

The Cumberland Challenge 2007

Comments [received via e-mail, forum and text]

Well another great Sportive done and dusted. Mike Glaister put on a magnificent event in atrocious weather and I eventually got hooked up with two great guys, whose names I have forgotten. Hopeless with names!! Let me know who you were if you read this. We blasted the last 50 miles out and it's fantastic when you get a little group like that who are all working at the same level. WE HAD A BLAST. I really enjoyed it. Thanks to all the long suffering marshals and feed stop people. Very helpful and very friendly. GOOD JOB GUYS !!

On another topic, I used some new tubs in the event. Some new Continental 4000's made with that new "Black Chilli" compound... Absolutely AMAZING. They would NOT slip. If you want details on these, email me !! dave@davelloydcoaching.com

Dave Lloyd [posted on the www.cycloport.org/forum]

Hello TCC Thanks very much for posting the picture on your site. Great event, and really enjoyed it. That guy (Mike Haugh) is really strong. He rode with us for the last 40 miles or so and did some good work. There were three of us in that mini-group... It was great fun blasting along with two strong guys. Be back next year. Just order better weather please!!

Dave Lloyd [via e-mail]

Another great event. Well done to Border City Wheelers. Organisation (as last year), was spot on. You even managed to arrange similar weather conditions to last year! Apart from a great route on quiet roads, good feed stops and event HQ; I was particularly impressed by the friendliness of the event. Going through the villages there were regular rounds of applause from locals (not just supporters of riders). This speaks well of the clubs links with their area. I just missed doing 7 hours, by the 2 minutes I lost at the traffic lights on the bridge near Brampton. I'll be back again next year to see if the organisers still have control of the weather conditions.

Nick Williamson [posted on the www.cycloport.org/forum]

*I think the weather was worse last year over the first half, but then the sun came out in the afternoon: this time the rain was just as hard but for a shorter period, but without the sun I stayed wet all day! But despite this, I knocked 17½ minutes off last year's time, so pretty pleased. I hope most of it's because I'm fitter, but some might be because I knew the route. I was still a bit restrained at times though because the wet roads were bl**dy slippery in places and there were some seriously fast bits with hairpin bends at the bottom: whoever put out the warning signs did a good job, I quickly realised that 'Care : steep descent' meant it was steep with a tight bend at the bottom, but if there was no sign at the top you could let rip with a bit of caution. Exceptional organisation again - everything worked well, feedstops marshalling & HQ staff were great: many thanks to organisation team and Border City Wheelers! The whole event has a good atmosphere: other riders were more friendly and helpful, and riding standards higher than in some other sportives I've done. And as Nick says, it was good to see locals out supporting as we went through their villages.*

Andy [posted on the www.cycloport.org/forum]

Thank you all very much for another well organised and friendly Cumberland Challenge. Phil and I really appreciate all the hard work and effort that is put into organising it. Many thanks

Penny and Phil Crudge

Really enjoyed today - despite the Garrigill winter! Great organisation, marshalling, signage, feed stops; you thought of everything. Thanks

Alex Heron

Just got home after the ride today. Just like to thank all at Border City Wheelers for a great day. Great food at the feed stations, thanks to all the marshals who stood out in pretty grotty conditions at times. Thanks to all supporters at the side of the roads for their welcome support. Tough ride through lovely countryside, looking forward to next year. Well done one and all.

Ashley Crozier

Cheers for a great event. Really well organised - the marshals and helpers, etc were superb. Thanks very much.

Catherine Taylor

Thanks to everyone involved and for the encouragement. A great day.

John Bettinson

Thanks for such a well organised event - a credit to Border City and all the countless helpers involved. I didn't realise that north Cumbria had quite as many hills!

Murray McPherson No 136 (Dumfries)

Just a quick note to say thanks to all the organisers and volunteers who made this event a magnificent occasion. Many people had done a lot of work in order that I and many others could enjoy this super challenge. Pity about the weather but great course, really tough and one that I intend to attempt next year and get a better time! Enjoyed the pasta meal and post race food -and the shower! We had the misfortune to do the 'etape caledonia' earlier this year and your event far outstripped them in terms of friendliness, challenge and value. Give my thanks to all involved and we'll be back next year - it was well worth the journey from Fife. Cheers

Jim Tarvet

Your event just gets better. Having ridden a number of Sportives this year, we can say that the organisation of your event surpasses all of them. The website information, the signing on, the efficient and cheerful start, finish, route and feed marshals, the route marking inc. steep descents, instant finish times inc splits, free hot showers, teeshirt and quality finish certificate to name but a few things, are all superior to other events. Well done to you and your excellent team. An event we will keep returning to, despite the round trip of 10 hours stuck on crowded motorways!! Best wishes

