

Cyclocross Event  
Temple Park, South Shields  
Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November

On Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> of November, Temple Park Leisure Centre was the location for a major cycling event.

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service were the hosts for a British Cycling/CX North East Cyclocross race, which incorporated the Emergency Services National Championship. Cyclocross is an off road, all conditions cycle race, traditionally using special Cyclocross racing bikes. But competitors new to the sport were welcome to use a mountain bike on the day, providing they wore a helmet.

Riders of all ages from all over the country took part on the day in very testing conditions. The Under 8's, 10's and 12's started the proceedings with races of up to 20 minutes in heavy rain. This was then followed by the combined Youth category of Under 14 and 16. The weather was quickly improving at this point and a great race was seen.

Finally, the senior men's and woman's race set off at 12.30. Although the sun was now trying to shine over South Tyneside, the course was paying the price of all the heavy rain and was cutting up, making heavy going for the hour of the race. Top local riders mingled alongside Fire Fighters and Police Officers from around the UK, as well as newcomers to the sport. The Standard of racing was excellent and the spirit of all the riders shone through, with Stuart Wearmouth finally pulling away from Stephen Ward and Alan Nixon (first Emergency Services), to claim victory.

Fire Service riders competed well alongside the top local riders with representatives from Notts, Durham and Darlington, Cleveland and of course Tyne and Wear competing.

As well as the Senior and Veteran categories, Tony Thompson (Tyne and Wear) succeeded in Super Vets, and Dave Smith won the Alan Holmes Trophy for first Tyne and Wear rider home.

Race organisers, Jamie Brady and Nev Martin commented "The event was a huge success, with lots of positive feedback from all competitors, helpers and parents. We would love to work alongside South Tyneside Council and Temple Park to host a bigger and better race next year, perhaps even a regional or National Trophy Race".

Thanks go to ST Council, all staff of Temple Park, all competitors and sponsors for their support.

## Results

### Emergency Service (Police and Fire)

### Seniors

1. Alan Nixon (Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue)
2. Simon Davison (Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue)
3. Lee Walker (Notts Fire and Rescue)

### Veterans

1. Tony Oliver (Cleveland Police)
2. Andy May (Cleveland Police)
3. Guy Bramley (Notts Fire and Rescue)

Further results and detailed race report and photographs are available on the British Cycling web pages.