

Pedal Prix: Murray Bridge 24 Hour Race



On the 19th and 20th of September Mannum's two Pedal Prix bikes were engaged with full on racing at the 30th Annual 24 hour Australian International Pedal Prix. The event is located at Sturt Reserve in Murray Bridge with the course weaving its 2km trek through the streets against 225 other teams.

After many months of preparation, our bikes were racing fit, with Years 6/7 students riding the yellow bike and Years 8/10/11 students riding the black bike.



Racing began at 12noon on Saturday. Our teams had a smooth run with minimal issues until a crash at approximately 4 in the afternoon left its mark on the senior team (no riders injured).

Even after a slight bump to the bike, the teams continued to race smoothly until the senior team realised that the junior bike was beginning to catch up to them on the grid. This then sparked a fierce competition between the senior and junior teams, with each wanting to beat each other.

Both teams pushed hard into the night, with set rosters allowing some riders to sleep while others continued to race. The senior team had a bike failure when a tyre blew on the opposite side of the track to our pits, led to the bike being stationary in the pits for upwards of 15 minutes. This was a window of opportunity for the junior riders and they took it with full force.



By 5am not only had the junior team overtaken the senior team, but also they had managed to create breathing space with a 10 lap lead over the seniors. This did not sit well with the senior riders and with remarkable team skills they collaborated and developed a plan of attack to



regain their lead from the juniors. This second burst of energy produced personal best lap times for the senior riders and in the last few hours of the race, their fastest lap time was recorded. By 10am the seniors had reduced the gap between the bikes to 6 laps.



A red flag stopped the race between 10 and 11, causing concern for the senior riders and relief for the juniors who had been working extremely hard to hinder the rise of the seniors. The race concluded at 12noon Sunday, and the magnificent efforts of the junior riders paid off, winning the rivalry between the two Mannum teams.





The junior bike finished 179th overall completing 228 laps in 24 hours. The senior team, who worked extremely hard to close the gap in the final hours, finished 183rd overall, completing 224 laps.

Both teams celebrated their completion in the traditional fashion by squirting water on the bikes as they passed the pits on the race conclusion.

This massive event is not possible if not for the support and help of parents, community members and teachers. A special thanks goes to Cheryl Neville for her work in organising the event with me. Thank you to the parents and staff that helped fill our 11:30am to 8pm marshalling role. Also thanks go out to the local

businesses that offered support to the team for the big event.

With the Pedal Prix season now complete for 2015, we look towards 2016 and will begin bike maintenance and event planning in the coming weeks. Thank you to all who have helped me in the preparation and organisation of the 2015 season.

Jacob Strauss,
Pedal Prix Team Manager

