

Hi Just wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone who helped organised the event. This was my first sportive and it was wonderful. You have all done an amazing job and I will definitely be back next year for a silver medal.

Thanks again

Ian Bowden 1103

Thank you for another wonderful day. The organisation was great yet again and is an example to other organisers of how a sportive should be run. Could you pass on my thanks to all of the helpers who were always very helpful and full of good cheer.

Best wishes and see you again next year.

Graham

Dear Organisers

Yesterday I participated in my first ever bike ride event and I was so impressed at your organisation. Everything seemed to go smoothly (no doubt assisted by the fab weather) but what was particularly impressive was how friendly and cheerful all of the officials were. From the registration people on Saturday to the starters and the marshals on Sunday, it was all so friendly and encouraging. Well done to you all. I might do it again!

Harriet

I just wanted to let you know what a great day out I had yesterday - and how awesomely well the event was organised! Way to show how it should be done.

I have a blog about it here : <http://www.thecyclingmayor.com/?p=1998> in case you have time to read it.

Many many thanks,

Jennifer
2137!

The drinks station at Princetown. I would have much preferred if the drinks station was positioned in a layby / on the side of the road. It was very difficult to navigate the small path and time consuming (I didn't actually stop because of this reason). It was also too overcrowded with people and more space was required.

Andrew

I would just like to congratulate your team of organisers on once again surpassing the previous year's event, how you guys can continually improve what is a truly great riding experience baffles me but you did it. If you have any free time can you sort out the mess at the Dragon Ride, how that event can get away with such claims is truly beyond me. The Dartmoor Classic is without doubt the best organised & value for money cycling event in the UK, I pray you get just recognition from the press (cycling weekly).

Andy Stovell

I would just like to say what a wonderful event you put on yesterday, it was my first ever sportive and truly one of the most enjoyable sporting events I have ever been involved in so thank you for the hard work that has clearly been put in to stage the event and allow it to run so smoothly.

Lee Curtis

I rode the 100 miler and I can only say that you're all very evil - a challenge indeed! A superbly organised event which is a credit to the MDCC. WELL DONE!

Matt Perry
Rider no. 1884

Many thanks for putting on such a fantastic event. The ride was stunning in every way- and really challenging. I honestly couldn't think of any way to improve it- so, congrats to all of you who arranged it.

Ben Whitehead

Thanks for an excellent event that was expertly organised. It managed to perfectly balance gruelling toil in glaring sunshine with sense of achievement and tremendous chocolate brownies!

Phil

Dear organisers, congratulations on the running of a superb event. It was better than last year.... I marshalled at the Plymouth Half Marathon and whilst generally that is a well organised event, I think this topped it. The goodie bag most definitely did.

Just one suggestion.... why can't we have countdown markers? Say 10 miles initially, then for last 15 miles, a mile by mile countdown.

Colin West (4208)

{Editor: There were countdown markers to Feed Station and Finish – Every mile for 15 miles may be a bit much though :o}

Well done for such a brilliantly organised event (even nice weather again!). As many others have said, you set the gold standard in how to run a Sportive. The effort you put into running it so well really makes the day and is very much appreciated. Big thank you to every one of your helpers.

Mark Ayton

Can I just say well done for another excellent event. I was really impressed with the start village this year plus excellent marshalling on the course.

MDCC should be very proud.

Barry Gale

Thanks from all the team for a superbly organised event yesterday. The students had a day they will probably never forget. Words cannot express how proud of them I am. I can't quite believe it is all over! Thanks also for the reception you gave the team after they finished. We all felt like minor celebrities up on that podium! It was an unexpected but lovely end to a fabulous day.



Mark Beacham – Axe Valley Community College

Dear team

Today was my first ever cycling event, it was brilliant fun, all of the organising that goes into holding events of this nature was evident; the marshals were awesome, loved their flags.

Having portaloos in the overflow carpark was a nice touch.

It is a shame that cyclists would travel such a distance (in some cases) and drop litter on the moor, they have pockets, and plenty of bins were provided.

Nice to have such great weather and views.

Thanks again

Elizabeth Bebbington (Betsy)pretty chuffed to get a 'silver' time

A quick note just to say well done. I've ridden all 5 editions of this event and your organisation of it just gets better each year, a very slick and smoothly run operation. Well done.

