

FLAMME ROUGE

R A C I N G



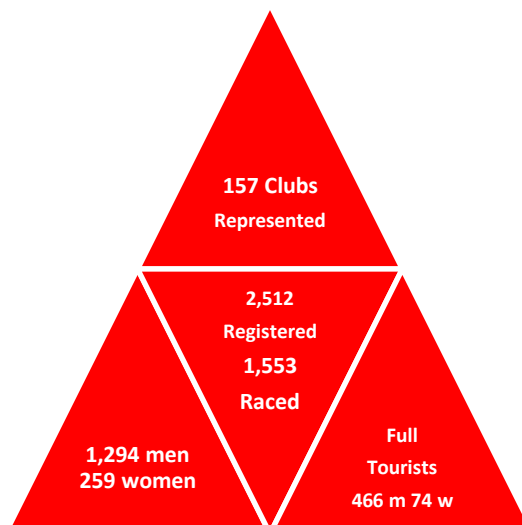
presents the

FRR Event Report

Series 3 **Tour Britannia**

Nov 25 – Dec 3

V20231204.1



Simply the best Events on Zwift... (your words again...)

Another fantastic week has been had by the Tour, yes there were a couple of diversions for the good of the Tour and yes there were a small minority that lost focus and understanding of what we set out to deliver.

But first let's address the big issue...Discord behaviour.

Discord is a place for discussion, sharing and communication, if we invite a question then we open a group if riders have an issue the process is there to contact Race Control or if it is more fundamental raise to their Team Manager to send to Race Control. It is a key communication tool for Race Control not a place for riders to vent their own agenda's or attempt to rip apart how the Tour was setup.

Over the course of the week server engagement died as a small number posted ridiculous toxic points with little or no thought except for themselves with Saturday being perhaps the lowest day I have ever experienced since starting the Tour in 2021.

The comments were so selfish that it certainly made me question why I spend so much time organising events. Constructive objective comment is always welcomed which may actually help improve the events we do, but we went along way from that path...

99% of riders are professional adults, we expect everyone to act professionally and responsibly and not use the platform as a venting space – if riders cannot do this then don't join or leave the server now as we do not need you there.

The actions of a few had massive communication impact as we know many muted the server – we will not allow this to not happen again.

We know we can be better, we listen (perhaps too much) and the Tour will continue to evolve as the overwhelming majority of rider's support what we look to deliver and it is for them and new riders to come that we take strength to push on and continue to go the extra mile for these hard, fun and free events we organise.

I'll now draw a line under the Discord point as this needed to be addressed first and we hope that those that muted the server will take the time to return as we approach our third Tour of the season ...but let's get Santa out of the way first as minds and bodies need time to recover.

Britannia saw over 2,600 riders register, I'll comment on that in the improvements later with more full Tourists than France so we must be doing something right.

Riders make the Tour but first a few thank you's to those that put the Tour on the map.

Joining forces with Lee Wild had an instant positive impact bringing new event services to Britannia and a massively improved social media approach which clearly helped get the Tour in front of new people in a more professional way which is just the start of where we are heading and very soon we hope to be bring that improved website platform.

Linking up with the ZMS team for the Stage 8 streaming event and the work that Simon Bradeley put in both with his preview of the Tour and ZMS commentary were fantastic and really appreciated - along with Zwiftinsider mentions from Eric and of course none of what we do could be done without the help from the Zwift Event Team.

Invites to podcasts with Dustin & Holly and the 'On the Drops' Team with Nathan Krake showed that FRR has the interest and that we should look to do more... perhaps even do our own as there is a lot out there to talk about...any willing production experts interested in helping make this a reality please contact me...

Everything takes time and effort and it was great to see that the ZMS engagement paralleled larger more established productions and with some careful planning we can make more of this to further enhance future events.

Personally I thought France was the toughest to date, but so many have commented that the undulating route's gave little time to rest and with the punchy climbs then it encouraged riders to go deeper more often but I guess that is what the UK has to offer in reality too...

