

Delile Powers to Novartis Consumer Health Hill Title

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — Love them or hate them, hilly time trials have a particular place in cycling club history, as they pit two specialist disciplines together, that of pacing yourself against the clock and that of climbing.

The Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health club is no exception, and their own particular version was held at the weekend, taking in the easier climb of the Dirab escarpment after a flat ride through the valley, passing the many farms in that area. The winner was always going to be between reigning champion Patrice Delile and the young contender to his throne, James Cudsen. Always a devotee to detail, Delile left nothing to chance by selecting unique gear ratios and borrowing a specialist bike from fellow champion Christiaan Beyers.

Cudsen on the other hand rode on feel and experience, relying on his years of riding with Belgium and Spanish profession-

als to carry him over the distance, and in the end only seconds separated them with Delile just taking the honors.

The race for third place was not so predictable with several riders very close on paper, from the lightweight Jaime Sunga, middleweight Rob Patrick and heavyweight Dave Forshaw. Against all the odds it was Forshaw who used his impressive strength to overcome Sunga and Patrick.

George Morete and Fernando Ranola had a close race, as did Herbert Rom, Gary Swinburn and Alphonso Fabular as the positions from 6th to 10th were decided, only separated by seconds. The turnout for 'Cat B' once again was disappointing after such a promising start at the beginning of the season, and in the absence of Nancy Desanghere, who recently crashed badly, Freda Gocian was unopposed and no doubt backed off a little as a result. The coveted 'King of the Hills' title, which takes in the overall results from the two events staged on Dirab was taken by Delile. Next race is the Al Marai 100km Milk Race, with



The top three and Cat B winner tackle the Climb, from left, Patrice Delile, James Cudsen, Dave Forshaw and Freda Gocian. (AN photo)

riders coming from all over the Kingdom to participate in this top event. The sponsors have a proud tradition of supporting cycle racing in the Kingdom and this race looks to be another thriller.

Results: 1st P. Delile 24.35; 2nd J. Cudsen 24.42; 3rd D. Forshaw 25.28; 4th J. Sunga 25.41; 5th R. Patrick 26.21; 6th G. Morete 27.11; 7th F. Ranola 27.28; 8th H.

Rom 28.29; 9th G. Swinburn 28.30; 10th A. Fabular 28.34; 11th R. Gocian 29.04; 12th J. Solis 29.10; 13th K. Bowers 29.15; 14th F. Seneres 29.41; 15th A. Carinan 29.56.

Categories:

Open: James Cudsen; Veteran Patrice Delile; Master Rob Patrick; Cat B Freda Gocian; Mountain Bike Reynaldo Madriaga.

ports Weekly

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No Stopping Forshaw in Novartis-RW Time Trial

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — Incredibly, the wet weather had not let up by the time the next event on the Novartis Pharmaceuticals-Riyadh Wheelers calendar was held.

The event was the 'blue riband' of cycle time trialling, a 40km (25 mile) test against the clock, and although considerably more pleasant than the previous event, it was nonetheless cold and wet, which did not encourage super fast times from the riders.

The late change of course with 10 u-turns also contributed to slower times, with most riders many minutes slower than their previous bests.

These minor matters did not put off Dave Forshaw, however, who took full advantage of the non-appearance of Patrice Delile, the under-par performance from Jaime Sunga and the unfortunate puncture to Rob Patrick to claim top spot for the second week running.

As the results show, he was in a league of his own and afterwards admitted he was disappointed the race had not been closer, but was still happy with his ever improving fitness, plus posting a very respectable time.

Stepping up to second place for the first

time was consistent Redeen Platil, overjoyed at claiming a podium spot, alongside his countryman Sunga, who slipped this week to third.

The event also heralded the return of some familiar names, Nancy Desanghere, Claire Rogan, Harper Kilpatrick, Paul McParland and Bruno Syfrig, to name a few, all bemoaning their lack of fitness and hoping to make late claims on the championship, which still has 2 months to run.

Other good performances were posted by Jeff Forester who missed out by 1 second to Herbert Rom and George Morete who won the battle for 4th from Rodd Taylor.

Top mountain bike went to Reynaldo Madriaga who just pipped former MB champion Paul McParland. Cat B was dominated by Freda Gocian who's win backed-up a fine 6th place by husband Reiner. Both admitted to preferring time trials to road racing and used them as a build-up to their triathlon preparation.

Results:

1st D.Forshaw 1h3m55s; 2nd R.Platil 1h8m02s; 3rd J.Sunga 1h8m23s; 4th G.Morete 1h09m20s; 5th R.Taylor 1h9m34s; 6th R.Gocian 1h11m43s; 7th A.Fabular 1h12m07s; 8th B.Syfrig 1h12m10s; 9th H.Kilpatrick 1h13m12s; 10th H.Rom 1h13m42s; 11th J.Forrester 1h13m43s;



Podium winners are seen after the Wheelers 40km time trial. From left, Redeen Platil, Freda Gocian, Dave Forshaw and Jaime Sunga. (AN photo)

12th R.Mendoza 1h14m49s; 13th E.Seneres 1h15m21s; 14th G.Escobar 1h16m25s; 15th R.Madriaga 1h17m26s.

