

1,000 fight for 70 store jobs

A SUPERMARKET giant has revealed an astonishing 1,000 applicants fought for just 70 jobs at a Newcastle store. The new Waitrose, which will open in Jesmond, Newcastle, this week, was deluged by people desperate to work. The shop reflects the retailer's ambitions to increase its presence across the North East, adding to its existing stores in Hexham, Eldon Square, Newcastle, and Ponteland. The number of applicants was revealed after the latest unemployment statistics were released. Over 13,000 more men and 4,000 women registered to claim benefits between April and June. The jobs boost from Waitrose sparked around 14 people to apply for every one of the 70 positions.

Widow channels her grief into campaign

A GRIEVING widow who lost her biker husband in a tragic road smash has set up a safety campaign group.

Father-of-five Rob Mills was well-known among Tyneside's biking community, teaching advanced motorcycle skills to everyone from police officers to Premier League footballers.

His family were devastated when the 48-year-old was hit by a car while out riding on the B6318 Military Road in Corbridge, Northumberland, in June 2010.

But now Rob's wife Teresa, of Aster Place, Fenham, has vowed to make sure her husband did not die in vain.

The 48-year-old has set up Dying to Ride, a motorcycle awareness group that aims to save lives on the road.

Dying to Ride will present motorcycle awareness classes, as well as provide practical and emotional support to the families of motorcycle accident victims.

Teresa, who is being supported by children Maureen, 30, Michael, 28, Nicola, 26, Lisa, 22, and Bobby, 12, in her campaign, said: "Dying to Ride is dedicated to creating an atmosphere of awareness of motorcycles on the road.

"I will be speaking to groups about motorcycle awareness and I've also been helping some other widows who are going through similar ordeals.

"I'm trying to turn this tragedy into something positive and I know Rob would be proud."

Ex-Newcastle and England striker Les Ferdinand, who was taught by Mr Mills, was among mourners who paid tribute to the former instructor.

Hundreds of mourners packed into the West Road Cemetery for the popular family man's funeral.

In a poignant tribute, his hearse was slowly followed by over 30 members of the local motorcycling community, in full leathers, giving an emotional final salute to a biking enthusiast who had been riding motorcycles since his teens.

For more information on Dying to Ride, visit www.dyingtoride.org or call Teresa on 0191 241 4230.



IN MEMORY: Teresa Mills from Fenham has set up the Dying to Ride motorcycle awareness campaign, after her husband, biker Rob Mills, left, was killed last year

