

Heretaunga Building Society powered Ramblers Cycling Club – Saturday 02nd March 2013 – The Gentle Annie

It was a pre-dawn early morning start for most of the riders who registered for the final race of the Heretaunga Building Society powered Ramblers Cycling Club Summer Series on Saturday. While racing did not start until 10am, the start line was in Taihape for the gruelling 122km Taihape to Napier race, also known as the Gentle Annie. Early morning fog and drizzle encountered on the drive to the start line could not hide the fact that this race is aptly advertised as an extremely challenging course from Taihape to Napier with long climbs, steep climbs and long steep climbs. Some deep sections of roadworks and loose shingle, especially on descents, were also noted to add to the challenges facing the riders.

Under brilliant sunshine with mild temperatures and little wind, thirty three riders started in the race proper with another 30 plus riders starting the somewhat inaptly called "fun ride" over the same course. While technically the race was controlled up the first climb, which started soon after the start line on the outskirts of Taihape, the pace was such that the bunch had already split before the flag dropped and formal racing began. As such, any riders envisaging an easy ride soon realised that this ride had been correctly advertised and hard work was required to reach the finish line.

Out on course, the drizzle had cleared to leave a dry road with temperatures exceeding twenty five degrees up some of the climbs. The continual climbing took its toll as the bunches were quickly reduced in size with many riders content to just find someone to ride with as they tackled the approximately 2,400m of climbing over the course.

Out the front of the race, it was cousins Fraser Gough and Westley Gough along with fellow Ramblers member Blair Heney who lead the field home. Recording a

time of 3hrs 35m 12s, Fraser won the event with Heney 14s in arrears and Westley a further 45s back. This trio headed off the fourth placed finisher Mark Findlay who crossed the line a huge 9m 31s behind Fraser.

Further back in the field, Kerri-anne Page put in a strong ride to be the first female home in a time of 4hrs 05m.

Scott Ardern suffered the frustration of puncturing just short of the 1km to go sign but managed to repair his tyre before any following riders passed him to secure 15th place. He had been riding with Jason Kelly, who in his first road race of the year, was questioning the wisdom of this decision on just a few weeks training as he finished 14th in 3hrs 59m 50s to be the last finisher who cracked the four hour mark.

In the "fun ride" section, Kent Wilson showed a clean pair of heels to finish first in 4hrs 05m 29s with Steve Wolter second over four minutes in arrears and Steve Charles over a further four minutes back in third place.

Some of the most tenacious and gritty riding was surely shown by a quartet of riders who spent over six hours on course battling against everything it could throw at them. Peter Meredith recorded 6hrs 02m, Geoff Henley 6hrs 05m, Tim Mackie 6hrs 11m and Fred Staples 6hrs 15m to reach the finish line.

Are you not mentioned above? Tell the world about your super-human 5km bridge to the front of the race or your astounding breakaway on the descent! Send your words, including full names and grades, to racereports@ramblers.co.nz no later than 7pm on Sundays and we'll send it on with the results to the HB Today. The newspaper is looking for interesting takes on the weekly races so you don't necessarily need to win to get a mention.

Gentle Annie

RCC powered by Heretaunga Building Society

Taihape - Napier 02 Mar 2013

Results

Gentle Annie - Ramblers powered by Heretaunga Building Society

Place	Race No	Name	Gender	Time
Open Men				
1	736	Fraser Gough	Male	3:35:12
2	739	Blair Heney	Male	3:35:26
3	737	Westley Gough	Male	3:36:11
4	790	Mark Findlay		3:44:43
5	748	Josh Page	Male	3:44:47
6	792	George Roberts		3:47:42
7	791	Neil Martin		3:47:45
8	744	Corbin Mason-Smith	Male	3:47:47
9	789	Mark Donald		3:48:25
10	749	Ben Ross	Male	3:51:38
11	788	Phillip Corbett		3:55:35
12	747	John Mudgway	Male	3:56:59
13	741	Patrick Kelly	Male	3:57:30
14	740	Jason Kelly	Male	3:59:50
15	728	Scott Ardern		4:03:52
16	735	Mike Garrity	Male	4:05:14
17	734	Scott Estcourt	Male	4:05:33
18	750	Ian Seddon	Male	4:05:39
19	799	Wayne Mote	Male	4:10:03
20	787	Byne Calder		4:23:42
21	731	Willem Bruins	Male	4:28:41
22	733	Ross Dyer	Male	4:28:43
23	785	Stephen Watson	Male	4:33:09
24	732	Michael Burne	Male	4:38:54
25	743	James Lochhead	Male	4:40:59
26	1983	Ken Jones	Male	4:53:41
27	746	Paul Mills	Male	4:54:52
28	745	David McCallum	Male	4:57:25
29	793	Laurence Sunde		4:59:46
30	730	Peter Bartle	Male	5:52:03
	786	Wally Woods	Male	DNF
	738	William Green	Male	DNF
	729	Jonathan Atkinson	Male	DNF
	784	Keri Wakely	Male	DNS
Open Women				
1	694	Kerri-anne Page	Female	4:05:15
2	695	Hannah van Kampen	Female	4:23:42
3	693	Ashleigh Neave	Female	4:40:23
4	691	Hayley Davis	Female	4:40:55
5	692	Carol McCallum	Female	4:58:29

Gentle Annie Fun 1 - Ramblers powered by Heretaunga Building Society

Place	Race No	Name	Gender	Time
Fun Ride 1				

Results

Gentle Annie Fun 1 - Ramblers powered by Heretaunga Building Society

Place	Race No	Name	Gender	Time
Fun Ride 1				
1	1989	Kent Wilson	Male	4:05:29
2	1973	Steve Wolter		4:09:40
3	1977	Steve Charles	Male	4:13:57
4	1972	Carl Paton	Male	4:19:23
5	1988	Darryl Strachan	Male	4:22:21
6	742	Don Kennedy	Male	4:28:29
7	1998	David Reaney		4:28:41
8	1990	William Adin		4:28:56
9	1995	Noel Holden		4:32:50
10	1930	William Wallace		4:43:26
11	1986	Stewart Milne		4:45:19
12	1982	Christopher Johnson	Male	4:45:55
13	1993	Dennis Chatfield		4:46:03
14	798	Donald Fraser		4:50:52
15	1974	Brent Symes		4:51:37
16	1979	Sharon Fitzgerald		4:59:19
17	1978	Peter Dick		5:04:15
18	1980	Brett Hooker	Male	5:06:26
19	1992	Keith Ballisat		5:19:59
20	1984	Peter McArdle	Male	5:22:33
21	D48	Douglas Young	Male	5:27:25
22	1975	Pierre Styben		5:30:54
23	1991	James Baldwin		5:39:45
24	1999	Martin Rumble		5:39:48
25	1976	Peter Stormer		5:40:23
26	1994	Geoff Henley		6:05:49
27	1987	Fred Staples	Male	6:15:01
	1981	Peter Jarvis	Male	DNF
	1985	Angus McInnes	Male	DNF

Gentle Annie Fun 2 - Ramblers powered by Hertaunga Building Society

Place	Race No	Name	Gender	Time
Fun Ride 2				
1	1997	Peter Meredith		6:02:40
2	1996	Tim McKie		6:11:23