

SPORT

Oubaas conquers the 360NE MTB Challenge



Hennie Fourie from the RCC was one of 55 riders who finished from 1005 entries of the 360NE MTB Challenge.

Rustenburg – Hennie Fourie from the Rustenburg Cycling Club (RCC) competed in the gruelling 360NE MTB challenge near Oudtshoorn from Friday, 21 April 2017. The 360NE race is a single-stage circular MTB challenge that starts and ends in Oudtshoorn. The riders have 36.1 hours of gruelling riding in the rocky mountains and roads of the Karoo. You can ride solo or in relay teams.

South Africans have long been known to have a great love-affair with the long distance events. Our beautiful country allows athletes to do this due to our incredible climate and contrasting landscapes. You go out to the Congo Caves – De Rust – small towns in between, including the Calitzdorp, Volmoed and Oudtshoorn.

On the route there are well-manned water and food points. After 12 hours – some in darkness – what an amazing site greeted us when the sun rises and when the warm Karoo sun shows the way! The dew and frost covering the Rooiberg Pass is also a painting on

its own. This comes at 250km into the race with about 16km still to go, about 16km from Breedsnek.

This race was a killer but with a strong mind and the 'legs' of Hennie Fourie, nicknamed *Oubaas* or *Coach*, he managed well.

After 18 hours into the race, only 55 riders had finished from 1005 entries!

This gives one a good idea of the tremendous challenge of this particular race. The winner's time was 13h59min-58sec – a new record. The solo lady was 16h55min. The 360NE MTB challenge was a total climb of 5 056 metres.

After competing in a total of 15 Comrades races, Hennie has always been looking for a MTB challenge that would be equivalent to the Comrades and after finishing on Saturday evening, he said "I have found it in the 360NE MTB Challenge."



2017 SA NATIONAL SKYDIVING IN RUSTENBURG THIS WEEKEND!

Rustenburg – The 2017 South African National Skydiving Championships will be held at Skydive Rustenburg, located at the Rustenburg Municipal Airfield.

The competition runs from the 27 April to 1 May 2017 and includes an official training day on Wednesday, 26 April, with competition hours between 08h00 and 17h00 each day. Competitors from all nine provinces are expected and will be competing in 5 separate Skydiving Disciplines namely; *formation skydiving, artistic events, canopy formation, classic accuracy and wingsuit skydiving* – all of which will be vying for the title of National Champions in the various categories.

Skydiving is also one of the few sports where men and women compete in the same competition on an equal footing with at least 25% of the expected competitors being female skydivers.

The event is open to the public during the competition hours and all are encouraged to view the proceedings from demarcated areas set aside for the public for the duration of the competition. Tandem jumps for those interested in experiencing skydiving will be available at a discounted rate on the 2 weekends before and after the championship dates.

This is the second time that the National Skydiving Championships are to be held in the North West.

Province and both Skydive Rustenburg and the Parachute Association of South Africa are excited to bring this unique and spectacular sport to the people of Rustenburg.

For additional information, please contact Skydive Rustenburg's meet director Herman Grobler on 082-448 0784, Danelle Field (administration) on 079-345 7058 or Graham Field (safety officer) on 074- 198 0891.



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