

Best Improved Riders 2006

Matt Gittings



A rider with a cheerful and unassuming attitude to other riders is contrary to the grit he shows when pedalling. He is probably one of the best of our riders against the watch.

With a powerful and measured pace which has seen him focus on and smash 2 club records this season.

When he wants something he has determination by the bucket load, youngest rider in his Saturday category, when he was promoted to A*. He has taken both club track records in his age group. Yet is not the overall club champion for his age group, still things to work on, skills and distance being his weakness.

His progress this season has been as good as the best, and better than many.

Has a steely determination, and the softest nickname in the club.

George Withers



One of the highlights of the Monday night track league was the domination of the youth racing by our riders. One rider showed real racing talent and determination, always racing on the limit, never even thinking about giving up, and coming to dominate his class.

He is such a quiet and unassuming rider, no fuss, no drama.

Dominated the club championships, perhaps with a secret weapon, a big brother for a coach.

He lets his legs do the talking.

✚ Rosie Serruya



For this rider a year ago, competition was something to just share with your friends. She once dropped back to a dropped rider in a competition, “because she looked lonely”.

Not any more, as charming off the bike as she is, has become aggressive on it. She now rides with a determination that has seen dramatic improvement in the last few months. Spurred on by arguably a better rider, by one of her best friends. She is nominated for simple improvement in attitude and commitment as well as performance in the last 12 months.

Watch out.

✚ Ethan Goddard



This has to be the quietest rider on the track.

Never once complained even when told to do a 100 lap race by me.

He just got off the fence and started to race.

Not only has he mastered drop handle bars, but fixed wheel as well, without a single “I can’t” being said !

Even when faced with the mountain bike course, where even the humps and bumps are bigger than he is, he just got on his bike and pedalled as hard as he could, till he fell off, then he picked his bike back up and went on again and again and again.

If determination wins races then this rider is going to do lots of winning.

Can’t wait to get him on Calshot.

Alex Field



This rider represents all that is good about our club.

Comes along, joins in, learn new skills, make new friends, try new concepts, get fitter and have some fun.

Do exactly what you want to do and get coached into what you need, with no pressure.

Often missed in the crowd, this rider has joined us quietly and set about the tasks he has been set. Improving quickly and becoming a rider that on his day can now hold his own with the much more established riders in the A cats, having been promoted from the B's.

Needs many more miles of racing to catch the established stars in his age group, but with effort and determination he just might spring a few surprises.

Slowly and noticeably this rider has gone from someone riding at the back to a seriously good and promising rider.

I wonder what else could be possible?

Chris Bradbury

The road to recovery is a long route often fraught with setbacks and misfortune.

There are no maps, and you need to carefully side step the failed attempts of many others, and still maintain a clear vision, a determination to better the dizzy heights of just a few years past.

He could have been very good in his age group had he not suffered injuries, which made him lose fitness and miles on the bike.

It is never too late, and feel sure that once his training schedule is kept, his senior career will be very promising.

Welcome back for the winner of this award in 2003

Emma Pitt



Surely one of the most elegant riders in the club. This young lady has the style and poise of a great rider. But there is a lot more to this rider than style. There is real substance, a quiet progression that has actually caught me by surprise. It is only when you stop and think about it that she has made enormous progress in the last 12 months not only as a rider but as a person, full of confidence and style, and not a little cheek.

More championship points than any other rider.

Nominated in 2003, 2004, 2005 and this year, but still in the U8 category.

Gareth Hewitt

Inspiration comes from the most unlikely sources, and this rider quite literally landed on our door step.

As the club membership expands, so the quest to identify the most improved rider gets tougher.

Languishing with bitter despair over the lack of progress I had made during my annual frenzied review and unable to find my last rider from a list of many.

Then, on the front cover of the Go ride magazine, appears A rider, who has been riding with the club a short while.

Who has made the transition from newcomer to a member of the PPV team which secured 2nd place at the Tour of Britain skills final.

Is by my reckoning a big improvement and an inspiration to all new members, and a credit to the club.

Check out the latest Go ride magazine

Harriet Owen



A rider I first spotted at the Midland Youth tour 2005. Battling away throughout. Not very noticeable really and nowhere near any podium spot.

Then she tried fixed wheel and became a regular at our Saturday sessions and joined us.

Always worried about the riders above her in the BC rankings, but quickly established herself and worried no more about any rider.

Gives the boys in the same age group many headaches on how to catch her.

Her performance this year has turned heads, including the British coaches, breaking two club records in her first year at U14.

On the road she was awarded the silver medal at the National Circuit race.

She attacks and challenges all in a sprint.

Chris Brant



A young rider that is becoming more confident week on week.

Has started to overtake the riders that easily beat him at first.

Coming forth in his age category for the club championships.

Has shaved off 2 secs for his 200m time, and a massive 9 secs over 1 Lap.

At the moment skills is his weakness, but feel sure that he will make it one of his strengths if he works on them.

Just wait until his bike fits him.

✚ Chris Legg



A senior rider that really wants to make the Elite category on the professional circuit.

Works hard, needs to understand that harder work must be produced to reach his dream.

He is respected by all riders, and also at National level. Not a rider to let drift off the front for too long.

Managed to win his category in the club championships, and I know he was very disappointed not to come up against his rival in the MTB race.

Knocking at the door of the Talent team

✚ Winner



A Rider never quite making the top step of the podium in the club championships, but never off the podium either.

Significant improvements in 200M and 1 lap times got her promoted in the Saturday racing.

There is definitely a more serious approach about this rider this year. There is also more determination and a desire to improve which has never been lacking just now more evident.

Still determined to have fun and enjoy her riding but know knows when to be serious, well mostly anyway.

Not a rider you can miss out on the track, but often not noticed for her riding, more for her choice of colour for her bikes and clothes !!

Once noted for her talking rather than racing, I think this young lady is now ready to race.....

Rosie Serruya