

## Round 6 of the Stafford Road Club Go-Ride Races from Tackaroo Camp Site - Cannock Chase

Saturday 12th October was our 6th Go-Ride Race Day of the Season. Now some may have noticed that there wasn't a report for the 5th event, as the results sheets have disappeared into a giant black hole, never to be seen again, which we can only apologise for. 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 as always, 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 25 riders turn up, again with a few new faces coming to have a go.

Once everyone had signed in, it was decided to go with under 8's group, an 8 to 10 group and over 10's group.

For the Under 8's, the race format was firstly a three lap race, and then a 10 minute race, both on the smaller course

For the 8 to 10 groups and the over 10's, the format for both races was 3 laps for the 8 to 10's and 5 laps for the over 10's, of the larger course, taking in the bomb hole.

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 eight riders. 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 their way around the first part of the course, which was mainly a fast and sweeping section, with a

hairpin corner and a tricky little ninety degree



The Under8's lining up at the start



Ben approaching the ninety degree corner with roots for the Under 8's Race

corner, with a few roots thrown in for good measure. There were a few long straights on the course, giving plenty of overtaking opportunities if someone got their gearing incorrect and started to spin their legs.

The course was kept on the flat, allowing the riders to concentrate on their speed and passing and left out any climbs that had been a feature on previous races.

The course had another sharp turn, which led onto the start finish straight, where gearing in the corner and then out of it is crucial

The first race was won by Yanik, with Ben in second and Stanley in third.

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For the second race, we now did a 10 minute race around the same course. 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 won by Stanley, with Ben taking second place again and Hayden taking third. Unfortunately for two of the riders, they had gone off too quickly at the start and didn't make the end of the race.

After adding up all the scores, the overall winner with Gold was Stanley, with Ben in Silver and Hayden in Bronze. It was really close between first and second, with Ben missing out on Gold due to Stanley coming in first in the longer race.

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



Ben, Stanley and Hayden collecting their medals

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### **8 to 10's**

Next up to race were the 8 to 10's and Over, who were riding a longer course with a few more technical elements in it. For the first race, there were 12 riders lining up on the course.

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 right down a small descent, through (or around) the mud at the bottom, straight into a climb, where at the top the course nar-

rowed with a hairpin right hand turn, which led to another drop, over a hump and onto a short steep climb, before entering the Start/Finish straight.

Again on the first 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 once they found out they had the chance of an uplift, seemed to get worse on the second and third laps! This is something that we definitely need to work on during the training sessions. The riders had plenty of opportunities to overtake with Harry and Isaac keeping very close to each other (in fact, as we found out later, close enough to chat to each other). The race finished with Isaac in first place, Harry in second (which was a photo finish between the two) and Jonathan in third, with all the other riders riding really well over the course.



Jonathan starting to climb up the first "hump"

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The second race was a slightly different affair, which will follow after the report for the Over 10's

### **Over 10's**

It was a smaller grid for the over 10's, with five riders taking part. In this race there were two riders, Amelia and Ben that have raced at the Nationals and the Midlands XC, so as in the other races, they are not allowed to race for medals, just for fun / practice.



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The course again followed the same as the 8 to 10's, but this time there were 5 laps to complete. Kit had stepped up an age category, to give it a go against older riders, which is always good practice for the league races that happen.

The five laps gave all the riders a chance to test out their stamina and pace themselves, as this was probably one of the longest first races that we have held.

All the riders did really well again, with Ben finishing first, Nye in second and Amelia finishing third.



Amelia taking the most direct line, through the mud, just before the "hump"

For the endurance race, this turned into an 8 and over race, but the groupings still remained the same, to keep things fair.

The time was over 15 minutes, so again the riders had to pace themselves, to not burn out near the end.

At the start, the 8 to 10's set off first, with the Over 10's setting off 30 seconds behind.

This meant that there were now 17 riders on the course and that overtaking and line choice was even more important, as well as showing respect to other riders and letting them know if you are overtaking them.

Again, Harry and Isaac were heading the 8 to 10's, but were not sure how much chatting was happening this time, as they were being caught up by Ben in the Over 10's, which kept the rac-

ing frantic, but he still managed to overtake to finish the race first overall.

For the groupings and the 8 to 10's, Harry this time came 1st, followed by Isaac and third was taken by Dylan.

For the Over 10's, Ben was 1st again, along with Nye in 2nd and Chester finishing in 3rd.

For the medals, in the 8 to 10's, Harry pipped Isaac to the Gold medal, as he had finished better in the endurance race, with Isaac collecting Silver and Jonathan collecting Bronze. Well done to all the riders that took part and really well done to the top three.



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

For the Over 10's, Nye collected Gold, for some cracking racing, with Kit coming in 2nd, with him racing in the older group than his age and



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



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Chester collected Bronze.

Now, normally we have a relay race, but events took us over our allotted time and we had other presentations to give out, so we couldn't run the relay, but we hope everyone enjoyed the morning racing and really well done to all the riders who took part!



Jude, Ben and Yanik collecting their Silver, Gold and Bronze trophies respectively



Well done to Scarlett on collecting her British Cycling Jersey

### **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 races which are planned (ish) for next year.

Please keep an eye on the Facebook page, which will carry all the required information, once we have sorted out dates that do not clash with all the other events in the area etc.

### **And Finally**

A big thanks goes out to Lizzie, for providing refreshments for the event, which should have been publicised on the Facebook page, but the Admins were a little slow in approving the post. Fingers crossed this will be a regular feature at the Go-Ride Races as the flapjack was to die for!!!

Goodbye to the races for 2019 and we look forward to starting again in 2020.

As this was the last race, we gave out trophies for those riders in the younger category, that had not just done well in this race, but all the races over this years series and not necessarily won races, but given it their all. Well done to Ben for getting Gold, Jude with Silver and Yanik with Bronze.

The final presentation of the day goes to a club member who again, may not have won a race, but has shown determination and spirit in the racing and may have ridden a section exceptionally well that they may not have had much practice on during the coaching sessions. For that, we have a British Cycling jersey to give out, which this time went to Scarlett