Categories:

Open Redeen Platil, Veteran Dave Forshaw, Master Bruno Syfrig, Senior Peter Waddell, CAT B Freda Gocian, MB Reynaldo Madriaga.

Victory by the Smallest Margin for Sunga

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — Just one second separated two former champions and great rivals in the latest round of the Novartis Pharmaceuticals sponsored Riyadh Wheelers cycling season.

With some of the big names missing, it was left to Jaime Sunga and Rob Patrick to grab valuable points, along with some new names, such as Jeff Forrester, entering the top 10 for the first time.

The event was the traditional holiday 16km (10 mile) time trial and although the day dawned bright and cool, a deceptive breeze made the conditions surprisingly hard, which was reflected by the slower than usual times. Race director Rodd Taylor, in the absence of timekeepers, bravely rode the course alone and posted a time which held up well against those of the later starters.

Once Taylor had recovered from his lone effort, he took charge of the watch and set off the 37 riders, including visiting student James Bradley who was reported to be riding well until going off course.

Bradley commented later "I was confused

by the similarity of the roads and landscape of the Riyadh countryside, it must take some getting used to".

Also signing-on was a former rider with the Wheelers, John Coates, who after a long absence was back in Riyadh and as keen as

ever to race again. A strong showing in No. 3 spot was George Morete, who was pleased to find the podium again after a lean patch.

Mountain bike riders Lino Basuel and Reynaldo Madriaga, who finished in the top half of the field, posted possibly two of the

best rides of the day and will be the ones to watch in the future if they switch to road bikes.

In the Category B race, Marja Sirkeinen took maximum points for the first time from experienced Freda Gocian and Bridget James.

While Gocian was unable to explain the dip in form, partner Reiner had no such problems and finished strongly in 4th, reveling in the tough conditions. In a top 15 dominated by riders over 40 years of age, only Redcen Platil and Scott Waight represented the younger generation, an indication perhaps that cycle racing is a sport which can be competed and enjoyed by all.

Results:

1st J.Sunga 26m09s; 2nd R.Patrick 26m10s; 3rd G.Morete 27m02s; 4th R.Gocian 27m31s; 5th R.Taylor 27m33s; 6th F.Ranola 27m49s; 7th R.Platil 28m00s; 8th K.Bowers 28m28s; 9th A.Fabular 28m41s; 10th J.Forrester 29m08s; 11th J.Solis 29m51s; 12th L.Basuel 30m00s

Categories: Open R.Platil, Veteran J.Sunga, Master R.Patrick, MB L.Basuel, CAT B M.Sirkeinen.



All smiles from the winners after a tough event, from left, Rob Patrick, Marja Sirkeinen, Rodd Taylor, Jaime Sunga, Reiner Gocian.

Beyers Churns Out Win: Al Marai 100 km Milk Race

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — As eagerly anticipated, the Al Marai 100km Milk Race did not disappoint the fans and riders with another excellent promotion by the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers. An impressive 52 riders signed on for this annual event, racing for the impressive prize list on offer from the sponsors, Al Marai, producers of top quality dairy products.

With many of the Saudi national team away on international duty, the responsibility to uphold national honors was given to the experienced Salim Al-Awani, who was hoping to follow former winner Abdulaziz Al-Sharani onto the top of the podium.

The strong Dhahran team, led by former champion Christiaan Beyers, had other plans however, and soon after the start made their presence felt by dominating the early kilometers. The Riyadh team, were not to be outdone and as the results of recent weeks have shown, the emergence of strongmen James Cusden and Dave Forshaw ensured Dhahran would not have it all their own way.

This was not enough to put off Beyers, and at the 15km mark he put in a superb attack which was to see him solo to victory, with the Dhahran team doing a professional job protecting his lead. Forshaw, seeing an opportunity, also attacked alone at the 40km mark, and thanks to his impressive time trialing pedigree also managed to evade capture and take a well deserved second.

Tactics now came into play for the chase group, now down to just seven, Cusden, Dave Barry, Salem, George Morete, Redeen Platil, Jaime Sunga and another former win-

ner content now to race for Masters honors, Rob Patrick. Cusden, angry with himself for missing the Beyers move, resigned himself to protect teammate Forshaw's second place, made amends by winning the sprint for third, ahead of Salim and Barry.

