



March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Science in Sport Press Release

For immediate Release

## Eventful weekend for Team Scienceinsport-Trek

This past weekend the team sent a squad of five riders to the first round of the British Cycling Premier Calendar Series in North Wales. This involved a 2 day 3 stage race, the opening stage being a 1.6km time trial which has proved to be crucial in recent years for determining the overall general classification. The team resplendent in their new Impsport designed team kit with matching Giro helmet, consisted of Ian Wilkinson, Dave Collins, Richard Kent, Jack Woodward and Matt Cronshaw. This was the first outing for the team on their newly issued Trek Madone 6.5SSL's fitted with Bontrager Aeolus carbon wheels shed with continental GP4000 tubular tyres, USE finishing kit and Look pedals.

Notable absentees were Phil Dixon who is on paternity leave, Ian Bibby who was completing a successful 3 week MTB racing programme in Cyprus where he finished off with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a UCI C1 event, and Tim Lawson who is in Majorca working with one of our sponsors, Sports Tours International.



In the opening time trial Ian Wilkinson was one of only two riders to break the 3 minute barrier, without the aid of specialist time trialling equipment. He finished a remarkable 3 seconds down on the fully kitted-out Olympic Team Pursuit Champion Chris Newton, with Dave Collins doing an excellent ride to finish 7<sup>th</sup>.

Stage 2 in the afternoon consisted of a 35 mile road race and the team was confident that they could put Ian Wilkinson in the yellow jersey. Early in the stage, just before an early break started to form, Jack

Woodward had a head on collision with a vehicle and ended up in Wrexham A and E unit with a broken collar bone. At the front of the race the break of approximately 15 riders, including Wilkinson, had secured a good lead on the peleton. On the final run in to the finish line Wilkinson managed to slip away with eventual stage winner Dean Downing and the pair worked together to finish 10 seconds ahead of the yellow jersey group. This meant that Wilkinson would be in yellow going into the final stage, with an advantage of 7 seconds.



Afterwards Wilkinson was pleased saying "That was a good hard race due to the continual crosswinds. I saw Dean attack on the final lap and decided to go with him, I went straight past him and said that we had a gap so let's go. We hit it as hard as we could and managed to put 10 seconds into the next group containing Newton. Now all I need is my Rego and Nocte to help me recover for tomorrow's deciding stage."

Stage 3 was a rolling 86mile stage with the remaining 4 team members knowing that they were going to be put under a lot of pressure defending the yellow jersey. As soon as the flag dropped there were continuous attacks as riders tried to get a gap and distance the yellow jersey from his small team. With two laps to go of the small circuit, a break of 15 riders got away. The break included all the leading contenders for the overall victory, including Ian Wilkinson and his nearest rival Chris Newton, but unfortunately none of Wilkinson's team mates who had worked hard chasing down the continuous attacks. This group got whittled down to 10 riders by the time the crucial part of the stage was reached, a long 7% climb which was only 20k from the finish. The expected attacks on Wilkinson came and five riders got clear including Newton and Sharman. This left Wilkinson in a group of five chasing at 10-15 seconds for much of the run in to the finish. It was Downing who took the stage win but significantly Newton and Sharman overtook Wilkinson in the overall standing as his group came in 25 seconds down. This meant that Wilkinson finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on GC.

This was an excellent start to the season and with Dixon, Bibby & Lawson back for the next round the team will be looking to get that vital win.

Regards

Phil Bibby

Elite Team manager

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