

Greetings All

Soup and Bun is traditionally a winter series so today the organisers found some winter conditions just to accentuate the value of the soup. It did not rain during the ride but we suspect that any precipitation may well have been white had it eventuated. It was quite painful watching some of the younger set riding without gloves, their circulation is obviously superior to that of the older brigade.

Gloves were not the only items of attire to be left at home. One rider, nameless of course, forgot his bandana and in a "number 8 wire" moment, substituted a pair of undies to pad out the helmet. He still managed a top six place despite this setback.

Justin was left to his own devices when setting the course and his mission was to gain revenge on those not willing to help with this task. There were some very white faces following the recce laps, probably an infection from the white knuckles. There were some pretty hairy descents and one or two took tumbles before conquering the correct technique and lines. It can make a dent in confidence when tumbling down a rocky slope, but a great satisfaction after mastering the beast and adding another string to the bow. Well done to those who overcame. As well as the tricky descents, there were some challenging climbs with tree roots to add to the enjoyment. You don't get that on the Tour de Prance eh !

There was a flatter junior course set out by Justin but despite the young age of some of the riders, this course remained unused.

Bailey and Justin shot off the start line confident that they would master the first rocky slope, Justin soon got past to lead for the rest of the day. He even had a pit stop after lap 4 to ensure that the catering was under control. Bailey almost caught him before setting off on lap 5. Justin calculated that he could possibly fit 8 lap into the sixty minutes but was eleven seconds short when the big hand struck the hour. Bailey maintained second slot with Ant, Sven, Tony and Joe all completing seven laps.

Jack and Sean were impressive in the under 15 category, and Alana fitted in six laps to be first lady ahead of Helen. There were some brave efforts among the very young, with Sam, George and Hugo all opting to ride the grown ups course, closely monitored by dedicated parents.

Again we are indebted to Bill Bristead and family for the use of their property. Bill was generous enough to find an alternative route for us after his stock inconveniently started to have babies, thanks Bill.

Angela Bourke (hope I got your name right) played a blinder with the soup pot putting a smile on lots of faces at the end of the ride. The soup was generously sponsored by Wilkes Resource Management to help round off another great Sunday morning.

Not sure where the August 13th ride will be but will advise as soon as it has been decided.

Lap times attached. O.T.R.