These chasers were being tracked by another hard-working group of Rodd Taylor, Nasser, Charlie Ryan, Fernando Ranola and Jeddah visitor Flemming Christensen. Not renowned for his sprint, Taylor took the others by surprise by an early attack and held out to win the group sprint for 10th. Further back around the course, the wind, distance and punctures were taking their toll, with nine riders not making the distance.

A solid ride in Cat B resulted in another 100 points for Freda Gocian from Nancy Desanghere and Fran Stanek, who came in a

few minutes behind mountain bike star Paul McParland. After the finish, a lot of interest and a crowd gathered around the machine of Dave Barry, a SR25,000+ Swiss carbon masterpiece, weighing in at under 16kgs. Time to start saving! Another fantastic promotion came to a close, with all finishers receiving deserved recognition for completing the longest event on the RW calendar.

Results: 1st C. Beyers; 2nd D. Forshaw; 3rd J. Cusden; 4th Salim; 5th D. Barry; 6th G. Morete; 7th R. Platil; 8th J. Sunga; 9th R. Patrick; 10th R. Taylor; 11th Nasser; 12th C. Ryan; 13th F. Ranola; 14th F. Christensen; 15th E. Seneres.

Categories: Open: James Cusden, Veterans: Christiaan Beyers, Master: Rob Patrick, Senior: Peter Waddell, CAT B: Freda Gocian, MB: Paul McParland.



Milk Race winners with their prizes from Al Marai's Scott Waight, from left to right, Rob Patrick, Dave Forshaw, Christiaan Beyers, Freda Gocian, Paul McParland and James Cusden. (AN photo)



The 50k Road Race winners enjoying a warm down lap, from left to right: J. Sunga, P. Delile, R. Patrick and M. Sirkeinen. (AN photo)

Rider Delile Claims Novartis Pharmaceuticals 50km Title

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — The return of stars Patrice Delile and James Cusden to the Riyadh Wheelers action ensured there would be no easy ride for the 42 competitors who lined up for the latest round of the Novartis Pharmaceuticals season, a 50km road race.

Keen to show off the fitness they had gained over the holidays in southern France and northern KSA respectively, Delile and Cusden soon had the field spread out over the course as soon as the neutralized section ended, by a succession of strong attacks. Immediately an elite group of 5 emerged ahead of a struggling field, consisting of Delile, Cusden, Jaime Sunga, Rob Patrick and Redeen Platil, followed by a hard working group of Nasser Al-Matrad, Nawaf Al-Mohiza, Rodd Taylor, Alfonso Fabular, Harper Kilpatrick, Jovito Solis, Kelvin Bowers, Scott Waight, Fernando Ranola, George Morete and Jeff Forrester.

The nature of the course meant the leaders were soon out of sight of the chasers, which generally results in the momentum of the chase being lost. The riders concentrating then naturally focuses on the beating the riders around them, and races within races ensue.

Although both good sprinters, Delile and Cusden preferred not to leave the result to the lottery of a sprint finish, and surpris-

ingly attacked their companions hoping for a solo victory.

Due to the severity of the wind and the course, these bold attempts came to naught, and the escapees were soon back in the company of the leaders, who with the sudden injection of pace had lost Platil, with Patrick yo-yoing on and off the back.

With a few kilometers to go, Cusden had one last attempt to break away, but was quickly reeled-in as a cruel puncture put paid to his efforts. As the line approached, it was always going to be between Delile and Sunga, with Patrick offering no resistance in their final 60kph effort, with Delile magnificently claiming victory by just a wheel. The category honors went to form except in the Senior category, where Peter Waddell experienced a rare defeat at the legs of Dick Bishop. Another excellent event organized and prepared by Rodd Taylor and Jeff Forrester.

Results:

1st P. Delile; 2nd J. Sunga; 3rd R. Patrick; 4th J. Cusden; 5th R. Platil; 6th F. Ranola; 7th N. Al-Matrad; 8th R. Taylor; 9th N. Al-Mohiza; 10th A. Fabular; 11th G. Morete; 12th H. Kilpatrick; 13th J. Solis; 14th K. Bowers; 15th S. Waight.

Categories:

Open: James Cusden; Veteran: Jaime Sunga; Master: Rob Patrick; Senior: Dick Bishop; Cat. B: Maria Sirkeinen; MB: Reynaldo Madriaga.

Forshaw Beats the Weather & Opposition: RW 60 km Race

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — On arguably the coldest and wettest day for many years, the Novartis Pharmaceuticals Riyadh Wheelers staged their 60 km road race on a circuit to the north of the City.

With many deciding not to face the severe elements, only 27 riders faced the time-keeper Mike Fisher, to brave the conditions, more akin to Northern Europe than Central Saudi Arabia. The riders showed little enthusiasm for racing as the neutralized section unwound, with freezing water penetrating even the warmest clothing.

