

RHYL CC

1/10

Date: 1st September 2024

Rhyl CC International Racers:

Thanks to Coach Harland, we managed to raise enough funding again, to enable some of our riders and their families the chance to experience the world of international racing

Alexander, Deian, Alfie, Tommy, Stanley, Oliver, George, Alex and Ephram packed up their families, their favourite bikes and their Rhyl kits and made the 8hr journey across the English Channel to Brakel. With some staying in the Flandrien Hotel, team room and others staying in a share house in Geraardsbergen.



Day 1:

Alexander and Deian were the first to hit the Belgium race scene at Dadizele. Unfortunately, due to a misunderstanding over the Belgium gear restriction regulations, Deian raced on a smaller gear restriction than he could, which left him at a disadvantage, mixed with a slow puncture, unfortunately he had no chance of keeping with the pack and was swept up by the broom wagon after just 4 laps. Alexander on the other hand managed a strong race until hearing his name over the tannoy and after a miscommunication due to the language barrier from one of the race vehicles unfortunately pulled off as he thought he was being swept up by the broom wagon. Alexander was devastated to find out the Broom Wagon was about 4 minutes behind him and there was numerous other riders behind him still. An easy mistake to make amongst racing in a foreign land.

Integrating:

The Belgium trip was about friendship and engaging with the European culture, as well as racing. Here's Ephram with a member of the Belgian police! Big thank you to DLL Active Communities Fund for helping make this happen, and Enfinium for sponsoring the build up to it.

The team also had the honour of meeting and riding with Harry Speak, from Clifton CC, Yorkshire, who ended up ruling the race in Zwalm and took the Bouquet in 1st place. He was such a humble young man, and we wish him all the best in his cycling future.



RHYL CC

2/10

Date: 1st September 2024

Day 3:

Tommy, Alex, Oliver and Stanley arrived at Hakendover in style, warming up on the track in their masses with parents riding the course with them. They all knew that Rhyl CC had arrived!

Oliver and Stanley took to the start line first in the under 12's. Stanley was pulled to the back of the pack on the start line, due to having his gears rechecked, but he fought his way through 20 plus riders to rejoin his teammate in the front pack, leading the group well for several laps. Oliver's brilliant drafting and sprinting skills kept all the riders on their toes, especially up the hills, bunny hopping sketchy drain covers and curbs. Oliver took a well earned 12th with Stanley not far behind in 14th place.

Alex was up next after being moved to the under 13's race. In typical Alex style, he showed pure determination with consistent cadence throughout the whole race, finishing a very tough race with a smile on his face.

Afterwards it was Tommy's turn and wow what a show. Starting at the back of the pack, he muscled his way straight to the front within the first two laps, before breaking away from the front pack splitting the race into three sections, and then dropping back to form a 4-rider group who lapped all the other riders. Tommy managed to avoid some nasty close calls and cross the finish line in 4th place.



RHYL CC

3/10

Date: 1st September 2024



RHYL CC

4/10

Date: 1st September 2024

Day 4:

Alexander, Alfie and Deian teamed up for the under 17's race at Zwalm. With the help of Damian, Deian was fixed up with a slightly bigger chain set which meant he could ride at a slightly less disadvantage for his second race.

The race commenced in 30-degree heat, with the boys keeping with the peloton. After last year's disaster race for Alfie, he was grateful to have a much better race this year, with all the boys managing to avoid three crashes on the first lap. Alfie was dropped from the peloton and joined a small group of 3, but was swept up on the 4th lap, despite being 7 minutes in front of the broom wagon. Deian and Alexander on the other hand fought all the way and kept with the peloton for the whole race. Deian suffered yet another puncture with around 18km to go but glued to the back off the pack and crossed the finishing line just behind his teammate Alexander who showed his amazing race ability throughout the entire race. Alexander finished in an impressive 30th place, Deian finished in 35th and Alfie placed 54 out of 75.



RHYL CC

5/10

Date: 1st September 2024



RHYL CC

6/10

Date: 1st September 2024



RHYL CC

7/10

Date: 1st September 2024

Day 5:

Oliver snook in a final race, finishing with a smashing 6th place in the under 13's at De Limburgse Pijl. Oliver said it was the hilliest road race he'd ever done with 700ft of elevation over 10 miles, despite the hills Oliver gave chase and gradually over 7 laps the group whittled down to 6 riders who crossed the line together.



Support Crew:

Due to Ephram's age unfortunately, he was unable to race, but him and his family made up for this by being the loudest and most supportive fanfare Rhyl CC could have ever wished for, with flags waving and voices chanting. Everyone knew who we were and where we came from, making loads of friends along the way and even being thanked and welcomed back by race organisers.

Group Outings:

Alexander, Alfie, Tommy and Stan rode all around Geraardsbergen and climbed the Muur several times for fun, while the adults found some of the Flandrien Challenge climbs and sampled some of the best Flanders beers.

The rest of the team enjoyed an early morning family ride around the town of Geraardsbergen and all made their way up the steep cobbled climb they call the Muur to the beautiful chapel at the summit, be it by hike a bike or by pedal power.

Some of the team visited the Tour of Flanders Museum and the Peloton Café.



RHYL CC

8/10

Date: 1st September 2024

France:

Alexander had the chance for some altitude training in the stunning French Alps before arriving in Belgium, taking on some of the most famous climbs in the cycling world, such as the Alpe D'Huez, Col Du Galibier, Col De Lautaret, and the Col Du Glandon. Combating everyone in 30 plus degrees, on his own.



Netherlands:

The Pope's rode to Rotterdam to see the Tour De France Femmes. Alfie manged an impressive 980w in Lidl sliders in the Team DSM watt competition. They got to see some of the greatest female riders in the time trial and cross the finish line on stage 2 before riding back to their accommodation on some of the Netherlands finest cycling infrastructure, the UK has so much to learn.



Spain:

Gruff couldn't make the team trip this year due to his family trip, but he did get to show the Spanish his expert hill climbing skills in their Sierra Nevada (Granada to Hoya de Mora) Circa, climbing 2100m over 80km in 32 degrees.



We love seeing our riders wearing their jerseys on their adventures!

RHYL CC

9/10

Date: 1st September 2024



RHYL CC

10/10

Date: 1st September 2024

