

Britain's Favourite Sportive - 'The Classic' takes the title.



To all who voted for the Dartmoor Classic, in the Cycling Weekly Reader Poll 2012; a great big thank you. After being denied the title by just two votes, when the poll was first held in 2011, the Dartmoor Classic was, in the words of Cycling Weekly, "a runaway winner of the British sportive category [2012]". The recognition is just reward for the continuing efforts, made by the Mid-Devon Cycling Club / Colin Lewis Cycles, to ensure that riders get the U.K's very best sportive experience. And, in the previous week's issue, when writing about the Dartmoor Classic, author and international cycling journalist Chris Sidwells stated "it's run by possibly the best organisational team in the country." We won't argue with that.

Ironically, the Dartmoor Classic placed only 18th in the Cycloport.org Event Rankings list for 2012. However, this relatively lowly position, amongst the 152 events ranked, needs some clarification. Readers are invited to review an event and award a percentage score for a variety of elements which make up a typical sportive. The average of these scores then results in the reader's overall score for the event. All reviews for the event are then averaged to arrive at the event's ranking. The inaugural POLOCINI Winter Sprinter, held in Cheshire on March 4th, topped the rankings with a very impressive 98.7% rider approval; but this was from only 6 reviews. Whereas, the sixth edition of the, now well established, Dartmoor Classic scored a credible 95.2%, from a staggering 284 unsolicited reviews. This was more than twice as many as any other listed event. Such a true cross section of nearly three hundred Dartmoor Classic riders, prepared to take the time to post such high scoring reviews, surely speaks volumes about the shortcomings of the Cycloport.org ranking system.

Chris Sidwells's report on last year's Dartmoor Classic, much delayed due to extended reportage of 'Britain's successful summer of sport', finally appeared in the Jan 31st issue of Cycling Weekly. The 4 page full colour feature is a great read, with supporting shots of riders in action on the moor. To obtain a copy telephone John Denton Services on 01733 370 800