Eventually, it was Rodd Taylor who was first to push the pace up, resulting in the field quickly spreading out. Several strong attacks from Adam Gordon and Nawaf came to nothing, with Championship leader, Patrice Delile, happy to playing a waiting game for the moment.

Taking everyone by surprise, Dave Forshaw was the next to attack quickly reeling-in Jaime Sunga and Redeem Platil, who had been a few hundred meters off the front.

A good time triallist, Forshaw decided his best option was to put his head down and go it alone and soon gained some distance from a small chase group consisting of Nasser, Rob Patrick, Taylor, Herbert Rom, Nawaf, Delile and Edwin Seneres. Despite working well together, the group were losing ground to a determined Forshaw, who was in danger of disappearing out of sight in the rain, mist and spray. Delile realizing he

was losing control of the situation, attacked hard, taking only Sunga and Platil with him. Platil almost immediately punctured and soon after Sunga, who was suffering very badly in the cold conditions was dropped, leaving Delile on his own to closedown Forshaw, which he did with only a few kilometers to go. A tactical display of match sprinting followed with neither rider wanting to take the lead, but when the action did

start, it was Forshaw who recorded a rare defeat of Delile, for his first Wheelers win.

Said Forshaw between chattering teeth, "I was able to get some quality training in at my local when I was home on holiday in the UK. I'm sure it helped me today". Minutes later the chasers came into sight, with Nasser just holding off Patrick, Taylor, Rom, Seneres, Sunga and Nawaf. As the remaining riders struggled in, some needed help from the supporters in the way of blankets and hot drinks, with Alphonso Fabular even requiring medical attention due to signs of hypothermia. The Asian cyclists commented later that they had never seen such cold conditions before, with everyone agreeing this had been one of the hardest events they had ever ridden.

Results: (all finishers)

1st D.Forshaw; 2nd P.Delile; 3rd Nasser; 4th R.Patrick; 5th R.Taylor; 6th H.Rom; 7th E.Seneres; 8th J.Sunga; 9th Nawaf; 10th J.Forrester; 11th R.Mendoza; 12th O.Galang; 13th R.Madriaga; 14th A.Gordon; 15th H.Kashou; 16th C.Morelos; 17th J.Javier; 18th R.Gocian; 19th L.Solis; 20th P.Waddell; 21st A.Hanan.

Categories:

Open Nasser; Veteran D.Forshaw; Master R.Patrick; Senior P.Waddell, MB R.Madriaga.



Cyclists from left, H. Rom, P. Delile, D. Forshaw, R. Madriaga, Nasser, P. Waddell and R. Patrick are seen after a tough race. (AN photo)

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Sports

James Tops in Novartis 40-km TT

Jan Partick

RIYADH — The last event of the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health season was held at the weekend here. The race, known as the "blue riband" of cycling, was a 40-km (25-mile) time trial.

Every serious cyclist's personal goal is to cover this distance in less than one hour, and so far in the history of the Wheelers, only nine riders have managed to achieve this goal.

However James Cusden and Dave Forshaw added their names to the role of honor. A field of 30 riders faced time-keeper Mick Cook, who sent the riders off in reverse order, adding to the buzz of excitement and anticipation, which passed through the crowd. With everything to race for, overall championship positions were also at stake, and amazingly after a long season Forshaw and Jaime Sunga plus Cat B's Navy Desanghere and Freda Gocian were exactly equal on points, which also added to the suspense.

Starting fast, the Wheelers top two were already cutting a swathe through the field, catching their minute markers Rob Patrick, Jaime Sunga and Redeem Platil within 20 kilometers. Patrick's ride, although four minutes off his best was to earn him third place ahead of Sunga and a surprise fifth, George Morete, not usually known for



Riyadh Wheelers speedsters, from left, James Cusden, Dave Forshaw, Rob Patrick and Freda Gocian. (AN photo)

his time trialing. With the good weather, personal bests were the order of the day, and new marks were recorded by Forshaw; Kelvin Bowers, Martin Piper, Fernando Ranola, Scott Waight, Rinaldo Mendoza, and Ammar Hanan to name just a few.

Cat B stakes were decided by a cruel puncture to Nancy Desanghere, with new 2007 Champion Freda Gocian taking the honors. Desanghere is looking toward other challenges by tackling the Lanzarote Ironman event later this year.

Pete Waddell was not pushed in the senior category as was Lino Basuel in the category for Mountain Bikes.

As another season comes to a close,

special thanks go to generous sponsors, Novartis Consumer Health, Almarai and BAE Systems.

The prize ceremony will be held next year.

