

Big G Grimpeurs des Wolds cycloportive 2009 - Event feedback from riders

Paul,

What a great event. The organisation was fantastic. Well done! I'll be doing it next year if it's on (but may invest in a compact chain ring if you could advise me on that).

Cheers

Allan Harvey

Paul,

Just wanted to say many thanks for an excellent day yesterday. Superb organisation & facilities combined with fantastic scenery & weather made for a great day.

Already looking forward to next year.

Best regards

Simon Lee

PAUL

WELL DONE to you and all your team for a great day yesterday. Weather was spot on...great signage , food station top notch & meat pie & peas was awesome !!!

I was delighted not to have to walk up the Nunburholme killer ..life in t'old dog yet. Think the route was a tough hillier than last year (100k) ?

Was chatting to a lass from Sheffield whose partner missed out ..he'll enter sooner next yr - she said the short nasty climbs are v testing plus the scenery's superb. Maybe you should up the entries ..or how ?

One minor point. I really enjoyed the ride from Goodmanham down through Dalton park last year ..that view is superb ..Pity you changed it this time but no doubt for good reason ...Is it a problem with public access ??

Congrats again & well done !!

Stuart aka JSSV

Hi Paul

Just rode the Big G 100 yesterday on a Tandem (Feeling shattered this morning) but just wanted to say we thought it was very well organized. You obviously put a lot of effort into it and it definitely paid off.

(No hill next year please - just kidding)

Thank you and well done.

Karen and Paul Wakefield

Paul,

Thanks for getting me the late entry.

The day was really good, I never realised how many hills there were in the area.

The organisation was first class you have an excellent event and I will do it next year.

Thanks

John Pettinger

Paul

Had a great time on the sportive today. I did it 10 minutes quicker than last year because I trained going up Nunburnham and paced myself. I stayed in my comfort zone for a lot of it and only let the demons out after Nunburnham. Next year I will push it a bit more and hopefully do it quicker still.

Hi Paul

Just wanted to say thank you for organising the event. It was the first time my son and I have been in a cycling event and we thoroughly enjoyed it. I'll definitely try to do it next year probably moving up to a longer one (and perhaps a better prepared bike!).

We went wrong in the first few miles because I'd quickly looked at the route but hadn't realised the direction and insisted on going into Etton only to then realise our mistake and so we turned back on to the Lund road. After that we were fine.

Fantastic weather and glorious views across the Wolds. Who could ask for more?

Many thanks

Peter Naylor

I would just like to say a big thank you for such a great event. I rode the 100 km route, and it was a well planned route to boot. A few people I spoke to have not cycled in this region before and I think you did a good job in selling it to them.

Most of the time I admired the scenery on a beautiful day, only once having to look down at the road, but managing to look up again and smile at the camera, or was that grimace?

I must commend the staff at the feed station I visited, helpful, friendly and attentive. A pick me up for the ride home.

All in all 'staff' and participants were all friendly and appeared to be having fun especially at the finish.

Hope you continue to run this event, I would definitely return.

Regards and Thank you,

Andy Derbyshire

Thanks to all for the brilliant event yesterday. Perfect, and very friendly, organisation, great route - spot on in every respect really. Can't wait to ride it again next year

Hi Paul,

Just wanted to send a quick e-mail of thanks.

This was the 1st ever Cycloportive I have done and really enjoyed it.

It was clear alot of planning had gone into the event.

Thank you to you and your team - See you next year.

Ian Wilson No. 48

Thanks to all for the brilliant event yesterday. Perfect, and very friendly, organisation, great route - spot on in every respect really. Can't wait to ride it again next year.

Paul

Many thanks for the excellent organisation of Saturday's event, from the administration to route signage and catering.. It was the first time I have done something like this and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope to be back next year.

Regards
Philip Dixon

Hi Paul

Great event yesterday - best organised sportive I've done by far - superb.

Sorry to be impatient but wondering when the results/pics/report will be available?

Cheers
Simon

To all the organisers and helpers

My compliments to all

I have participated in many sportives so I feel that I am in a position to pass judgement

Everything was great

The venue, sign up procedure, setting off, the route, and all the post event facilities

To top it all fantastic weather!

Never mind my ineptitude in going wrong in Thixendale and missing the signs

Well done

I certainly will be back

Robin Van Der Heyden

Hi Paul,

Just a quick note to say thanks to you and all concerned for

organising a great sportive, I know the weather and location helps a lot

but I think the finishing touches of good feed stations with some savoury

options! well signposted and friendly people helped make the day.

