

Round 4 of the Stafford Road Club Go-Ride Races from Tackaroo Camp Site - Cannock Chase

Saturday 13th was our 4th Go-Ride Race Day of the Season. 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

For these races, the format is all dependant on who turns up, but we had set up a course that could be adapted to suit all riders, which had plenty of overtaking opportunities and a technical section in the middle, for both groups. On the day, we had 27 riders turn up to give it their best, with quite a few new faces coming to have a go.

Once everyone had signed in, it was decided to go with under 8's group and an 8 and over group, which split the group more or less in half.

For the Under 8's, due to the size of the course, the race format was firstly a one lap race, and then a two lap race, both on the smaller course

For the 8's and over, the format for both races was 3 laps of the larger course, taking in a bigger climb

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

Under 8's

The first race that was held was for the Under 8's, which was contested by thirteen riders, with age ranges from 3 to 7. The riders were all lined up on the start line, similar to the starts that the riders would get in other races, where they are told that the whistle will sound to start the race in the next 20 seconds.

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



3 Year Old Charlotte in the Bomb Hole for the Under 8's Race



Emily in the Bomb Hole for the Under 8's Race

then out up a climb, which was similar to the last Go-Ride race.

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

From here, the riders were taken into another section where they could stretch their legs, with a flowing section that had a 180° switch back and a few 90° corners, all on grass, which tends to make things a lot more heavy going, for a short sprint to the line

The first race was won by Yanik, with Conrad in second and Logan in third.

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For the second race, we increased the number of laps to two. This time the gridding 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.

The second race was again won by Yannick, with Logan taking second place and Conrad taking third. Georgina, Arizona, Joshua and Emily all did really well too, as they finished a lot better in the second race, compared to the first, which shows that they had thought about the longer distance and paced themselves really well.

After adding up all the scores, the overall winner with Gold was Yannick with two wins, with Logan in Silver and Conrad in Bronze. It was really close between second and third, with Conrad missing out on Silver due to Logan coming second in the longer race.



Conrad, Yannick and Logan after collecting their medals

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

8's and Over

Next up to race were the 8's and Over, who were riding a longer course with a few more technical elements in it. For the first race, there were 14 riders lining up on the course. For the second race, as some had got into position as soon as the Under 8's race had finished, we de-

ecided to reverse the grid, to make things a bit more interesting and give the people who finished near the back in the first race a better chance.

The first race was run over three laps with the start of the course following the same as the U8's race, but once into the bomb 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, a tight right turn into the bigger



Kit giving it air over the "hump"

drop, over a hump and into the small climb. From here the riders followed the same course as the U8's over the grassed section of the course to the Start / Finish line.

The riders set off from the start, where at the first corner a lesson was learnt that three riders can not go into one, with Ben and Kit ending up on the floor, pushing both of them to the back of the pack.

Again on the first big climb, gears was an issue with some of the riders using a too high gear, meaning that they struggled, or didn't carry much speed, which on the second and third laps was a lot better. The riders had a short opportunity to overtake before the sharp right into the drop and then the small climb. There was plenty of overtaking happening in the race, and

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by the decent on the second lap, Ben had made his way into first place, with Amelia, Harry, Lewis and Tobias all being within seconds of each other. The race finished with Ben in first place, Lewis in second and Harry in third.



Riders taking different lines from the drop to the hump

The second race was again an 3 lap race, as again we were running out of time and wanted to run a relay race at the end.

As stated earlier, the riders started in the reverse position of where they finished in the previous race to mix the grid up.

The grid was a little smaller for this race as Charles on his way to the start line got a puncture, with four other riders either sitting out or having to leave due to other commitments.

The racing this time was just as frantic and a lot of overtaking was happening. It was both the climb and the grassed area that took the most out of the legs, but all the riders gave it their all for the whole of the lap.

By the end of the first lap, Ben, Tobias, Harry and Lewis had made their way to the front of the race and again were within seconds of each other. Unfortunately we had another retirement with Oliver bowing out in this lap.

The second race finished with Ben in 1st, Lewis in 2nd and Tobias in 3rd.

After totting up all the points from both rounds and as Ben has raced before at the Midlands

XC, Lewis claimed Gold, with Tobias in Silver and Harry in Bronze. As in the U8's, Tobias pipped Harry to silver as he finished higher in the second race.



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 as we were running over! The relay ebbed and flowed as different riders with different abilities were on the track at the same time. In the end team 2 won, but everyone looked to enjoy the short sprint for their team around the track

Riders who have placed in a National or Regional Race

We want everyone to come along and enjoy the morning of racing, so as we are having more of our younger riders entering competitions and some getting placed, we are still allowing them

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to race, but not to collect a medal, to give the other children a chance of winning something.

With this in mind, over the last three races, we are giving these riders points in line with the UCI scoring system, with the best two out of three races counting, unless there is a tie, where the third race will count (if that doesn't split them, help!!)

The scoring system is 60, 56, 52, 48, 46, 44, 42 etc.

With that, Ben has 60 points (1st Overall) and Amelia has 46 points (5th Overall)

At the end of the final race in our series, first, second and third will be presented with a small trophy.

Nearly there now!

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 final two races, which are: -

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

Sat 12/10/19 [SRC, MTB XC Go-Ride series, Race 6](#)

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

And Finally

A big thanks go to the parents at the end who helped dismantle the course, meaning that we could all get away that little bit quicker, especially as we had overrun a little, oops.