

CLEVELAND WHEELERS EVENING SERIES REPORT 2013

The 2013 Evening Series of Club time trials used the Seamer course once again, after a few years away due to the condition of the road surface close to the wind farm between Seamer and Hilton. For most this was a welcome return to the old favourite. The events were blessed this year with more appropriate weather for racing having endured the wettest season for many a year in 2012! This is reflected in the numbers turning up week on week, with 570 rides being completed with an average of 34 riders per round. It was also particularly good to see so many new members coming along and having a go. That is the beauty of time trialling! It is a race against yourself and the clock first and foremost.

Results.

The overall men's scratch competition was closely fought on a weekly basis by the slim-line Dave Kirton and the already slim Graeme Tate. There was never more than a hand full of seconds in it however Dave Kirton edged it in the final count. There was always great anticipation when the results were disclosed at the end of each night. Special mention must go to Adam McManus who very much gate crashed the party at the top of the leader board with a consistent display of top times. Next year Adam?

In the men's handicapped series it was pleasing to see the competition being fought over by a large group with Richard Danks prevailing from Neil Mentier and Richard Weatherill. The leader board changed almost weekly with your writer at one point being in the top 3 only to slip away in the last couple of events. The late acquisition of a 'proper tt bike' being not sufficient to get back up there! The most serious problem was in the ladies competition, the winner of both the scratch and handicapped was unfortunately initially miss-placed into the men's competition in the final analysis. Sorry Angela! You did indeed win both with a fine season's performance. You were not on your own having gender problems however as one of the men also had a sex change during the season and ended up in the ladies competition! In the scratch it was pleasing to see Tricia Bell take second, in her first year of competing in the evening series, from Kath Blakey and Sandra Main. Angela Ackerley, first: Tricia Bell, second: Kath Blakey Third. Ladies Scratch. In the handicapped competition Sandra Main and Kath Blakey swapped places. The final results there were Angela Ackerley, Tricia Bell, Sandra Main, and Kath Blakey. Ladies Handicap.

Junior Competition.

It was also pleasing to see junior riders coming along to the events, with big leaps in performance coming from all of the youngsters over the course of the season. It is certainly a benefit to young riders when they are ready to compete on the road they quickly progress. Using the handicapping system the result was Paige Mcleod from Ross Turner and Toby Tanfield. With another season they will surely be showing the adults how it's done.

Scratch- age related.

Steven Turner was victorious in the 40/49 group, Robert Lee in the 50/59 section with John Carr taking the 60+ category.

A feature of the evening series is annual interclub competition with Stockton Wheelers over two nights in July. The first evening Stockton's riders join us and on the following Thursday sees our members ride their Long Newton course. It is always a couple of evenings of friendly rivalry. After the first leg at Seamer the result was close however for the Stockton return a number of our riders

rather selfishly went to play on Alp D'Huez thus Stockton ran out comfortable winners by a margin of 2.52. Stockton also booked the village hall in Long Newton for an after event cupper and chat, which was a nice touch. Thanks Stockton.

Thanks.

The 18 events over the season could not happen if one person had everything to do!

Thanks must go to the band of helpers who gave up their time;

Lesley Meadows, Bill Millen and Paul Christon for running events.

Bill Millen for chief timekeeper roll.

Ian Hutchinson for the results service.

Derek George for handicapping each event.

And everyone who turned up to marshal on the night.

THANKS!!

Developments for 2014.

After listening to the views of riders and discussing possible ways forward the following will be the format for 2014.

The Evening series will be known as the **Cleveland Wheelers Seamer Time Trial Series**. It will start mid-April and run with the same number of events as 2013 until mid-August.

The early start in April will for the first two weeks require an earlier start time of 6:30. Riders will be asked to register for the series in the usual way during March and will as usual be expected to marshal an event. As usual only registered riders will be eligible for the series competition. The cost will remain the same at £4 for adults and £3 for under 18s.

The main development is to extend the season with a four week Hill Climb series. This will be separate from the normal time trials. The cost will be same as for the time trials. The rider's best 3 rides will count from the 4, on a position basis. These events will follow on from the time trials, mid-August to mid-September. Riders will register in the usual way for the hill climbs, probably on the same registration form. Marshalls will be required in the same way. The course will be Clay Bank, from a field entrance opposite the garden centre to a point 20 metres before the turn to the car park at the top of the hill. This is a distance of 1.55 miles. Signing on will be in the car park at the top of the hill from 6pm, riders will then make their way down to the start as no cars apart from the timekeeper will be at the start area. The first rider off will be at 6:30. As these events are separate from the time trials they will have their own results, however they will not be handicapped. It is hoped that there might be prizes and a prize giving opportunity on the last evening at a venue to be decided and published.

If anyone would like to help and get involve by running a few nights that would be great. Please contact Mike Cole!

Mike Cole October 2013