



Top finishers in the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers 16km time trial from left to right: Bruno Syfrig, Thierry Mathy, Patrice Delile, Rob Patrick and Kelvin Bowers. (AN photo)

Former champ Delile tops Novartis-Riyadh Wheelers opener

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: The new Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers season rolled out at the weekend with the traditional opener, a 16km time trial. This event, although not long in distance, is extremely high in intensity and is an early indicator to see who has kept in shape over the long summer. Cyclists are notorious for underestimating their fitness levels and the Wheelers are no exception, with only the triathletes admitting to be happy with their form as they come to end of their season. The result for top honors was a surprise therefore, with international triathlete Gaetan Contrino relegated to 3rd place by two riders widely considered as pure cyclists. Taking No. 1 spot, the familiar name and former champion, Patrice Delile was happy to be back in Kingdom after a job change and riding as well as ever. Second place went to a newcomer and Delile's training partner, Thierry Mathy, who is fortunate enough to be a fitness professional and a great talent from Belgium. For the first time in Wheelers 16km TT history, the top three riders recorded sub 23 minutes rides and amazingly were also French speaking. Fourth place went to the ever-improving Kelvin Bowers, who led the Masters challenge ahead of Bruno Syfrig and Rob Patrick.

Syfrig's ride must be considered the ride of the day, as he posted his best placing to date and a dramatic improvement from his previous PB.

When quizzed after the event,

Syfrig admitted to a radical change in training, which obviously works for him. Art Cabal looks to a force to be reckoned with this year, taking 7th ahead of Pinoy No. 1 Jaime Sunga, who admitted to being below par. Freda Gocian, after a summer of hard racing regained her familiar top spot with another good performance in the Cat B category. It was wonderful to see juniors riding again in a Wheelers event, Huw and Alun Thomas putting impressive performances in their first outing. Hopefully this will encourage other youngsters to come out and join in.

Results: 1st Patrice Delile 22:33; 2nd Thierry Mathy 22:46; 3rd Gaetan Contrino 22:57; 4th Kelvin Bowers 23:17; 5th Bruno Syfrig 23:24; 6th Rob Patrick 24:11; 7th Art Cabal 24:30; 8th Jaime Sunga 24:34; 9th George Morete 24:45; 10th Rodd Taylor 24:52; 11th Alex Carinan 25:02; 12th Reiner Gocian 25:07; 13th Roy Delos Santos 25:13; 14th Jan Davies 25:14; 15th Paul McParland 25:42; 16th Phil Green 26:08; 17th Andy Inglis 26:09; 18th Herbert Rom 26:11; 19th Patrick Casey 26:33; 20th Kelvin Hills 26:39; 21st Edwin Seneres 26:57; 22nd Lee Davies 27:21; 23rd Freda Gocian 27:28; 24th David Nicholls 27:33; 25th Paul Soycon 27:35; 26th Armando De Leon 28:06; 27th Arnel Maniago 28:14; 28th Catalino Laoagan 28:17; 29th Lito Ordonez 28:26; 30th Robert Myres 28:36; 31st Redeen Platil 28:38; 32nd Henry Marinas 28:38; 33rd Ewan Cameron 28:42; 34th Rene Bitong 28:51; 35th Renato Pilar 29:00; 36th Jessie Javier 29:09; 37th Rodel Flores 29:11; 38th Lee Phillips 29:15; 39th Francis Gregorio 29:19; 40th Steve Baker 29:58; 41st Rebecca Robertson 29:59; 42nd Carlo Rillera 30:02; 43rd Tony Kiernan 30:24; 44th Huw Thomas 30:31; 45th John Curry (Day Member) 30:35; 46th Fiona Nichol 32:18; 47th Rodolfo Pedrosa 32:26; 48th Jana Jaruskova 33:43; 49th Eoghan Donnellan 34:48; 50th Dave Thomas 36:07; 51st Alun Thomas 36:36; 52nd Jean-Pierre Lagadec 36:46; 53rd Ron Downs DNF
Open Art Cabal; Veteran Patrice Delile; Master Kelvin Bowers; Senior Catalino Laoagan; Cat B Freda Gocian; Junior Huw Thomas

Delile notches up 2nd Novartis victory

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: The first 40km road race of the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers season was held on a testing circuit to the north of Riyadh which attracted 60 riders.

The event also heralded the return of club champion James Cusden, who after wrapping up the points early into last season, had not been seen in action for some time.

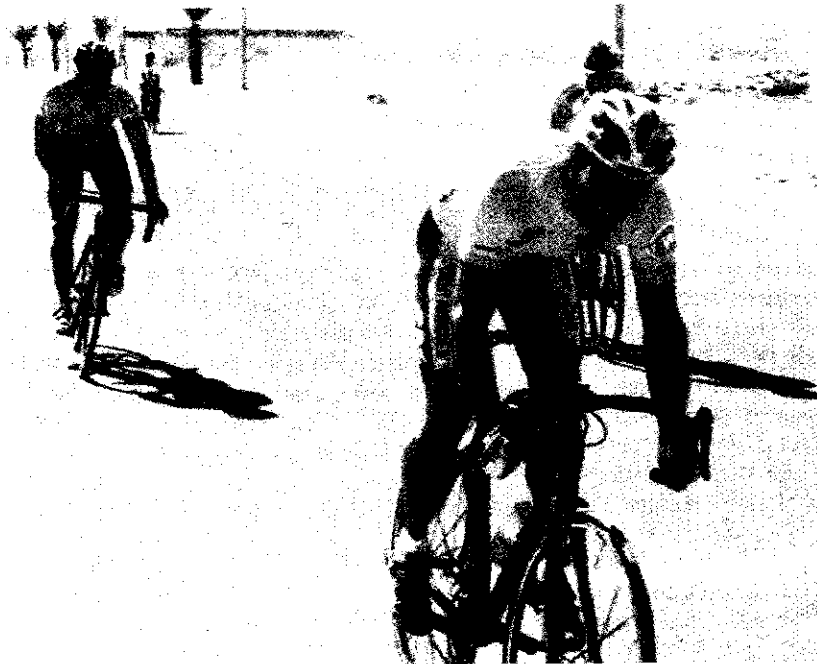
Cusden admitted to not being fully fit, and said he was impressed by the performances of Delile, Thierry Mathy and Gaetan Contrino in the first event so was going to have to be on his guard. Although Contrino was a non-starter, Cusden's fears were soon realized as Delile attacked after the neutral section and was not able to bring back the flying Frenchman alone.