Steve Medlock
CS Dynamo

I have not long returned from riding the Dartmoor Classic, and just wanted to let you know that I thought it was a fantastic event. The organisation, signage/directions were brilliant, and there was a really great atmosphere before and afterwards at the depart village. If possible, please pass on my thanks to all those who helped at the feed stations serving great food, and to all the marshals and volunteers who helped make the event so good.

The only downside was caused by riders dropping litter on the moors which was a real shame. I don't know how this can be eradicated, but I did feel a bit embarrassed by the number of discarded gel wrappers left behind. Maybe some sort of announcement next year before each group departs might make people think about what they are doing, I don't know, it's just a thought.

Many thanks

Andy Bradshaw

Firstly I wish you very good luck in raising money for charities such as FORCE Cancer charity.

My main concern is the lack of safety on the roads when events like this occur.

I wish to make a complaint on how the cyclists ride on the roads. I would also wish to add that I have nothing against cyclists, as I am a cyclist myself, but I am also a car driver and get annoyed by the manoeuvres that go on by a cyclist when trying to overtake safely.

The most obvious thing to do, is to overtake when it is safe to do so, and by leaving plenty of room between the bike and yourself (as the driver), but when they are in groups and decide to spread out when you are about to overtake. I call that dangerous and irresponsible.

I personally think overtaking in the middle of the road is acceptable, but not on the 'wrong' side of the road.

Yours Faithfully

Miss S.M.Lambell

{Editor}

"Thank you for your note on safety and cycling. As a club we take the matter of safety very seriously. Before our ride we carry out an extensive risk assessment which is submitted to the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and the Devon County Council's Highway Officers. We put out over 60 marshals to warn riders of potential risk points and as organisers generally do all we can to ensure the safety of our entrants and above all that of other road users. To assist in this latter point a team of club members went out and in advance of the riders arriving and put out signs advising all other road users that an event was taking place.

In advance of the ride every entrant was sent an e-mail re-iterating the need to ride with respect to other road users. Unfortunately despite our best efforts there seems to be a minority who do not observe our exhortations. If you were subject to this kind of irresponsible action I can only apologise".

Yours faithfully

Ken Robertson

To all at the Dartmoor Classic,
Thanks for a fantastic event. I have cycled round Dartmoor for years and done many audaxes. However this was my first sportive and what a great one. Thanks to all the organisers and marshals. A very smoothly run event and worth the entry fee - I really liked my goody bag and (silver) medal! I am sure my husband and I will be back for more.

Fantastic ride and atmosphere - thanks
Nicole

My thanks to all who made yesterday's event truly memorable. From the start arrangements, the timing and the route were first class. (The Dragon could learn much from your event). Plus of course the marshals who were as always unsung heroes.

Just one point (a minor one) could you put up a sign where the 2 routes split I almost went on the long one! otherwise roll on next year

A very satisfied rider. no 3559

Regards
Richard

{Editor}

Richard, Signs should have been there along with the Marshal giving directions?

Thanks to all of the team for a fantastic day yesterday, fantastic route and ride and well organised. Brilliant! You asked over the tannoy for things that would make it even better..... quite a lot yesterday and myself included thought instead of the goody bag with lots of different things, just to have one better quality medal would be better, rather than the (sorry!) slightly poor quality medal and rock and t-shirt etc. But maybe others disagree??!

Anyway, thanks for brilliant day. See if I can get gold again next year, maybe on the long one.

Mark Jones

{Editor}

Thanks for your views Mark – I will see what feedback we get from the Post Event Questionnaire and we will review what we give out next year. – Stewart.

thanks once again for an excellent event. 3rd year I have completed it and the HQ stuff and marshalling was superb as ever. Slightly concerned about change to Princetown flow as this left us waiting for cyclists and traffic at the junction in Two Bridges instead of flowing nicely around the triangle. Maybe it makes more sense for the 100 milers. The new hill into Princetown was also an unwelcome surprise - never appreciated how downhill it was previously!

