

Mathy, Contrino top Riyadh Wheelers opening races

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RIYADH: With champion Patrice Delile missing the first race and probably most of the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers season it was left to last year's contenders to decide the outcome of the short but technical time trial.

At the race briefing, race director and co-chairman Rob Patrick asked the 55 riders not to take this event too seriously as it was intended mainly as a pre-season registration event, but looking at the machines on show, plus the enthusiasm and preparation from the riders this was clearly not going to be the case.

Current on-form strongmen whose condition can be credited to a successful triathlon season, Thierry Mathy and Gaetan Contrino were split by former professional James Cusden, in an event which attracted many new members and everyone enjoyed.

Results:
1 Thierry Mathy 21:18; 2 James Cusden 21:30; 3 Gaetan Contrino 21:40; 4 Kelvin Bowers 22:29; 5 Alex Carriean 23:15; 6 Rob Patrick 23:16; 7



The first three winners in the 40km road race. (AN photo)

George Morete 23:26; 8 David Wright 23:34; 9 Steve Jenkins 33:57; 10 John Hymns 23:44; 11 Saad Marzag 23:49; 12 Jaime Sanga 23:49; 13 Vincent Engel 24:37; 14 Dennis Respecki 24:41; 15 Lee Philips 24:50; 16 Kelvin Hills 24:54;

17 David Nichols 24:55; 18 Philip Green 24:58; 19 Jiri Kuba 25:03; 20 Paul McParland 25:07; 21 Herbert Rom 25:22; 22 Jeff Forrester 25:27; 23 Robert Myers 25:51; 24 Dong Del Rosario 26:23; 25 Veronique Laperes 26:26; 26 Arnel Maniago 26:35; 27 Ari Cabal 26:36; 28 Rene Bitong 26:57; 29 Francis Gregorio 26:57; 30 Koenraad De Bruyne 26:59; 31 Emily Kelly 27:15;

32 Moath Saad Alswaylim 27:21; 33 Tony Kiernan 27:24; 34 Edwin Seneres 27:28; 35 Kath Cogan 27:57; 36 Carlo Rillera 27:49; 37 Jeri

Buchanan 27:53; 38 Catalino Laoagan 27:55; 39 Fernando Requillo 28:02; 40 Cris Morelos 28:07; 41 Jana Jaruskova 29:00; 42 Oscar Tuzon 29:01; 43 Angela Respecki 29:10; 44 Eoghann Donnellan 30:29; 45 Zena Hymns 30:31; 46 Rod Pedrosa 30:53; 47 Akihiko Suzuki 31:10; 48 Shaun Whitfield 32:02; 49 Elizabeth Laughton 32:11; 50 Alan Garcia 32:13; 51 Rex Fernandez 34:08; 52 Larry Duffy 36:44. DNF Robert Bows, Patrick Casey, Liam Bek, Nasser Almutlaq.

The second race of the season, a 40km road race was a lively affair, with attacking from the start from Contrino whose dogged determination fended off all attempts to reel him in and stayed away to the finish. This aggression seemed to take the wind out of the sails of the top riders,

with Cusden and Mathy not showing much interest in chasing the flying Frenchman, so it was left to two new names to complete the podium spots, Mohammad Alshehri and Liam Bek.

Riyadh Wheelers chairman, Scott Waight and Rob Patrick, were pleased to award the best improved rider award to Bruno Syfrig, whose performances last year stood out from all the rest. Riyadh Wheelers thoughts at this time also go out to Eddie Atkinson, who is in a serious condition after a training accident.

Results:

1 Gaetan Contrino; 2 Mohammad Alshehri; 3 Liam Bek; 4 James Cusden; 5 Jaime Sanga; 6 Saad Marzag; 7 George Morete; 8 Alex Carriean; 9 John Hymns; 10 Thierry Mathy; 11 Abdullah Alaybi; 12 Arnel Maniago; 13 Gary Swinburne; 14 Charlie Ryan; 15 Herbert Rom; 16 Jeff Forrester; 17 Scott Waight; 18 Paul Saycon; 19 Jiri Kuba; 20 Saleh Alketeri; 21 Cris Morelos; 22 Bruno Syfrig; 23 Alfonso Fabular; 24 Rob Patrick; 25 Paul McParland; 26 Lee Philips; 27 David Wright; 28 Dennis Respecki; 29 Mohammed Awbi; 30 Fernando Requillo; 31 Nasser Almutlaq; 32 Patrick Casey; 33 Ari Cabal; 34 Harper Kilpatrick; 35 Francis Gregorio; 36 Peter Foster; 37 Peter Wadell; 38 Ian Davies; 39 Moath Saad Alswaylim; 40 Edwin Seneres; 41 Dong Del Rosario; 42 Rex Fernandez; 43 Roy Delos Santos; 44 Armando De Leon; 45 Kelvin Bowers; 46 Reiner Gocian; 47 Freda Gocian; 48 Angela Respecki; 49 Tony Williams; 50 John Garbutt; 51 Kath Cogan; 52 Oscar Tuzon; 53 Kelvin Hills; 54 Carlo Rillera; 55 Catalino Laoagan; 56 Tony Kiernan; 57 Rene Bitong; 58 Alan Garcia; 59 James Studley; 60 Jen Buchanan; 61 Emily Kelly; 62 Zena Hymns; 63 David Aubrey; 64 Eoghann Donnellan; 65 Elizabeth Laughton; DNE/NR Shaun Whitfield, Jana Jaruskova, Melvin Varde, Larry Duffy, Rod Pedrosa