

National Emergency Services Championships

So another first for myself this year representing Sussex Police and WECC at the National Emergency Services championships in Oxfordshire. Representatives from Police, Fire, Ambulance, Army and Prison service were all in attendance with the usual mix of abilities that you would expect in any “open” event. On the start sheet were two other Sussex Police staff for both the 10 mile and 25 mile events held on the Saturday and Sunday respectively and a little known Met officer for the 10 mile in the shape of Clive Patterson-Lett!. Another familiar name for Sussex was Mark Trimmer from SDV.

The organisation and prize pool was excellent, as was the catering and it’s fair to say that, with representatives from Paceline RT as well as liveried cars for some teams, coupled with the National Champion of the past 4 years in attendance, I wasn’t expecting to win any overall prizes but after the 10 mile TT Sussex were lying 4th in the team competition albeit I hadn’t met and didn’t know the 3rd member (Neil Holden) but he was quite a handy rider.

Conditions on both courses, F15/10 and F13/25 were windy and drizzly meaning the return legs were going to be into a headwind. I set a time of 23.22 for the 10 mile, placing 41st out of 80 riders with Mark Trimmer posting a time of 23.03, placing 39th and Neil Holden placing 22nd with a time of 21.33. Sadly Clive was a DNS as he had opted to compete in a triathlon in Sussex as he wasn’t expecting his running to have returned to previous form.

The hotel was nice but sadly I had to stay 40 minutes away so played “billy nomates” whilst I enjoyed my dinner in the hotel but consoled myself with two pints of that well known recovery drink, Guinness!!

I arrived at HQ on the Sunday for the 25 Mile race and found the elusive Neil Holden and introduced myself and explained that we may come top 3 in the team competition and felt quite excited at the prospect of an award. My hopes were then dashed as he explained that this was an admin error and that he was actually from Leicestershire and had never been to Sussex in his life so it was left for myself and Mark to ride for personal glory only!

Having been pipped by Mark on the 10 I was motivated to achieve a local draw and beat him on the 25 Mile race. It was hard going and beating the hour was going to be a tall order but I was going to give it my all. I placed 29th out of 60 and Mark placed 30th and I took honours with a time of, can you believe it, 1:00:01(ARGGH!!) with Mark achieving a 1:00:53.

There was no surprise that Chris Smart from the Scottish Fire Service won the both the 10 with a time of 19:46 (a provisional course record) and the 25 with a time of 52:06. A great weekend and I am led to believe that there were some great photographs of the event (to follow) including one of Mark and I at the start of the 10 Mile race with matching speed suits, overshoes and gloves so if nothing else we won the best dressed twins category!!

Cheesy