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Science in Sport Press Release

For immediate Release

Bibby wins Under 23 National MTB title and Wilks comes a close 2nd in the Elite Race

The Scienceinsport – Trek team were out in force at the classic MTB venue Newnham Park, Plymouth for the British MTB National Championships, held on the 21st July 2007.

Based on the three previous rounds of the National Series where Ian Wilkinson had won at Sherwood against the current National Champion Oli Beckinsale and with Ian Bibby winning the last round at Margam Park and having had two 3rd places in the other rounds, hopes were high that they would both be in with a serious shout at the medals. Dave Collins was also in with a chance of a medal after his 3rd place in the last round of the series.



Unlike the races at the National Series the Under 23s would race in a separate category from the elites, setting off approximately 3 minutes after they had started. Wilkinson and Collins were first away in the elite race and on the initial start loop a group of 4 riders had quickly established a lead, these included Wilks & Collins along with Paul Oldham (Hope) & Oli Beckinsale (Giant). Going through the feed zone after the start loop they came to a long gravel climb that took them up onto the moorland where the gravel changed to grass. Oli took no time in putting the hammer down the 1st time up the climb and Paul & Dave found it difficult to stay in contention and it wasn't long before the two favourites, Wilks & Beckinsale were on their own. Coming through the

feed zone at the start of lap 2 they were still locked together and had over a minute lead on the nearest challengers. Oli knew that he had to crack Wilks on one of the 3 climbs and tried his best to drop him every time the course went uphill. Each lap he managed to put a few metres into Wilks on one of the climbs but Wilks always managed to come back once over the top. Going into the last lap they were still locked together and Oli knew that if it came to a sprint it would be very difficult to beat Wilks, who had honed his sprinting skills over a long hard road season. As the crowd waited anxiously in the arena for sight of the two riders it was Oli who appeared first followed a few seconds back by Wilks. Oli had managed to put a few extra metres into Wilks on the last climb and took the victory.



In the Under 23 race Ian Bibby attacked up the gravel climb on the first lap and never looked back, he quickly caught most of the elite field and going into the last lap was up to 6th in the elite race having started 3 minutes down. Rather than catch the next group of 3 who were just 30 secs in front he decided to take it easy on the last lap as he did not want to jeopardise his position by puncturing on one of the tricky descents. He took the victory, 4 minutes ahead of his nearest challenger.

Wilks 2nd place should hopefully get him a place on the GB team for the World Championships at Fort William in September and Bibs gained another 90 UCI points that should put him on the 1st or 2nd row at the World Champs.

On the Sunday Wilks made a small amends for his 2nd place on Saturday by winning the 100k marathon.

For further information please contact:

SiS (Science in Sport) Limited

Tel.: 01254 246060

Email: teamsis@scienceinsport.com

Photos Courtesy of www.joolzedymond.com

