



# Thousands greet their golden hero

THE crowds came out in their hundreds and the skies cried tears of joy on Saturday afternoon as Colne welcomed home its Olympic gold medal hero Steven Burke.

Around a thousand people braved the inclement weather to line Albert Road and Market Street as Steven, wearing the medal he won in the

cycling team pursuit at the London Games, and his family were driven up the main street from the railway station and around the town centre in an open top car before being welcomed at the town hall by the Mayor and Mayoress of Pendle, Coun. Asjad Mahmood and his wife, Samina.

The procession was accompanied by cyclists from Cycle Sport Pen-

dle and Pendle Forest Cycling Club, and the theme music from "Chariots of Fire" and the Queen hit "We Are The Champions" were played throughout.

At the town hall, the crowds, many of them cheering his name and waving Union flags, were six or seven deep and not even an increase in the persistent light rain which had fallen during

the parade could deter them.

The Mayor congratulated Steven on his achievement and described him as "a fantastic ambassador for Colne and Pendle" and said the whole borough was proud of him.

Steven has, of course, been awarded the Freedom of the Borough following his gold medal success. Pendle Council's Director of

Regeneration and president of British Cycling, Brian Cookson, interviewed Steven on the town hall steps.

He asked a number of questions which had been tweeted on the council's website, before the party retired to the council chamber for a reception.

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