We remind in each report that the Tour is a fast moving, physically and mentally exhausting event which requires fast decisive action to keep the Tour on track – we need to result quickly, investigate and act on issues raised all within 24 hrs before we do it again... and we do – some decisions may not be popular but they are always for the good of the Tour and to maintain fairness.

FRR is a series unlike no other, do we get everything right... no... do we know everything ...no... but we do listen, learn and adapt to fine tune and improve each Tour and that's perhaps why so many return and bring more and more friends each time and for that we thank each and everyone one of you because whatever your goal for the Tour we are in it together and of course not everything is in our control.

From all of the Team thank you for your time and energy and we hope to see you again soon!

Regards

Richard – Hayley – Lee

Team League (Mixed)

As ever the Team prize takes the most effort and coordination to succeed the lead switched between Teams all week before Team **EVOLUTION** edged over the line by a single point from Galaxy with Coalition taking 3rd place off ART.

Congratulations to **EVOLUTION** winning by just **ONE POINT** and before Teams send their auditors over – the results are closed. For a fun and exercise series then we move on and embrace that after a week of tough racing that the title was decided on the very last Stage. To win the mixed title takes coordination and engagement across the classes and genders and EVO certainly embrace this taking their second Tour title of the season.

Team League (Gender)

Britannia offered two further Team competitions, the **Mens title** was taken by **ART Racing** from DIRT and then Coalition. ART came in numbers this Tour and proved they have an element or two to make a massive impact.

The **Womens title** was taken by the impressive **REVO** team from Galaxy and 5W4T.

Competitions were close all week across both Leagues with every team member having their part to play right up to the last stage.

Class Awards... but first...

For Britannia we trialled the zFTP metric and gave riders a suggested FRHC class - In the majority of cases riders stayed with the suggestion and later we will comment on this as we look to adapt and update for Tour Watopia.

We also used eGAP for the first time to determine points in segments and to offer a GC based on eGAP to remove the need for riders to join the largest events to compete for GC on pure time... we will explore this later in the report.

We were forced very early on to recognise the difference between full tourists and riders who missed stages - we will cover this in the improvements section.

CAPSAICIN (CAP)

Bart Van der Linden [GFTBE] is a worthy winner of **eGAP GC** after 8 hard stages, near 10 hours of racing, he took the title by just 81 seconds from **Adrien [FFZ]** with **Ed Laverack [BAKPDL]** taking 3rd on the podium.

Ed Laverack [BAKPDL] took the **Time GC** by just 41seconds from Rinus Verhelle [ABUS] with Kjell Otterlei [GENX] taking third place at just +65seconds.

Josh Harris [BL13] secured the **Combined Jersey** showing his class across sprint, climb and finish edging out Adrien and Rinus.

Adrien [FFZ] secured the **Green Jersey** well before Yorkshire and **Harris** took the **Polka dot Jersey** to go with the combined jersey.

DRAGONS BREATH (DRA)

Gary Hamilton [TBR] secured **eGap GC** by just 53seconds from **Michael Greiner (OMG)** with **Maks Tym (TUR)** a further 14seconds back.

Michael Greiner [RELENTLESS] took the **Time GC** by 6minutes from Thomas Evans (TACTFC) with GTR Wilson (Race3R) taking third place.

Greiner (OMG) secured the **Combined Jersey**, **Francis Cayouette (5W4T)** secured the **Green Jersey** and **Greiner** took the **Polka dot Jersey** with all three Jerseys decided on the final stage.

CAROLINER REAPER (CRP)

Mark Talbot [COALITION] secured both **Time GC** and **eGap GC** by just over 2minutes from **Frederic Suglia (Team Italy)** with **Patrick Caisse (5W4T)** taking 3rd place just 30s further back.

Talbot secured the **Combined Jersey** and the **Polka dot Jersey** while the **Green Jersey** went down to the last sprint in Yorkshire with **Lauritz Harila (SISU)** edging past **Ethan Treacy (BL13)** by a single point.

GHOST (GHT) - Mens

Steve Chmiewliski [LPCC] secured **eGap GC** by 2 minutes from **Jamie McCarte (ART)** with **Martin Ranefjard (SZ)** taking 3rd place just 15s further back – with the time battle across the class simply staggeringly close.

