

# FLAMME ROUGE

R A C I N G

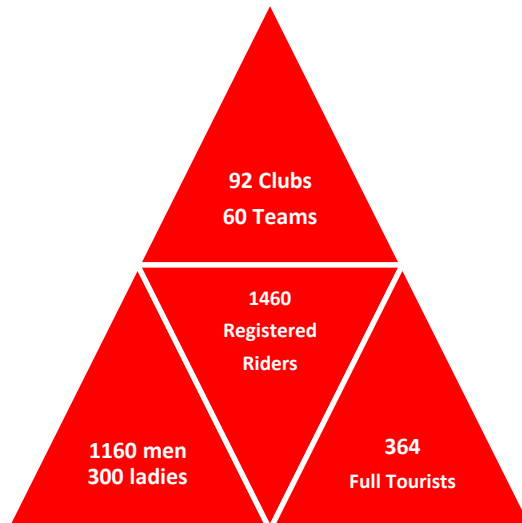
presents the

## ***FRR Event Report***

### **Series 2 Tour Watopia**

Jan 2 – 8

V20230112.1



## Simply the best response so far...

This week hasn't just been a good week it has been the best week of all the events so far and it's the riders and Teams that make it so good. The competition on the road, the banter during the events and across Facebook and Discord have been truly engaging and you all should give yourselves a clap and a smile.

The increased use of Discord really added another dimension to getting messages out there quickly and really pleased to see how respectful the discussion was across the subjects that came up. For sure there was comment on tactics that evolved given the format allowed and the report a little later will comment on them all. Facebook Event Group was also lively... just so much spirit from everyone.

The new PEP class gave a new dimension for racing and this further highlighted perhaps a further class is needed at the other end, again will address in the feedback.

So many great performances across the classes, new depths found or uncovered and the determination from riders to ride or compete has been inspirational to so many – some of whom just fan viewed the events or watched streams.

Great to see once again that GC went down to the last stage, as too Sprint/Polka jerseys and given the messages it's very clear riders look, target and plan their way round the week. Keeping that engagement all week is a key success factor of the Tour and it certainly appears we did that as many of those podium places changed over the final 2 stages.

Great to see so many ladies being part of the Tour and where power starts to align dominating those FRHC classes. Mixed racing is very hard to achieve, IRL ladies can race a category down and the FRHC method looks to try and model that, from the results it looks like we are getting there, still room for improvement and there always will be.

### Team Review

Congratulations to everyone on a podium whether in PEP or CAP class you've earned it one way or another and of course to the overall massive effort from **Team Optimum** for taking the Tour Team title this time – you now have the target firmly on your back heading towards the grand finale and I'm sure Drafting Dino's will be looking to step up a gear as too ABR along with many others for that crown.

Special mention should also be afforded to **Team REVO**, while not the only all ladies Team they fought hard all week to run out 4<sup>th</sup> ahead of some very strong teams including both TFC and our 2 Tour winners ABR.

Is there a secret to winning, personally it's down to hard work by the Team and representation across all the classes, and I'll cover in the feedback about number of riders to count.

## **Readhead Award**

Podiums are great but not all heroes wear a mask (some once said) and there are so many riders whose determination to do these Tours far out ways pure results, the **Readhead** award is there to give that recognition.

Over the course of the week many riders go above and beyond to compete, spending up to 50% more time on the bike than so many others at the faster end. Once again Jessica Kaiser showed her strength and determination completing all 8 stages in 14hrs 20mins demonstrating it's not always about the podium.

In Watopia **Charlie Marshall (aka Senorcharleh)** of ZSCOT your effort has not gone unnoticed you went above and beyond on the virtual road and in Discord discussion, you ruled yourself out pre Christmas, you said never again and yet by Jan 8<sup>th</sup> all 8 Stages were bagged up.... I very much hope to see you again but for Watopia you earned the award this Tour.

Rowena Howard like so many of our riders showed sheer determination and will power to complete the Tour. Times are not the best for New Zealand based riders and the peloton size means much of the time it is a solo ride at some point... but finish she did and by all accounts contributed valuable efforts to Team RAVE, who are a fantastic supportive Team in stages and online. The effort that both Rowena and Team RAVE generate is more than deserving of this award.

## **GC Review**

It was fascinating watching how each GC evolved over the week.

CAP top 4 was spread by just 45secs going in to Stage 7, with the ever impressive Stefan Kirchmair pushing through to take the title having been pushed all the way by Nathan Miller (Relentless), Alex Lemp (T:F) with Rinus Verhelle (Relentless) stealing 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a Stage 8 victory by just 8 seconds.

CRP by all accounts went down to the wire with Jason Bridges (Relentless) pipping Justus Ade (SZ) by just 40seconds having made 57seconds on Ade on Stage 8.... Now that's worth watching on TV!

