

Thrupton Race report round 1

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Race report from Thrupton, results are through and I managed to sneak 10th place in the 4th cat race. After signing on and doing the usual BC warm up, managed to get on the second row of the start. It was a fairly breezy evening so arm warmers were the order of the day as well as a base layer. Quite a few new riders too at Thrupton and there were a couple of sketchy moments early on.

The first few laps were knocked off at a steady but not particularly rapid pace. That was when a rider behind me took exception to something I had done and got a bit mouthy which I ignored. This carried on for a few more rants at which point he came along side me, still ranting, I normally ignore people like this, but politely told him to concentrate on his own riding. I noticed later on he was trying to pick a fight with another rider so clearly had form. I used that incident to motivate me i.e. I would try and ensure that I would finish ahead of him. Coming into the 8th lap my position was too far back so I started to move forward looking for any gaps and making my way to the front.

In the 9th and final lap I know that being right in the top 15 going into the final chicanes was vital, particularly as we had a tailwind coming up the short rise before the chicanes. As we approached the short rise before the finish, things got a bit hairy and myself and a chap wearing a VC Guernsey jersey ended up being shoulder to shoulder as we ran out of room, but we both stayed upright and joked about it afterwards. I managed to hold my position into the final chicane and the sprint began early.

Unfortunately I wasn't in the right gear, but still managed to overtake a couple of riders on the final sprint. All in all happy with the first race of the season, good to get it under the belt.