Jamie McCarte [ART] took the **Time GC** by JUST 5 SECONDS from Chmiewliski with the top 4 separated by less than 50seconds Incredible after 10hrs of racing in multiple events and time zones.

Erik John (TACTFC) secured the **Combined Jersey** ahead of **McCarte** by just 9 points.

Wendell (USMES) took the **Green Jersey** by just 6 points from **Tim Burn (ABR)** to reverse his fortunes from France and **Eric Jon** took the **Polka dot Jersey** to go with his Combined jersey.

GHOST (GHT) - Ladies

Minna Kangas (Evolution) secured both **Time GC** and **eGap GC** from Holly Diop (No8 Racing) with Angela MacRae (EVO) taking 3rd place

Minna secured the **Combined** and **Polka dot Jersey**'s with Holly Diop securing a well deserved **Green Jersey**.

HABENERO (HAB) - Mens

Denis Shanagher [TACTFC] and **Jeffrey Janssen [OTR]** took the battle to each other for GC with Denis taking the prize – we'll need to see how this battle plays again another time when we try and get them to come play with others.

Shanagher secured the **Combined Jersey** from Stuart Lambert (RHINO) with the youthful Caleb Barrows (DIRT) taking third place.

Dylan Van der westen (TEAMNL) took a second **Green Jersey** and Shanagher added the **Polka dot Jersey** to his collection for Britannia.

HABENERO (HAB) - Ladies

Anna Rogers [REVO] proved the front runner securing both **Time GC** and **eGap GC** from teammate Jesse Whitaker (REVO) and Monique Verhoef (TeamNL).

Diop put some daylight in the competition on Stage 6 heading towards the Alpe on Stage 7 where MacRae and Diop were separated by just 20seconds after over 3hrs on the road. **Sophis Smits (TEAMNL)** took 3rd place just over 1 minute back.

Anna Rogers secured the **Combined Jersey** by just 4 points from Heather Downie with Jesse Whitaker taking the third place to make it a REVO 1-2-3.

Jesse Whitaker took the **Green Jersey** and Heather Downie took the **Polka dot Jersey**.

SCOTCH BONNET (BON) - Mens

Boom Magoou [COALITION] took **eGap GC** by just 9s from Leigh Quince (BL13) another incredible time gap given the permutations if how this could play out over 8 stages, with Quince taking the **Time GC**.

Leigh Quince (BL13) took the **Combined Jersey**, Richard Doornbos (TEAMNL) powered the **Green Jersey** and Quince added the **Polka dot Jersey** to his collection too.

SCOTCH BONNETT (BON) - Ladies

Aliseeyah [DRAFTDINO] took **eGap GC** by 3 minutes from Noemie Labbe-Roy (5W4T) with Zeina Loutfi (REVO) in 3rd place. Noemie reversed the favour in **Time GC** to have the overall fastest time on Aliseeyah by 87s.

Zeina Loutfi (REVO) secured the **Combined Jersey** and in the process took both the **Green Jersey** and **Polka dot Jersey**.

CAYENNE (CAY) - Mens

Seb Wolf [DIRT] took **eGap GC** by just 31s from Ben Norris (ZSUNR) while Ben reversed the decision for **Time GC** to win by 82s from Seb.

Seb held the **Combined Jersey** from Ben and Isaacs (ART) beat off fellow ART rider Hivey to take the **Green Jersey**. Seb secured the **Polka dot Jersey** to go with his Combined jersey.

CAYENNE (CAY) - Ladies

Beth Phillips [WCC] took **Time GC** and **eGap GC** by under 2 minutes to boost her to the top of podium having come 2nd in France. Sarah Sarre (ART) took second and Mrs Evolution herself Julia Brook took 3rd place by just 8s.

Renee Anseeuw (REVO) secured the **Combined Jersey** with **Daffner (DIRT)** securing her 2nd sprint title to take the **Green Jersey** and **Anseeuw** took the **Polka dot Jersey** to add to the combined.

