

Round 3 of the Stafford Road Club Go-Ride Races from Tackaroo Camp Site - Cannock Chase

A day where the weather threatened, but stayed away for our third Go-Ride race of the season on Cannock Chase. These races are all about everyone having fun, enjoy themselves and go away with a big smile on their faces, but with a little competition thrown in for good measure



All the riders from Round 3 of the Stafford Road Club Go-Ride Race at the Safety Briefing

For these races, the format is all dependant on who turns up and with the weather over the last few days, there was always a chance that it might have only been a few, but on the day, we had 21 riders turn up to give it their best.

Once everyone had signed in, it was decided to go with an 8 and under group and a 9 and over, which split the group more or less in half. The race format was firstly a two lap race, with staggered starts, and endurance race and then a relay race.

After the safety briefing and a course walk, which split for the two different categories and pointing out the various features on the track, it was time to start the races

8's and Under

The first race that was held was for the 8's and Under and consisted of 2 laps, which was contested by thirteen riders. The riders were all lined up on the start line in their respective age groups, so the youngest riders on the front row, up to the 8 year olds on the back row. The riders were set off at different times to give every-

one a better chance.



The first wave of riders set off from the Start / Finish line in the 8's and Under race



The second wave of riders set off from the Start / Finish line in the 8's and Under race



The final wave of riders waiting at the Start / Finish line in the 8's and Under race

All the riders made great starts and made there way around the first part of the course, which

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was mainly a fast and flowing section, with a large chicane in it, giving plenty of overtaking opportunities if someone got their gearing incorrect on the slower corners.

From here, we took them into the bomb hole, down a small drop, ninety degree bend and then out up a climb to the start finish straight.

Again with the ninety degree bend, all the riders took it really well, as there were a couple of roots that could have caught them out if they hadn't have been in control. We were also treated to some really good overtaking manoeuvres that took the rider on a wider line where there were no roots, but their speed could be carried through and off up the climb.

Gearing was another important factor to get right on the climb and on the second laps, all the riders had got it sorted and showed great determination.

The first race was won by Harry, with Yanik in second and Jack in third.

For the second race, instead of doing a number of laps (remember the Over 8's race in the last round!) we went for a time of 8 minutes, to see who could do the most laps. This time the grid-ding was done on the reverse positions of the previous race, again with a staggered start. The riders were told to pace themselves as it may be that if someone goes off really quickly, that they may wear themselves out near the end.



Riders in the bomb hole battling it out

Again, all the riders handled the course really well, but there were a few tired legs towards the end of the race, but the determination was still there, with the constant lookout for passing opportunities and race lines. The second race was again won by Harry, on a bike that he had only received 20 minutes before the event, with Isaac taking second place and Kit taking third.

After adding up all the scores, the overall winner with Gold was Harry, with Isaac in Silver and Jack in Bronze. It was really close between second and fourth, with Kit narrowly missing out on a podium.



Isaac, Harry and Jack collecting their Silver, Gold and Bronze medals respectively

Well done to all the riders who took part and we hope you enjoyed your day!

9's and Over

Next up to race were the 9's and Over, who were riding a longer course with a few more technical elements in it. For the first race, there were 8 riders lining up on the course and again the age of the rider was used to determine the starting row, with the second race also being on age, but they could pick their position on the start line.

As with the 8's and Under, the first race was run over two laps with the start again being staggered in the age groups.

The start of the course followed the same as the previous races, but once into the bomb

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hole, the rider headed left down a descent, with two choices of line near the bottom, with a tight right hand turn at the bottom to start a long climb, which widened and then closed up again giving an overtaking opportunity. This then led into wide sharp right, with a small drop and into a small climb and onto the start finish straight.



The Starting lineup for the g's and Over race (race faces included I think!)

The front row of the grid set off, with a delay before the second row were allowed to set off.

Again on the first big climb, gears was an issue with some of the riders using a too high gear, meaning that they struggled a little, or didn't carry much speed, which on the second lap was a lot better. The riders all managed the next right turn really well, but is where we saw quite a few overtaking opportunities again, through carrying speed around the outside, with some succeeding and some that didn't with not being quite quick or close enough to make stick. With plenty of overtaking happening in the race, there was a photo finish at the end with Ben just pipping it in 1st, Nye narrowly missing out in 2nd and Enys in 3rd.

The second race was again an 8 minute duration, as we were running out of time and wanted to run a relay race at the end.

As per the previous race, the riders started in the reverse position of where they finished in the previous race and with staggered starts.

The racing this time was a little slower as they

were all pacing themselves, but there was still all the action with overtaking going on. It was the climb that took the most out of the legs, but there was a small recovery that the riders could use on the short descent to get their breath back and all riders gave it their all on the final run in.

The second race finished with Ben in 1st, Amelia in 2nd and Nye in 3rd

After totting up all the points from both rounds, Ben claimed Gold, with Nye in Silver and Amelia in Bronze. Again there was only a single point between third and fourth with Enys missing out.



Nye, Ben and Amelia collecting their Silver, Gold and Bronze medals respectively

Well done to all the riders who took part and we hope you enjoyed your day!

Relay Race

The final race of the day is always the relay race, as this gives the chance for a lot more riders to win a race and also to cheer on their team mates to give their riders a boost.

The teams were split into three and placed on the start line, based on their ability, to try to make the races as fair and close as possible.

All the riders were going to do a shortened course that allowed for fast racing, the ability for everyone to see their team mates to cheer them on and opportunities to shortcut the course if needed ;-). At one point two of the teams were well ahead of the third team, but a

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mix up at the final turn and with the shortcut employed, it closed up the teams. Team 1 (closest on the photo) won, but everyone looked to enjoy the short sprint for their team around the track



All the riders at the start of the Relay Race

A big thank you go out to the parents for bringing your children along and to the riders for some great racing and even better cheering!

Hopefully everyone had a great morning of racing and we look forward to seeing you all at the following races: -

Sat 13/07/19 [SRC, MTB XC Go-Ride series, Race 4](#)

Sat 14/09/19 [SRC, MTB XC Go-Ride series, Race 5](#)

Sat 12/10/19 [SRC, MTB XC Go-Ride series,](#)

Please keep an eye on the Facebook page, which will carry all the required information, closer to the race date.

And Finally

A massive thank you goes to Laura, Tim, Nye, Kit, Ewan, Enys and Ben for helping with the laying out of the course in the morning, which meant that we could offer a much longer course than first anticipated for both sets of riders.

A big thanks also go to the parents at the end who helped dismantle the course, meaning that we could all get away that little bit quicker.