

South DC Sporting TT League Review 2016

Walking across the car park at the HQ at the start of the final round of the Sporting Time Trial League at Lavant, a rider was overheard assessing what position he needed to finish in to move himself up the league, he appeared quite happy because he was part of a strong team that day and he hoped that should boost his position with bonus points for the final event.

So here we are at the end of the inaugural season of the South DC's Sporting Time Trial Series, and are reviewing the success of the Sporting League. Hearing a reaction as described above certainly gives us confidence that we are going in the right direction in creating a point of interest for the riders on "Sporting Courses" in the South DC (P courses) area.

On the final event, the Southdown Velo's Goodwood Classic we were able finalise the first League Table and present awards to the riders which we have listed below.

Pos	Name	Team	Total	Counting Events	
1	James Copeland	Fareham Wheelers	1729	11	Trophy & Winners Medal
2	Simon Berogna	VC St Raphael	1631	11	Trophy & Silver Medal
3	David Dalton	Fareham Wheelers	1626	11	Trophy & Bronze Medal
4	Simon Healey	Andover Wheelers	1624	11	Medal
5	Gary Chambers	Fareham Wheelers	1557	10	Medal
6	Rob Sherrin	...a3crg	1497	11	Medal
7	William Fleming	VC Venta	1488	11	Medal
8	Darryl Barr	...a3crg	1435	11	Medal
9	Shaun Smart	Southdown Velo	1229	9	Medal
10	Michelle Walter	Bournemouth Arrow	1174	10	Trophy + Medal 1 st Woman + 10 th Place Medal
11	Stuart Thompson	Andover Wheelers	1164	9	Medal
12	Sarah Matthews	...a3crg	1156	8	2 nd Place Woman Medal + 12 th Place Medal
13	Patrick Brennan	...a3crg	973	7	Medal
14	Ray Claridge	G A Cycles	958	7	Medal
15	Charlie Leech	Southampton Uni Road CC	867	6	Medal
30	Caroline Light	Sarum Velo	636	5	3 rd Place Woman Medal

As you can see from the points the competition finished very close, the series leader (Simon Healey) for most of the season was pushed out of the top three by just two points. What was noticeable "at the sharp end" of the League were riders taking on events sometimes fresh to them or just a bit outside their comfort zone, hopefully we can encourage more riders next season

When you have an idea and you put it into practice all is well at the start, but mid-series you do question how it is going, we only had to make one modification and we are happy how the league delivered. A good part of the "idea" was not so much to give riders an additional competition but to encourage clubs to consider alternative courses for us in the South. Our roads are getting busier and the "traditional" distance courses are being squeezed out of existence. Riding the "Sporting Courses" needs to be more than a break from riding the local "25", hence creating the league and that has been embraced by the riders.

A few of the early season promotions had a separate "Road Bike" event, we were surprised with the take-up, but what was more surprising was that at the new Sotonia event in September held in the New Forest there was actually more road bikes than TT bikes on the day. Bear in mind winning a road bike event is a win, rather than winning a Category in an open event.

At the beginning of September we started to have a few emails from clubs asking about the 2017 Sporting TT Series, "we have a new event, can it be in the series?", "we are happy to run the National Sporting Round but can it please be part of the South DC Sporting TT series?" In fact there are four new events we have been told about and they want them included in the 2017 Sporting League.

With the popularity of the road bike events where we have seen fresh faces entering, next season we are introducing an early season competition within the "League" for Road Bikes. At the moment we only have a working title but it is a sort of "Spring Cup" running from February to April. Full details later but the "Spring Cup" will be over five events (probably). It's an early heads up so those Colnago's you thought might be needed one day, they can now be ordered with justification!!!

The events for 2017 will be up soon and there only needs a few tweaks (Juvenile points) to make it as interesting as the first season. Thank you to all the organisers and riders who helped to not only make the League successful, first time out, but confirmed all the commitment and enthusiasm was worthwhile.