

James Shirley “storms” to victory !

Due to somewhat inclement conditions (a Met Office amber weather warning being in place!) a slight concession was made to the well being of riders by deciding to run the race in reverse and go from Fort William to Fort Augustus. This would at least mean the riders having the storm force winds and lashing rain on their backs most of the way rather than in their faces! 15 hardy riders arrived at the very wet start line and despite one or two mishaps (most noticeably two punctures for Marie) all 15 made it to the finish line in Fort Augustus. All riders seemed to finish with a smile on their faces. Whether this was down to enjoying the race or the fact that they could finally put on dry clothes is uncertain! Fresh from a summer season riding Enduro races in Europe James Shirley cruised to victory in a time not too far off a Fort to Fort record (if he had not spent the first half of the race chatting to Ben Thompson then he would surely have beaten the record!) Despite being up with James for about two thirds of the race, brake failure meant that Ben had to run down any hills and he was subsequently overhauled by Gavin Maclean and John Shirley. Fiona Mellor was the first lady home and was 7th overall. Special mention should be made of John MacIver who was the only junior in the race and who posted a very respectable time. Over £100 in entry fees and other contributions has so far been generated to donate to Highland Hospice in the name of Corinna MacDonald. Special thanks must be given to all the marshalls and timekeepers who also braved the exceptional conditions – let’s hope for sunshine next year!

Full results from the race are as follows;

1. James Shirley – 1.40.49
2. Gavin Maclean – 1.47.42
3. John Shirley – 1.50.13
4. Ben Thompson – 1.52.35
5. Colin MacTavish -1.54.03
6. Spook – 1.58.48
7. Foss -2.03.08
8. Fiona Mellor -2.05.32
9. Hannah Barnes -2.10.23
10. Jonny Rough - 2.17.30
11. John Maciver – 2.18.11
12. Gill Barnes – 2.19.54
13. Marie Meldrum -2.25.40
14. Andy Rogers -2.28.03
15. Marian Austin -2.42.35