

McQuigg cup “50” put on hold.

Ballymena Road Club – Northstone – cyclists were caused to postpone their annual Sam McQuigg cup 50 miles time trial last Wednesday evening because of road works on the A26 Lisnevenagh road. The event has now been rescheduled for Monday 18th July at 6.45pm as the road works are due to end on 11th July. A 10 miles time trial is also on the club calendar for next Wednesday, 6th July, it is likely that this event will have to be rescheduled too with an end of season date the most likely alternative.

The club intends to hold their Star Trophy grand prix of the Glens road race tonight Wednesday 29th June.

The touring section cycled around the route on Saturday morning to check out the course. They noted that resurfacing work is currently underway in Waterfoot where a temporary road surface is in place. Hopefully the finished surface will be completed by Wednesday. In addition to this, work is also due to commence near the top of the ascent of Glenariff. There is signage in place that advises that the road will be closed on 29th and 30th June. At the time of writing I haven't been able to confirm if the closure is just during normal working hours or if it extends through the evening as well.

The only certainty is that the riders are asked to assemble at Houston's mill in Broughshane at 6.30pm for the scheduled 7pm starting time. The exact circumstances should be known by then. There are other alternatives with a shorter Glenarm to Carnlough Glencloy route being an option if the Waterfoot village road surface hasn't been finished.

Carnlough, Waterfoot, Cushendall and then Ballyeamon Glen is another option; time will tell but let's hope that some sort of race can go ahead.

The Star trophy road race is the fourth round of the club series and Tommy Wilson's third place in the recent Sammy Connor cup event has moved him into top position in the club's road racing league for the William Smyth cup. Tommy, who won the Rex Bonar cup road race on the Lisnamurrican circuit, has amassed 19 points, but it is very close as Simon Taggart, who won the Connor cup event, 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 seven scores from the eight rounds will count towards the overall result. The rest of the league is made up of a new event at Randalstown on 27th July: the Clough road race on the mid Antrim 150 motor cycle circuit on 2nd August: The Sammy Gaston cup 25 miles RR at

Glarryford two days later on 4th August. These two road races plus the Sheridan Caldwell memorial Crebilly hill climb on 3rd August form the “Three day race” for the Ballymena Borough council trophy. The final road race of the series is the Will Henry cup 20 miles event at Glarryford on 24th August.

The only club race action last week was the youth section’s 9 miles road race at the Craigs, Cullybackey.

Visiting TSC rider Aaron Swan overcame an 8 minutes handicap to win with a time of 24 minutes 11 seconds. Josh Barr was second 28 seconds behind. (3) Adam Kerr at 1 minute 15 seconds (4) Emma Gordon at 2 minutes 18 seconds.

The youths have a three weeks break in their programme until their next race, on 20th July, which is the 10 miles Australian pursuit event at Ahoghill.

Conor tackles Scrabo

Glen Kinning (East Antrim) won the Ulster hill climb championship for the third successive season at last Tuesday evening’s event at Scrabo near Newtownards.

Ballymena RC’s first year u16 youth member Conor Young finished a very creditable eleventh.

Ulster Hill Climb Championship Results

(1) Glenn Kinning (East Antrim) 5 minutes 48 seconds (2) Cathal Smyth (Phoenix) 5.59 (3) Steven Harkins (Madigan) 6.04 (4) Raymond Dunlop (Lakeland) 6.05 (5) Gareth Murray (Ards) 6.08 (11) Conor Young (Ballymena RC Northstone) 7.04

Conor Young then followed up his hill climb outing by taking an excellent second place in Wednesday night’s Ormeau Park criterium for young riders, which was part of Belfast City Council’s “Two wheels two weeks” festival. Under 16 (1) Conor McAteer (Bann Valley) (2) Conor Young (Ballymena RC) (3) Mark Scott (Maryland Wheelers)

Ballymena Road Club’s Louise Fullerton made the trip to Monaghan to take part in the national 25 miles time trial championship last week only to have her machine fail scrutineering. There was nothing mechanically wrong with the machine but the positional set up didn’t comply with the current UCI regulations and she couldn’t get it adjusted in time for the start. Heather

Wilson's (Maryland) bike also failed but she had a spare machine which she rode to second place. Result (1) Caroline Ryan (Garda CC) 57.31 (2) Heather Wilson (Maryland) 59.06 (3) Jane Kilmartin (Pedales Des Eaux Vives) 59.35

Result of Sunday's Irish road race championships at Scotstown Co. Monaghan for Elite men. (1) Matt Brammeier (HTC Highroad) (2) Dan Martin (Garmin-Cervélo) same time (3) David McCann (Giant Kenda)

Matthew looking forward to Belgium.

Cambridge House student Matthew Brennan is looking forward to a month's racing and training in Belgium, he explains the set up.

"I will be riding for a team called Deschuytter in Belgium. The Directeur Sportive Filip Deschuytter and owner of the team along with Dany Blondeel, of the Belgium project, have made this possible for me. I will be racing during August and sharing a house with some other riders from the team. I will live like a pro, doing my own washing and cooking, however the team will provide mechanical and transport backup to races. I will be racing two or three times a week with the team at big interclubs and open races. The team mainly consists of Belgians with a few Scottish riders coming over to guest ride around the same time as me. This will be great experience and I'm looking forward to it!"



Calendar

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

Wednesday 29th June BRC Star Trophy GP of the Glens road race, Broughshane 7pm sharp. The chief marshall is Hall Booth, who will be assisted by David Kennedy, Brian Currie, Colin Scullion and Owen McLaughlin.

Friday 1st July Banbridge criterium, The Outlet centre, Bridgewater Park Banbridge

Sunday 3rd July Ulster road race championships promoted by Phoenix CC. The course is classed as intermediate, not as hard as Dundrod but harder than Nutts Corner. It takes in the main Ballymena road from Doagh to Steen's corner and then down Carncome road to Connor before a left turn and up the climb past Tardree forest before dropping down into Parkgate. Anyone who rode the old Ballyclare Mayfair events will be familiar with most of the circuit.

There will be three races: The senior race, which will include the junior championship, is open to all Cycling Ulster senior and junior riders. It will be four laps of the circuit, around 65 miles.

The veteran's race is open to all Cycling Ulster veteran riders and will be three laps of the circuit, 50 miles.

The woman's race is open to all Cycling Ulster women riders and will be two laps, 33 miles.

The pre-entry will close on Wednesday 29th June.

Sign-on will be between 9.30am and 10.30am in Need4Speed Indoor Karting on the Kilbride Rd, Doagh (next door to Chain Reaction. Racing starts from 11am.