

Big field for Lowry races



TOP THREE: second placegetter Chris Glasby(left), winner Brad Linfield and third Michael Verheyen.

THE youngest rider in the 2011 Tom Lowry Memorial Cycle race, 16-year-old Bradley Linfield, coasted home without a rival in sight.

He stopped pumping hard, released his grip on the handlebars and enjoyed the applause as he casually rolled perhaps 200 metres to the finish line.

Linfield of Dalyellup is an acknowledged young star - a South West Academy of Sport scholarship holder who has won several state titles and has already competed abroad, in New Zealand.

He rides with the South-West Cycle Club.

Second place-getter in the 105-kilometre road race was the oldest entrant, 45-year-old Chris Glasby of the Melville Fremantle Cycling Club.

Third was Michael Verheyen of Roues Chaudes.

The Lowry race day's new program - the main event plus a fun participation ride and two more serious support races - was hugely popular with the cycling fraternity, said Collie Cycle Club president Alf Mason.

The main race was still sponsored by the CFMEU but the other events were all sponsored by Wesfarmers Premier Coal.

The four events - plus more than \$3500 in prize money and trophies - attracted competitors from 17 different clubs. "There were about 100 riders," Mason reported.

"There were a few scratchings but there were also a few late entries."

The Lowry open race listed 19 entries on the program. The support 1 race attracted 24 entries and the support 2 race 45 entries.

The first support race was won by

Benjamin Wibberley. "The participation ride had a hell of a lot of juniors - 25 riders," Mason said.

"There was one bloke on a mountain bike and the rest were on racing bikes. The mountain bike chap won a prize, so it pays to hang around for the presentations."

Support 1 race was won by Benjamin Wibberley of the Midland Cycle Club, second was Alex Downie of Atomic Brooks and third was Michael Tapscott of the Northern Districts Cycle Club.

Support 2 race was won by another junior, Theo Yates of the Northern Districts Cycle Club. Second was Tim Wilkinson, also of the Districts Cycle Club and third was Freddy Langon of ATTA (Australian Time Trials Association).

—RAELENE HESTON

Support race crash

A BAD crash near the Coalfields Highway tourist information sign, opposite Roche Park, took the gloss off the second support race and was the only thing to spoil a great day of racing, Collie Cycle Club president Alf Mason said later.

One of the competitors who came a cropper but was not seriously injured said the pile-up began when it appeared a female cyclist suffered a puncture.

Graeme Dunnet of the South-West Cycle Club said the crash occurred about a kilometre from the finish and he "heard the tyre go".

She slipped and was hit from behind, then others also went down.

Dunnet swerved into the grass but slipped there and also went down.

He was not seriously hurt and "got up and rode away". But he had lost his spot and was out of the bunch, he said.

Mason said four cyclists were taken to hospital.

"The ambulance was full."

When he went to the



GRAEME DUNNET: fell but was able to remount and keep going to the finish.

hospital after the race, to check how they were, two cyclists with fractures had been taken to Bunbury for treatment and the other two had already gone.

First support race competitor Erik Mellegers said he had heard one cyclist "broke a collar-bone and two or three ribs."