Results:

1st J. Cusden 58m24s; 2nd D. Forshaw 59m53s; 3rd R. Patrick 1h1m18s; 4th J. Sunga 1h1m53s; 5th G. Morete 1h4m12s; 6th R. Platil 1h4m19s; 7th K. Bowers 1h4m58s; 8th F. Ranola 1h5m07s; 9th R. Mendoza 1h5m20s; 10th R. Gocian 1h8m22s; 11th B. Syfrig 1h8m56s; 12th M. Piper 1h10m12s; 13th S. Waight 1h10m12s; 14th H. Kashou 1h10m59s; 15th A. Carinan 1h11m03s; 16th E. Seneres 1h11m25s; 17th J. Forrester 1h11m37s; 18th C. Morelos 1h13m12s; 19th O. Galang 1h13m14s; 20th G. Escobar 1h13m30s; 21st F. Gocian 1h13m48s; 22nd A. Hanan 1h15m40s; 23rd J. Javier 1h15m58s; 24th M. Galang 1h16m04s; 25th L. Basuel 1h16m13s; 26th P. Waddell 1h18m44s; 27th L. Solis 1h21m35s; 28th R. Bitong 1h25m47s; 29th N. Desanghere (puncture) 1h35m55s. DNF J. Ordonez.

Delile Nails Top Spot in Riyadh Wheelers Time Trial Race

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — After a long break, the Riyadh Wheelers season was back in action, with 52 eager cyclists signing up to face a 40km race against the clock in the beautiful farming region to the north of the city.

Not only was the scenery pleasant, but the day dawned cool and sunny making the prospect of fast times very inviting. Hot favorite for top honors and current champion, Patrice Delile, came across from Dhahran and wasn't in any mood to make the long trip for nothing. Starting last, he scythed through the field finishing over a minute clear of Jaime Sunga, who again looks to be having a great season.

The race for the minor placings was closer; Dave Forshaw recovering from a painful mid-week accident, reaped the rewards of a hard training schedule by pushing Rob Patrick down to 4th. An unaccustomed 5th position for Rodd Taylor was a surprise to many, with Taylor at a loss to explain his dip in form. "With Patrice starting behind me, I think I may have started too fast",



Riyadh Wheelers winner Delile is flanked by Jaime Sunga, right, Dave Forshaw and Rob Patrick, left. (AN photo)

was the only explanation Taylor could offer.

A quartet of strong Pinoy road racers filled the next positions, split only by back-on-form Reiner Gocian. Redeen Platil, George Morete, Fernando Ranola and Alphonso Fabular finishing either side of the German Ironman. Riyadh exile, Gary Swinburne back on familiar roads, posted one of his best rides to date ahead of new member Jovito Solis. In his first season with the Wheelers and in 13th place was strong all-rounder, Bruno Syring, who also announced the exciting news that his company, Novartis Pharmaceuticals would be generously sponsoring the Wheelers for the coming year.

Category B honors was again a close run thing with Nancy Desanghere turning the tables on rival Freda Gocian, with both winning their respective age categories. Several riders posted personal bests, among them, mountain bike winner Reynaldo Madriaga and Stuart Marshall.

Results:
 1st P.Delile 59m 29s; 2nd J.Cudsen 1hr 0m 50s; 3rd D.Foreshaw 1hr 2m 04s;
 4th R.Patrick 1hr 2m 27s; 5th R.Taylor 1hr 3m 15s; 6th R.Platil 1hr 3m 45s; 7th G.Morete 1hr 5m 24s; 8th R.Gocian 1hr 5m 56s; 9th E.Ranola 1hr 6m 28s; 10th A.Fabular 1hr 7m 21s; 11th G.Swinburne 1hr 7m 26s; 12th J.Solis 1hr 7m 49s;
 13th B.Syring 1hr 8m 03s; 14th E.Leean 1hr 9m 18s; 15th A.Garcera 1hr 9m 19s.

Arab news

9th March 2007



Novartis Consumer Health multiwinner
 Patrice Delile seen at top speed.

Top 3 in 90 km event, James Cudsen, Patrice Delile and Jaime Sunga. (AN photos)

Delile, Beyers, Star in 4-Race Feast of Cycling

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — The Riyadh Wheelers season rolled on at a pace, with 4 races in quick succession resulting in more close and exciting racing. The first, held in cold and windy conditions, was a 90km road race and although the winner Patrice Delile was not a totally unexpected result, the race for the minor positions brought a few surprises.

Delile admitted to preparing specifically for this event, and his succession of strong attacks proved he had used the right training recipe. Breaking away early on, only Jaime Sunga and Redeen Platil were able to go with him, with James Cudsen organizing the chase pack of Rob Patrick, Rodd Taylor, Herbert Rom, George Morete and Dave Forshaw. After 60 km's the pace and distance began to take effect, resulting in Sunga and Platil coming back to the chasers and Taylor, Rom and Forshaw dropping off the back. Cudsen, showing his experience, timed his attack perfectly and bridged the gap to Delile alone, leaving Platil, Sunga, Patrick and Morete resigned to race for third place. Delile wasn't finished however, and fearing the young Cudsen in a sprint finish, launched a final attack which saw him coming in alone for another fine victory.