A large pack of nearly 30 riders soon formed, but with only Cusden, Bruno Syfrig, Lars Cortsen, Ian Davies, George Morete and Rob Patrick willing to work, Delile was never going to be caught as the momentum soon went out of the chase.

Jaime Sunga put in an attack around the 30km mark, but was not going anywhere as the sprinters started to show some interest and closed down the move.

With just 6km to go, Cusden finally bid farewell to the bunch, taking Mathy with him and was able to hold him off to the line. The sprint for 4th had a familiar look about it as the Pinoy fastmen appeared at the front in the final meters and took the next five places, ahead of a frustrated Patrick, Nasser Al Mutrad and Reiner Gocian.

Disaster was narrowly avoided on the last corner, as Paul McParland misjudged the corner and narrowly avoided a serious accident by taking an exit



Patrice Delile cruises to victory ahead of James Cusden (partly hidden) and Thierry Mathy. (AN photo)

route but still finished in 12th, albeit on a parallel road. The next event, a 40km time trial, promises to be an exciting affair as a strong team from Al Khobar is said to be making the journey to Riyadh.

Results:

1st Patrice Delile; 2nd James Cusden; 3rd Thierry Mathy; 4th Jaime Sunga; 5th Redeen Platil; 6th Roy Delos Santos; 7th Edwin Seneres; 8th Herbert Rom; 9th Rob Patrick; 10th Nasser Al Mutrad; 11th Reiner Gocian; 12th Paul McParland; 13th George Morete; 14th Paul Soycon; 15th Ian Davies; 16th Salah Al Kathere; 17th Abdallah Al Thiabi; 18th Mohammed Al Awany; 19th Jun Cordial; 20th Patrick Casey; 21st Bruno Syfrig; 22nd Lee Davis; 23rd Lars Cortsen; 24th Andy Inglis; 25th Alex Carinan; 26th Peter Foster; 27th David Nicholls; 28th Rob Bowes; 29th

Arnel Maniago; 30th Jessie Javier; 31st Jimmy Damance; 32nd Robert Myres; 33rd Catalino Laoagan; 34th Francis Gregorio; 35th Ewan Cameron; 36th Armando De Leon; 37th Henry Marinas; 38th Lito Ordonez; 39th Renato Pilar; 40th Peter Waddell; 41st Freda Gocian; 42nd John Hymns; 43rd Rebecca Robertson; 44th Carlo Rillera; 45th Steve Baker; 46th Tony Kiernan; 47th Jean-Pierre Lagadec; 48th Fiona Nichol; 49th Huw Thomas; 50th Muaz Al Suwailem; 51st Rodolfo Pedrosa; 52nd Abdallah Al Sarhni; 53rd Akahiko Suzuki; 54th Ron Downs; 55th Greg McIntosh; 56th Alun Thomas; 57th Dave Thomas; 58th Andy Neal

Categories:

Open James Cusden; Veteran Patrice Delile; Master Rob Patrick; Senior Catalino Laoagan; Cat B Freda Gocian.



TOP THREE: Riyadh Wheelers 50km road race podium, from left, Rob Patrick, Patrice Delile, Gaetan Contrino. (AN photo)

Delile sprints clear in Novartis 50km RR

JAN PARTICK

RIYADH: The start of the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health 50km RR was delayed by 30 minutes by an unfortunate clash of venues with the Riyadh Drifters.

After watching the impressive display, the 35 riders got down to the serious business of racing in the mild conditions.

In an almost festive mood, no one in the bunch wanted to start the action it seemed, until Ian Davies took off alone which soon put an end to the light hearted banter.

Strongmen Patrice Delile and Gaetan Contrino, chose the hardest part of the course to launch their attack and soon were up to the fading Davies who was unable to keep pace and came back to the now fragmented bunch.

The hard work put in by Kelvin Bowers and Bruno Syfrig was not good enough to reduce the flying Frenchmen's lead.

With 12km to go, Bowers eventually put some distance between himself and the chasers, which prompted Alex Carinan and Rob Patrick to bridge the gap. After loosing Carinan the duo were never to be seen again.

In the sprint for the line, Delile was too quick for Contrino, while Bowers paid for his earlier efforts and

succumbed to Patrick, who recorded his best placing.

A furious sprint for 5th place went to Herbert Rom from Carinan, Syfrig, George Morete and Paul Soycon, with the remainder of the shattered chase group struggling home in the rising wind.

Freda Gocian retained top spot in Category B from Katerina Holeckova, while some spirited racing amongst a closely balance Masters group saw Paul McParland outspurt Tom Walton and Reiner Gocian.

RESULTS

1st P.Delile 1:16:42; 2nd G.Contrino; 3rd R.Patrick; 4th K.Bowers; 5th H.Rom; 6th A.Carinan; 7th B.Syfrig; 8th G.Morete; 9th P.Soycon; 10th I.Davies; 11th J.Sunga; 12th P.McParland; 15th T.Walton; 16th R.Gocian; 15th R.Delos Santos; 16th H.Kilpatrick; 17th J.Javier; 18th J.Damance; 19th J.Cordial; 20th D.Nicholls; 21st P.Foster; 22nd C.Laoagan; 23rd A.De Leon; 24th P.Casey; 25th J.Currie; 26th F.Gocian; 27th L.Phillips; 28th F.Requillo; 29th P.Green; 30th K.Holeckova; 31st C.Rillera; 32nd L.Ordonez; 33rd E.Donnellan. DNF T.Kiernan, A.Maniago; DNS R. Myres, D.Aubrey.

Open category: Alex Carinan.

Veterans: Patrice Delile.

Master: Rob Patrick.

Senior: Catalino Laoagan.

Category B: Freda Gocian.



Prizewinners gather around Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers two-day race champion Abdulaziz Al Sharani. (AN photo)

Abdulaziz tops Novartis-RW race

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: In one of the best weekends of racing for many years, the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers two-day three-stage event produced a great champion in Abdulaziz Al Sharani.

For the second time in his glittering cycling career, the young Saudi outmaneuvered the opposition to take an impressive clean sweep of all three stages, in this now established international event.

As has been the tradition in the past, the event attracted riders from around the Kingdom and from overseas, including a team from the Saudi cycling squad from their training camp in Abha.

