

Simon wins Connor cup at Broughshane.

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists held their annual Sammy Connor cup “scratch” road race over two laps of the Broughshane, Buckna, Sheddings circuit last Wednesday 15th June.



This event is effectively the club’s road race championship as it is the only race on the club calendar which isn’t handicapped and all twenty four entrants went off in a mass start bunch.

Tommy Wilson broke clear at the start of the second lap and he was then joined by Matthew Brennan before Buckna. Simon Taggart too reached the

front and these three riders built up a lead of 40 seconds by the finish at the 30mph signs on the Carnlough road at Broughshane.

Simon Taggart was first home in a time of 49 minutes 58 seconds which was the fastest time since Ryan Connor won in 2005 with 49 minutes 47 seconds.

This was Simon's first club race win and he will collect the Sammy Connor cup for his efforts. The event also heralded the return of Sean Wright to club racing following a long lay off, with a severely broken leg, following a training crash just before Christmas last year. Everyone is delighted to see Sean back to race fitness.

Mark McCullough won the twelve rider's bunch sprint to take fourth place some 40 seconds behind the winner. (5) David Dougan (Slane) (6) Leo McAllister (Slane) (7) Clifford Grant (8) Brian Geddis (9) Ryan Currie (10) Steven Workman (11) Michael Carroll (Bann Valley) (12) Sam Campbell (Bann Valley) (13) Peter Smyth (14) Nigel Kernohan (15) Sean Wright all at 40 seconds (16) Derek Dougan at 4.15 (17) Sean Kelly (Bann Valley) at 4.30 (18) Stephen Smyth (19) David Kennedy at 8.47 (20) Maeve Savage at 15.01 (21) Beresford Millar at 17.25.

Tommy tops the league. Tommy Wilson's third place has moved him into top position in the club's road racing league series for the William Smyth cup. Tommy, who won the Rex Bonar cup road race on the Lisnamurrigan circuit, has amassed 19 points, but it is very close as Simon Taggart and Matthew Brennan are equal second just one point behind with 18 points. Alan Blair, who collected the maximum points in the H&M Wilson cup event at Slaght, is fourth with 16 points David Kennedy is fifth with 12 points while Steven Carruthers is sixth on 9 points.

A rider's best six scores from the seven rounds will count towards the overall result. This means that a competitors league chances aren't spoiled by having to take their turn at marshalling.

Matthew Brennan was holding fourteenth place in the Newry three day race after the first three stages.

Matthew, who was riding for the Cycling Ulster team, and who finished ninth on Friday's opening stage was 1 minute 35 seconds behind race leader Aaron Baines (Team vision racing) going into the final day's action on Sunday.

Calendar.

Ballymena Road Club's McQuigg cup 50 miles time trial which was scheduled for today Wednesday 22nd June has had to be postponed because of the road works on the A26 Lisnevenagh dual carriageway.

This will be the second club race of the season to be disrupted because of road works as last Monday evening's youth section 2.5 miles time trial, from Michelin to the Ecos roundabout, also had to be postponed.

There is a "free" date on Wednesday 13th July on the club calendar which could be used if the road works have been completed.

Monday 27th June BRC youth section 10 miles road race on the Bally Road circuit.

Tuesday 28th June Bann Valley four laps road race Ballynease circuit at Portglenone 7.15pm.

Wednesday 29th June 42 miles Star Trophy handicapped road race 7pm sharp. This event starts on the Carnlough road in Broughshane and covers a tough course to Carnlough, around the coast road to Waterfoot and then up the six miles climb of Glenariff glen before descending through Cargan Martinstown and Rathkenny. The final miles take the riders back to Broughshane along the Ballygarvey road.