

Dartmoor Classic Cycloportive
Sunday 27th June
Abbrook Sports Club
Kingsteignton

Press release 27 june 2010

Record numbers of riders took part today in one of Devon's biggest sporting events. The challenge of some of the UK's most demanding terrain was compounded by 30 degrees heat.

The event, with over 2200 entrants, includes 1 in 5 gradient hills and a total of over 3400 meters of climbing, covering the full width of Dartmoor, with a choice of 100 mile and 100km courses.

For some, one event is not enough. William Debois completed the 105 mile Exmouth Exodus overnight, following on that morning with the Dartmoor Classic, a commendable 211 miles in less than 24 hours, and no sleep. Ed Coats, who skied nearly 500 miles to the South Pole with James Cracknell and Ben Fogle in 2009 (covered in a five part BBC documentary) launched his '30at30' challenge with a 100 mile entry . He plans to complete 30 endurance events in his 30th year. Age is no barrier to Sportive veteran David Stanton, who completed the 100km event in his 77th year gaining a Gold medal in the process. Riders came from all over the world including USA, Switzerland, Holland, and France. Our one German rider was rightly judged to have crossed the line in a good time.

First back on the longer ride were Tim Baker, Phillip Flanagan and James Richardson in a time of 5 hours 28minutes. For the shorter distance , Tim Shaw put in a terrific time of 3 hours 35 minutes.

British Cycling South West Director, Chris Yates, was in attendance and discussed plans for a velodrome in the South West with newly elected MP for Totnes Dr Sarah Wollaston, whose constituency forms part of the course at Holne. People were heard complaining to Sarah about the steepness of Holne Chase Hill , and Sarah vowed that the new coalition would sort it out in time

for next year's event. Sarah is part of the all Parliamentary Cycling group and was recently cycling in London with Victoria Pendleton.

Starting in Kingsteignton the route takes in the climbs of Trendlebere Down, Holne Chase Hill and Merrivale Hill . Princetown, Hexworthy ,Postbridge and Two Bridges are visited along the way.

The event was sold out by the end of March and is organised by Mid Devon Cycle Club who use funds raised to support young riders. Donations are also made to local charities.

For more details visit the website on.
www.dartmoorclassic.co.uk

Adrian James
Event Promoter/Press Officer
27th June 2010

Editors notes

- 1.2010 sees the fourth running of the Dartmoor Classic.
- 2.The event takes place across some of Dartmoor's most challenging hills.
3. There is a choice of 100mile and 100km routes.Over half the field complete the longer route.
4. The event attracts 300 women riders.
- 5.The first running of the event in 2007 took place in torrential rain when those doing Ten Torrs on the same day had to be helicoptered off the moor. The cyclosporitive continued.
- 6.The event is organised by Mid Devon Cycle Club, the largest cycle club in the Westcountry, and formed in 1930 (www.mdcc.org.uk). The club has 170 members, predominantly from Torbay, Teignbridge and the South Hams. All profits are ploughed back into the club (particularly to support young riders competing at a national level) and local charities (Force Cancer Charity,Devon Air Ambulance,World Cycling Relief and Shelter Box in 2010). Most cyclosporitives are now commercially run.
- 7.The event is supported by the Dartmoor Partnership including the DNP , and Devon County Council Travelwise.
8. The starts from 7.00am at Abbrook Park Sports and Social Club, Kingsteignton, where the event also finishes. Competitors must be at least 15 for the 100 mile event. All must finish by 18.00.
- 9.The club's current members include a number of national champions and professional riders, and an Olympian and two time Tour de France competitor, Colin Lewis.