

Yorkshireman Experiences Seb's Olympic Inspiration at the 17th PO Prelikiji Bioterme Cycle Marathon in north east Slovenia

Tuesday 14 August, 2012

Sunday 12th August saw the riding of the 17th PO Prelikiji Bioterme Cycling Marathon in north east Slovenia.

Paul Wadkin a keen cyclist from Yorkshire now living in Slovenia, was taking part.

Back home it was the final day of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Paul comments:

'From very early morning hundreds of people of all ages and abilities were arriving at Bioterme Mala Nedelja to ride or just to watch and enjoy the event.'

'I have never seen such enthusiasm and support for a cycling event; the London Olympics have clearly been inspirational.'

Sponsored by the Radenska Water Company in conjunction with the Hotel Bioterme the marathon is not a race but a fun sporting event.

By 10 am on Sunday 523 cyclists ranging from kids to pensioners, fun to serious riders, individuals and teams plus all their supporters were in place for the ride.

There was a choice of distance to ride 22km, 43km and 63km. Paul went for the 63km distance with its 3 big climbs.

'The atmosphere was absolutely fantastic all along the route, and whilst some did a bit of serious riding most took it more leisurely enjoying the fabulous views from the hilltops and stopping at the feeding stations for fruit cake, fresh apple juice and a good natter!'

'Not all the bikes were in good order and there were many taking a breather to mend a puncture or do a running service. I was riding my hybrid Rixe mountain bike which I had cleaned and serviced the day before. At one point I hit 67km an hour on the downhill section at Stara Cesta, thank goodness for disk brakes!'

'I had just reached the top of one of the big 14% climbs leading into the Jerusalem hills when I got a call from my mate and had to cycle back down and fix his bike and then ride back up!'

'After the ride, back at the hotel Bioterme the prizes were announced and music and dancing followed, a memorable sight as over 500 cyclists still in their Lycra riding gear danced the Polka!'

The prize for the oldest male participant went to 83 year old Siegfried Schubert and Erika Pangrcic at 70 was the oldest female participant. The award for the largest team entry went to team Tondach the local roof tile manufacturer.

Paul runs Simply Cycling Slovenia who offer cycling holidays in this region of Slovenia and neighbouring Austria. www.simplycyclingslovenia.com.

Prlekija is one of the finest areas of Europe for cycling and activity holidays. It is easily reached by motorway from the Channel ports or by air from London Stansted to Graz.

Next year Paul is hoping to assemble groups from the UK to take part in this great cycling event allowing them to experience the beautiful countryside of Prlekija and join in with the friendly and hospitable people of the Region.

Photos of the event have been posted at:
<http://www.prlekija-on.net/galerija/1795/kolesarski-maraton-po-prlekiji.html>

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