Date: 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024



## The Belgium Race Series:

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As many of you were aware we ran our very own Belgium Training Series which took place on July 9th, 16th, and 23rd at Marsh Tracks. Organized by Jon Harland and sponsored by Enfinium, the series aimed to prepare our Rhyl CC riders for the upcoming racing trip to Belgium, in August. The races saw riders across various age categories, showcasing emerging talent and experienced competitors, racing side by side. With ex-pro Phil Evans, Ian Moore, a medallist in the National Hill Climb Championship, both representing Ruthin CC and multiple Masters champion Alan Forrester of Graham Weigh Racing Team showing the youngsters how it's done and being very impressed with all the Rhyl CC youth riders race etiquette, strength and talent.

In Race 1, despite a torrential downpour, Huw Owen from Egni Eryri won, followed by Junior rider Steffan Hunt and our Youth A rider Deian. The weather improved for Race 2, where Deian secured an impressive solo victory. Veteran Michael Bell led the bunch finish, with Tommy following. The series finale saw Matthew Wales of Fibrax/Wrexham overcoming a starting deficit to finish alone. Supported by Peter Brook and Michael Bell.

The event highlighted the potential of young riders and the importance of community support in promoting cycling.

A new TLI Cycling series, organized by Graham Weigh Racing, is scheduled at Marsh Tracks for August, for 14yr olds and older after the success of the Belgium Training races and we will be looking to hold more TLI races in the future, so keep your eyes peeled to the TLI events page.



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## **Riders Adventures:**

Gruff has been on his adventures again, this time chasing the Tour De France riders, in Isola and Col de la Colmiane and further. Gruff was in the right place to pick up Jorgenson's bottle Mathieu Van der Poel's gel and was gifted Geraint Thomas's unused water bottle from the Ineos feeding car!

In the highlight of training for Belgium a few of our riders have also been partaking in some longer road rides, which have included some of the Tour Of Britain's favourite hill climbs, such as the Horseshoe Pass and The Great Orme's Tram Road. Good Luck to everyone going!











**Race News:** 

Deian battled through the rain at the National Youth Circuit Championship on the 7<sup>th</sup> July, at Cyclopark London, with many riders abandoning the race.

The Popes dropped in to Curborough Sprint track for the Lawford Series on the 13<sup>th</sup>, which saw Tommy taking 1<sup>st</sup> place for the U14's, Alfie taking 10<sup>th</sup> in the U16's and Stanley taking 9<sup>th</sup> place for the U12's. The following day they attended Darley Moor Matlock CC Youth Race, seeing Stanley take 8<sup>th</sup> in the U12's, Tommy taking 3<sup>rd</sup> in the U14's and Alfie taking 17<sup>th</sup> in the U16's, spotting an old familiar face in the Juniors.

Gruff and Oliver competed in the Welsh MTB Open Championships, with Gruff gaining 9<sup>th</sup> place in the XC, 5<sup>th</sup> in the Welsh Champs and 4<sup>th</sup> in the juvenile and 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Welsh Champs, and Oliver gaining 9<sup>th</sup> in the U12's XC and 5<sup>th</sup> place for the Welsh Champs. Not to forget George who hung up his swimming trunks for the day and gained a respectable 12<sup>th</sup> place for the U10's.

Oliver also raced at Shrewsbury for the West Midlands Youth League on the 21<sup>st</sup>, holding 4<sup>th</sup> place in the U12's.