Alan Vallance and Ian Parker

Just like to say how much I enjoyed the event yesterday. That was my first sportive and I had a great time, even the torrential rain near the start didn't spoil things. I will definitely be back next year. Cheers

Chris Morley

To anyone out there. Thanks to everyone involved in setting up the ride. Maddy and I are a bit bumped and bruised and have learned not to ride bunches with inexperienced riders!! Ambulance crew in Brampton were great. We live to ride another day. Thanks

Fraser Robinson.

Hi there. Hope you are all enjoying the calm after the storm. Many thanks to everyone who gave up their time to organize and run yesterday's event; it was a great event and the course and feed stations were manned by a very enthusiastic team which made the ups and downs of the route (and the weather) so much more enjoyable. Kind regards

Gaynor Hamilton

What a superb event, very impressive organisation and hugely satisfying to have got round. I couldn't believe the crowds in the villages along the route....I wasn't expecting that. The Hartside climb through the mist was something else. Thanks to all helpers.

Norman Runciman (rider 790)

Having completed the event yesterday, I would just like to thank the organisers and all the marshals/helpers. In spite of the at times shocking weather, everyone was so friendly, cheerful and helpful - it can't have been fun standing in the mist/wind/rain at a road junction all morning and the kids that were helping at the checkpoints were a credit to their parents, very polite and friendly. Brilliantly organised event, never any doubt about directions or what to do despite this being my first cycling event. Also, the instructions/advice on the website were bang on - you weren't lying about the second half being as tough as the first!!! Assuming my knees ever recover, I will definitely be back next year. Well done and thanks to all involved.

Best regards,
Chris Dallison (no 758)

Just a brief note to thank you for an extremely well organised event. I guess it was no great achievement to be last man home, but it means a great deal to me to be able to complete the course despite a 4-mile hilly detour via Boltonfellend and Hethersgill and a broken spoke that meant that I rode the last six miles with a rubbing tyre. Maybe a combination of 64 years and fourteen & a half stone is also something of a handicap? I would just like to thank you for your concern and kindness when I did eventually turn up at the finish. I would like to think that I will be able to come back next year a stone lighter. I have kitted out the barmaids at my local with your T-shirts. Many thanks.

Ray Nicholson (815)

This is just to say a big thank you to all those responsible for organising the Challenge on Sunday - especially the marshals who had to stand out in the rain and wind for hours. Everything about it seemed to be done well - registration, web site, direction-signs on the route, marshalling, refreshments. My only disappointment was having to retire due a mechanical failure at 80 miles, but Jane was really pleased with taking 17 minutes off last year's time. Thanks again.

Gary Baum and Jane Meeks

Just wanted to say 'well done' to all involved in the organisation and running of Sunday's excellent event. A special thank you to the youngsters who helped with waterbottles etc at the feed stops and the boy who dibbed me at Garrigill and told me I was doing really well. Thanks again.

Kevin Ely

A quick note to say thanks for the challenge on Sunday. Weather rotten but event organisation was absolutely spot on, from registration right through to completion and showering / changing and refreshment facilities. Not sure yet if "enjoyable" is the correct term but what a great feeling of achievement on completing a really tough ride. Thanks again to all at btwcc

Trevor Hutton (no 367)

Hi. Just a quick note to express my thanks to everyone involved in organising and running this years event, especially all the youngsters and their families who braved the awful weather at the various marshalling and check points along the way. Everyone, and I mean everyone, seemed so supportive and helpful. I hope they enjoyed it. As last year, things were so well run, the feeds were well stocked and the signage was faultless. Shame about the weather, but then I guess that's what makes it a challenge!! Thanks again

Martin King

Just a quick note to say a big thank you to all involved in organising this event. It was a tough ride but a thoroughly enjoyable event and extremely well organised. Well worth the journey from Reading!

Matt Pritchard

Dear Folks, Just a quickie to say that the CC was excellent. It was well organised well signposted and I was well fed. By the end I was well knackered as well! Despite the weather being exactly the same as last year I had a great (but exhausting) day. I had a good laugh with Mike Glaister before and after the event and will recommend it to all those who ask about good sportives up North. If you could brighten the weather up a touch it would be nice though. I was quite looking forward to seeing some good views this year, but it never happened. Thanks and well done again.

