

Broken Hill Mountain Bike Club Inc.

• PO Box 623 Broken Hill NSW 2880 • www.bhmtb.asn.au

By the Maillot Jaune

On Sunday 7th October 2012 the Broken Hill Mountain Bike Club held its 14th annual Poker Race around the Silverton Heritage Trail. By changing the date from June to October, race organisers were hoping for better weather conditions but riders were greeted with a strong south-easterly winds at about 25-30km/hr which made to run down the railway cutting to the start/ finish outside Silverton Souvenirs a bit more challenging. Never the less 35 riders competed in Veterans, Mens, Womens, Juniors and Teams and came from as far away as Canberra to compete in the Clubs Premier event.

There was chaos just before the start with Megan Algate, Wayne Demory and Craig Olsen all getting flat tyres on their warm-up rides. Megan and Wayne were able to repair their bikes before the start but Craig couldn't get his puncture fixed on time and started a few minutes later. This set the scene for a number of riders with Coomealla's Jason Dawes getting front and rear flat tyres, forcing him to walk back to the finish and Craig Olsen suffering more tyre trouble but battling on to finish the race and collecting the best local rider award for his trouble.

Race organisers were surprised with the pace of the 1st lap with the lead riders passing the start/finish line in just over 16 minutes. If this pace continued the current race record of 1.16:23 would be under serious threat. The other surprise was former local Ben Foulis challenging resident speedster Steve Chinner for the lead. This rivalry continued until late in the second lap when Ben fell heavily on the notorious descent towards the Mother's Day Bridge. Ben continued on valiantly to finish 1st in the Mens B division in a time of 1.30:46. Steve Chinner remained unchallenged for the rest of the race to finish 1st in the 3rd fastest ever time of 1.23:15.

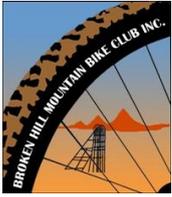
Further back in the field Megan Algate lost valuable time and overall race position when her foot came off the pedal on the climb on lap three. Megan was unable to regain her overall place but finished 1st in the Womens division in 1:38.31.

Tony Hepburn recently finished 1st in the Super Masters 100km division at the Back Yamma Bigfoot in Parkes and his form continued at the Poker Race. Tony completed his 5 laps in a time of 1:30.36 to take out the Veterans division. Corey Sammut and Ryan Bourchard took out their age groups of the Junior divisions and Team Hash (Hound Harriers) took out the teams event.

While all of the above riders won their respective divisions all riders compete to win the major prize of an original artwork. At the completion of a lap, each rider is assigned a randomly drawn playing card. The rider with the best Poker hand wins. This year's painting was from Angel Arts and was won by Broken Hill's own Nick Algate.

The Maillot Jaune would like to thank all the riders who competed from here and away, the timekeepers, volunteers, race committee and sponsors. If it wasn't for all of these people the Poker Race wouldn't be in its 14th successful year.

The next Broken Hill Mountain Bike Event is the Broken Hill – Silverton Time Trial on Sunday 28th October.



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POKER RACE RESULTS

POKER HAND WINNER	NICK ALGATE		
OVERALL WINNER	STEVE CHINNER	1:23:15	
MENS A			
WINNER	STEVE CHINNER	1:23:15	
Runner up	BENNY GOODMAN	1:29:25	
3rd place	DAVID STEPHENSON	1:29:25	
WOMENS			
WINNER	MEGAN ALGATE	1:38:31	
VETERAN			
WINNER	TONY HEPBURN	1:30:36	
Runner up	DAVE LYLE	1:41:48	
3rd place	BARNEY STEVENS	1:42:34	
MENS B			
WINNER	BEN FOULIS	1:30:46	
Runner up	GEORGE ADAMS	1:35:12	
3rd place	NICK ALGATE	1:35:59	
JUNIOR A			
WINNER	COREY SAMMUT	1:46:02	
JUNIOR B			
WINNER	RYAN BORCHARD	0:54:00	1 LAP
SOCIAL			
WINNER	TORBEN HORNUNG	0:32:31	1 LAP
TEAMS			
WINNER	TEAM HASH	1:44:19	
Runner up	MADA'S HELL	2:07:45	
3rd place	TEAM DAWES	2:12:59	