Results:

1st P.Delile; 2nd J.Cudsen; 3rd R.Platil; 4th J.Sunga; 5th G.Morete; 6th R.Patrick; 7th D.Forshaw; 8th H.Rom; 9th R.Taylor; 10th A.Fabular; 11th H.Kilpatrick; 12th E.Seneres; 13th R.Mendoza; 14th J.Hlawa; 15th G.Swinburn.

Open J. Cudsen, Veteran P. Delile, Master R. Patrick, Senior P. Waddell, Cat B F. Gocian, Mb L. Basuel.

The next race on the calendar was the annual 3 peaks race at Udhailiyah, an event organised by Eastern Province

cycling stalwart Doug Horn and his team. Always a tough race, which attracts riders from all over the Kingdom, this year was no exception, with teams from Hofuf, Dhahran and Riyadh competing, the winner proved to be South African strongman, Christiaan Beyers from Dhahran, an extremely talented cyclist who successfully defended his title. A young Saudi member of the National Squad came in next, using his international experience and fitness to just outsprinting top Riyadh Wheelers riders James Cudsen and Patrice Delile.

Results:

1st C.Beyers; 2nd Al Habrity; 3rd J.Cudsen; 4th P.Delile; 5th D.Forshaw; 6th M.Davitt ; 7th D.Jackson; 8th Al Mohamedali; 9th A.Collado; 10th R.Dunne; 11th L.Beyers (Cat B); 12th E.Cayquet; 13th N.Cordial; 14th N.Duhaylungsod; 15th A.Tugado.

The final 2 races consisted of the popular 2 stage race format, which comprised a short time trial followed immediately by a road race. Proof that if you're fit and riding well, a cyclist can turn his hand to anything was proved by Patrice Delile who won both events ahead of the rest of the field, who slightly re-shuffled their positions between the two races. The familiar names of Sunga, Forshaw, Rom, Platil, Morete all played their part in what was an excellent weekend of racing, with the strong wind making it particularly difficult.

Results: 4km TT; 1st P.Delile; 2nd D.Foreshaw; 3rd J.Sunga; 4th R.Platil; 5th G.Morete; 6th A.Fabular; eq. 7th F.Ranola, H.Rom; eq. 9th E.Seneres, R.Mendoza; 11th J.Coates; 12th S.Waight.

40km RR

1st P.Delile; 2nd J.Sunga; 3rd D.Foreshaw; 4th R.Platil; 5th H.Rom; 6th A.Fabular; 7th G.Morete; 8th F.Ranola; 9th E.Seneres; 10th R.Mendoza; 11th N.Al Mohiza; 12th J.Solis 13th J.Javier; 14th J.Coates.

2/19/06

Taylor Strikes Early as Riyadh Wheelers Season Starts

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — The long awaited 2006-2007 racing season for the Riyadh Wheelers finally arrived with their traditional opener, the 16km Time Trial, which is a sure test of early fitness.

Although the afternoon event did not attract a full field, it gave a good indication who are going to be the 'main players' this season. Determined to stake an early claim, newly appointed Wheelers Chairman Rodd Taylor showed he had not been idle over the summer and put in a strong ride to claim the top step of the podium, ahead of a familiar name, Rob Patrick, and the revelation of the race, Dave Forshaw.

Forshaw from a cycling background, has like so many before him rekindled his love of the sport while working in Riyadh. He went on to say, "My family are not with me at the moment so I have plenty of spare time to train and hope to better my times from when I was a junior".

George Morete, Reiner Gocian and Redcen Platil filled the next positions, separated by only 8 seconds, with the multi-talented Harper Kilpatrick leading in the next tightly contested group a few more seconds back.

Results:
1st R.Taylor 24m42s; 2nd R.Patrick 25m29s; 3rd D.Forshaw 25m33s; 4th G.Morete, R.Gocian, 25m59s; 6th R.Platil 26m.07s; 7th H.Kilpatrick 26m.50s; 8th A.Carinan 27m.02s; 9th F.Oberlaender 27m.06s; 10th A.Fabular 27m.12s; 11th R.Fernando 27m.19s; 12th D.Hunt 27m35s.
Categories:

Open: R.Platil, B: N.Desanghere; Veteran: R.Taylor, B: E.Gocian; Master: R.Patrick; Senior: P.Waddell

Al-Muslim Drops Wheelers Champ to Win 40km Road Race

To many, the real racing started with this the second event on the calendar, a 40km Road Race held on a new course to the north of the city. The numbers who signed on also reflected this as an incredible 53 faced the starter, including some from the Saudi National Team.