Glenn Rhodes Barrow Central Wheelers

Dear Cumberland Challenge. I braved the weather and took a risk that at the age of 51 I could ride my first cyclo-sportive. I wanted you to know how very impressed I was with the organisation of the event - a huge thanks to all the marshals, caterers, admin staff at the school, the Red Cross, and the course cars, all of which made the event a success. The signage was good, and the wonderful people who gathered around the course to clap and cheer (especially at the top of Hartside) were a great encouragement. The route was well chosen, varied and interesting, with a most welcome "easy" stretch on the way back after the second feeding station (which made up for the sadistic switchbacks on the first part of the second loop!). Best moment: finding Hartside wasn't as bad as I thought it would be: all a matter of rhythm. Worst moment (there were a few): the rain just after Garrigill, followed/complemented by the strong headwind on the way back to Brampton. I may not do the full circuit again, as I have learned my limitations (half the distance was OK), but I really enjoyed the experience. Thanks once again for all the effort to organise things - much appreciated.

David Porter (competitor 185)

Dear BCWTCC. Just a quick note to tell you how much I enjoyed the 2007 Cumberland Challenge. The organisation was simply immaculate - I couldn't fault it if I tried. The marshals were great, especially considering the weather. The team at registration were friendly and efficient. Having ready access to a couple of pints of hot tea at the end put the icing on the cake! Really good. If I've got the legs, I'll be back next year. Shame about the weather, but it didn't prevent me enjoying the ride. All the best.

Oliver Moffatt (no. 205)

Dear organisers. Just like to say what a fantastic event you organised! Everything went like clockwork...very slick!! The route could not have been better with a mix of uphill and downhill with absolutely fantastic views (when the fog cleared anyway!) Overall brilliant. But and it really isn't a complaint...just call it constructive criticism. For next year can you please hold back some of the bread....un-buttered and without fillings as I can't eat dairy products or meat (and most margarines also contains milk) Other than that perfect....oh and the weather....well it is the Cumberland challenge!! Many thanks,

Brian Little (number 779)

Hi. Just like to say what a great event this was, it was my first ever event of this kind, well organised, friendly and fun. See you next year for a sub 7 hour time. Thanks

Steve Searle (542)

Thank you for a well organised event. I am beginning to think I enjoyed it! I hope to be back next year

Pat Hercberg

Brilliant fantastic day could not fault anything, will be back next year. Thanks to you all

Phil Hawley

*Hi. Thanks for a great day. Brilliant organisation, great route, same weather as last year!
Regards*

Dave Mossop & the Warriors

Well done with organising Sunday's event. Thoroughly enjoyed it. Good atmosphere, good route. Less rain next time please and perhaps less road kill around Alston (spent part of Monday hosing down my shoes). Thanks again

Mike Smith

To all who made it such a good event. May I send you a massive thank you, this year was my first time on the Cumberland Challenge (No 711) and it was fantastic ! The organisation was nothing short of brilliant and the attention to detail superb. The concern for people's safety and well being was outstanding; I especially appreciated the marshals at important points along the route. I am really looking forward to next year and that sunny weather you have promised us. Thanks again, you are all brilliant. Regards

Robert Walker

Dear all. Just a quick one to say many thanks for organising the CHALLENGE, I have to say it really does stand up to its name. As always it was brilliantly organised and is a credit to you all and the Border City Wheelers. Speaking to people on route, they all commented on how smooth it all went. You all deserve a medal for organising such an event with such a huge amount of interest. Anyway thanks again for all your efforts, and look forward to seeing you next year. Kind regards

Andrew Robson

Many thanks for a superbly organised event! Lots of hard work behind the scenes, no doubt, but from a riders point of view, well worth it!

Bob Liddell

Firstly thank you and all your club colleagues for organizing the CC on Sunday – it was awesome. Well organised, fantastic route and a great day. One guy I was cycling with said 'even the flat bits are uphill!' I came in 7 hrs 45 which is ok for a first time I reckon!

Andrew Bernard

Hi. Just a note to say how much I enjoyed Sundays event, much of this was due to the great organisation of the event and the enthusiasm of the marshals and spectators !. Needless to say I will have to have another go next year to see what its like in dry conditions !!. Thanks again for a memorable day. Regards

Chris Kirk (no 566)

Just to say a huge thank you to everyone who played a part in the organising of the challenge on Sunday, it was a great event. Already looking forward to doing next year, along with friends who weren't up for it this year, hope there will be many more. Thanks again

Janet Trevaskis