

Race report. 25.02.2024. Peter Cox Memorial Trophy Race. Nationals Circuit Two Laps. 55km. Graded Handicap

A top day of racing for the Peter Cox Memorial Trophies on Sunday morning. Pedro was smiling on us with nice weather - the sun on our backs. A good field assembled for a race that has the Pukerangiora climb at the end of Everett Road. Puke can be a heartbreaker and ruin the fittest of legs and lungs. Particularly the second time.

The spread of the handicaps were 32 minutes with B/break having a 4 minute advantage over scratch/A.

John McMahon and Jill Danson were on go (E). Justin Harper, Peter Scrafft, Rob Gedye, Andy Fraser, Tony Williams, John Larkin, and Wayne Sibly were at 15 minutes (D). Barry (Baz) Marnoch, Paul Roe, Craig Forsyth, Nick Barrett, Jesse Hofmans and James Murphy were at 20 minutes (C). Greg Clarke, Anthony Visser, Simon Bishop, Gonzo Peinado and Tristin Hinz (who was visiting from Christchurch) at 28 minutes (B). Then Glenn Kirk and Paul Duynhoven were at 32minutes (A).

The wind was a northerly but a lot less noticeable than the wind that was present on Saturday and to be fair with Puke not a factor on the race.

The route was starting at the start/finish on Standish Street Inglewood, left onto Tarata Road, left onto Bristol, left onto Everett, up Puke, left onto Clarke which turned into Lincoln follow Lincoln into Inglewood and then left onto Standish to complete one lap. The start finish being about 150m out from the corner.

All grades got away well and some solid first laps were recorded. John & Gillian went through together but D grade was all together and working well to eat into their handicap. Likewise C grade went through the first lap all together and had made some solid progress into catching D grade. B grade splintered on the first time up Puke with some gaps opening up. Greg and Gonzo were working well together. Almost to be expected but Glenn and Paul were pulling solid turns in A grade and had picked up Simon in his first race back after some time off the back to sort out some niggles.

At the end of the first lap it was touch and go as to whether A grade would come roaring through or whether one of the other grades could keep rolling steadily and hold the chasers off. Either way there was work to be done.

Unfortunately for John and Gillian they were caught by D grade and split up. Fair play to these two. They both rode well all the way to the finish. Then some action started to unfold with C grade catching D grade. This made for a shoot up on Puke on the second lap. Young rider Jesse Hofmans took his opportunity to have a crack off the front and managed to escape. However a solid group of 8-10 riders was still together and chasing. Further back on the road A had picked up some of B grade and had Greg and Gonzo in sight. Paul managed to get across to them on Puke.

The 10km or so from the top of Puke was a drag race with each group hauling. Unfortunately a couple of the C/D group dropped back but it was still a solid group chasing Jesse. Paul was riding hard with Gonzo and by Bristol road could see the bigger group up ahead but was running out of road.

Jesse Hofmans held on for the win solo in a great ride. The C/D group stayed together and were travelling down the Lincoln Road descent. With some pressure some gaps opened up into the finish. Peter Scrafft coming 2nd leading them in with Wayne Sibly third, John Larkin fourth, Tony Williams fifth, James Murphy sixth, Baz seventh, Paul Roe eighth, and Craig Forsyth ninth. Paul led Gonzo home finishing within 30s of the C/D group. All up about 1 minute 30 seconds covered the first eleven finishers which was pretty handy. Andy Fraser and Nick Barrett finished closely behind. Everyone else rode solidly with all starters finishing.

The Cox family were on hand to present the Peter Cox Memorial Trophies. Nic Cox's son Adam spoke extremely well and did the presentations on behalf of the Cox family.



Winner of the Peter Cox Memorial Trophy for 1st place for 2024 Jesse Hofmans.



Winner of the Peter Cox Memorial Trophy for fastest time for 2024 Paul Duynhoven.

Thank you to everyone who came out and raced. Really enjoyable racing and great to see everyone riding hard and having a good time (most of the time – excepting Puke for the majority).

Hawera Road Cycling Club Inc. are racing next Sunday. Our next CNP race will be a cup race Sunday 10th March in Okato. The Peters Family Cup races including the Dawn Peters Cup Race.

Anyone available to help on racedays is most appreciated. We need a number of volunteers and this help is awesome as it allows the committee members to race. PD.

Thanks Steven Hofmans for the videos and Simon Bishop for the prizegiving pics.