Looking forward to next year's event already

Chris

{Editor}

I know what you mean Chris. We were trying to avoid the cross flow in Princetown but perhaps this has caused another slight problem at Two Bridges. We will look at the options again for 2012.
Stewart

After taking part in the Dartmoor Classic yesterday, I just thought I should write and congratulate you for putting on such a fantastic event. I have only been riding for about a year and normally take

part in running events, so this was my first cyclosportive. It is not difficult to see that an awful lot of people had to put in a huge coordinated effort to pull-off an event like that. Not only was I impressed by the organisation and facilities, I found that literally every official I spoke to seemed delighted to be doing what they did.

Tony

Just a quick note of thanks to all those that organized and ran this year's event. Another masterpiece of organization making for a thoroughly good, albeit rather painful, day. Particular thanks to the race marshals who did a great job managing the traffic and cyclists – this for me is really one of the things that sets this sportive out from others in my experience and allows participants to concentrate on the riding rather than navigating, searching for obscure signs and slowing progress from stopping at junctions.

Liked the partnership with Specialised this year and the nice goody bag. Do you think you could throw in a gold medal next time as I seem destined to keep missing it by a handful of minutes ;-)

With thanks to all and already looking forward to next year in search of another, new PB.

Matthew Osborne

I just wanted to personally thank you for such a superb event. It was extremely well organised, and I have to say the marshalling was outstanding, didn't have to wait for a car once, so many thanks to all of them, I tried to say thank you to all of them as I went round. The comments I heard from people were nothing but positive essentially, many comments I heard was on how good the food was at the stops. I think I was feeling a bit odd on the ride as I was really having to force food down me the whole way round so I didn't tuck into the food overly myself but the bananas were a god send, especially on the second time through the food stop after the climb.

The only real feedback that I have is that I felt the water stop at Brent Tor could have come a little earlier. I was all out of water about 10 miles before this stop and was gagging for more by the time I got to Brent Tor, I did hear of someone else commenting on this after the event when I was talking to them, and since there was only 10 miles if that back up to Princetown it would have been good to have this stop in Lydford or even earlier. Having said that the weather has a huge impact on water consumption and I am very pleased that you ordered great weather and also a good breeze to cool the riders down, I would only ask for a tail wind next year if that's at all possible?

Will Allen

Would like to thank all at mdcc for running such a well organized sportive, professional throughout.

Emails sent prior to the event were very informative and left no chance of any rider not knowing what to do on the day. A very big thank you to all the marshals who worked tirelessly in their efforts to ensure that no one took a wrong turn, it was a long and hot day for them and I'm sure were still working long after the event had finished for us riders.

Thank you once again.

Carl trengove, rider number 2134 (GOLD)!!!

Firstly let me say thank you for a great day, this was my first Dartmoor classic (100km) & I will be back next year.

I have spent a while now trying to think of any constructive comments I could feed back, but on thinking about the whole process from on line registration to leaving after the event, went very smoothly making it a very enjoyable day, I enjoyed it so much That I decided to write & say so.

I would like to raise 2 points, which is not down to the organisation or the club as I have seen it at other sportives.

1: Some of the more experienced quicker riders were making fast descents over taking slower riders on the wrong side of the road without a clear view ahead not only putting themselves in danger but also the cyclists abiding by the rules of the road, because if a car driver came around the corner & was face with a cyclist on their side of the road they could swerve to miss them & hit the cyclist riding safely. I also witnessed on 2 occasions a car slowly going uphill behind some cyclists waiting for a place to pass safely & a group of cyclist coming up behind & around the car so the driver did not know where to go or which way to look to avoid cyclists on 1 of these occasions there were some remarks said as the cyclists went past, I could not hear them clearly but they did not sound friendly. (One of your marshals did make himself heard when he saw some cyclist riding on the wrong side of the road because they soon moved over)

2: I was about upset to notice the amount of Gel wrappers just being thrown on the road side, which does not look good & does not help the cycling cause.

Again thank you to all involved in arrange thus event & I will be back next year with an aim of getting a silver. Andy Morgan

Can I just say on behalf of myself and everyone involved from IGC who took part, well done to you and your team for yet another fine example of how to run a professionally thought out, Sportive event. Fantastic. Well organised. Well supported. Suitable for all abilities. Well marshalled.

Paul Venning

For me, this rates as the best UK sportive i have ever done. Every aspect of the event seemed to work very well, the marshals were very good, feed stops worked well even the quick fill system for bottles was spot on.....Eat yer heart out Mr Lusardi, this is how to do it.

