



THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES 2017

December 7th, 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

Sandwiched between two big Sunday events, and temperatures reminiscent of old school Marlborough summers, restricted this evenings ride to the dedicated. Peter, Michael and Bailey were backing up from the six hour, Alec and Sharn released themselves from their busy schedules, Jack returned from his weekend away, and we welcomed Matt, a new member who has joined us from Whakatane. Blenheim must have prevailed over Whakatane in the annual sunshine stakes so we gain another member.

Post event, the temperature was still reading 27 degrees closing in on 8 o'clock. Peter set a short, interesting course which headed north from the recycle centre, then alongside the Kart track, across the river with fist sized rocks to impede progress, and a return track with options either down a steep bank or more sedately under a gate.

The first four laps were earnest and honest, with Jack and Bailey scrapping for the lead. Bailey opted for the steep descent while Jack chose to duck under the gate. It was unclear which was the better option so the lead changed on the first three laps.

Jack finished lap 4 with no sign of Bailey, "I think his bike broke" was the message from Jack. Alec inherited second spot and then a long gap until Peter came round and said that all the other riders had gathered under a tree for a powwow, maybe to put a spell on the sun, but without success. The sun was relentless, as were Jack Alec and Peter.

Jack finished lap 6 and joined the throng of riders who had gathered at the start/finish, still with less than 30 of the scheduled 50 minutes having elapsed. So it was rest up until Peter came round to the finish and carried on for another lap. This set alarm bells for Jack, obviously recalling the embarrassment of Conders Bend, and he set off in pursuit. He easily caught and passed Peter and completed the lap waiting to see whether Peter would go around again. Relief as Peter pulled in to join the discussion, but Jack had nothing to fear as he was already a lap ahead of everyone else, and secure in first place.

So it was a short lap, a short evening and all the riders will have conserved some energy for Sunday's "King of the Hill" event. Registration for this will be from 9:00 a.m. at the carpark at the top of Redwood Street. Start will be 9:30 and the finish line will be on the Lower Farm Track next to the hay shed. Weather forecast looks to be only slightly cooler, so with a big climb ahead, hydration will be a factor.

Next week we will be back at Conders Bend for the last Thursday ride of the year. Hope you can make it.

O.T.R