

2014 Event Report

De Francesco and Wohler take Tour de Valley Titles

The Tour de Valley put on an idyllic day for competitors in the individual time trial, teams challenge and cyclocross events for 2014. It was great to see an enthusiastic turn out of riders across all the categories of events.

The Tour de Valley individual time trial provides a preview of the course proposed for the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Danielle De Francesco demonstrated her potential as a time trialist by crushing the previous course record, held by elite triathlete Ashleigh Gentle, by over a minute and a half to earn the title of 'Queen of the Valley' for 2014. Her time of 58.03 for the undulating 36km course was an exceptional ride on roads well suited to strength riders. Melinda Symon recorded the second fastest time in winning the 40-49 category with Kate Kelly-Duke, also in the 40-49 category, finishing 3rd.

Special mention must be made of Vickie Burr and Nicole Lawrence who sacrificed their own chances of a great time by stopping and assisting a fellow rider who miscalculated a turn on the return journey from the end of the valley. This type of camaraderie was certainly worthy of a special prize.

Budget Forklift rider, Alex Wohler, was the only rider to break 50 minutes with a classy ride of 49.08 on his way to being crowned 'King of the Valley' for 2014. Course record holder, Andrew Patten, was unable to reproduce his scintillating ride from last year, but still managed to record the 2nd fastest time of 51.09 in winning the 40-49 category. Dean Russell was a further 1.06 back in 3rd place overall.

The Team's Challenge provided some great competition as teams battled for category awards based on the unique handicapping system. In the 72km category for teams without time trial bars, Greyedge took advantage of their 16 minute handicap to take the overall from Kirsty Broun Racing, who had recorded the fastest overall time of 1.49.20. MB Breakaways, also took advantage of their handicap to finish 3rd.

Moreton Bay CC TT had a close tussle with Cobra9-Intebuild in the 72km Open breaking the course record with a time of 1.38.12 to win by 58 seconds. Ricoh smashed their time from 2013 in recording a handicap adjusted 1.40.50 to win the Corporate category and finish 3rd overall.

There was very tight competition in the 36km category for teams without time trial bars. Kirsty Broun Racing 2 recorded both the fastest overall and handicap time to finish 1.24 ahead of Pave Six Pack with The WAGS just 8 seconds back in 3rd.

TTP recorded the fastest overall time for the 36km teams in winning the Open 36km category. Their time of 50.06 (48.06 handicap adjusted) was a course record for the 36km teams. Team BTS-SpeediNESS finished 2nd with Renegades taking the Corporate section and finishing 3rd overall.



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The Gold Coast Teams Series produced a real spectacle as local clubs competed in an eight man team format over the 72km course. Despite trailing in the overall series points, the Gold Coast Cycling Club (CATS) showed that time trialling may be their forte with a great team effort to record 1.41.07. Led by veterans Peter Roper, Steve Rooney and Andre Clayden, they looked smooth as a team unit and ended up finishing 2.22 ahead of Murwillumbah with Logan a further 1.23 back in third.

While the teams had the chance to relax with a complimentary breakfast after their ride, the cyclocross riders put on a highly entertaining spectacle. Michael Howson, affectionately dubbed 'Rainbow Man' by commentator Luke Lucas, put on an acrobatic display of fence jumping with his cyclocross bike before sprinting to victory over Kane Simpson with Michael Ronning back in 3rd.

Travis Waite was victorious in the B Grade event with Jaine Mongston the first female home ahead of Sharon Heap.

It was a fitting finale to this promotional day for cycling on the southern Gold Coast.

Special thanks to Ryan Bayley and the team at Cycling QLD for their assistance with the event and Kadie Scott for the exceptional work she did with media and marketing. Rob Craig and his team of Commissaires did a fantastic job of ensuring smooth operations on the day. We would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the event sponsors including Tourism and Events QLD, City of Gold Coast, Connecting Southern Gold Coast, Scody, Hammer Nutrition, GC Bike Fit, RearViz, Earthrider, Currumbin Cycles, Bicycle Centre on Bermuda and Veloshotz Sports Photography.

It was a pleasure to support the safety work of The Amy Gillett Foundation and we would like to thank all the competitors who contributed to this worthy cause.

Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge the work of the volunteers without whom the event would not be possible. Special mention to Matt File, Graeme Way, Michael Thornton, Mark Guy, Peter Evans (first aid), Karl Anderson, Matthew Jackson, Jo Scheer, Kim Fieldhouse, Jon Fieldhouse, Homer Papantonio, Meredith Tucker, Carolyn Jones, Brad Eastwood, Bradley Scheer, Stuart Monk and Haggis Heggarty for all their help and assistance.

Thanks to all the competitors and teams for supporting the event in 2014. We hope it was a rewarding experience and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

Chris Thompson
Event Manager
Tour de Valley



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