

NSW MTBO CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was always going to be a full on weekend for both competitors and organisers/volunteers with three events and a move of venues on the Sunday.

I was thankful that the weather turned cooler as it took over 7 hours in 39degree heat on Friday to place the controls.

Long Distance.

The course winning times were fairly accurate for the men's classes but the nature of the terrain and some rain and mud pushed the times out for the women's classes. There were a few mechanical issues for competitors and a few big dismounts as well. We had one casualty with concussion from an over the handlebars on a downhill. Patrik Gunnarsson was behind the rider and stayed with him and Matt Bacon withdrew from the event to guide him back to the event centre. The ambulance arrived to take him to hospital and as of Monday he was home and well again although, he has no recollection of the crash. It was great to see the competitors concern after the accident and the help that followed.

I hope you enjoyed some of the hand made tracks over the course. They have been kept hidden from the motorbikes for the past few months. There was one deluge on the south of the course near Killingworth, it does not take much for the slop to appear. Apparently the pink tape at indistinct tracks and crossing points worked well to guide riders around the course.

There was a fair bit of detail on the map as it is a foot orienteering map with a few extensions and track changes. Hope you enjoyed the fast downhill from the second last control as you dodged and weaved the ruts on your way home.

Sprint Distance

We knew if all went as planned that this would be a fun event with heaps of tight and twisty single tracks, challenging navigation and a solid 30-minute hit out on the course. It was slightly longer than normal but no one complained and everyone had a smile on his or her face at the download. Once again there was a little rain for the last riders to contend with.

I hope you liked the BMX circuit at the end of the course; I always have a fang around it when I get the chance so I thought it might work in well. I could have taped the entrance to the track better!

It was a quick pack up at 10.30am so we could get to Pelaw Main for the Middle event.

Middle Distance

What a contrast! We left the showers and overcast weather for a bright sunny afternoon at Pelaw Main for the Middle Distance event. The move and event set up went smoothly and we were ready to start riders early that needed to get away.

The course was very fast as the tracks were a little less rain damaged and most of the short climbs could be taken at speed. The navigation was still challenging with options for either going through the maze of single tracks or going the fast, long way around. Another great map and area for MTBO. Once again the course winning times were very close.

Hope you enjoyed the BBQ, presentation and prizes. We were done and dusted by around 3.00pm.

A big thanks to Malcolm Roberts for running the Middle Distance event and the SI set up for all the courses. It was another great effort from the Newcastle club behind the scenes and on the day running events and moving gear around.

Here is a link to my Google account and a few pictures, which are open to the public.

<http://is.gd/eMX9Y8>

Check out the GPS routes on The Beaten Track and compare routes.

<http://thebeatentrack.org/map.php?id=2322>

<http://thebeatentrack.org/map.php?id=2324>

<http://thebeatentrack.org/map.php?id=2323>

GREG BACON