JALAPENO (JLP) - Mens

Terry Flynn [GXY] took **Time GC** and **eGap GC** by an a country mile, with the class exhibiting the width time ranges of all FRHCs – perhaps something to do with zFTP but we will look at that – but it shouldn't detract from the effort it takes to compete.

Flynn took the **Combined Jersey** and added the **Polka dot** to his collection, while **Amit Lad (ART)** secured the **Green Jersey** to deny Flynn of a clean sweep.

JALAPENO (JLP) - Ladies

Jill Theodossi [COALITION] took **Time GC** and **eGap GC** by 69s from Katrin Junkers (Zwiftklub) with **Elisabete Ribeiro (TugaZ)** climbing onto the podium to take 3rd place.

Similar to the men the range of times was wide, again down to zFTP but it's on the list and we know more now.

Katrin Junkers (Zwiftklub) stepped up from 3rd in France to secure the **Combined Jersey**, Sarah Johnson (ABR) secured the **Green Jersey** and Junkers too the **Polka dot Jersey** to add to her combined jersey.

PEPERONCINI (PEP) - Mens

B.B (FRR) took pretty much the whole PEP cabinet **Time GC** and **eGap GC**, **Combined Jersey** and **Polka dot Jersey** the party only being spoiled by Neil Hanlon (ART) who took the **Green Jersey**.

Very unusual but this adds to the theory that zFTP failed in some places, but equally we are not undervaluing the time and effort riders put into the Tour – we just need to evaluate the results.

PEPERONCINI (PEP) - Ladies

Ruth Stapleton [RHINO] had an amazing battle with Sue Satchihananda (GXY) to take both the **Time GC** and **eGap GC** by 13s and 27s respectively. Sue clearly new to Zwiftpower and getting increasingly stronger was held off by Ruth in a racing space that can be very diverse in time – incredible.

Stapleton secured the **Combined Jersey**, **Green** and **Polka dot Jersey** by just 1 point from Mandy Serruys (GXY) ... I guess she'll need a larger wardrobe now!

This brings us nicely to the **Readhead** award, which for those that are unaware is an award made to riders who throughout the Tour go above and beyond to achieve their goals and an award named after the first recipient 'Hilary' who FRR drove to new heights in the first ever Tour and ended up in that very exclusive Club F40 by doing them all!

Readhead Award

This award is about the personal challenge and the stories that emerge over the Tour, as many get so focused on the winning that the completing is often missed.

For Britannia then we recognise this for the following and by doing so they will be awarded the Zwift FRR Jersey and become members of a very exclusive set of people.

Catherine Button (Draft Dino) new to FRR this season and to date has completed all 16 stages between France and Britannia....

Chus Martin (HISP) has been supporting FRR via Team HISP for a good while but this season has also kicked off with a perfect 16 out of 16.

Ian Waterston (ZSCOT) seems to love Tour Britannia since it started in 2021 having competed in them all plus lots more FRR events along the way.

Margot Sharapova (VAFX) first joined our events in 2022 but this season is back with full force competing all 16 stages to date.

It is these riders and riders like them that are the hero's of the Tour and we take our hats off to them all.

Tour Britannia Series 3 Podium Report...link

and finally...

I want to thank everyone who has taken the time to send funds through the [FRR GoFundMe](#) page, we do not push this and mention it only in passing as we all have our lives to live and I know we are all living in a much harder economic period than most can ever remember.

I'm honoured that you let me into your lives each Series and appreciate every donation and ounce of perspiration. FRR will continue to evolve and with the new partnership we aim to get bigger and better – all donations are fully appreciated.

As you may know 20% of donations received will be given to chosen charity [Cyclists Fighting Cancer](#) who do great work helping children and adults recover from cancer through the power of the bike.

The Tour now moves on to **Tour Watopia**, Profiles will reset and LOANs will be removed. Please read the changes and lessons learned as set out below.

What's next....Tour Watopia on 2nd January.

I want to thank you all for joining the FRR Tour Series – the competition, camaraderie, team support, feedback, positivity and support is simply overwhelming (and those that have had other agendas will either see the light or see the door) – what we do is very personal to us and I see that too in the riders who join and contribute.

