

December 2016 HOP Race Report

Sunday morning saw cool temps for perfect racing weather for the last race of the 2016 CARR Race Calendar. The 4.8km track took in some West Side favourites including the Fast Lane and Kenny's Knob. A great turn out of 29 riders lined up for 60 plus minutes of good pain.

In the Open Male, Tarren Sylvester, Ben Bruce and Laurie Berryman charged to the front the gun. It would settle down to a battle between Tarren and Ben exchanging the lead with Tarren looking the stronger in the first four laps. However a good strategic race plan from Ben saw him take the lead after an attack in the last lap and put a gap into Tarren which he was able to maintain to the finish. Clint Aldridge rounded out the podium for third finishing strongly in the last two laps (his fastest was his last!) despite struggling with back pain.

In the Open Female saw a battle between George Landy and Nicola Jelinek, George took the lead from the start and was able to build a steady lead over Nicola. The quality of these two riders is evident in them placing 5th and 6th overall! Emma Shearer completed the Open Female podium after her own battles discussed below, watch out for her next season.

As is often the case some of the best battles where not at the pointy end of the field. Adrian Basso thought his race was done, finishing with four laps until a strong finishing Paul Darvodelsky slowed long enough to find out if there was time to go out again for a fifth lap. With one minute forty left, he powered off. If anyone asks if Adrian Basso has one more lap left in his legs, the answer is YES. With a few colourful words he was back on the bike charging off after Paul, with Laurie Berryman on a soft rear tyre, not to left out, joining the pursuit. This was repeated a minute later with Emma Shearer, James Tudor and Josh Markham sprinting to finish their last lap 30 seconds under the hour, thinking their race done. There was some exchanged glances after discovering there was 20 seconds left on the clock, and suddenly they were all back on their bikes and charging off for their last, last lap!

Congratulations to all riders for great racing on Sunday and the spirit shown by all out there. Looking forward to see more next year!

First events on the Calendar for next year will be the Frantic February short course series, 20 minutes plus one lap on the Dusty Demons Track. This will happen every Wednesday in February from 6pm. If you raced or watched the Masters event in October you'll know its great fun and will be a great way to blow the pipes out after the Festive Season.