

WWCC Roller Championship Friday 10th February 2017

This year the 'Wheelers' Roller Contest again saw a considerable spread of ages and abilities taking to this 'Ride to Nowhere'.

On a bitterly cold night with snow flakes beginning to fall, the competitors were glad to be in the shelter of the Aldersley Village Sports Hall.

The traditional distances were adhered to making reference to previous years easily comparable. All the youth riders (under 16 years old) rode a Flying Start 250m and a Standing Start 500m whereas the Juniors, Seniors & Veterans had to tackle twice those distances. You may not think that the distances and corresponding time in the saddle is very long, unless of course you have actually done this form of racing! You very quickly realise that roller racing can bring you to your knees in no time at all and is not to be taken on lightly.

The youth riders went first and it was clear to all right from the start that George Mills-Keeling was the man to beat. His total time of 38.31 seconds over the two rides was exactly 3 seconds ahead of second placed Dan Morris with Alex Hall a very close 3rd. The fastest girl was Sophie White despite having one or two technical difficulties she was a comfortable victor over Beth Harris.

The Under 14's title went to Will Farmer ahead of Alex Ward and the U/12's winner was Tom White with a time that would have earned him runner spot in the U/14's category. Little Oliver Ward took his courage in both hands and smiled his way to the U/10's win.

Stepping up to the 'Senior' event we saw four Junior riders (16-18 years old) taking on two of the clubs veterans, both of whom are former champions. Seb Bacon lead the junior challenge using his experience as last years under 16 Champion. Although he has the fastest Junior and having clocked the second fastest 1,000m time it was still not enough to topple the two elder statesmen. Steve White a three times former winner was over a second faster than Robin Kyte after the flying 500m ride and looked to be set for a fourth title. However, Robin summoned up all his experience from 16 previous victories, to pull back the deficit and even open up a 1.65 second on Steve over the 1,000m ride, so clinching the honors yet again.

All the riders showed exemplary skills that have been honed over recent 'Roller Sessions', held in lieu of track training during the recent cold weather. Skills that will enable these rider to handle their machines with the utmost competence when they do venture out on the winter roads.

The only casualty of the evening was the ageing equipment, which will need a thorough overhaul before it is used again, if only that were an option for some of the riders!

Best regards Robin.