The first stage was an action packed Criterium held on a tight technical circuit which resulted in exciting racing, as riders tested their bike handling skills to the limit. From the gun, the SCS attacked hard and only Gaetan Contrino and Patrice Delile were able to live with their intense pace.

This group formed a comfortable cushion from the chase trio of Ian Davies, Rob Patrick and Salim Al Wami, who worked hard to keep ahead of the formidable power of triathletes Kelvin Bowers, Bruno Syfrig and Bahrain visitor David Somerfield plus young

Mohammed Al Awami and Herbert Rom, who was riding a new Scott hi-tech machine for the first time.

In fading light and amid lap counting confusion, Abdulaziz was awarded the win, with the remainder of the group graciously accepting the result.

Stage 1 results: 1st A.Al Sharani; 2nd G.Contrino; 3rd M.Mabyooq; 4th M.Al Awami; 5th P.Delile; 6th R.Patrick; 7th K.Bowers; 8th S.Al Salem; 9th H.Rom; 10th N.Al Mutrad; 11th B.Syfrig; 12th I.Davies; 13th A.Carinan; 14th C.Ryan; 15th S.Al Talib; 16th H.Al Moshaks; 17th A.Al Shak; 18th D.Somerville; 19th L.Cortsen; 20th P.McParland; 21st S.Waight; 22nd R.Gocian; 23rd J.Cordial; 24th P.Soycon; 25th E.Seneres; 26th R.Delos Santos; 27th D.Nicholls; 28th P.Foster; 29th F.Requillo; 30th L.Davis; 31st F.Gocian; 32nd R.Bowes; 33rd L.Cortsen; 34th H.Kashou; 35th A.Al Sarhani; 36th D.Del Rosario; 37th J.Jaruskova; 38th K.Holeckova; 39th A.Al Dyabi DNF A.Inglis

The next stage was a 1.8km high speed and technical time trial, which gave exponents of this branch of the sport a chance to shine. As is often the case, good riders will excel at all disciplines of the sport, and the results reflected this with the same names occupying the podium. A good ride was put up by the youngest rider in the field, Daan Van Haasteren who beat some of the established riders in the club, including his father.

Stage 2 results: 1st A.Al Sharani; 2nd P.Delile; 3rd G.Contrino; 4th M.Mabyooq; 5th M.Al Awami; eq 6th H.Al Moshaks, B.Syfrig, 8th I.Davies, eq 9th R.Patrick, S.Al Salem; 11th D.Somerville; eq 12th J.Sunga, K.Bowers, C.Ryan; eq 15th S.Waight, N.Al Mutrad; eq 17th

P.McParland, L.Cortsen, G.Morete; 20th A.Al Dyabi; 21st A.Carinan; 22nd J.Cordial; 23rd D.Nicholls; eq 24th R.Delos Santos, R.Gocian, H.Rom; 27th P.Foster; 28th E.Seneres; 29th P.Soycon eq 30th D.Del Rosario, L.Davis, J.Javier R.Myers; eq 34th J.Damance, R.Bitong; eq 36th F.Requillo, S.Al Talib; eq 38th H.Kashou, F.Gregorio, C.Rillers; 41st F.Gocian; 24nd D. Van Haasteren; 43rd L.Ordinez; eq 44th A.Maniago, R.Flores 46th A.Al Sarhani; 47th J.Jaruskova 48th D.Aubrey; 49th K.Holeckova; 50th R. Pedrosa; 51st K. Van Haasteren.

Stage 3 results: 1st A.Al Sharani; 2nd M.Mabyooq; 3rd H.Al Moshaks; 4th M.Al Awami; 5th G.Contrino; 6th K Bowers; 7th H.Rom; 8th S.Al Salem; 9th S.Al Talib; 10th J.Sunga; 11th P.Delile; 12th R.Patrick; 13th C.Ryan; 14th D.Somerville; 15th G.Morete; 16th B.Syfrig; 17th L.Cortsen; 18th A.Carinan 19th I.Davies; 20th J.Cordial; 21st D.Nicholls; 22nd P.Soycon; 23rd S.Waight; 24th P.McParland; 25th A.Al Dyabi; 26th R.Gocian; 27th J.Javier 28th R. Delos Santos; 29th J.Damance 30th A.Maniago; 31st K.Holeckova 32nd R.Myers; 33rd P.Foster; 34th F.Requillo; 35th D.Del Rosario; 36th L.Ordenez; 37th C.Rollers; 38th L.Davis 39th F.Gocian; 40th A.Al Sarhani; 41st H.Kashou; 42nd R.Bitong; 43rd D.Aubrey, DNF N.Al Mutrad; E.Seneres; F.Gregorio; D. Van Haasteren; R.Flores J.Jaruskova; R.Pedrosa; K. Var Haasteren

Final results: Podium — Abdulaziz A. Sharani; Mohammed Al Mabyooq; Gaetan Contrino.

Categories — Open: Mohammed Al Awami; Salem Al Salem; Hussain Al Moshaks; Veteran: Patrice Delile; Ian Davies; Herbert Rom, Master: Kelvin Bowers; Rob Patrick; Bruno Syfrig, Cat B: Freda Gocian; Katrina Holeckova.

Mathy rules Novartis-RW Howell Hill Climb

JAN PARTICK

RIYADH: Although the low turnout for the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers Nigel Howell Memorial Hill Climb disappointed the organizers, the quality of the racing did not, with Thierry Mathy narrowly taking top spot for the first time from his training partner Patrice Delile.

The reason riders stayed away was probably due to cyclists' natural dislike for climbing hills, a discipline only a very few claim to enjoy. Howell's record of 8 minutes 58 seconds was never under threat as older riders packed the top positions with only seconds separating the winners of the veteran and masters categories. Riding well last year and tipped to improve was Tom Walton, who continues to impress as he moved up from 8th to 3rd.

In 4th was Bruno Syfrig who although coming from Switzerland claims not to like the hills, just managing to edge out fast improving Ian Davies and below par Kelvin Bowers. Top Pinoy went to lightweight George Morete, who came in ahead of a group of younger riders, Nasser Al Mutrad, Alex Carinan and Bob Eastwood, who commented his first ascent of Dirab reminded him of some Tour de France climbs he had ridden. Looking through the split times, every year one ride stands out, this time junior rider Huw Thomas rode conservatively to the base of the escarpment in 20th place, then attacked the climb in an incredible 9th place. Two riders who had good excuses to be absent were Gary Swinburn

and Rob Patrick. They were riding the Doug Horn promotion 3 Peaks Road Race in Udahailiah, where Patrick claimed 4th place behind new course record breaker Christaan Beyers. Swinburn was unfortunate to puncture and missed out on the generous prize list donated by Extra. The next event is the 2-Day Event when riders from around the Kingdom are expected to enter.

