



## THURSDAY NIGHT RIDES 2017

November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

Report by Ron Milbanke

Big smiles all round (almost) after this technical test. From the western side of the river the track headed north amongst the trees and some tricky rocky bits and dry river crossings. There were incidents but those who survived unscathed were full of praise and pride at their latest conquest.

Just 11 riders set off on this short lap, three regaled in Cycle World attire and looking very swish. Must be pretty slippery material because Brendon headed the field in a tight bunch of four after lap 1. Jack was close on his wheel with Bailey and Merrick settling in for the battle ahead.

Merrick claimed second slot on lap 2 with Jack and Bailey hanging in there just a few seconds back. Bailey had a big crash on lap 3 and thought that he may have brought Merrick down too, but Merrick stayed upright and Bailey made his way slowly back to the finish after hitting his head/helmet and retired for the evening. Cam also had a wee off on lap one and was enduring some pain to his left thigh area. He fought on for several laps before eventually becoming sensible and also retiring for the night.

Brendon established a break and increased his lead on each lap with Merrick also clear in second. Third place was becoming interesting with Jack gradually being worn down by Ian who again seemed to get quicker as the race went on. He got past Jack on lap 7 and held on to third for the fifty minute duration, but then Jack continued on after the time limit just to prove that he could.

Warren was next with 9 impressive laps and he gets the prize for biggest smile after the race, just loved the tecky stuff. Peter was remarkably resilient after his ten hour relay in Timaru and showed the benefits of a good recovery process. He held on for an extra lap after trailing Euan for 7 laps, Euan hearing the call of the ale fairy and rushing off into the sunset.

Logan was also guilty of smiling alot and falling off. He profited from the technical experience and will be back stronger next week.

Alana was the sole lady missing, Ange and Donna but also enjoying the course. She will be happy next week on her home track at Conders Bend.

It was a great evening weather wise with just the wind being a little annoying early on. This is great fun and unfathomable as to why the numbers are so low thus far. It is very social with a great group of riders enjoying each others tales and lies. Would be great to see a few more faces at Conders next week, registration from around 6:15 for a 6:45 start.

O.T.R.