See you next year

Rich Cutsforth 335

Just wanted to say what a great event and very impressed with organisation and value for money. Looking forward to next year!! Thanks to all involved and effort put in.

Ben Wright

Stanifords.com

Dear Paul

Thanks for the provisional results and for a great event. This was my first sportive and I thoroughly enjoyed it. My congratulations and thanks to all your team for their hard work in putting on this sportive, I will certainly be back next year.

Just to round off a fantastic weekend two of our lads took second and third place in the PC race today (Kevin & John) so another thanks from the team for staging a well organised weekends events.

Regards

David Brown

Sportscover Cycling Team

Hello Paul

Just wanted to say thank you for a great event on Saturday, very well organised and an excellent course. Thoroughly enjoyed the day and looking forward to next year.

All the best

Neil

Dear Paul

just wanted to say, on behalf of the 6 of us in Team FB who rode the 100km route, we had a fantastic day - well done and thank you to all involved.

The route was great (don't change it!), organisation was very good and the hospitality/refreshments/facilities were among the best we've ever experienced having ridden many sportives.

We came up on Friday night and watched the crit and stayed in a nice b&b, after the sportive we found a pub in Walkington where the landlord was happy to put ITV 4 on and we watched the last 15km of the Ventoux stage - all in all a great weekend!

It also helps that the weather was great and that 3 of us felt good on the day and achieved good times (although it's not a race of course).

Once again, thank you and we'll definitely ride again next year - see you then.

Kind regards

Paul & Alix Archer

Hi Paul

Great event yesterday - best organised sportive I've done by far - superb.

Sorry to be impatient but wondering when the results/pics/report will be available?

Cheers
Simon

Hello Paul

I flatted at mile 45, just after 1st feedstation & was having an absolute mare repairing what turned out to be a dodgy valve on a new tube, after 1hr 40mins & at the end of my tether & shattered I phoned up for help. Will you please pass on my thanks to the chap who came out, serving food at 1st feed, black Volvo estate & a big moustache, I missed his name but without him 1hr 40 would have been 2/3hrs, he managed to get the wheel back on & I was off again, albeit any timescale was out of the window.

On a seperate point myself & 2 guys who I caught up late on all did a lap of Beverley having missed the signs into the school maybe they could be bigger next year, another rider said they were taken down early, who knows.

Please pass on my thanks to the white knight on the black steed & see you next year as I have unfinished business with this course.

Great experience.

Pete Gault 359

Thanks to all for the brilliant event yesterday. Perfect, and very friendly, organisation, great route - spot on in every respect really. Can't wait to ride it again next year.

John Hairesine

Paul,

Thanks for putting on a great day on Saturday. Thanks also for the provisional results. I was one of the last to leave on the 160km route (starting at about 9.50am) and had no problems at all with the signing (in Thixendale or anywhere else). In fact, I thought the signing was very good (although I only saw a couple of the "Gs" painted on the road). By way of feedback I would only comment:

1) Whilst all the junctions were well signed, a few confirmatory arrows after the junction would be good - just to reassure that we are indeed on the right route. Likewise, there were many instances where we travelled for miles with no arrows. Of course, we just keep going until the next arrow appears but a few confirmatory straight on arrows would be nice (again, just for reassurance that nothing has been missed); and

2) Put up Garmin GPX files of the routes on the event website well in advance of the ride for riders to download.

Thanks to you and all your team - it was my first trip to the East Yorkshire and it was an excellent day.

Regards

Stewart Gregory

Well done Paul. A good days ride and speedy results. Thankyou

Brian Gent

Paul

Thanks for organising the Big G event. This was the first time that I'd done it and I'll certainly be giving it another go next year. The feed station was fantastic, very well organised and had some of the best food I've seen on these events. The cheese and onion wraps certainly went down a treat with the team I was riding with (much better than dried up bread on a hot summers day).

Thanks again for all the hard work and effort. I'll see you all next year.

cheers

Sarah

Hello Paul

What a fantastic service, results out in a few hours.

As with last year I want to complement you for providing an excellent event. Before last year I had never ridden with a club or joined an organised ride so the experience has been enjoyable. Please register my intent to ride again in 2010.