Stuart Brown

Thank you to everyone involved in making the Dartmoor Classic such an enjoyable day! From the monthly newsletters right through to collecting the goodie bag, everyone did a sterling job!

This was my first cycling event of any kind and although the hills were tough, I enjoyed every minute of it and am looking forward to next year already (and next time I won't stop at the feeding station for quite so long... missed out on a medal by 4 minutes!)

HOORAY!!!

Dan Thorogood

Thankyou for a fabulous day and extremely well run and marshalled course. Afterwards was also a slick operation. I would like to just say that for a first time attendee driving to the event, I found it very difficult to know where I was supposed to park. I got lost and had no idea which way the HQ was. Need better signage from the A38

Mike Freeman

{Editor} – Thanks Mike we will see what we can do for next year.

Thanks to everyone involved in organizing and running the Dartmoor Classic. I couldn't fault it.

The marshalling was the best I have ever experienced on an event. They even looked like they were enjoying themselves. Really helped me to keep going.

Great value for money. Unlike some of the event were you feel they are just doing it to make money.

Cycling was the winner and showed MDCC to be a class act.

One suggestion would be to have a few more dustbins at the departure village as I struggled to find the right place to throw rubbish. Probably missed the obvious knowing me.

Andy Westcott

{Editor} – We are on it Andy – We had lots of bins but didn't estimate quite how much rubbish 2500 riders and their guests would generate!

I would just like to say that you all did a very good job at organising this years Dartmoor Classic. Every thing from the start to the finish was excellent and made a very hard ride a pleasure to be a part of. The food stations were particularly well stocked and had the right mix of sweet and savoury. It was good to get a time at the end unlike the Dragon Ride I did recently (in fact I am still waiting).

I must admit that in the past the Dragon was my favourite event but IMO after this years rides, the Dartmoor Classic is the best.

Simon Jerwood
YOGi Cycling
1592

Hi, I'm just dropping you an email to say a big thank you for putting on a great spotive. This was my first Dartmoor classic and I can tell you I'll be back.

The whole event was extremely well organised and run. The aid stations we're well stocked with excellant products and the volunteers were very helpful.

I did the uk half ironman on the 19th June and overall it was a great day, but they could learn a thing or two from you guys. Small things like the quality of the aid station food and the t shirt (great quality, nice graphic), you gave everyone, was spot on!!

Like i said earlier in the email, I'll be back for as long as you maintain these high standards.

Many thanks again to everyone involved.
Calvin Leach

Rider 1147 here.

I said this to the guy on the finish line, but quite simply your sportive is the best I have ridden. Having done last year I thought it couldn't get any better, but it did.

The organisation is so slick, the marshalling, the parking, the feedstops, everything. If I listed it all I'd be typing for a week.

Best bit of all is the friendly people. It must be a hard job to put it all together but you are all so friendly.

I would like to see you get awards and plaudits by the bucket load for your sportive, I've ridden a quite a lot in the last few years, and honestly say that yours is the best.

Guy Buckland

Just wanted to say what a great day I had last Sunday. Maybe it was the weather or the new bike I was riding but it was the tremendous organisation that really stood out for me. Being local I'm familiar with lots of the junctions (and their dangers). You clearly did your homework very thoroughly for the ride, the marshals were brilliant and I've never felt safer riding the Classic, obviously adding to my enjoyment.

Thank you!

Paul Adams

To the makers of the DC 2011,

It was fun, there was laughter, there was some pain, lots of sun, there were smiles, lots of road side support and it was a real test of character. The subtlety and the variety of the DC landscape makes it one of the toughest sportives on the calendar.

But without all the brilliant organisation, the clear communications, the clock work logistics, the smiles, the delicious food and the continuous stream of encouragement throughout the Dartmoor course - it would have ended in tears!

Well Done to everyone involved. A BIG pat on the back to all of you for making the DC a 'stand out' event.

See you next year.

All the best,

Andrew Chaplin

Many thanks for such a superbly organised event, with marshals at all the tricky corners and all so cheerful if a bit hot!

However, I was disappointed to ride over so many empty water bottles and gel wrappers, sweet papers etc., definitely dropped by cyclists on the moor. Worse, because most were wearing proper bike tops with pockets on the back, and could easily have put said wrappers in pockets. Perhaps a reminder next year to all riders might be helpful.

Penny Clapham
