



## **2011 RaboDirect National Club Road Championships Wanganui – 5-8 May 2011**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

The 2011 RaboDirect National Club Road Championships will be conducted at Wanganui 5 – 8 May 2011. Following is a brief description of the courses to be used to prepare you for the event. Further information for those entering will be forwarded by email as it becomes available.

#### **Time Trials**

These will be conducted Thursday 5 May 2011 on the same course used at the 2008 Championships, based on SH4 (Anzac Parade) near the intersection with Talbot Street. All events are out and back. This is a 10 minute ride or 5 minute drive from the city centre and the course follows the Whanganui River out towards the Whanganui Gorge.

15km Course Map <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/2580095>

25km Course Map <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/2580123>

40km Course Map <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/2580073>

SH4 is wide and rural once you have left Wanganui with a generally smooth surface throughout. The small township of Upokongaro is reached at 6.5km before the course veers right away from the river. The 15km course is very gently rolling with no appreciable altitude change. The 25km course begins to climb after 7.5km from 13m at the start to 30m at the turn. The 40km course continues to climb reaching 67m at the turn at 17.8km. For the 40km course, to make up the distance on the return leg a 4km dog leg out and back section is included turning off onto Kaimatira Road at 33.4km, turning at Gordon Park Scenic Reserve at 35.5km before returning to SH4 at 37.7km. There is a narrow bridge on Kaimatira Road at 34.7km near the junction with Longacre Road, crossed on both the outward and return legs. Anticipate competitors in both directions on this bridge!.

This is considered a fast course, times mainly wind and weather dependant.

#### **Road Races**

The road races (Friday 6 May – Sunday 8 May) will be based at Brunswick Hall on Campbell Road, just off Brunswick Road at Brunswick, 13.8km North of the City Centre. Leave Wanganui via SH3 northbound, turning right onto Blueskin Road after approx 5km. Continue onto Brunswick Road to the Hall.

There are two road race course allocated to events as per the programme are 22.35km and a shorter lap of 11.7km

Course Map 11.7km Circuit <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/29340060>

Course Map 22.35km Circuit <http://www.mapmyride.com/routes/view/22277174>

Both course assemble and roll out from Brunswick Hall on Campbell Road onto Brunswick Road.

The short 11.7km course turns right onto Brunswick Road to complete clockwise laps of the circuit. The course steadily descends on Brunswick Road to the 6km mark before a sharp right turn onto Westmere Station Road to follow the course of the main railway line, still steadily descending. At 7.5km turn right onto Western Line before a steep but short technical descent to cross the railway line. The course now climbs (rated Category 5) back towards Brunswick Road at 11.5km. On all but the finishing lap, turn right onto Brunswick Road for the next lap. On the finishing lap, turn left back towards Brunswick for a short 200m sprint to the finish line on Brunswick Road. It will therefore be appreciated that the key element of this course is the final climb on Western Line on the last lap.



The 22.35km course again rolls out from the hall on Campbell Road turn left onto Brunswick Road. The first 5km of the lap on Brunswick Road is on a ridgeline at approx 180m asl. After 5km the course descends rapidly to Kai Iwi (40m asl) at 10km. Parts of the descent reach -6% for 2km or so (compares with descending Summerhill) and is reported as being very fast. At Kai Iwi the course turns left to join SH3 steadily climbing to 140m asl at the 17km mark. There is a significant Category 5 climb on this section between 14.5 and 16.5km reaching 6% (compare with a longer version of Sefton finishing climb). At 17km the course turns left onto Western Line steadily climbing back towards the finish but with a tricky technical descent midway with a rail crossing to negotiate. The climb then peaks up to 6% for nearly 1km. Reports indicate this to be the toughest part of the circuit where races are won or lost. At the end of Western Line the course turns left back onto

Brunswick Road on a false flat to the finish line only 200 metres away. With the exception of SH3 the roads are narrow (compare with Nelson Nationals in 2009). SH3 is a busy major trunk road, expect fast moving traffic in both directions. Experience from the 2008 Championships indicates the NZ Police will not tolerate breaches of the Road Code – be warned.



There are no cross-course roads available for viewing on either course. Think ahead when heading to a viewing spot to avoid encountering a race convoy, driving in the opposing direction. If encountering a race pull completely off the road to permit the race to pass. Average temperature in May is 16°C. Prevailing winds are from the West. For comparison I see this circuit as tougher than the last course here in 2008, similar to the Taradale course in 2003 although much shorter. I also rate similar in overall severity to the Ashurst course in 2005 with the exception that the climbs are shorter.