Well done - Angus

Thanks Paul - all of the Colchester Rovers gang had a great day - it was well organised and an enjoyable if tough circuit - if I come next year I will aim for a slightly lower bottom gear and/or a bit more fitness.

Best Regards

David Triggs Colchester Rovers

Hi Paul,

I hope you and your amazing team of helpers have recovered ok from yesterday. Just wanted to say a massive THANKYOU for such a brilliant event. 7 of us came over from York this year with 4 on the 100km route and 3 going on the 160km. We all had an amazing time and had nothing but praise for the way the event is run and organised. Those who did it last year were full of good words for the improvements made following on from last years feedback on route marking, feed stations and t-shirt sizing!

A masive thankyou to you all, and particularly to Mrs G, the feed station staff, massage students, and the singing tandem on Nanburnun hill! Pleeeeeeeeeeease keep the event running. It's a brilliant weekend and we'll be back!

Becky :-)

Hi Paul

Really impressed with the event, thanks for organising it so well. Can't wait for next year.

Thanks again

Rob

Big thanks Paul - Absolutely brilliant!

Looking forward to next year.

Regards,

James Litten

Dear Paul,

Thanks very much for these results and an excellent event **which as you note seemed to run smoothly and without major hiccup. I really enjoyed it**

Phil Haskins

Many thanks for all your hard work and splendid organisation on the day.

Cliff Smith

Hi Paul

Please pass on my thanks to all who made the Big G sportive a very enjoyable and very well run event.

Parking was well organised and plenty of space

The admin was well organised and quick.

The 100Km route was challenging and well laid out. The only slight niggle I had was the right turn off the A166 at GR SE 823569 the traffic here was fast making the right turn more difficult/dangerous.

The food point was well stocked and quick to get through

Start and finish facilities were excellent

Communications were spot on I knew where I needed to be, when I needed to be there and where I was going.

The weather was a bonus.....I understand this may not have been the result of the organisers, but I am sure their prayers helped. :-)

Thanks

Richard Allen

Hi Paul

We greatly enjoyed the Big G and thought the organization was excellent, the signage was very thorough and there was some good food on offer at the feed stations.

Thanks for organizing a great day out.

Rob O'Neill

Dear Paul

Great Event, we really enjoyed it.

Thanks for all of the work that you and your team have done to make it such a success.

Regards

Martin Coulter

Paul

Just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the event on Saturday (helped by the sunshine!). I also saw the race on Friday night which was great. I will definately be back next year.

Thanks

John

John Rowe,

Paul,

thanks for this.

It was indirectly, Neil Cleminshaw who got me into cycling last May and this was my second sportive. I thought the event was very well organised, well signed and I thoroughly enjoyed the day.

I know from other club committees (non cycling) that I have been involved with that these things fall on the same old hands each year and that generally, feedback is scarce.

Well done to all in your team on a very professionally run event.

Dave Corfield

Hi Paul, thanks for the info re the arrows..I was one of at least ten riders who sailed past them. Not sure how I did as I was looking for them and other people clearly saw them, must have been thinking I was Bradley Wiggins too much. It was, apart from my crap navigation, a fantastic sportive, far more challenging than I thought the wolds would be and really well organised (bit of a walk to the shower though). I'll be back next year and approaching Thixendale more slowly.
Cheers John S

ps It was a fantastic weekend..I also took my son to the crit on Friday and he was amazed by the speed and skill of the riders(he wants a racing bike now!) so thumbs up to Hull Thursday and East yorkshire and Beverly councils.

John Senior

Paul,

Thanks to everyone that was envolved for another brilliant Sportif. The only criticism that I can offer was the healthiness of the post-ride meal, but that's it. I think it's one of the sportives with the best organisation, most friendly atmosphere & good route. Nice to hear that the course arrows weren't messed-with this year and even the weather behaved itself.

Thanks again, Mark

Hi

Thanks for the prompt e-mail and congratulations to the team for a very well organised ride; great weekend of cycling too.

I booked for the 160k but did the 100k instead. I think my number was 468.

Malcolm Swainsbury.

Congratulations on another great event Paul,
CV as long as your arm!

In the results I seem to have been put in the 100km route rather than the 160km route which I completed. If I hadn't have stopped to assist in a couple of flats and spend so much time chin wagging then that gold standard would have been mine. Not that much of an exclusive club mind, judging by all those Olympian standard times that some people appear to have posted lol.

Thanks again, and see you Tuesday.