Welcome to the Team Lee Wild, really looking forward to seeing where we can take this – thank you for making a great impact so quickly.

Finally, a very special thank you to Hayley and my family for supporting me throughout the Series – it's an immersive experience all the way through and I couldn't do it without them as every hour on the bike takes 20 to of ours to get it there.. at least.

See you very soon!

Richard – Hayley - Lee

Join us in the [FRR Facebook Event Group](#) and we also have a [FRR Discord](#) server

Event Lessons Learned & Improvements

If you have any additional observations then please contact [Race Control](#)

Reminder Our Tour aims...

- Multi day stage event where fatigue comes into play
- Rider engagement from Stage 1 to the end
 - Mixed Team racing
 - Fair racing Classes
 - Your Race Your Way – Race any event each stage
- Engage riders of all levels
- Remove game features and level the playing field
- Fair, honest and respectful racing

The points below will not go over the various arguments made over the course of the week, but the changes outlined are as a direct result of all that discussion and input.

Feedback Point	Comments
Discord behaviour and raising issues	<p>The FRR Discord server is there primarily for information passing from the event organiser to riders.</p> <p>Discord is there for chat and discussion, and it is used by professional adults SO act like it not children.</p> <p>Discord is NOT there for riders to raise petty squabbles between riders who have their own agenda or personal history and if riders do not like this then they can leave.</p> <p>Please also avoid poor taste egifs and foul language, while I am as open as anyone the server needs to maintain respect and credibility as we all do in out places of work – so why anyone thinks Discord or Social Media is place they can openly dump is beyond me.</p> <p>Engagement on the server must return to how it was before Britannia and I can only begin to judge that by the emoji reactions we receive when a message is posted.</p> <p>So once you receive this report here is a test – I will post after the report is released the following message</p> <p>Well what do you think are we good?</p> <p>Please use the GOLD STAR emoji to like the Discord post the more we get the happier we will all be that we have read the above....</p>

	<p>CHANGE</p> <p>All Race Control issues must be raised via email via Team Managers to Race Control not directly in Discord.</p> <p>Discord channels will be locked down where required.</p> <p>Riders will be muted for 24 hours as a warning if they transcend the code of conduct, messages will be deleted. Further out bursts will see an instant ban put in place on the server and Tour participation.</p>
Event PENS	<p>Worked well except at event times that had less riders – split pens will remain – perhaps we can split further now given riders have proved that they can select a PEN for their class...</p> <p>We could implement</p> <p>A Pen - CAP-GHT (Men)</p> <p>B Pen – GHT (Women) + Mixed HAB-CAY (+2mins)</p> <p>C Pen – Mixed - JLP- BEL (+3mins)</p> <p>All riders will see each other and starts will benefit again</p>
FRHC – Bell Pepper	<p>We will introduce a new category beneath PEP the this will help further smooth out the D and C classed riders and bring a new set of riders to the party...</p>
FRHC Setting	<p>This isn't an FRR issue this is a virtual racing on Zwift or any platform issue and no one has a perfect process to date – but let's set out why and the challenge we face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events are too diverse, riders compete with different agendas, base details are not up to date and given all of this riders expect to be classed correctly • Zwift CATs are not correct given so many ride to stay down rather than to progress given the changes made early this year • vELO is out there but ignores too many events resulting in an inconsistent rider spread (will talk to Tim further on this) • zFTP is the basis used by Zwift (and recommended to us to use for this Tour) to define category enforcement along with artificial Watt boundaries which riders find far too easy to manipulate and were there really to protect juniors not adults.