Club champion Patrice Delile, looked fit enough to take on the young Saudis after some good training sessions with the Eastern Province riders. After a compulsory neutral section the first action started when Bruno Syfrig decided to take off alone which prompted

a rapid response from Delile, which in turn had the entire field strung out over several hundred meters in a matter of seconds. From the melee, an elite group of three emerged, Delile, Fathi Al-Muslim and back from injury, Salem Al Awami. Behind them a chase pack of 10 riders had formed, and should have been able to bring back the leaders, but as in past, lack of motivation and negative riding ensured they would be racing for 4th place instead of first. Throughout the field, small chase groups had formed, showing that the riders were gaining experience and confidence in the often difficult, dangerous and tactical world of road racing. Riding particularly well were Dave Forshaw and George Morete who never gave up the chase, newcomers Syfrig and Kelvin Bowers

whose energy and enthusiasm promise success very soon, and Nancy Desanghere who finished in the top half of the field and in the process took some notable scalps.

Back at the front with a lap to go, Fathi put in a huge attack which had Delile and Al Awami in difficulty, leaving the young Saudi to triumphantly cross the line alone. The sprint for 4th was, as expected a benefit for the sprinters, with Redcen Platil, Jaime Sunga, Alphonso Fabular, Rob Patrick and Herbert Rom edging out a frustrated Forshaw, Harper Kilpatrick and Morete.

Results:
1st F Al Muslim; 2nd P.Delile; 3rd S Al Awami; 4th R.Platil; 5th J.Sunga; 6th A.Fabular; 7th R.Patrick; 8th H.Rom; 9th D.Forshaw; 10th H.Kilpatrick; 11th G.Morete; 12th N Al Matrad.
Categories:
Open: F Al Muslim, B: N.Desanghere; Veteran: P.Delile, B: E.Gocian; Master: R.Patrick; Senior: P.Waddell.



The Riyadh Wheelers' first race winners are seen from left, Dave Forshaw, Rodd Taylor and Rob Patrick. (AN photos)



Victorious Fathi Al-Muslim flanked by Salem Al-Awami, left, and Patrice Delile.



Photo shows the top three in Novartis Nigel Howell Memorial Hill Climb from left, James Cudsen, Patrice Delile and Jaime Sunga. (AN photo)

Delile Takes Hill Climb Title at First Attempt

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — On a day which dawned perfectly for record breaking, Nigel Howell's course record survived another year despite the best efforts from some of the Kingdom's best cyclists.

With a tail wind pushing the riders up the formidable climb of Dirab Escarpment, plus the welcome appearance of strongman Patrice Delile, the knowledgeable crowd were predicting a new mark would be set this year.

Riding his first event with the Wheelers was James Cudsen, a former international and professional cyclist who is now working in Riyadh after retiring from the pelotons of Europe.

Admitting to lacking fitness, he nonetheless carried his obvious class to a fine 3rd place with very little training.

A field of 45 riders signed on to ride the Howell Memorial event, sponsored by Novartis, and were set of by Mick Cook's time keeping team of Mollie Butler, Oonagh Kilpatrick and Freda Gocian, first tackling a gradual gradient for 3km, then the final kilometer where the road rears-up to the summit.

Interestingly, time splits were taken at this point and the results show this is really two races in one, one for the climbers and one for time trial specialists.

Starting from the middle of the field, Jochem Hlawa surprised many and set the fastest time, speculating that an 8-minute ride was possible by the 'big guns' starting at the back of the field.

One by one riders crossed the line in various states of exhaustion, some needing urgent assistance as they gasped for breath in the thin air, but Hlawa's time held out.

Last year's winner Jaime Sunga rode a balanced race, showing his experience and climbing talent, but could only secure second place this year.

In contrast, Fernando Fabular posted the best time to the bottom of the climb, then struggled to 27th place once gravity took its cruel effect on his tired legs.

Rob Patrick took 6th place and the Masters title, sandwiched between two strong riders, Dave Foreshaw and Harper Kilpatrick, whose size and weight would suggest they would be better suited to flatter roads.

The latter amazed many by climbing in 4th place while Foreshaw went up in 8th. Nancy Desanghere had it all her own way in Cat B, with the severity of the event no doubt putting off many.

Everyone who finished this tough event deserves a mention, in particular Alphonso Fabular who continues to improve and plucky Andrew Neal who took as long to reach the climb as Delile took to complete the entire race.

Friends and training partners Toby Phillips and Scott Waight finished just seconds apart ahead of Mountain Bike winner Reynaldo Madriaga.