I'm short of a partner by the way but will ride alone if every one is partnered up.

Mark

Dear Paul,

I thought it went really well and all the Royal Standard riders enjoyed the event.

Thanks for all your hard work.

Regards,

Graham Stuart MP

Paul,

Thanks once again to you and the team – a brilliant event, part of a great weekend!! Looking forward to next year already!

Amended signs and feed stations were very much appreciated!!! I know my partner, Ian missed a sign and took a lovely trip to Castle Howard(!) but it was his own fault busy eating flapjack instead of paying attention!!

Thanks,

Emily/Ruth(!)

Hi Paul,

Just a short note to say thanks for organising an excellent event last weekend.

Four of us rode the 100k route and found it excellent; great scenery, some nasty (but good!) climbs and really well signed. We've ridden a lot of Sportives this year organised by

"professional" businesses, such as Kilo to Go and Just Racing. We all agreed that the organisation, support, food, 'freebies" and atmosphere of the Big G beat them all.

Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to your team for a great event.

See you next year for the 160k!

Best wishes

David Bullock

Hi Paul

I just wanted to mail you, to thank you for putting on a cracking good sportive !

I've never cycled the Wolds before, and so it was a pleasant surprise to see how nice the area was. Beverley is a lovely place to start it from !

So, what exactly did I like about the sportive ? Well, here's what I can immediately think off:-

A beautiful route – didn't know there were so many hills round here !

All the helpers at the feeds and centre were extremely pleasant, and only too happy to help

A great venue to start it from – good car parking, toilets, feed area, etc

Big maps to check out the course

No need for timing chips – brilliant Paul, you've just shown that you don't need to fork out the extra wedge to hire the chips. Your system worked absolutely fine

The weather – well arranged ! God knows how you managed that, but I'd keep that one to yourself, or all the sportive organisers will be after you !

The freebies – the t-shirt was a pleasant colour (well it goes with my sandy coloured shorts anyway), and the bottle was really good (was gonna ask for 2, but felt a bit greedy doing that)

The emergency number details – never got these on the Dave Lloyd !

The PRICE – what can I say. I've been on other sportives that have cost twice as much, and felt as though I've not had as good value for money !

I rode this with Chris Brown, one of the lads from the Hull Thursday RC, and I'm glad he persuaded me to travel over from Merseyside. It was well worth the effort.

We both surprised ourselves by getting a silver (6hrs 37mins), but now we feel as though we've got some unfinished business. We've gotta get the Gold !

So that'll be us back next year.

Cheers and thanks

Alan Todd

Hi Paul

Thanks to you to you and the rest of the team for organising such a superb event. All the improvements you have made this year have paid off with positive comments from many of the riders I spoke to.

Paul Birch

thanks for a really good event; the scenery was stunning. I am also grateful to rider 55 who gave me a spare inner at the feed station on the 100k route and then offered to change the tyre for me as well.

best wishes

David Snowball

Hi Paul,

I had a brilliant day riding the 100KM, thanks very much for taking my entry at close to deadline. It was well worth the 3hour drive up from Peterborough. I'll be back next year for sure.

Cheers

Dave Hulatt

Dear Paul

On behalf of my friends and myself I would like to say that your sportive was excellent, ie the HQ, food, freebies, feed station and the personnel involved with the event, superb value for the money we paid, we will return next year for certain.

Please arrange for the same weather again, thank you.

Regards Neil Rutherford.

Paul,

Great weekend Paul - really enjoyed it - and you even did us proud with the weather! You must have been working all weekend to get the results out as quickly as you did! Still think Nunburnholme is steeper than Ventoux but at least I managed to cycle all the way up this year!

See you next year!

Thanks

Jackie Brewis

Paul,

Just wanted to say thank you for a great day of cycling on Saturday.

I rode the 100km in 4 hours 1 min which i was delighted with. It would have been under 4 hours had one of the signs on the approach to Etton not gone astray; I ended up back in South Dalton. But it didn't spoil what was an enjoyable time.

I'm now inspired to go for the 160km route, so I'll need some serious training judging by the climb at the 100km/160km split that went up to Wharram Percy. So the message is please make sure you organise another event for next year.

If I can offer an improvement it's that more painted signs on the road are used, as I did notice the sign pointing to Goodmanham was missing (local miscreant no doubt), but luckily I knew the way.