	<p>We also saw that giving rider's choice using suggestions opened us up to misinterpretation at best or deliberate downgrades which all caused a huge amount admin effort.</p> <p>The sad thing is ALL riders know their competitive level, we made this point before Britannia that everyone is just one of two classes depending on fitness and health (three at the very most if you are a mixed B) and the zFTP suggestion presented a class in that range....</p> <p>So ask yourself did you choose a class that reflected where you are currently in racing fitness or something else? zFTP was a suggestion it didn't mean it was right for you but we do know that now as some class results had little or no competition because if it...</p> <p>So where do we go...</p> <p>CHANGE</p> <p>First - New process will not allow a rider to directly change their class – it will allocated and we only expect real edge cases to ask for a review.</p> <p>The process will be the same for everyone and will use a riders' data directly to produce the class no data input required from the rider.</p> <p>What is the process – well we have 20 days to refine it and we will reach out to a group to help define how it should look.</p> <p>In doing so the data has to be available to us, transparent and explainable.</p>
<p>GC Timing - eGAP</p>	<p>Using eGAP did two things.</p> <p>First, the spread of riders was better across events</p> <p>Second, riders who wanted to compete for GC could at a time that worked form them rather than a time that just had the most riders.</p> <p>However it came at a cost – eGAP also saw riders choose (whether by their schedule or design) times that allowed them to make eGAP uncompetitive for their class.</p> <p>Furthermore eGAP was upset for GC by riders who missed stages and then produced Pro class performances which adversely affected events for riders who were committing to the whole Tour. This was the main reason why the pointing process had to adapt on Stage 2 and that will be covered further down.</p>

	<p>CHANGE</p> <p>eGAP will remain for GC processing</p> <p>Event times will be reduced to build larger rider events, and times will be slightly different on weekdays over weekends.</p> <p>The end result is expected to be larger more competitive fields for everyone.</p>
<p>Points allocation</p>	<p>The decision to amend the points process as a result of new riders joining was in hindsight incorrectly applied and as commented reduced the engagement of riders who could not do all stages despite putting in great efforts in segments and in events.</p> <p>New riders affected eGAP GC directly and it could be argued that new riders had fresher legs for sprints and climbs (though segment performances remain high no matter how hard we make it...)</p> <p>So while we fixed one issue we created another one which again in hindsight was perhaps worse.</p> <p>CHANGE</p> <p>GC for time and eGap will only consider full tourists as this is correct.</p> <p>Finish place will be awarded based on eGAP regardless of how many stages a rider has completed</p> <p>The Bonus structure will change to start from Stage 2 and will move to being a multiplier which will increase each stage completed.</p> <p>The multiplier would be applied to the points won across all three point elements Sprint – Polka – Finish</p> <p>Ie. Rider X has completed first 2 stages and the Bonus multiplier is 1.1 - they earn 90 points for their finish position, 70 for sprint and 80 for Polka.... Applying the multiplier would increase their points to Finish 99, 77 Sprint and 88 Polka</p> <p>Rider Y completes Stage 2 having missed stage 1 - they receive 95 finish points, 90 sprint and 85 Polka but no multiplier.</p> <p>Both riders earn points representative to their engagement in the Tour and both can positively contribute to their Team</p>

Web site	A new website is coming this will address all login and password issues, will be easier to navigate etc... and I might actually get a bit of time back to design and style even more events!
Your Race Your Way – Time slots	<p>Increased timeslots worked on the whole but there are still slots that simply don't work so these will go.</p> <p>We also recognise that weekdays and weekends work differently for riders so having flexibility has to remain hence why we place iTT events during the week to remove the direct competition element.</p> <p>Weekends are our only time where we can have longer events, riders tend to have more time and flexibility however we also recognise that family duties also come into play.</p> <p>All points are taken into consideration when we design a Tour schedule and event times to maximise rider numbers in events – it will not be perfect for everyone and we appreciate that some riders will need to find a compromise.</p> <p>CHANGE</p> <p>Timeslots: UTC</p> <p>Weekdays – 0600 – 0800 – 1030 – 1400 – 1800 – 1930 - 0030</p> <p>Weekends – 0600 - 0800 – 1030 – 1400 – 1830 – 0030</p> <p>CHANGE</p> <p>All Race Control issues must be raised via email via Team Managers to Race Control not directly in Discord.</p> <p>Discord channels will be locked down where required.</p> <p>Riders will be muted for 24 hours as a warning if they transcend the code of conduct, messages will be deleted. Further out bursts will see an instant ban put in place on the server and Tour participation.</p>