

## **Road club riders in action at Ahoghill**

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists resumed their club race programme this week after a “free week” last week because of the annual twelfth holidays.

This week will, however, be very busy on both the racing and touring fronts. The postponed Sam McQuigg cup 50 miles time trial event was rescheduled and due to have taken place on Monday night 18th July, weather permitting, (details next week)

Then tonight Wednesday 20th July the third and final round of the Australian pursuit series takes place at Ahoghill. This 15 miles event will start on the Portglenone road at it's junction with Glebe road. The course then follows a route down to the bottom of Tully where it's then a left turn and on to the long uphill stretch of the Largy road.

At kilnock the riders turn left and negotiate the fast, twisty, downhill stretch to Whiteside's corner before turning left again and the final three miles back to Ahoghill, where the finish is near the 30mph speed limit signs.

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.

Last weeks results.

BRC rider Colin Scullion finished fifth in Sunday's A4 race at the Ras Loughguile events, Stephen Walsh of Carn Wheelers was the winner.

Result A4 race

(1) Stephen Walsh (Carn Wheelers) 2 hours 17 minutes 31 seconds (2) Ronnie Kidd (Bann Wheelers) (3) Gary Jenkins (East Tyrone) (4) Andrew Torrens (BW) (5) Colin Scullion (BRC) (6) Michael Carroll (Bann Valley)

Ulster 50 Miles Time Trial Championship and Tommy Givan Memorial Sunday 10th July, Old Moira road course at Lisburn.

## Results

(1) Adam Armstrong (Eurocycles) 1hour 50 minutes 45 seconds (2) Mark Greer (Maryland) 1.50.51 (3) Stephen Harkens (Madigan) 1.54.35

Matthew lies second.

Matthew Brennan's recent second place in the Ulster junior road race championships has moved him into equal second place in the annual Ciclisport.com Weefoot Trophy competition.

After the Championship Matthew has amassed 13 points which is the same as Ian Inglis (Curran) and only two points behind the leader Daniel Stewart (Ards). Only 3 points separate the top four juniors: the next event in the league is the Madigan GP on 6th August.

League (1) Daniel Stewart (Ards) 15 points (2) Matthew Brennan (Ballymena RC – Northstone) and Ian Inglis (Curran Racing) 13 points each (4) Kyle Cole (Roe Valley) 12 (5) Danny Hunter (Errigal) 8 points.

## Calendar

Wednesday 20th July BRC Australian Pursuit Race Ahoghill 7pm.

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.

The riders start with the ascent of Glenarm to Ballyvaddy and then the descent of Glencloy to Carnlough. Next it's around the Coast road to Waterfoot before the near 6 miles climb up Glenariff Glen to Parkmore. The descent of Glenballyemon takes the group to Cushendall. Then it's on to Glencorp before turning left on to the toughest of the climbs up Glenann to Orra Lodge.

After regrouping the bunch have a fast technical descent of Glendun to Cushendun and the well earned lunch stop. Tea and light refreshments will be provided. Approximately 40 miles will have been covered by this point with the final 30 miles taking the group back out on to Glencorp and over the viaduct and the climb to Ballypatrick forest.

Once into Ballycastle the group then tackles Glenshesk towards Armoy before turning right on to the notoriously steep Stroan Road which leads to the top of Glentaisie and then the final downhill swoop back to Ballycastle. The tour will finish at the Silvercliffs holiday complex at the top of North Street. Entry fee is £5 and this 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.

Tuesday 26th July Bann valley Lisnagrot road race at Kilrea 7.15pm.

Wednesday 27th July. Ballymena Road Club cyclists will hold a new event next Wednesday with the introduction of an additional round to the road racing league series. Race secretary Hugh McCullough has added a 20 miles handicapped road race to bring the series up to a total of eight rounds. A rider's best scores from seven of the eight rounds will count towards the league. This is to accommodate those who may have missed out because they were on marshalling duties.

This new "short circuit" race takes in Randalstown on the Ahoghill road, Branch road and Portglenone road. The chief marshal is Tommy Wilson and he will be assisted by Louise Fullerton, Michael Thompson, Hazel and Dermot Hughes, Jim and Jason Burns and Murray Young.

Chief marshal Tommy Wilson leads the road racing league series after the first four rounds having 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.