCLING

Cavendish leading the charge.

But Giannecchini, a leading professional cycling bio mechanic, said: "Despite the loops of Box Hill, the route will favour the sprinters from the national teams. Assuming GB's Mark Cavendish is fit, he should have a great chance.

"However, I have to say I'm rooting for Francesco Chicchi, the Italian sprinter I've been working

with. He's the ex-U23 world champion and a major talent. But whoever wins, it will be a fantastic race."

Giannecchini was in West Byfleet shop Pure Motion Cycling to provide an expert fitting session for Runnymede cycling teenagers Rory Townsend, Louis Magnani and Dan Maslin.

The cyclists will race along Old Woking Road, where the West Byfleet shop is based.