



## THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES 2017

November 16<sup>th</sup> , 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

Peter has been busy again. This week he has been working at the MTB park, attending committee meetings, clearing some track here at Conders, all before this Saturday's event at the Sylvan Forest track in Richmond. Good luck Peter, I have heard that this is to be a tough event.

So to showcase his work at Conders, Peter set out a shorter loop which included some of the newer tracks with a new alternative to bypass the section washed away in the flood earlier in the year. Just to keep it exciting, the cut grass etc. had not been removed from the track and hid some items of interest to riders. There were some untidy dismounts but not too much blood or bruising. Most comments and about the course were complimentary and another evening of big smiles was had by all.

Bailey decided to ride out to the venue on a CX bike but he didn't anticipate the howling gusty norwesterly on the last couple of Kms leading up to Conders. With this in mind and the fact that Peter's course did not favour a cross bike, Bailey chose to use the longer loop for a training evening.

The clock was set for fifty minutes and away they went. Jack shot away like a startled jack rabbit and was 30+ seconds ahead after the first short loop. Warren (an attractive name for a jack rabbit) was next in a tight contest with Jimmy before Matt appeared in a clear space. Warren was muttering something about trying to stay on his bike for the next lap. After Matt, Peter and Euan were having a close dual ahead of a bunch led by Alana. She was like the pied piper dragging all the young guns around and so tightly were they packed that some inventive timing was necessary for the numbers missed across the line. Thankfully they had spread out on lap 2 and truth was restored.

Jack the rabbit carried on extending his lead on lap 2 and holding the gap on laps 3 and 4. Warren and Jimmy had settled their argument with Warren getting a break on lap 3 despite collecting a branch in the face close to the finish line. The branch threatened to remove his helmet, but the rider won the argument and was able to press on. Matt was holding station in fourth but Peter was losing ground being passed by Euan, Alana, Luke, Logan and Peter B.

The young guns stopped for a drinks break leaving Alana to concentrate on the task ahead. Suspect she may have been putting in a few hours on the bike. The clue was when hubby turned up with a camera to get a photo to remind him what his wife looked like. Could have the wrong end of the stick here !

On lap 4 Euan, fuelled by the finest hops, managed to get ahead of Matt who had been relying on the grape for sustenance. Alana was firmly established in 5th, with Helen

and Steph joining her in the female category. Three laps was enough for Helen allowing Steph to pick up the silver by completing four laps.

The boys were having fun and more drinks breaks with Luke eventually prevailing over Sam, Logan and Oli.

Then we came to the end of lap 5. The 50 minutes was not up but a few had decided to not to continue and gathered next to the finish line. Jack was the quickest to complete 5 laps and settled down for a chat. Then wily old fox Warren arrived at the finish with almost a minute left to run. Without hesitation he started lap 6 and was well away before Jack realised the implications. Once again Jack was startled and gave chase. It was a thrilling finish but wise old Warren hung on in there and crossed the line just ahead of Jack. Awesome fun. Warren immediately checked his pulse rate which was off the scale and claimed his first top step on the podium. Jack learned another lesson which will serve him well as he exploits his undoubted talent in the future.

So another good night with a better turnout and some gusty dusty stuff to tickle the windpipe and eyeballs of those who suffer. Not sure about next week yet, Peter would like to have a working bee at the MTB park but is as yet unsure whether we will be allowed access. Plan B is to have another ride somewhere, so keep an eye on FB and I will try to keep you informed if I hear anything.

Lap times attached.

O.T.R.