Results:

1st Thierry Mathy 10:11J; 2nd Patrice Delile 10:19; 3rd Tom Walton 10:35; 4th Bruno Syfrig 10:57; 5th Ian Davies 10:57; 6th Kelvin Bowers 11:00; 7th George Morete 11:10; 8th Nasser Al Mutrad 11:26; 9th Alex Carinan 11:41; 10th Bob Eastwood 12:01; 11th Herbert Rom 12:25; 12th Reiner Gocian 12:33; 13th Paul Soycon 12:43; 14th Edwin Seneres 12:45; 15th Huw Thomas 12:57; 16th Jessie Javier 13:29; 17th Jun Cordial 13:34; 18th Robert Myres 13:35; 19th Arnel Maniago 13:38; 20th Peter Foster 14:00; 21st Catalino Laoagan 14:17; 22nd Dong Del Rosario 14:37; 23rd John Currie 14:45; 24th Tony Kiernan 14:52; 25th Lee Phillips 15:06; 26th Francis Gregorio 15:12; 27th Greg McIntosh 15:31; 28th Carlo Rillera 15:48; 29th Steve Baker 16:32; 30th Jana Jaruskova 16:38; 31st Alun Thomas 16:48; 32nd Koos Van Haasteren 17:31; 33rd Daan Van Haasteren 18:17; 34th Ron Downs 20:12; 35th Dave Thomas 21:12; Rodolfo Pedrosa DNF;

Categories: Open Nasser Al Mutrad; Veteran Thierry Mathy; Master Tom Walton; Senior Catalino Laoagan; CAT B Jana Jaruskova.

Delile steals the show

ARAB NEWS

RIYADH: In conditions that can only be described as atrocious, Scott Waight was persuaded not to cancel the event by the 32 brave souls who signed on. Fortunately the race was one of the shortest, a 16km time trial, so the time spent battling the cold and rain was kept to an absolute minimum, which was probably the motivation for Patrice Delile to put in an incredible turn of speed and record a scant 22.54, nearly a minute ahead of the close packed trio of Kelvin Bowers, Gaetan Contrino and Alex Carinan.

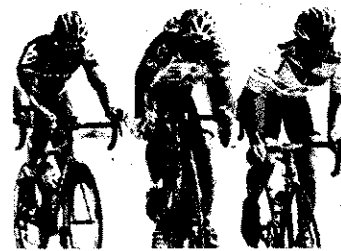
The first four had a comfortable cushion from the rest of the field, which was led by Tom Walton from George Morete and Ian Davies.

Good performances were put up by Herbert Rom and Scott Waight who recorded near personal bests in the awful conditions.

Disappointed after taking delivery of a long awaited time trial machine was Paul McParland, who was heard to comment he had ridden faster on his mountain bike in the past.

Junior rider Daan Van Haasteren continues to improve and claimed the scalp of family member Jolien, riding for the first time.

While the battle for the Senior category was close matched, with Calalino Laoagan just getting the better of Peter Waddell, the Cat B



Top 3 16k TT in competition.

prize was a formality as Freda Gocian continues her dominance.

Results:

1st P.Delile 22:54; 2nd K.Bowers 23:44; 3rd G.Contrino 23:48; 4th A.Carinan 24:07; 5th T.Walton 24:53; 6th G.Morete 25:18; 7th I. Davies 24:53; 8th R.Gocian 25:18; 9th H.Rom 26:15; 10th R.Delos Santos 26:38; 11th S.Waight 26:59; 12th E.Seneres 27:36; 13th P. McParland 27:58; 14th D.Nicholls 28:27; 15th A.Maniago 28:41; 16th R.Bowes 28:51; 17th P.Foster 29:03; 18th C.Laoagan 29:11; eq 19th J.Javier, F.Gocian 29:14; 21st A.De Leon 29:46; 22nd P.Waddell 30:41; 23rd L.Davis 30:44; 24th F. Requillo 31:15; 25th D.Van Haasteren 31:26; 26th M.Al Swaylin 31:48; 27th P.Soycon 31:52; 28th L.Ordenez 32:36; 29th J.Jaruskova 33:39; 30th H.Kasbou 34:05; 31st J.Van Haasteren 36:40 DNF K.Van Haasteren

Categories Open: Alex Carinan; VETERAN Gaetan Contrino; MASTER Kelvin Bowers; SENIOR Catalino Laoagan; CAT B Freda Gocian.

11 DEC '09



Beyers tops Schneider Electric inaugural 160km event

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: The long and eagerly awaited inaugural Schneider Electric-KSA 160km road race was held at the weekend and despite the formidable distance, 47 riders signed on.

As well as producing quality products and solutions, Schneider Electric can also organize a first class cycle race providing an impressive team of support personnel and generous prize list.

Riders came in from all over the Kingdom for this major event, so the large crowd was assured to be treated with exciting and aggressive racing.

After only 20 kilometers, pre-race favorite Christiaan Beyers put in a strong attack which only Thierry Mathy could match and as this strong duo turned into the wind they increased their advantage.

Over the next 80 kilometers many attacks were put in, particularly by the young Saudi Squad and the visitors from Dhahran.

Eventually, John Ptolomy broke away alone, soon to be joined by Eastern duo Charlie Ryan and Barry Davitt whose pace then was so high. Ryan was not able to stay with them and came back to the main pack which was being controlled by Dhahran pair Dave Jackson and Alex Collado, plus Riyadh's George Morete, Rob Patrick and Nasser Al Mutrad, who had their work cut out keeping this active group together.

After 4 hours of hard racing, where punctures, sand storms and near gale force winds took their toll on the now very much depleted bunch, race director Rodel Flores made the wise decision to reduce the distance by 20 kilometers, much to the relief of the few survivors.

