

Carroll hangs on for narrow win in Glens road race

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists held their Star Trophy GP of the Glens road race last Wednesday evening at Broughshane. There had been concerns that road works on the circuit would cause disruption but everything worked out perfectly as the re-surfacing in Waterfoot village was completed and the Glenariffe glen road closure was only applicable during the “working day” and the temporary surface on the glen was more than adequate. The weather, however, left a lot to be desired and a torrential downpour caused a twenty minutes delay at the start.

There were fourteen entrants and they went off in three groups with zero, six and eleven minute’s handicaps.

The front group was caught by group two in Waterfoot with just over 20 miles covered. Matthew Brennan was dropped from the scratch group and this left just Simon Taggart, Leo McAllister and Tommy Wilson in pursuit of the leaders. As the riders started their near six miles ascent of Glenariff the scratch trio were 2 minutes 45 seconds behind the front group.

By the top of the glen they had caught everyone with the exception of Mark McCullough and visiting Bann Valley rider Michael Carroll. Mark too was reeled in at Martinstown but veteran Carroll, aboard his new “Cervello” bike, was still ahead and at Rathkenny he still had a 90 seconds advantage. This was down to 26 seconds as the race turned on to Ballygarvey road for the final three miles to the finish.

Tommy Wilson and Simon Taggart had broken clear of the others at Martinstown and they were next on the road and closing the gap with every turn of the pedals but they failed by just two seconds to catch the tiring Carroll who won in 1 hour 43 minutes 40 seconds.

Tommy Wilson finished second and won the Star Trophy as first BRC rider. (3) Simon Taggart (4) Clifford Grant at 1 minute 33 seconds (5) Alan Blair (6) Leo McAllister (Slane cycles) (7) Mark McCullough all at 1.33 (8) Peter Smyth at 4.44 (9) Stephen Smyth at 7.36 (10) Maeve Savage at 12.15 (11) Quinton McFall (unattached) at 12.15 (12) Adrian Kerr at 12.46

LEAGUE

Tommy Wilson has extended his lead in the road racing league series and has now amassed 29 points but Simon Taggart is right behind him with 27 points. Alan Blair is third with 23 (4) Matthew Brennan 18 (5) Clifford Grant 14 (6) Mark McCullough 13 points. The next round is on 27th July when a 20 miles road race takes place at Randalstown. This is a new event on the club calendar for the first time this season.

Last weeks youth race was a 10 miles road race on the Bally circuit. Adam Kerr won by 18 seconds in 27 minutes 16 seconds from Josh Barr (3) Chris Surgeoner at 2.51 (4) Emma Gordon at 3.04.

Ulster Women's Association -White Rocks 10 Mile TT Results

(1) Mary Hunter (Dromara) 24:49 (2) Louise Fullerton (Ballymena Northstone) 25:37 (3) Kay Hack (Bann Wheelers) 25:53 (4) Gillian Orr (Ards) 26:30

CALENDAR

Tuesday 5th July 2011 Bann Valley five laps road race Gortmacrane circuit at Kilrea 7.15pm.

Wednesday 6th July Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – Gardiner cup 10 miles time trial Woodgreen 7pm. Northstone have completed the road works on the A26 dual carriageway ahead of schedule and this means that this week's race may go ahead as planned. The Gardiner cup is awarded to the winner of the handicap section.

Handicap league.

First season club member Peter Smyth now leads the time trial handicap league after the first five rounds of the nine race series. He has amassed 16 points. Ryan Currie is second on 14 with Nigel Kernohan third on 13 points. (4) David Kennedy 12 (5) John Maxwell 10 (6) Tommy Wilson 9 points.

Saturday 9th July Ras Loughguile classic 65 miles road race for A2 and A3 seniors and women. Registration takes place at the Millennium centre on the Lough Road from 10am, for the 11am start.

Sunday 10th July Ras Loughguile for A4 seniors and youth categories, same HQ but this time with a 10.30 am starting time. Ballymoney cycling club are the organisers, contact Maurice McAllister 07707 088 396

Sunday 10th July Tommy Givan Ulster 50 miles time trial championships. This event will be held at Woodgreen with a 9am starting time. Maryland wheelers are the organisers and, as it is a championship, club colours must be worn to qualify for team championship medals. Race secretary is Gerry Lundy 07764 349 736.

Ballymena Road Club have a race free week this week because of the Twelfth holidays. The McQuigg cup 50 miles time trial which had to be postponed on 22nd June has now been re-scheduled for Monday 18th July at 6.45pm, while the 15 miles Australian pursuit race at Ahoghill will be held

on Wednesday 20th July. The youth section also have an event that same night when they hold their 10 miles Australian pursuit at the same venue, both events have a 7pm starting time.

The chief marshall for the Ahoghill APR is Brian Geddis and he will be assisted by Jim Doherty, Trevor Thompson, Stephen Emma and Peter Smyth and Lori Phillips.

This is the final round of the three race mini series which Harry Thompson leads after the first two rounds. He has 14 points, Alan Blair and Steven Carruthers are equal second on 10 points with Tom Douds and Steven Workman next on 9 points each. Then it's Simon Taggart, Bobby Currie and Adam Kerr all on 8 points.

Saturday 16th July David McCall foundation charity cycle ride from Lisburn Omniplex 10am, sign-on from 0930 entry at least £10.

Maryland Wheelers are the organisers and they will be taking this bike ride to Ballygally Castle hotel for coffee and scones.

The cost of refreshments is £5 with the remainder of the entry fee being donated to the foundation, which is currently supporting youth cycling and women's Cycling in Ulster.

Maryland are hoping for a good turn out from all clubs and they have planned different groups catering for varying abilities with all groups paced at a controlled speed.

Changing and shower facilities are available at the Leisureplex.