

## **PRESS RELEASE....**

### **GOODWOOD SPRING CHALLENGE**

Mountain bike racing has been popular for over 20 years and the Goodwood Spring Challenge organised on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April and arranged by the Rotary Club of Chichester Priory has now establish a new course and venue in the South for this popular sport. 200 riders and supporters took the challenge on the hottest day of the year so far and despite the blistering heat maintained excellent speeds around the beautiful and technically testing 5.7 mile routes, each rider doing between 2 to 5 laps depending upon the event entered. Full results and photographs are available on [www.goodwoodsc.com](http://www.goodwoodsc.com) , results were recorded by TimeLaps throughout the day. The course was arranged and fully marked out by two of our sponsors, Pete of Geared Bikes and Wear, Donnington and Martin of Southdown Bikes of Angmering. Our special thanks go to the Goodwood Estates for allowing us to use the grounds and for the help and assistance provided leading up to the event and during the day.

The event attracted large numbers of riders from across the South of England, with visitors from Holland and Italy came to take part. The riders were fully supported by a computerised results system providing position and lap time readouts on the day, race commentary, hot and cold refreshments provided by the 12<sup>th</sup> Scouts group of Chichester during their centenary year, trade stands, St. John Ambulance safety cover, marshalls around the course with radio link to our control tent, toilets and free parking.

There can be no more powerful thrill than racing a mountain bike against fellow competitors – the chase and be chased effect – the riding at intensity that pushes your reserves, leaves you drained, telling yourself never again, then that afterglow that will bring you back time and again. The legacy of racing at such intensity is improved fitness and improved bike handling skills that no amount of every day riding can possibly give you plus the chance to meet with literally hundreds of like minded people. Great camaraderie between the riders and spectators was an added bonus in the sun soaked Glorious Goodwood country side. The pictures show riders racing through the Goodwood Estate.

Three under 12 year olds took part on a shorter 1.7 mile lap course, each doing 2 laps and won Achievement awards from the Rotary President John Watkins for this. The picture shows 1<sup>st</sup> DREW GATWARD (19m04s), 2<sup>nd</sup> BOBBY BROUGHTON (19m04s) and 3rd GEORGE PHILIPS (19m11s) with President John Watkins having presented the trophies.

For the main events the laps were reduced by one due because of the high temperatures and due to some sheep lambing in a field the course was changed, to that previously designated, to go around a field increasing the lap distance from 5 miles to 5.7 miles.

The first three riders in each of these categories are as follows:

**Juvenile – Men - 2 laps**

**1<sup>st</sup> Gregory Blinch 1.17.22,**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Robert Simcox 1.21.03**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Alex James 1.21.07**

**Youth – Men - 2 laps**

**1<sup>st</sup> Max Filleul 0.56.35**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Leo Worthington Leesie 1.23.32**

**Master – Men - 3 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Daran Blackwell 1.21.30**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Mark Hooper 1.25.22**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Howard Radcliffe 1.25.23**

**Veteran – Men – 3 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> David Nelson 1.20.32**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Shaun Smart 1.24.09**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Fraser Ellison 1.25.46**

**Master Veteran – Woman – 2 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Emma Craddock 1.09.33**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Heather Stenning 1.19.49**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Holly Smallman 1.21.00**

**Grand Veteran – Men – 3 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Ian Petherbridge 1.27.46**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Kim Bang Sorensen 1.39.52**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Dave Thomson 1.43.46**

**Beginner – Men – 1 lap**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Blake Adams 1.01.02**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> John Mulhall 1.01.02**

**Fun – Men – 2 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Neil Kemp 1.02.38**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Andrew Baldwin 1.03.00**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Gary Brind 1.08.47**

**Fun – Woman – 1 lap**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Melanie Hinde 0.53.25**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Natalie Bestbier 1.16.49**

**Open – Men – 3 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Ben Connor 1.28.06**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Stuart Harvey 1.29.08**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Serge Hunt 1.33.18**

**Open – Woman – 2 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Julie MacDonald 1.27.20**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lois Oliver 1.45.29**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Jenny Davies 2.13.05**

**Sport – Men – 4 laps**  
**1<sup>st</sup> George Budd 1.45.29**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Lee Imrie 1.49.33**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Tom Spreckley 1.53.01**

**Trophies were awarded to each of these competitors by the Rotary Priory President, John Watkins, who thanked the sponsors, the organising committee and for those Rotarians and friends without whose support and advice the**

**event would not have taken place. All proceeds from the event will go to local charities.**

**If you would like to find out more about Rotary or interested in becoming a member, call Douglas Price on 01243 527739.**

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