As the line approached, Beyers put in one last effort and crossed the line in victory from a cramping Mathy, some minutes ahead of John



Schneider Electric's management team, from left, Rodel Flores, Shashi Sharma and Alnasri Ahmed-Ali with the top three winners holding their trophies. (AN photo)

Ptolomy, Barry Davitt and the chase group sprint won by Saleh Taleb, from Redeen Platil, Rob Patrick, Yousef Asery and Abdullah Otabi. Just tailed off in the 70kph run-in to the finish were Roy Delos Santos, Jackson, Paul Soycon and Ryan. All the finishers received praise from the Schneider Electric senior management, Mohamed Noaman, VP of Human Resources and Admin and Younes Souini, VP of Finance, who graciously turned out and braved the conditions. Presenting the winners with their awards were Shashi Sharma, Logistics Planning manager and Alnasri Ahmed-Ali, the Supporting Services manager.

After the presentation, prolific winner Beyers was heard to comment this was one of the few races he had to take to a sprint finish in order to win and was impressed with the strength of Mathy who had not fully prepared for this event.

Unfortunately missing from the line-up was Riyadh's No. 1 Patrice Delile, who has relocated to Jeddah but not before once again wrapping up the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers Championship.

Results:

1st Christian Beyers, 2nd Thierry Mathy, 3rd John Ptolomy, 4th Barry Davitt, 5th Saleh Taleb, 6th Redeen Platil, 7th Rob

Patrick, 8th Yosuf Asery, 9th Abdullah Otaybi, 10th Roy Delos Santos, 11th David Jackson, 12th Paul Soycon, 13th Charlie

Ryan, 14th Jessie Javier, 15th Alexander Collado, 16th Paul McParland, 17th John Hymns, 18th Catalino Laoagan, 19th Jun

Cordial, 20th Angelesio Tugaro, 21st Norman Lavares, 22nd Mohammed Ahamm, 23rd Tony Kiernan, 24th Moad Al Swaylin, 25th

Robert Myres, DNF Jaime Sunga, George Morete, Rodel Flores, Scott Waight, Jana Jaruskova, Rebecca Robertson, Herbert Rom,

Rodolfo Pedrosa, Arnel Maniago, Carlo Rillera, Jimmy Damance, Francis Gregorio, Peter Waddell, Fernando Requillo, Nasser Al Mutrad, Raul Condor, Raymond Ramos, Ahmed Abanmi, Mohammed Al Otabi, Lito Ordonez

Categories Winners Outside Top 3: Open Saleh Taleb, Veteran Roy Delos Santos, Master Barry Davitt, Senior Catalino Laoagan, Cat B Rebecca Robertson

Delile breaks hour in Novartis Consumer Health 40 km time trial

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: The second 40km time trial of the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health season was held in good conditions with many hoping to improve their times. Unfortunately, although the conditions appeared fast, the times were not, with most riders complaining their times were several minutes down on their best.

There were some exceptions of course, the pick being George Morete, John Hymns and Rebecca Robertson who all improved. The winner and one of the few top riders not riding a TT machine, was French star Patrice Delile who also recorded the only

sub-hour ride of the day. In second and very close again to the magical hour barrier was Super-Master Bruno Syfrig who will now have to wait until the last event of the season to try and join the elite club, perhaps the promise of a new bike will help his campaign.

Consistent Kelvin Bowers overcame breathing difficulties to just out-pace Thierry Mathy, who just returned from a long vacation in Europe where the bad weather made it impossible for training.

Rob Patrick was reasonably satisfied with his 5th place, just ahead of a very fit Morete and class triathlon act, Alex Carinan. Hard working commit-

tee member Tom Walton came in next just ahead of Nasser Al Mutrad who continues to regain his best form. Watson sadly announced that this would be his last event before moving on to new adventures away from the Kingdom.

Biggest upset of the day was the defeat in the Cat B stakes of Freda Gocian by Rebecca Robertson. Robertson has been pushing Gocian close all season, but this was the first time their positions were reversed.

Four junior riders signed on, and this mini-battle was won by Daan Van Haasteren, who overcame difficulties with his bike to take the scalps of Huw, Alun Thomas and sister Jolien.

Results: 1st Patrice Delile 0:59:40; 2nd Bruno Syfrig 1:00:48; 3rd Kelvin Bowers 1:01:10; 4th Thierry Mathy 1:01:20; 5th Rob Patrick 1:02:34; 6th George Morete 1:03:04; 7th Alex Carinan 1:03:48; 8th Tom Walton 1:04:02; 9th Nasser Al Mutrad 1:04:15; 10th John Hymns 1:06:17; 11th Jaime Sunga 1:06:34; 12th Paul Soycon 1:07:00; 13th Roy Delos Santos 1:07:02; 14th Reiner Gocian 1:07:32; 15th Jun Cordial 1:09:05; 16th Paul McParland 1:10:01; 17th Phil Green 1:10:08; 18th Edwin Seneres 1:11:01; 19th Catalino Laoagan 1:13:06; 20th Arnel Maniago 1:14:02; 21st David Nicholls 1:14:39; 22nd Rebecca Robertson 1:15:16; 23rd Freda Gocian

1:16:04; 24th Armando De Leon 1:17:06; 25th Lee Phillips 1:17:16; 26th Peter Foster 1:17:19; 27th Ewan Cameron 1:18:42; 28th Ron Downs 1:23:00; 29th Lito Ordonez 1:25:16; 30th Daan Van Haasteren 1:26:29; 31st David Aubrey 1:27:26; 32nd Huw Thomas 1:27:29; 33rd Jana Jaruskova 1:31:19; 34th Eoghan Donnellan 1:34:20; 35th Jolien Van Haasteren 1:36:29; 36th Dave Thomas 1:39:57; 37th Alun Thomas 1:40:17. DNF Koos Van Haasteren, Peter Waddell, Abdallah Al Sarhni

Open: Alex Carinan; Veteran: Patrice Delile; Master: Bruno Syfrig; Senior: Catalino Laoagan.

Category B: Rebecca Robertson.



RW-Novartis Consum from left: Kelvin Bower Bruno Syfrig. (AN phot

Delile rules crash-marred RW-Novartis 80k Road Race

JAN PATRICK

RIYADIE: Thrills and spills were the order of the day as the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health Championship moved into the second half of their season. The event was an 80km road race around a technical and difficult circuit, which could have been a lot harder had the wind been blowing stronger.

Before the start, race director Rob Patrick announced to the 48 competitors that courses like this will have to be used more often if the increase in car traffic continues.

