

“Blair International” Red Hand Trophy this Saturday.

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – will hold their annual Blair International Transport, Red Hand Trophy road race this Saturday 14th May, at Broughshane. This year’s race again forms part of the Slane cycles, Ulster classic road racing league series.

Racing will commence from the Broughshane community centre on the Knockan road at 11 am.

From there it is a hilly start out to Rathkenny and Clough before heading on for Loughguille and Armoy.

Then it’s down Glenshesk to Ballycastle before the climb to Ballyvoy and on up the hill to Ballypatrick forest and on past the Vanishing Lakes.

A fast descent then follows which takes the riders over the Glendun viaduct and on to Cushendall.

Then it’s around the coast road to Carnlough before the final climb up Glencloy and on in through the Braid to the finish back at Broughshane, where the leaders are expected at approximately 1.25pm

Alan Blair’s generous sponsorship ensures a winners prize of £100 and also there are prizes for the first six as well as the “unplaced” second and third category seniors and lady.

In addition to these there are also prizes for the first three Ballymena RC riders who don’t pick up a prize in the main list.

As usual a big team of marshals are required to run the race. Please make yourself available to the race organiser, Hugh McCullough, if you are able to assist.

Last year Glen Kinning (East Antrim) took the honours in 2 hours 28 minutes 32 seconds, after a very close contest which saw Ryan Connor in the lead for most of the race before being finally reeled in at the Braid with only 5 miles, of the 64 miles race, still to go.

Workman fastest in BRC 25 miles time trial.

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists held a 25 miles time trial as part of their club racing series at Woodgreen last Wednesday evening.

Conditions, while dry, were a bit breezy and this slowed the nineteen entrants as they raced between Woodgreen Dunsilly and Ballee.

The club’s 2010 time trial best all rounder champion, Steven Workman, has started this season the way he finished the last one - with a win - and Steven topped the club result again this time out.

His winning time was 55 minutes 58 seconds which, while short of his best last year of 54.36, was nevertheless 1 minute 33 seconds faster than Matthew Brennan who recorded a personal best time of 57 minutes 31

seconds. Tommy Wilson was just another 12 seconds slower in third place with 57.43. (4) Ryan Currie 58.37 (5) Adrian Kerr 60.10 (6) Simon Taggart 60.35 (7) David Kennedy 63.28 (8) Nigel Kernohan 64.39 (9) Louise Fullerton 65.16 (10) Martin McKernan 66.29 (11) Bobby Currie 67.19 (12) John Maxwell 68.39 (13) Peter Smyth 69.05 (14) Stephen Smyth 70.18 (15) Beresford Millar 71.04

Visitors (1) Paul Vaughan (Sportactive) 53.38 (2) Simon Stockton (Madigan) 55.09 (3) Martin Robb (Bann Valley) 58.43

Handicap result. Adrian Kerr beat his best time from 2010 (62 minutes 37 seconds) by 2 minutes 18 seconds and he topped the handicap result with a net time of 57.42. (2) Ryan Currie 57.57 (3) Kennedy 58.45 (4) Kernohan 59.04 (5) Brennan 59.14 (6) Peter Smyth 59.57

Steven Carruthers was fastest in the junior 5 miles time trial at the same venue, his time was 12 minutes 22 seconds.

Handicap league. After the first two rounds of the nine race time trial handicap league series Ryan Currie is ahead with 9 points, Adrian Kerr is second on 8 points and Bobby Currie third on 6 points. The next round will be on 18th May when a 10 miles time trial will be held at Woodgreen.

Time trial league

Thursday night's 10 miles time trial league event at Ballybogy was won by Ronan McLaughlin (An Post Sean Kelly) in 21 minutes 02 seconds.

Martin Tohill (Spires CC) was second with 22.23 and Alastair Steele (SIS.com) third on 22.47 (4) Bryan McKinney (Ballymoney) 23.10 (5) Trevor Nixon (Phoenix) 23.18 (6) Jason Henry (Unattached) 23.25 (14) Martin McKernan Ballymena RC 26.41

Ahoghill's Philip Bremner finished sixth in Sunday's Tour of the Mourne road race at Newry.

Results - Tour of the Mourne 2011 - 110 km

(1) Bryan McCrystal (Cuchullainn) 2 hours 30minutes (2) Gary Croy (VC Glendale) @2.05 (3) Desi Foley (Team Basso) st (4) Rory Devlin (North Pole) @2.30 (5) Noel Wilson (East Tyrone) st (6) Philip Bremner (Unattached) @2.30

CALENDAR

Wednesday 11th May H&M Wilson cup 28 miles handicapped road race Slight corner 7pm. This race forms part of the 2011 inter club road racing

league series between BRC, Bann Valley, Carn Wheelers, Bann Valley and Ballymoney and is sure to attract a maximum turnout. Riders are urged to sign on as early as possible to assist with accurate handicapping of the event. All too often we hear of the handicapper being criticised for “getting it wrong” but please bear in mind that everything has to be sorted out literally minutes before the start of the race as there are no pre race entries and everyone just registers on the night of the race.

The marshalls are Richard Wilson, Patsy McGurk, Tommy Mairs, Seamus Butler, Peter Cuthbert and Sean Kelly

Saturday 14th May Blair International transport Red Hand Trophy road race Broughshane 11am

Sunday 15th May. Ballymena road club’s touring section cyclists will hold their annual tour of West Tyrone from Mountfield.

This is one week later than the date shown in the club handbook but has been moved so that several “tourists” who are currently on a cycling trip to Majorca may also take part. The events vehicle will travel to this tour, leaving Rex Bonar house at 8.45am. Please let Richard Wilson know if you wish to book a seat.

Monday 16th May BRC youth section will hold a 2.5 miles time trial from Michelin to the Ecos roundabout and back starting at 7pm.

Tuesday 17th May Bann Valley road race Gortmacrane circuit at Kilrea.