

Jane McKay-Prebbleton Cycle Race

This is my first Official Road Race (I have previously only done level entry Triathlons, the field is so spread out that you don't get many opportunities to ride in a bunch.

Kim put the Prebbleton Race in my Program so I was looking forward to the challenge and experience.

I warmed up on the bike, checking all gears, brakes etc and warming myself up. It was raining hard while we waited to start and a few people decided not to race due to the weather. But the rain wasn't going to stop me. Once on the start line the rain stopped. While we were lined up I warned people around me that I still have my L Plates on so I thought everyone was going to look after me! How wrong I was. I was in the bunch for the first 7 km's. Everyone had put the fear in me to watch going around the roundabout and how slippery it can be. So I went right down into a low gear and slowly round the roundabout. By the time I was exiting the corner the bunch were up to full speed and I could not pull them back in.

I had dropped from bunch speed in the late 30's to on my own in the late 20's! Damn. I thought long and hard about what I was now going to do out on my own for the remaining 35km's. One thought was to count down the bunches heading back and when my bunch was due to come by I would do a U-Turn and tag on the back of them for the ride home and experience the race pace bunch riding. I thought this may upset a few people and as it was my first race I didn't need any conflict. I also knew I would that I had let myself down if I didn't in fact complete the whole course, let alone not get on the back of the bunch!

So I decided I am here now so get pedaling and get to the finish. There were a few tough patches and my legs really did hurt. I road a lot down on the drops as the ride home had a head wind and at stages my speed was as low as 18km/hr.

Sadly they had packed up the finish line by the time I got there but hey, I did the k's and didn't give up. Race Time 1hr35.36 Max 37.6 Ave 26.6 Distance 42.34

I am still happy with my day, still smiling. Maybe not the best race result for some but a year ago I wouldn't have even entered in an event like this.

Thanks to Kim and all at CP for your support.

Jane McKay