After a long neutralized section, the race was soon under way instigated by a blistering attack from Patrice Delile, which had the effect of splitting the field with only Gaetan Contrino and Thierry Mathy able to match the pace of the former champion. A group of 10 soon formed

and chased hard, helped by vocal encouragement from a very active Nasser Al Shala, who tried to lift the pace and catch the trio ahead. Al Shala, riding his first race with the Wheelers misjudged the strength of the leaders and soon accepted he was racing for 4th place. At the front, Delile had already left his two companions when Mathy unexpectedly fell after a touch of wheels. He was fortunate to be able to continue and finish a fine 3rd behind Delile and Contrino. Nasser Al Mutrad and Nasser Al Shala, finally broke away from their group after a well executed move, with Al Mutrad deservedly taking 4th.

Behind, more drama was unfolding, after losing John Hymns with a puncture and with speeds approaching 55kph, Kelvin Bowers touched wheels with Charlie Ryan and crashed heavily, bringing down plucky George Morete. Bowers

bravely continued, but Merete's bike was damaged so he was forced to retire. This break in the rhythm was the springboard needed for Jamie Sunga to unleash his strong sprint, crossing the line ahead of Patrick, Edwin Seneres, Ryan and Paul Soycon. Jun Cordial led in the

next group of chasers, sprinting clear of Scott Waight, Paul McParland and Alex Carinan in a tight finish.

Rebecca Robertson, getting used to winning ways and again narrowly defeated Freda Gocian, with Seniors Catalino Laoagan and Graham Collins having a close battle for their

Cat prize. Brothers Huw and Alun Thomas rode the 40k junior distance, with Huw taking the decision.

Results:

1st P. Delile; 2nd G. Contrino; 3rd T. Mathy; 4th N. Al Mutrad; 5th N. Al Shala; 6th J. Sunga; 7th R. Patrick; 8th E. Seneres; 9th C. Ryan; 10th Paul Soycon; 11th Jun Cordial; 12th Scott Waight; 13th Paul McParland; 14th Alex Carinan; 15th Peter Foster; 16th Phil Green; 17th Reiner Gocian; 18th Kelvin Bowers; 19th John Hymns; 20th Jimmy Damance; 21st Lee Davis; 22nd Arnel Maniago; 23rd Catalino Laoagan; 24th Graham Collins; 25th Ewan Cameron; 26th Robert Myres; 27th Lee Phillips; 28th Rebecca Robertson; 29th Freda Gocian; 30th Francis Gregorio; 31st Peter Waddell; 32nd Rodel Flores; 33rd Redeen Platil; 34th Hassan Kasbou; 35th Tony Kiernan; 36th Moad Al Swaleem; 37th Eoghan Donnellan; J1 Huw Thomas, J2 Alun Thomas. DNF George Morete, Rodolfo Pedrosa, Fiona Nichol, Steve Baker, Jean-Pierre Lagadee, Lito Ordonez, Dong Del Rosario, Raul Condor, Yousef Gohad

Categories: Open - Paul Soycon, Veteran - Patrice Delile, Master - Rob Patrick, Senior - Catalino Laoagan, Junior - Huw Thomas, Cat B Rebecca Robertson



Winners of the 80km road race around a technical and difficult circuit. (AN photo)

90 17 MAR 10

MATHY DOMINATES RW-NOVARTIS TWINBILL

JAN PATRICK

RIYADIE: An exciting double dose of action was served up at the weekend in the 11th event of the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health season.

The combination of mixing time trialling and road racing into one event proved popular with the riders, prompting 42 to participate in perfect conditions.

Before the start riders donned arm bands as a mark of respect for RW member John Currie, who was killed when struck by a motor vehicle while cycling with friends. This tragedy comes at a time when the WHO report announced the Kingdom has the worst road-death

record in the world. So it was on that somber note, riders were dispatched at 30 second intervals around a difficult and technical 2.8km circuit which soon had everyone gasping for air and their muscles burning. Even before the results were announced, the next stage rolled out, a 30km road race around the now familiar 10km circuit. Because of the shortness of the race, the speed was incredibly high, with most of the pressure coming from Thierry Mathy, who after several attempts, finally broke away with two former champions, Rob Patrick and Jaime Sunga for company. Mathy, a welcome newcomer to the Wheelers, has been around cycling circles long enough to know

that reputations don't win races, and proceeded to ride off alone thus avoiding a sprint against Sunga who packs a powerful punch. There was some spirited racing in the chase packs behind, where Scott Waight found some good form and had for company Herbert Rom, Kelvin Bowers, Alex Carinan and George Morete, while just behind them, John Hymns was pushing up the pace in only his second racing season. This pack had some familiar names and were joined by new member Filipino Marcelo Torres, who will be a force to reckon with in the future with an impressive racing background.

Time trial results:

1st Thierry Mathy; 2nd Jaime

Sunga; 3rd Rob Patrick; 4th Scott Waight; 5th George Morete; 6th Alex Carinan; 7th Ian Davies; 8th John Hymns; 9th Kelvin Bowers; 10th Jun Cordial; 11th Peter Foster; 12th Moad Al Swaleem; 13th Francis Gregorio; 14th Rodel Flores; 15th Edwin Seneres.

Road racing results:

1st Thierry Mathy; 2nd Jaime Sunga; 3rd Rob Patrick; 4th Herbert Rom; 5th George Morete; 6th Alex Carinan; 7th Kelvin Bowers; 8th Scott Waight; 9th Edwin Seneres; 12th John Hymns; 13th Marcelo Torres; 14th Jun Cordial; 15th Reiner Gocian.

Final overall:

1st Thierry Mathy; 2nd Jaime Sunga; 3rd Rob Patrick; 4th George

Morete; 5th Scott Waight; 6th Alex Carinan; Kelvin Bowers; 8th John Hymns; 9th Jun Cordial; 10th Ian Davies; 11th Edwin Seneres; 12th Herbert Rom; 13th Rodel Flores; 14th Phil Green; 15th Reiner Gocian; 16th Francis Gregorio; 17th Paul Soycon; 18th Jimmy Damance; 19th Lee Davis; 20th Marcelo Torres; 21st Jessie Javier; 22nd Peter Foster; 23rd David Nicholls; 24th Dong Del Rosario; 25th Catalino Laoagan; 26th Arnel Maniago; 27th Graham Collins; 28th Paul Jacob; 29th Fernando Requillo; 30th Tony Kiernan; 31st John Garbutt; 32nd Lito Ordonez; 33rd Carlo Rillera; 34th Moad Al Swaleem; 35th Rodolfo Pedrosa; 36th Eoghan Donnellan; 36th Abdallah Al Sarhani.