Anyway, a great event well organised.

regards

Andy Greaves

Hi Paul,

I was one of the guys that missed the sign in Thix. Almost got to Millington and realised I went wrong. I then retraced back to Thix, found the sign and had my well earned Red Bull. Add two flats into the mix over those 10 or so miles it made for an interesting ride lol.

Still I was pleased to do the extra miles rather than miss out but after the climbs at Hanging Grimston and Aklam I was n't that sure.

Anyways thanks to you and all the support crew. GREAT EVENT..

Regards

David Campbell

Paul,

thanks for a great sportive.

I've done several and this is one of the best. One niggle is with taking riders up the busy 1079 to Bishop Burton at the start and having them turn right across it, would it not be better to take riders down towards Leconfield so they can turn left without having to cross oncoming traffic. The food stops were great. Real food, none of this sports gel, energy bar, isotonic drinks nonsense. Jaffa cakes and Jamaica Ginger cake is what we need. My friends loved the cheese and onion fajita wraps, fruit cake etc, keep it up.

Nick Mitchell

Hi,

Would just like to thank you on behalf of Team Ale carts/Adel Squash for a great day and well organised event. We found everyone very cheerful and welcoming.

Can't wait for next year.

Regards,

Graham Knapton.

Dear Paul,

Although we came last, we had a really enjoyable day and it was a real sense of achievement for us to do such a ride with a 17 year old mountain bike and a city bike... without prior training. Hats off to those who climbed the last two steep hills - we admired those people!

Could you please be so kind to amend my name on the 60km to Larissa Lauinger instead of Larrisa Lavinger - that would be much appreciated - many thanks (also, maybe you could take an hour or two off at the same time - hahaha)

Thanks again for organising this event - it was superbly organised!

Warm regards,

Larissa

Hi Paul,

Just a short note to say thanks for organising an excellent event last weekend.

Four of us rode the 100k route and found it excellent; great scenery, some nasty (but good!) climbs and really well signed. We've ridden a lot of Sportives this year organised by "professional" businesses, such as Kilo to Go and Just Racing. We all agreed that the organisation, support, food, 'freebies" and atmosphere of the Big G beat them all.

Please pass on our thanks and appreciation to your team for a great event.

See you next year for the 160k!

Best wishes

David Bullock

Just to say thank you - very well organised and much enjoyed by us all (and splendid weather)

Philip Johnston

Dear Paul,

I have just returned from my holiday, so I would like to thank you and your team for organising a fantastic Big G. The organisation was superb: a great route; amazing feed stations; fantastic value with the meal and T shirt thrown in too; above all, a really friendly atmosphere. For many of us it was our first experience of a sportive. We are already talking about coming up to do it again next year.

Richard May

Hi Paul

Slightly belated I know but a note of thanks to you and all concerned for the Big G. Another fantastic day out – superbly organised and good weather too. Compared to another sportive I rode recently your event can only be described as outstanding. Put my name down for next year!!!!

I was at the circuit races on Friday night and at the road race on Sunday – as a spectator so all in all a cracking weekend and I even got some passable photo's
Many thanks once again

Tim Bryett

Thanks for all your efforts Paul. I have run road races and appreciate the effort you must have put in to something as huge as the big G . The course looks flat on google earth but it is a monster.

Chris Thompson

Wansbeck Northumberland CC

Hi Paul

Great day out - Really enjoyed it - Many Thanks !
Did the 100k this year but would love to do the big one next years
Plus ive just got an iphone 3G so make it happen matey

Many thanks for your efforts
One of the major highlights of my cycling year to date

Cheers

James O'Connor

.....improvements ? - it was PERFECT !

Well done Kilvo - Great effort

thanks again

Lee and Paula

Hello Paul,

Just like to say what a great Sportive you put on Sat. I did the first one last year and enjoyed it tremendously. A runner by heart I only took up cycling a few years ago and have only done a handful of Sportives. As last year your route marking was great and the work that went into the feed stations was superb (have done a few where you get a banana and Mr Kipling apple pie and thats it!!). We arrived there Friday night and watched the city centre racing as well which we enjoyed also. Hope to see you next year and my thanks to everyone who helped with the organisation of the events even down to the ladies feeding us after. If this doesn't get people on their bikes nothing will.

Allan Shutt

Hi Paul,

Just a note to thank all those involved in the organisation of the Big G. I thoroughly enjoyed the day -= well done on getting the only sunny day this summer!!!

Marcus Lund