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WCC excels in tough conditions at Hardwood Hills

By Sentinel-Review Staff
Updated 8 hours ago

BARRIE – Woodstock Cycling Club teams braved hot, dry courses to post solid results at a recent endurance race at Hardwood Hills Mountain Bike Resort, just north of Barrie.

The Woodstock club sent three teams to compete in the annual eight-hour relay race. Conditions were tough, with temperatures hovering around 30 C, causing riders to deal with dust and sand that kicked up on the new trails.

Woodstock cyclists posted lap times in the same range as many of the elite team riders. Led by team captain Jeremy Leenders, WCC team No. 1 took second place in its category of combined age 80-119 years. The team clocked an impressive fastest lap time of 33 minutes, despite having to contend with a flat tire on the lap of rider Wayne Harris. Harris changed his tire and got back on the course, losing less than eight minutes.

Riding with Leenders and Harris were Andrew Kittmer and talented 16-year-old Joel Kingston. Kingston, in his first ever race, took on the burden of the opening lap and posted a time of 37 minutes. The opening lap consists of a mass start on a longer lap designed to spread riders out. Kingston and WCC team No 2 rider Mark Dunseith both completed the congested and dusty first lap at the top of the field.

Also attending his first race was 11-year-old WCC member Seth Roswell, who competed on the same team as his father Scott. Seth averaged 50-minute lap times during his three laps. Roswell was one of the youngest riders to compete in the race.

WCC rider and president Mark Dunseith said the club was especially overwhelmed with the performances of Kingston and Roswell.

"It is always a competitive field at these races," he said. "It can be intimidating for first-time racers when you have seasoned riders from the larger teams climbing hills right behind you and trying to push through. One great thing about this race series is the respect older riders show the kids.

"Joel was posting lap times close to some established team riders and Seth ... inspired everyone with his performance, including a grand ovation at the finish of his third lap."

Other WCC riders entered in the race included: Jamie McPherson, Andrew Adams, Dave Cooke and Chris Green.

Dunseith noted that all of the riders at the Hardwood Hills eight-hour race have committed to race at another eight-hour event in September, along with at least two more teams.

"Our large presence here as an independent club team surprised other sponsored teams and race organizers," he said. "The announcer had made the comment at (one) point that we were everywhere."

Information on the Woodstock Cycling Club, local trails and the upcoming fall eight-hour endurance race can be found at www.woodstockcyclingclub.ca and at Pedal Power, on Dundas Street in Woodstock.



Contributed photo Woodstock Cycling Club rider Seth Roswell, 11, completes his leg of an eight-hour endurance race at Hardwood Hills Mountain Bike Resort, north of Barrie.

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