TOP THREE: From left, both time trial and road race winners Rob Patrick, Thierry Mathy, and Jaime Sunga

Mathy pedals to victory in Novartis time trial

AN 19 FEB
'16

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: With the news that the great supporter and benefactor of Riyadh sport, Bruno Syfrig, had suffered a training accident and broken his leg, it was a slightly subdued 35 riders who faced the timekeeper in the Riyadh Wheelers-Novartis Consumer Health 14.5km hilly time trial.

Although the day appeared conducive to fast times, the outcome was slightly disappointing with riders complaining of 'sticky' conditions, not helped by truck convoys taking a short cut to Al Kharj Industrial City.

The course record of 22m45s was never in danger therefore, but nonetheless a great performance was put up by Thierry Mathy who had been tipped to win by no less than the former winner, Patrice Delile.

The result might have been closer, had Gaetan Contrino not unzipped his chain while searching for some lower gears to engage to help him up the climb. Perhaps a new name to many, but well known in Eastern Province cycling circles, is Eddie Atkinson, who climbed onto the podium for the first time.

Interviewed after the event, Atkinson said he has been hitting some good form lately and used his strength to shine in this type of event.

Nasser Al Mutrad, another in form rider, took 4th place and announced he was preparing for

the upcoming triathlon season. Next in 6th was another former winner, Rob Patrick, who continued his weekly battle with 7th placed George Morete.

Junior honors went to Huw Thomas riding a borrowed bike from brother Alun. Next race is the inaugural Schneider Electric 160km RR, which promises to be a great event with riders coming in from all over the Kingdom.

Results:

1st Thierry Mathy 24:01; 2nd Patrice Delile 24:11; 3rd Eddie Atkinson 24:44; 4th Nasser Al Mutrad 24:55; 5th Gaetan Contrino 25:12; 6th Rob Patrick 25:29; 7th George Morete 25:42; 8th Jaime Sunga 26:43; 9th Scott Waight 27:10; 10th Gary Swinburne 27:27; 11th John Hymns 27:35; 12th Jun Cordial 27:48; 13th Paul Soycon 28:20; 14th Paul

McParland 28:32; 15th Phil Green 28:44; 16th Edwin Seneres 29:10; 17th Herbert Rom 29:15; 18th Lee Davis 29:27; 19th Catalino Laoagan 29:52; 20th Arnel Maniago 30:01; 21st David Nicholls 30:16; 22nd Jessie Javier 30:47; 23rd John Currie 30:49; 24th Francis Gregorio 30:56; 25th Robert Myres 31:02; 26th Dong Del Rosario 31:06; 27th Alex Carinan 32:37; 28th Carlo Rillera 33:12; 29th Tony Kiernan 33:40; 30th Huw Thomas 35:04; 31st Ron Downs 0:35:45; 32nd Alun Thomas 36:07; 33rd Rodolfo Pedrosa 0:38:44; 34th Raul Condor 1:13:26. DNF Moad Al Swaylin

Categories:

Open Nasser Al Mutrad, Veteran Thierry Mathy, Master Eddie Atkinson, Senior Catalino Laoagan, Junior Huw Thomas



The podium winners in the Novartis time trial race. (AN photo)

AN 2 APRIL '10

Mathy claims Almarai Milk 100km Race

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: The long awaited and much anticipated Almarai-sponsored 100km road race was held at the weekend and for another year the large crowd was treated with some exciting action, helped in part by the generous prize list put up by the generous sponsors which attracted quality riders from around the Kingdom, in this truly multi-national event.

On paper it looked like current man-in-form, Thierry Mathy was the clear favorite, but when this year's club champion Patrice Delile signed up, the result became wide open until Delile revealed he had not touched the bike for over a month and doubted if he would even make the distance. Soon after the neutral section, Mathy as expected raised the pace and only Delile and Charlie Ryan could hold the flying Belgian.

Behind, Rob Patrick was in no-man's-land with two young Saudis, Nasser AlMutrad and Salim Taleb, closing on him fast. By the time the junction had been made, Ryan had come back from the lead pair, which left a chase group of four ahead of a large pack, with still over 80km to go.

Although Ryan and Patrick

were keen to continue the chase, their companions were not, so a large group formed led by the irrepressible Kelvin Bowers and George Morete. This pair, aided by Ryan kept the pace high and one by one riders were dropped off the back, leaving a group of eight to contest the sprint for 3rd. Mathy by now had already taken a fine victory ahead of a shattered Delile, who later thanked his companion for helping him over the closing kilometers. Favorite for the sprint, Herbert Rom, was having a very quiet race and by avoiding doing any work looked set to claim the last podium position, but did not reckon on the team riding of the Saudi squad, who

tactically maneuvered Salim Talib to the line thanks to a great lead-out by the experienced AlMutrad.

Ryan unbelievably found the strength to snatch 4th ahead of the rest which were only separated by seconds. Missing from the sprint showdown were Patrick, who cramped in the closing stages on a day when many found the heat and wind too much, and Bowers, who once again rode himself into the ground.

The race for Cat B was a tactical affair with the two title contenders locked in combat for the entire race. In the end Rebecca Robertson found the strength to outpace Freda Gocian, which leaves the race for overall



The top three in the Almarai 100km road race, from left, Patrice Delile, Thierry Mathy and Salim Taleb. (AN photo)

Champion very close with only one race to go. Visitors Todd Green and Chad Albury rode well in their first outing with the Wheelers, as did fellow first timers Norman Lavares, Jiri Kutsa, Garrett Paton and Wayne Meyer, all who unfortunately suffered punctures and mechanical problems.

Results

1. Thierry Mathy 2. Patrice Delile 3. Saleh Taleb 4. Nasser Al Mutrad 5. Charlie Ryan 6. Herbert Rom 7. George Morete 8. Paul Soycon 9. Kelvin Bowers 10. Rob Patrick 11. Abdullah Al Otaibi 12. Scott Waight 13. Todd Green 14. Alex Carinan 15. Edwin Seneres 16. Roy Delos Santos 17. Phil Green 18. Chad Albury 19. Jimmy Damance 20. Peter Waddell 21. Peter Foster 22. Saad Al Abdullah 23. Ewan Cameron 24. Catalino Laoagan 25. Rebecca Robertson 26. Ian Davies 27. Reiner Gocian 28. Freda Gocian 29. Fernando Requillo DNF Jaime Sunga, Jun Cordial, Rodel Flores, Rodolfo Pedrosa, Arnel Maniago, Carlo Rillera, Francis Gregorio, Raymond Ramos, Moad Al Swelem, Marcelo Torres, Norman Lavares, Yousef Al Qwaad, Amjad Al Amri, Rex Fernandez, Jiri Kutsa, Garrett Paton, Wayne Meyer, Ahmed Abanmi.

