

2014 Scottish Hare & Hound Championship, Round 2.

Elgin Endurance Club was pleased to welcome riders and support crews to the second round of the SACU 2014 Hare and Hounds Championship.



The venue, as in recent years was Birkenhill Wood and Linkwood Farm on the outskirts of Elgin. The course consisted of a newly set out start area with some quick and flowing riding that made good use of the open farmland. The fast start of the lap soon gave way to the tight and technical riding within Birkenhill wood. Many of the trails, particularly in the first section of the wood are extremely tight with exposed roots an ever present concern. A seconds lapse of concentration or indecision can have riders knocked off line which can result in a lot of valuable time lost. The dark and technical section opens up a little but there are no places in Birkenhill that would be considered easy, possibly less difficult but never easy. Passing in the woods is extremely difficult and requires serious commitment from the riders prepared to move off the thin brown line and risk hitting a stump or rock in the undergrowth. In spite of the difficulties that this course always presents the 96 riders that started the race were lucky enough to have perfect race conditions. The Elgin weather was, as is nearly always the case superb, being both cool and bright. Any recent rain that has fallen on the ground seems to have been soaked up as both the field and the wood were verging on being dusty with superb grip throughout.

The high number of riders that started the race was mirrored by the large numbers that ran for the full 3 hours of exhausting racing on the 6 ½ mile course. 87 riders were recorded as taking the chequered flag and EEC would like to congratulate them all and thank them for attending our event.

The Expert Class was won by Frazer Norrie #16 from Turriff and he was the only rider to complete 14 laps.

Derek Little #42 from Inch was the quickest Over 40 rider on 13 laps.

Ben Thomson #121 from Kelso took the Clubman race on 12 laps and local Schoolboy MX Champion and the youngest competitor on the course Ben Edwards #3 from Elgin deserves special mention with an impressive 11 laps on his KTM 85cc to take 3rd in his first Scottish Championship H&H race.

Craig McCormack #175 from St Monans beat Gordon McGregor #157 from Fordoun to 1st place in the highly competitive Clubman B class. Colin Short #773 from Stonehaven was the quickest of the very large Sportsman entry.

Thanks as always to all the riders and supporters who travelled to Elgin to take part in our event. Some travelled from as far south as Newcastle and the age of racers ranged from 15 to 65. Thanks to all lap scorers, marshals and officials, without whose ongoing help none of these events could take place.

Special thanks to Mr and Mrs Jackson of Birkenhill and Mr and Mrs Robertson of Linkwood Farm for their continued support.

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