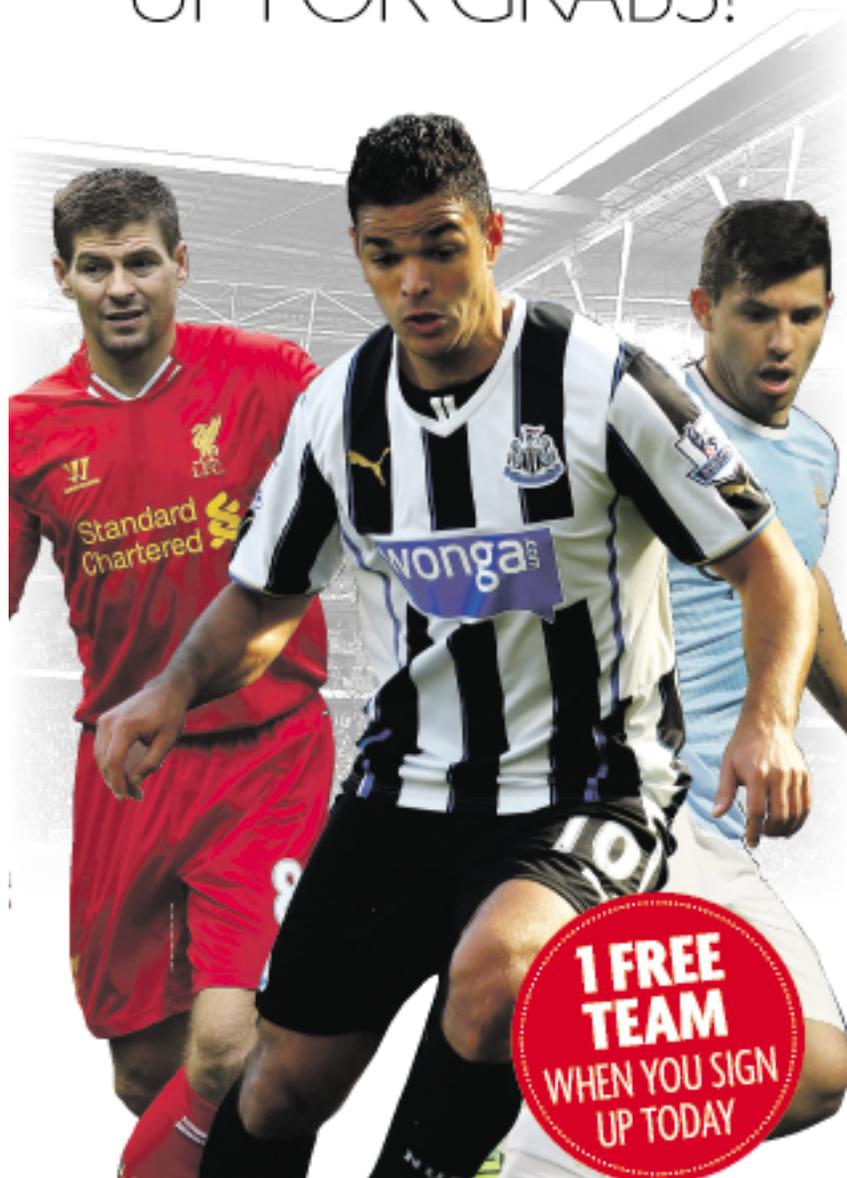


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## GRASSROOTS SPORT

### School karters head for Warden Law



■ Young karters like these (above) are expected at Warden Law for the Schools Karting Championship regional heat

# Championship's a wheely good way to be top of class!

#### KARTING SPECIAL

IF you fancy yourself as the next Lewis Hamilton, Jenson Button or Matty Graham but are struggling to shift your motor sport dreams off the starting grid, the answer could lie just around the next high-speed corner - the British Schools Karting Championship.

Run by the British Automobile Racing Club (BARC), the BSKC is an arrive-and-drive formula for students aged between 13 and 18.

It is a team-based sport, with each entry composed of three drivers from the same school, academy or college led by either a teacher or parent as team captain.

To allow everybody to compete at the same level, no more than one member of the team can have held a Motor Sport Association (MSA) racing licence above National B Novice level.

The knockout-style contest progresses from practice and familiarisation sessions beginning in March through to local and regional finals.

The North East finals will be held at the Warden Law circuit near Houghton-le-Spring on March 10 and 11 (4.30 each day).

Already teams from Durham Sixth Form College and Seaham College of Technology have entered - with more expected to follow.

They will hope to book places in



■ Consett motorsport ace Matty Graham started his career in karting

the championship's national final at Whilton Mill in Northamptonshire in July, where the 2014 British schools karting champions will be crowned.

There are separate prizes for the eight regional champions.

The cost of entry for the entire championship is £165 per team (£55 per driver), to include the use of race suits, helmets and gloves - all of which are provided by the circuits.

Championship manager Mark Turner said: "Now in its eighth year, the British Schools Karting Championship continues to go from strength to strength and we have already received more than 250 entries.

"Virtually all professional racing drivers these days start in karting, just like Jenson Button and Lewis Hamilton did, and the BSKC represents an affordable and excellent value entry point into the sport.

"Not all teenagers enjoy traditional school sports and motor sport has gained a reputation as being out of reach due to its cost - but we are here to prove that is not the case.

"Some schools also use the BSKC to motivate students toward classroom achievement as well as to reward those who have excelled.

"The BSKC is an exciting, nationwide competition for which no prior karting experience is required.

"The championship was created to make karting more accessible to schools.

"It appeals to students from different backgrounds and its low cost allows everyone to take part."

Schools may enter as many teams as they like and registration is open until February 21 at [www.bskc.co.uk](http://www.bskc.co.uk) - although early bookings are recommended. Minimum height stipulations apply.