

## Ramblers Cycling Club – Omarunui/Swamp Road Race

### 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019

#### **A Grade:**

The race turned into 2 team time trials, after Luke Shaw pushed the pace on the first straight and strung out the whole peloton causing a split. Luke, Max and Charlie were joined by absolute weapon Jaime Campbell to stay in front of the rest for 90% of the race. This left Kirsty, Jason, Darryl and Chris behind. With some sneaky attacks from Kirsty and Jason, it ensured the group moved along quite well. Max Williams won the sprint, and Kirsty won the sprint from their bunch. This moved her back into the lead over Jason Kelly, rumour has it – she is away this weekend so Jason will be hunting those valuable points that she may never get back after missing 1 race!

#### **B Grade:**

Many great mysteries unfolded Saturday afternoon on the Swamp/Omarunui/Korokipo Triangle (aka the Triangle of Eternal Suffering), including but no limited to:

- 1) Why, when your correspondent is planning on rolling along just nicely, having a wee chat and making multiple rude gestures behind Beast Greenwood's back (who perhaps shouldn't have made it known that he now also has rear facing camera), does some sadist (I'm looking at you Attacki Acki) always decide to stand up and go berserk and make everybody sad?
- 2) Why, once this has happened, does some other sadist (\*ahem Woodward ahem\*) decide he enjoyed it so much that he should do it again, but up a wee hill this time?
- 3) Why would a visiting rider (Simon "Rude" Ellison) then further add to everybody's suffering by turning up all strong and launching several (uncalled for) attacks just when everyone (well, some of us) was trying to have a little rest? I thought visitors were supposed to be nice and polite and not try to rip their host's legs off.
- 4) Why, when those of us who may not currently be enjoying peak form are yoyoing off the back of the peloton and offering cash bribes to passing motorists for sticky bottles, do those of us who are feeling sprightly of leg choose to attack at berserk speeds down Korokipo Road instead of rolling back to offer sympathy and maybe a wee push?
- 5) What was a certain unnamed World Champion doing in B? Why did he drag Attacki Acki up the road and add to the misery? Why did Ken not turn up in his big truck and put an end to this madness? Is Ken even responsible for mid race regradings? If not, why not?

Shortly after the World-Champ-Acki-Tow incident commenced your faithful correspondent was rudely spat off the back, but is reliably informed that nothing much of interest occurred past this point. I did however manage to avoid the Great Hansen Shame of the last time B raced this course, and stayed ahead of C grade. I can safely say that I thoroughly enjoyed my solo roll down Swamp Road in to a frigid 30kph headwind, and did not at any stage seriously consider faking a mechanical or finding a nail to run over or perhaps pretending to have an asthma attack.

Anyhoo some bloke called Zane won it (must be a new guy?) and has now retired, "A Bomb" Ashe put another nail in his B grade coffin with second place, and Beast Greenwood continued his stellar

run of recent form with 3<sup>rd</sup> place, and took this great footage with his front camera (the one that didn't record middle aged men acting like naughty schoolboys)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0dWpy-12Hs&feature=youtu.be>

And finally this week, the introduction of a new feature – the B Haiku. A short poem in three phrases capturing the very essence of each race:

*Men and a lady  
Elevated heart rates  
Zane ate all the pies*



#### C Grade:

Two laps around Omarunui Road, Swamp Road and Highway Fifty  
Was the C grade race this week, a race of not too many  
Twelve turned up including long time no see Colin Rafferty  
Lennox Park, that's where the start into a strong south westerly

Ken briefed us at the start line, and reminded us of health and safety  
We took his advice on board briefly, we had the adrenalin pumping  
Up the first little climb and the bunch was still in its entirety  
Down on the other side into Swamp we knew what we had coming

A strong crosswind required this race to be raced smartly  
Heroes including McGrath, McCallum, Hillard and File had other plans  
Putting in massive efforts in the front as we all felt the pain  
Hooker, Weskett, Burnsey, Stevo, Hutchie, Lingie and Rafferty acted swiftly  
That's when I think we dropped Hilary who had Jeremy as company

Onto Korokipo road or highway fifty  
At times we were doing more than fifty  
With the wind behind us riding no more than two abreast  
We were waiting on someone to open up like a beast

Turning left and headwind on to Omarunui  
McGrath, decided he would try and shut the gate  
Opening a lead few hundred metres, he deserves a Tui  
McGrath rode solo almost half the second lap with no mate

Headwind and crosswind on swamp road, we reeled McGrath in  
We were all rotating wanting to get quickly to highway fifty  
Before the turn into Omarunui, Lingie decided to attack with File joining in  
File kept in the front, with Lingie sitting on happily

Now it is time to see who would be joyous or in agony  
Watson, Burnsey, Lingie, Hooker, Hillard all had the chance truly  
Actually every rider was lining up for the victory  
However, it was won by this guy Colin Rafferty...end of Story

#### **D Grade:**

A flat course often draws a crowd and the Swamp Road course was no exception on Saturday with 15 keen starters. The first lap was a little sedate apart from a couple of digs from David Barclay, Chris Macaulay and Gemma Newland. Some rotation kept the pace reasonable for those that contributed.

Mentor rider for the day, George Bradfield mentioned a good tip to Gemma towards the end of the first lap and that proved to be a turning point for the race. Once back on Swamp road for the second time, Gemma took control of the front - riding in the gutter to get the best deal out of a head/cross wind. Driving the pace for 90% of the length of the road, she was hoping to put some pain into those just hanging on. Once the turn into Korokipo Road was made, she took it up a level and was assisted by the tailwind. A tactical move by Chris Mac and David meant she made the most of the gap and got a decent breakaway. With no one willing to pull across (and the advantage of the busy road) Gemma had an almost clear run on the way to the finish.

The final turn into the wind for the finish proved too much for her spent legs and the approaching bunch swallowed her up right on the line. Holding on for fourth, Gemma was beaten to the line by winner David Barclay, Ian Wright in second and Richard Williams taking the bronze spot.

### **E Grade:**

Unfortunately our most important correspondent had a nasty accident over the finish line on Saturday, which looked like a tight sprint finish – He will be back! We wish him a speedy recovery.

### **F Grade:**

The weeks are rolling past very fast. Here we are almost finished with the Winter series.

Saturday was again a fine day for cycling. A little cool but not freezing.

Start line saw five hardy souls ready for the challenge.

There was very steady rotation as far as the wee hill where upon Carol and Angus took off leaving the tandem and Darryl. By the time all were in Swamp road it didn't take long to reel in the two in front. A couple of kilometres further on and Darryl was dropped. He had hinted at beginning of race that he would take fourth place from the tandem.

A wee stop at the turn for traffic and into Korokipo road. The pace Immediately quickened with a tail wind. Managing to stay together until the finish with a sprint from Carol and Angus giving Carol line honours. Well done everyone.