



BSCC senior road racing results page

Race name: The Collier 2009

Date: 23rd May 2009

A large field of 48 entries were taken for the Collier, one of the premier races in the club's racing programme. The day was overcast and wind was blowing strongly from the NE, but at least there was no rain. The limit riders were given a mark of 30:30 minutes with the race comprising a total of seven bunches.

Fourth scratch set a solid pace from the start with Michael Veal getting picked up from fifth scratch just 7km in after dropping a chain. At the 11km mark Roger Bade and Gerard Cosgrave were also picked up. Approaching the 20km mark, fifth scratch was in sight and was eventually picked up on the second lap, 40km into the race. The two groups combined to give a pack of approximately 15 riders after some earlier loses. Completing the second lap saw many a tired set of legs turning it over, the first two laps having been set at an average of 37 km/hr.

Meanwhile scratch had taken off to a flying start, with Gillett and Doyle driving the pace in more of a team time trial than a handicap. Second scratch was picked up on the first lap, with third scratch only 20 km after. After a bit of cat and mouse by 2nd and 3rd scratch, and a lot of looking at each other, it was back to "take no prisoners" as Doyle, Gillett, Townsend, Gullock and Mirabella launched from the bunch with the supergroup of 4th/5th/6th/7th in sight.

The catch was made at the 70km mark. What followed was a short rest for the scratch guys while all other riders were jostling for position, awaiting the inevitable surge. The surge happened just before the top corner, with the scratch riders making the break like everyone else was standing still. The only rider to go with the big guns was Chloe McIntosh, who soon found herself in no man's land.

Coming around the top corner Matt Albiston put in a surge that left many riders questioning their dedication, and their legs. A group did form and the chase to scratch began. Cresting a slight rise, there were screams from the front riders a la Tour de France of a dog standing in the middle of the road! Being that this is farm country it wasn't a small toy dog either! This broke the rhythm of the group, but all passed by without incident.

The last pinch up before Smeaton saw Ben Clark ride off the front in pursuit of the six riders some 200m up

the road. Cresting the climb he caught Chloe and the two had an opportunity to stay away but alas neither had a lot left in the legs and were soon brought back by the bunch.

Rounding the corner into Smeaton, Jason Haire had a 'moment' when his chain decided to do something it shouldn't and jump around. The noise was heard 20m away but he managed to keep it upright somehow and stay with the group.

Up ahead the group of five extended their lead and worked consistently until the final incline. Jon Townsend kicked hard and early – his best bet against the big diesels – but it was too far out. Rhys Gillett took the sprint from Doyle, Townsend, Mirabella and Gullock in that order. The remainders of the bunch soon followed, with Ben Lohse starting the late aggression, followed by Matt Albiston putting in an effort that was soon closed down. Approaching the final bend before the finish, Warren Fenanco put a move on the group and Chloe McIntosh, soon followed by Ben Clark, moved to close it down. Ben Clark then put in a final effort up the slight incline which was enough to see him get the gap and stay away for 6th position.

Final placings were:

- 1st Rhys Gillett (scratch) – Also fastest time
- 2nd Rob Doyle (scratch)
- 3rd Jon Townsend (scratch)
- 4th Tony Mirabella (4 minutes)
- 5th Gary Gullock (scratch)
- 6th Ben Clark (11 minutes)