

## Colwall Alehouse Festival 2016 - Mountainbike Challenge.

Festival organiser Phil Hitchin is, of course a keen cyclist, so perhaps it was only natural that he would suggest that a cycling event would be an added attraction at the Colwall festival.

The wish to accommodate the event within the festival field resulted in a mountainbike sprint around a rather bumpy (blame to cows), and somewhat twisty 200m circuit to challenge fitness, bike handling skills - and lack of caution, with two lines of cones to add to the complexity.

By the end of the morning only four rides had been taken, and the venture was beginning to look rather shaky.

But then the event was spotted by some highly committed mountainbiking families. It all then became very competitive indeed, with class leading positions changing with each even quicker ride to a final fastest average speed of 37kph (23mph).

5pm arrived - the official closing time for the show - and still they were at it, so that pretty well all the stalls had closed and departed before the final rider of 40 pedallers called it a day.

And it wasn't just adults getting in on the act - and it was very reassuring to find that half the competitors were 16 or under - with some very impressive 8 - 10 year olds determined to put in a good performance.

So what were the memorable moments?

A number come to mind. The battle between Chris Walker and Mark Peddler, finally resolved in favour of Mark by a mere 68 hundredths of a second.

Then there was the struggle for supremacy within the fairer sex. The analysts would like this one, as it was only resolved by one of the contestants revealing that she really was not quite as young as the timekeeper had estimated - and was therefore moved into a different age class!! The names cannot be revealed for legal reasons.

We also had a good lads verses dads competition - with the O'Tooles showing their metal. Despite Dad using his thoroughbred cyclocross steed as a last resort, it was the younger legs wot got the faster time, with Kieran recording the third fastest time of the day (35.11 secs).

And three of the youngsters certainly also merit a mention.

Isobel Kirby (11-13 yrs), Louis Fawcett (11-13 yrs) & Fin Tane >10yrs all won their classes with very creditable low to mid 40 second times which compared well with many of their somewhat more senior riders.

Finally, many thanks to the Coopers for the use of part of their field and to the O'Tooles for the loan of two of their mountainbikes.

Fastest Riders (seconds):

### Guys

10 & under	Fin Tane	45.84
11 - 13	Louis Fawcett	43.51
14 - 16	Rufus Waghorn	49.29
17 - 49	Mark Peddler	33.92
50 - 69	Ross Lammus	36.21
70+	Colin Palmer	43.98

### Gals

Charlotte Walker	60.00
Isobel Kirby	42.17
-	-
Ros Kirby	47.44
Wendy Walker	52.18
-	-

A copy of the full set of result can be found at [www.offroadcycling.co.uk](http://www.offroadcycling.co.uk)