Results, split positions in brackets:

1st P.Delile (2,1) 9m37s; 2nd J.Sunga (5,3) 10m15s; 3rd J.Cudsen (3,6) 10m21s; 4th J.Hlawa (11,2) 10m29s; 5th D. Foreshaw (4,8) 10m40s; 6th R. Patrick (6,5) 10m46s; 7th H.Kilpatrick (13,4) 10m59s; eq. 8th A.Fabular (6,11), R.Platil (9,9) 11m07s; 10th G.Morete (8,14) 11m15s; 11th F. Ranola (1,27) 11m22s; 12th R. Gocian (12,13) 11m29s; 13th R.Taylor (10,16) 11m37s; 14th T.Phillips (21,7) 11m44s; 15th S.Waight (19,11) 11m56s.

Delile Takes RW Two-Day Event

Jan Patrick

RIYADH — The Riyadh Wheelers International two-day race is the biggest event on the calendar, and once again did not disappoint by living up to its reputation for fast, hard and exciting racing over 3 stages.

Not only were the Saudi national team present, made up of riders who didn't make the selection for the Asian Games in Qatar, but also Adrian Gibbons who had traveled in from Dubai. In all over 50 riders and 12 nationalities competed, covering all ages and abilities.

The first stage was a brisk 40km Criterium which usually causes problems for the inexperienced riders, due to the high level of bike handling required. Thanks to some aggressive riding by Patrice Delile and Gibbons, the field was soon spread out around the course.

From this early action, an elite pack emerged containing the big names: Delile, Gibbons, Abdulaziz, Moussa and Sultan, who were pulling away from the chasers, Jaime Sunga, Herbert Rom, George Morete, Rob Patrick, Reiner Gocian, and Nasser. As the line came into sight, Delile badly mistimed his effort allowing Abdulaziz to squeeze past by millimeters. An off-color Dave Forshaw led the charge in for the minor placings which included a pair of rapidly improving Masters, Bruno Syfrig and Jeff Forester (watch out Rob Patrick), with Cat B going to Nancy Desanghere, just ahead of top Senior Peter Waddell.

Results Stage 1

1st A.Sharani; 2nd P.Delile; 3rd Moussa; 4th A.Gibbons; 5th J.Sunga; 6th Sultan; 7th R.Patrick; 8th H.Rom; 9th Nasser; 10th R.Gocian; 11th G.Morete; 12th D.Forshaw; 13th R.Taylor; 14th H.Kilpatrick; 15th B.Syfrig

The second stage, a 2km time trial, wasn't supposed to have much effect on the overall results, but in reality brought many surprises and upsets, with fancied riders slipping down the standings and new names taking the limelight. Apart from Delile reversing the 1st place result from Abdulaziz: Forshaw, Gary Swinburne, Redeen Platil, Toby Phillips and



The RW two-day winners pose for a souvenir photo. From left, N.Desanghere, P.Delile, P.Waddell, A.Sharani, R.Patrick and J.Sunga. (AN photo)

Kelvin Bowers all recorded their best results to date by finishing at the head of the field. Maria Sirkeinen challenged strongly for Cat B, but Desanghere just took it by seconds.

Results Stage 2

1st P.Delile; 2nd A.Sharani; 3rd D.Forshaw; 4th Sultan; eq 5th A.Gibbons, J.Sunga; 7th G.Swinburne; 8th R.Platil; eq 9th R.Gocian, T.Phillips; 11th K.Bowers; eq 12th Moussa, R.Patrick; 14th A.Fabular; 15th H.Kilpatrick.

With the third stage started immediately after the second, tired legs were the order of the day, resulting in little enthusiasm from the pack to attack this difficult course. Abdulaziz and Delile, equal on points could be excused for riding tactically, but this did not stop Moussa, who after a poor time trial was out to make amends.

Attacking hard, he soon went clear of the lead group, who were happy to let Syfrig keep the tempo high. Cruel punctures took out some of the contenders as a group of 15 were left

to sprint it out for 2nd place behind Moussa. Delile made no mistake in the sprint this time and gloriously took the two-day title for the second successive year, as well as being top veteran. Former winner Abdulaziz had to settle for second place plus Open winner, ahead of consistent Sunga. Forshaw recovered well to take 4th ahead of Master winner Patrick. Waddell, Desanghere and Paul McParland (MB) all won their respective categories to bring to an end another excellent 2-day event.

Results Stage 3

1st Moussa; 2nd P.Delile; 3rd A.Sharani; 4th Sultan; 5th J.Sunga; 6th D.Forshaw; 7th H.Rom; 8th R.Patrick; 9th A.Fabular; 10th Nasser; 11th T.Phillips; 12th R.Taylor; 13th G.Morete; 14th B.Syfrig; 15th H.Kilpatrick.

Results Final Overall

1st P.Delile; 2nd A.Sharani; 3rd J.Sunga; 4th D.Forshaw; 5th R.Patrick; 6th R.Gocian; 7th T.Phillips; 8th G.Morete; 9th Nasser; 10th R.Taylor; 11th A.Fabular; 12th H.Rom; 13th B.Syfrig; 14th J.Forrester; 15th E.Seneres