

## **Brennan and Taggart just fail to beat Dempsey at Loughguile.**

Ballymoney cycling club staged their “Rás Loughguile” races at the weekend.

There was some success for Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – riders in Saturday’s senior A2 and A3 category race when Matthew Brennan and Simon Taggart made a late bid to catch the six rider breakaway group who were 3 minutes 50 seconds ahead at the start of the “mountain loop”

Matthew Brennan gives his account of how his race went.

”Saturday’s race started with seven and a half laps of a 6.6 miles circuit, then, on the last half lap we turned off the circuit and on to the “mountain loop” as it was called. This was 15 miles of tough climbing and took us past the reservoir and on to Orra.

Earlier in the race a break of 6 riders had pulled out a gap of 3 minutes 50 seconds, so by the bottom of the climb I thought the race was over for me. I attacked and was away by myself for a few miles, before being joined by a few riders on the descent. Starting the main climb, up to Orra, Simon Taggart bridged across and to my amazement we started catching riders from the breakaway group.

By the bridge at Orra there was only one rider ahead, the eventual winner Jonathan Dempsey (East Antrim), who still led by 40 seconds.

Simon and I worked hard together and soon were alone trying to catch Dempsey. By the finish I was only 11 seconds off Dempsey, with Simon third at 13 seconds. We worked well together and I was very happy with my result and the work Simon and I put in together.”

Result (1) Jonathan Dempsey (East Antrim) 3 hours 6 minutes 11 seconds

(2) Matthew Brennan (Ballymena Road Club) at 11 seconds (3) Simon

Taggart (Ballymena RC) at 13 seconds

## **Currie has fastest time for six seasons**

It was back to business as usual for Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists last week when the Gardiner cup 10 miles time trial took place on the A26 Lisnevenagh Road course on Wednesday night.

There was a total turnout of twenty seven riders although sixteen of these were from visiting clubs and the Ulster women’s association had a round of their time trial league in conjunction with the BRC event.

Ryan Currie continued his comeback with his fastest 10 miles time since 2005. Ryan recorded 22 minutes 09 seconds to top the BRC club race result.

First season club member Peter Smyth was second fastest with a time of 23 minutes 22 seconds.

This was a remarkable performance from Peter who rode his first club race, a 10 miles time trial on 20th April this year, when he clocked 27 minutes 39 seconds. He recorded 27.40 on 18th May and then showed great progress during June resulting in his PB on Wednesday. This gave him a handicap nett time of 19 minutes 42 seconds, which won the handicap section and the Gardiner cup.

Peter has also increased his lead in the time trial handicap league. Another newcomer, 16 year old Connor Young, was taking part in his first club race and he recorded an excellent time of 24 minutes 29 seconds.

Results BRC fastest times (1) Ryan Currie 22.09 (2) Peter Smyth 23.22 (3) Derek Dougan 23.26 (4) Adrian Kerr 23.38 (5) David Kennedy 24.24 (6) Connor Young 24.29 (7) Louise Fullerton 24.55 (8) Leo McCavana 25.13 (9) Bobby Currie 25.21 (10) Stephen Smyth 25.40 (11) John Maxwell 25.50  
Handicap results (1) Peter Smyth 19.42 (2) Stephen Smyth 21.47 (3) Leo McCavana 22.51 (4) Connor Young 22.59 (5) Bobby Currie 23.11 (6) Ryan Currie 23.26

Visitors (1) D McCartney (Roe Valley) 21.31 (2) D Heagney (East Tyrone) 21.43 (3) S Stockton (Madigan) 22.01 (4) J Mullan (Roe Valley) 22.30 =(5) and (6) A Steele (SIS) and P Cole (Roe Valley) 22.32 (7) G Seffen (East Tyrone) 22.56 (8) J Hunter (North Down) 23.08 (9) W Orr (Ards) 24.22 (10) E McGoldrick (Bann Valley) 25.38

BRC handicap league. Wednesday's race was the sixth round of the nine race handicap league series. Peter Smyth has a total of 22 points with Ryan Currie second on 15 (3) Nigel Kernohan 13 (4) David Kennedy 12 = (5) and (6) Bobby Currie and John Maxwell 10 points each.

The next round will be the McQuigg cup 50 miles time trial on Monday 18th July.

Ulster women's association time trial.

Louise Fullerton takes Round 6 of the Bikeworks UWA TT League

On what looked like a very wet beginning to the evening it turned into a perfect night for time trialing with some personal bests recorded at Woodgreen.

Louise Fullerton (Ballymena Road Club) registered her third win of the series with a time of 24 minutes 55 seconds, which was her best 10 miles time of the season.

Louise Togneri (NDCC) took second place in her first Bikeworks UWA time trial with a PB time of 25.39. Gillian Orr (Ards CC) came in third, with another personal best of 26.09 (4) Kelly Donnelly (Spires CC) 27.04 (5) Bernie McGribben (Carn Wheelers) 28.02 (6) Karen Hull (Phoenix) 28.28

The league couldn't be closer, with two races to go, as both Louise Fullerton and Mary Hunter (Dromara) are tied with three wins each.

The next round is a 10miles TT, on 10th August at Woodgreen, starting from 7pm. The final round is on 17th August when a 25 miles time trial also takes place at Woodgreen.

The Ulster Road Race Championships took place on the Doagh, Connor, Tardree, Parkgate circuit last weekend.

Ballymena Road Club's best result came from Matthew Brennan who was the defending junior champion. Matthew finished in second position this time, another excellent performance.

2011 Results Senior (1) Conor Murphy (Eurocycles) (2) Connor McConvey (XMTB) (3) Sean Downy (Cotes D'Amour)

Women (1) Heather Wilson (Maryland) (2) Val O'Neill (Phoenix) (3) Claire Oakley (WXC Mountain Bike Team UK)

Juniors (1) Kyle Cole (Roe Valley) (2) Matthew Brennan (Ballymena RC) (3) Cormac Clarke (Newry)

Veterans (1) Jonathan Dempsey (East Antrim) (2) Stephen Harkens (Madigan) (3) Chris Meenan (Phoenix)

#### Calendar

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists don't have a club race this week because of the annual twelfth holidays.

However Bann Valley have a 10 miles time trial on their Kilrea road course on Tuesday 12th July from 7pm.

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. Changing and shower facilities are available at

the Leisureplex.

McQuigg cup 50 on Monday 18th July.

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.

Friday 22nd July until Sunday 24th July Portaferry three day stage race. This event is promoted by Ards cycling club and organised by Bronagh Kirk 028 9146 8990. All the stages take place from Portaferry.

Nine Glens will be a formidable challenge for tourists.

Sunday 24th July. The Ballymena Road Club – Scott Roof Tiles - touring section will hold their annual Nine Glens Challenge tour.

This event will start from Glenarm at 10 am sharp and follow a tough course which will take in all nine of Co Antrim's famous Glens.

There is a £5 entry fee donation which includes the well earned lunch stop at Cushendun where tea and light refreshments will be provided. The tour will finish at the Silvercliffs holiday complex at the top of North Street. The entry fees will be donated to the Chernobyl Children's appeal. The club's events' vehicle will leave from Rex Bonar house at 9am; there are limited places so please book your space if you wish to travel.