

Wolverhampton Wheelers Track League 2nd July 2014

Freewheelers by *Joseph Lister*

This week's Freewheelers racing turned out to be eventful right from the start. Unfortunately, Reuben James took a nasty fall during the warm up, which led to him sitting out on most of the evenings racing. The first race was a Handicap involving all riders. Mia Anslow and Alfie Austin closely followed by Reece Morris and Ferne Roberts. Alfie managed to ride Mia off of his wheel and made it to the line to claim six points. Mia rode in second with Ethan Roberts third. The B's Points race was the next race of the evening with Alex Ward leading out the first lap and Noah Thomas and Ferne Roberts making a break. Harry Sandland succeeded in closing the gap on the lead riders, however he was not able to follow Alex when he made another attack to take the win, followed by Noah Thomas in second and Harry in third place.

The A's Points Race was not as spread out as the B's with Will Perry sitting comfortably on the front of the group for the first few laps. With a lap and a half to go, Tom White made a break along with Ethan Roberts. Ethan took the next five points leaving Sam Anslow and Will Perry fighting to the line for the next points. Ethan won, adding another six points to his lead in the overall rankings. Will Perry took second and Sam in third. The Points Race was followed by an Italian Pursuit. The home straight team (Ben Price, Noah Thomas, Harry Sandland and Mia Anslow) took an early lead and held on all the way to the line. Alex Ward tried to make up lost ground during the last lap however, unfortunately it was too little too late. During the A's Italian, once again the Home straight (Ethan Roberts, Sam Anslow, Jacob Thomas, Isaac Stephenson, Grace Lister and Jack Andrews) took an early lead. They held their lead all of the way to the line with each rider claiming six points. Ollie Baker and Will Perry almost brought the teams back level with two laps left, however the attempt came too late and the team had to settle for five points each.

The final event of the evening was a Scratch race. After crashing in the warm up, Reuben James decided to ride which turned out to be worthwhile. He made a break, leaving Alex Ward desperately trying to catch him. Unfortunately, Reuben seemed to have tried too hard to make the break and Alex eventually caught him. Alex took the win, whilst Reuben was left sprinting for the line with Noah Thomas. Noah just made it around Reuben in time, however after his crash earlier, Reuben still managed third place and added another four points to his ranking. The A's Scratch race saw Grace Lister attack the group with Ethan Roberts following her. Sam Anslow jumped across the gap to the leading riders who worked together however Grace dropped back and Will Perry led the group to catch Ethan and Sam. The race re-grouped and Tom White seized the opportunity to launch an attack. Coming up to the line Tom looked behind him allowing Ethan and Sam to take first and second place, followed by Will Perry in third and Ollie Baker in fourth. Unfortunately, even after riding the race very well, Tom's glance around cost him several places and he ended up in fifth.

Youth and Senior by *Dave Brookes*

Youth riders scored a major breakthrough tonight in the final handicap race. The full race was extended to 33 laps for this evening's racing and despite the increased distance Youth riders took all the places at the 18 lap Intermediate Sprint. Will Manfield-Yorke was, predictably, first over the line with Matty Lewis second and Joseph Guy third. Fourth place went to Gabriella Homer, fifth to Joseph Lister and sixth to Seb Bacon. Few people in the crowd could have predicted what would happen next as the drama unfolded and several of the Youth riders continued the race. It soon became clear that none of the Senior B riders would be able to catch them. Senior A riders passed Senior B but try as they may could not catch them either as the Youth riders set a blistering pace cheered on by head coach Craig Ansell and most of the crowd. So after 33 laps Matty Lewis came over the line first with first female, Gabriella Homer, in second place and Joseph Guy in third place. Best placed Senior rider, and current League leader, was Jack Escritt who took fourth place.

Will Manfield-Yorke is building a significant lead in the Youth Rankings on 163 points but second placed Matty Lewis challenges him at every race with 143 points. Joseph Guy takes third place with top placed female rider Gabriella Homer in fourth place. Joseph Lister is in fifth place and Seb Bacon lies in sixth position. Melissa Baker, Morgan Petty and Isabelle Cumming are all riding the league for the first time and occupy seventh, ninth and tenth places respectively. Lucy Nelson (Solihull CC) is the highest placed non Wheeler in eighth with Lichfield City CC riders Daniel Cooper and Amy Selibas in eleventh and twelfth places.