Delile takes New Year honors

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8 JAN 10

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: Welcoming in the new year, a good turnout of 26 riders lined up for the next event in the Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers season, the 60km road race.

With some of the title contenders on vacation, it was a good opportunity for points chasers to increase their totals. Patrice Delile, who produced his now familiar and predictable powerful performance who won comfortably, once again claimed maximum points.

Delile explained that rather than risk waiting for a sprint finish, he prefers to breakaway as early as possible and from that platform hold off the chasers.

This he did to great effect and the combined efforts of the eight-man chase pack could not reel him in. High winds did not help the chasers, with a few unwilling to take their turn despite the vocal

encouragement from the hard-working Kelvin Bowers and Bruno Syfrig. George Morete, Tom Walton and Rob Patrick did respond to the call.

However, it was these five who proved to be the strongest in the sprint for second place, albeit without Bowers who had the misfortune to puncture.

Further back, small working groups had got together, with Reiner Gocian winning the minor sprint from his group.

Results: 1st Patrice Delile; 2nd Bruno Syfrig; 3rd Tom Walton; 4th Rob Patrick; 5th George Morete; 6th Paul Soycon; 7th Roy Delos Santos; 8th Jaime Sunga; 9th Kelvin Bowers; 10th Reiner Gocian; 11th Jun Cordial; 12th Phil Green; 13th Scott Waight; 14th Catalino Laoagan; 15th Peter Foster; 16th Jessie Javier; 17th Arnel Maniago; 18th Jimmy Damance; 19th Nasser Al Mutrad; 20th Robert Myres; 21st Freda Gocian; 22nd Tony Kiernan;



Top finishers in Novartis Consumer Health-Riyadh Wheelers 60k, Lto R Rob Patrick, George Morete, Bruno Syfrig, Patrice Delile, Tom Walton. (AN photo)

23th Lito Ordonez; 24th David Aubrey. DNF Moad Al Swaylin, Carlo Rillera.

Open: Paul Soycon.

Veterans: Patrice Delile.
Masters: Bruno Syfrig.
Seniors: Catalino Laoagan.
Cat 'B': Freda Gocian

Mathy rules Novartis-Riyadh Wheelers season-ending race

JAN PATRICK

RIYADH: On a day when many had hung their wheels up for the season, Thierry Mathy announced he had one more objective, to break the hour barrier for the blue riband of time trials, the 25-mile (40km) race.

In a close run race, where the top five were separated only by 3 minutes, Mathy achieved his objective ahead of triathlon superstar Gaetan Contrino, former event winners Kelvin Bowers and Rob Patrick and George Morete, who finished the season in brilliant form.

This group was ahead of two non-members, newcomer Jiri Kuba and Dhahran visitor Gary Swinburn, who both reported being satisfied with their effort. Kuba, who comes from a racing background in Germany, will be a force to reckon with next season as he joins the already very competitive Masters category. Personal bests were also abundant on what was considered a hard day. Morete, Scott Waight, Andy Inglis, John Hymns, Liam Beck, Jimmy Damance and Freda Gocian all posted new marks.

Gocian also celebrated taking the Category B overall title with a perfect seven wins after a season-long

tussle with Rebecca Robertson who just failed to qualify.

After the event, co-chairmen, Rob Patrick and Scott Hymns, thanked all the sponsors for their generous support, in particular singling out Bruno Syfrig of Novartis Consumer Health who through his passion and commitment raised the profile of the Wheelers quite considerably this season.

Race results:

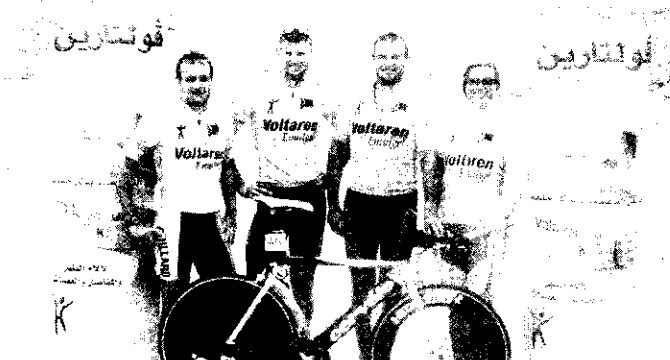
1 Thierry Mathy 00:59:10; 2 Gaetan Contrino 01:01:12; 3 Kelvin Bowers 01:01:23; 4 Rob Patrick 01:02:04; 5 George Morete 01:02:44; 6 Jiri Kuba 01:03:59; 7 Gary Swinburne 01:04:44; 8 Scott Waight 01:05:49; 9 Andy Inglis 01:06:44; 10 John Hymns 01:06:51; 11 Reiner Gocian 01:07:59; 12 Liam Bek 01:08:40; 13 Jun Cordial

01:09:02; 14 Edwin Seneres 01:09:07; 15 Phil Green 01:09:34; 16 Jimmy Damance 01:10:05; 17 Freda Gocian 01:10:25; 18 Peter Waddell 01:10:34; 19 Kelvin Hills 01:11:03; 20 Arnel Maniago 01:12:33; 21 Catalino Laoagan 01:12:40; 22 Rodel Flores 01:14:07; 23 Fernando Requillo 01:14:49; 24 Carlo Rillera 01:14:54; 25 Redolfo Pedrosa 01:21:46; 26 Jana Jaruskova 01:26:01; 27 Raul Condor 01:27:31

Novartis Consumer Affairs-Riyadh Wheelers season champions:

Overall - Patrice Delile; Thierry Mathy; Gaetan Contrino

Open - Alex Carinan; Paul Soycon; Scott Waight Veteran - George Morete; Jaime Sunga; Ian Davies Master - Kelvin Bowers; Rob Patrick; Bruno Syfrig Senior - Catalino Laoagan; CAT B Freda Gocian; Jana Jaruskova



40k TT winner Thierry Mathy, right, with Gaetan Contrino, Kelvin Bowers and Freda Gocian. (AN photo)