GHT was all in control with Chris Harnish (FRR), Catherine Deveault consolidated her titled on the Alpe in JLP with John(BB) (Dinos) more than holding on to the PEP GC title.

In HAB, John O'Callaghan maintained the final lead as Schneeman lost time up the Alpe. In BON, Philippa Paxman (Coalition) powered her way past the leaders to take a great last Stage GC win and in CAY, the ever impressive Anne Vincent (OPT) sat just 14 seconds ahead of David Gagnon going into the Alpe.... to crush his hopes of taking the title.

Congratulations to all our riders, whatever part you played in the Tour you all deserve a massive round of applause.

## [Tour Watopia Podium Report](#)

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.

As you may know 20% of donations received will be used to support causes World Wide and we have now linked up with our chosen charity [Cyclists Fighting Cancer](#) Once we complete the World Tour I'll total up the donation value and include that in the final Tour report.

The Tour now heads off for the [World Tour](#) which starts Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and ends March 5<sup>th</sup>, 16 days and 16 Stages .. with 2 rest days - draft schedule is in this report.

The event is more than a set of virtual riders who can select an open Zwift event, riders return Tour after Tour and just like IRL the participants know each other and instantly bond – FRR is a competitive family and together we make the event what it is and something where feedback is listened to and can influence how the event you ride can improve the experience.

I want to thank you all for joining the FRR Tour Series – the competition, camaraderie, team support, feedback, positivity and support is simply overwhelming – what we do is very personal to me and I hope you feel that too.

Finally a very special thank you Hayley and my family for supporting me throughout the week – it's an immersive experience all the way through - late nights, early mornings, laptops in service stations, in stands at football games, car parks wherever it is needed – reacting for 9 days 24/7 to ensure events run correctly, results are timely and any adjustments made are quickly decided upon and communicated to everyone from New Zealand to Hawaii... the Tour operates very much like an IRL Tour as we don't have the luxury of fixing something over the week before the next event.... But we wouldn't have it any other way!

Now the Schedule you've all been waiting for (it's the last page), some detail to add as yet but... Dare you miss this one? (a poster is in production)

See you very soon!

### **Richard & Hayley**

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

## What's next....

- ***FRR World Trophée*** Feb 11<sup>th</sup> – 2 Stages back to back (Refer to Schedule page on the Website) 1 race time for all FRHC classifications for all riders
  - o ***Complete Registration by 4 Feb 2359GMT***
  
- ***World Tour*** is our Grand Tour Finale, 2 weeks – Feb 18<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup> – timed in between ZRL seasons
  
- ***World League*** announcements coming on what this is and when.....

## Event Lessons Learned

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

### Reminder Our Tour Ethos...

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

Feedback Point	Comments
Event PENs	<p>In the first instance TWO pens worked really well in the early stages riders had starts that engaged just about everyone in their PEN and the stagger also gave those riders time to warm up and a race tactic to try and latch on to an A train to boost their time.</p> <p>As we went deeper into the Tour HAB+ riders started to appear in the C PEN to help Team riders who were in contention for GC or Jerseys etc... It raised some contrasting views of whether they were cheating, sandbagging etc.... My initial view was 'no they were selfishly assisting a contending Team mate and acting as a domestique' similar to how a Team might ride in the Tour.</p> <p>Now arguments were made that higher CAT races are not allowed to race down a CAT and I get that from an IRL single Stage race or crit evening – but this is a virtual TEAM TOUR event, those riders dropping down were not there to win anything for themselves.</p> <p>Now further thought and feedback also highlighted that while the HAB+ riders were there to help what they did do is raise the effort required from riders who were clinging on at the back of the C PEN to a point where they fell off and then spent more time in small groups.</p> <p>AUTOCAT was used in Britannia but that brought into play an issue where Zwift and Zwiftpower are out of sync on CAT, but it may be a way to help with the A PEN going first but only +1min in front of the C PEN.</p> <p>This way riders forced into the pen A by autocat will not have to wait long before the lead C's come along – and lead C's will need to work</p>

	<p>at their level rather than latch on to an A train and those at the back of the C peloton will not be blown out by higher riders joining – as such their drift away will be more gradual as per their class.</p> <p>We still expect CAY to PEP riders to join PEN C where autocat allows so riders do get an appropriate start to their stages and that was really well respected in Watopia.</p> <p>C riders forced into PEN A are obviously considered by Zwift as more powerful than Zwiftpower metrics think, as such will be classified as BON.</p> <p>So we will retain the ability for riders to act as domestiques but this time slightly differently... We will not police or penalise the method as there are a couple of ways we can all see this working.</p> <p><b>CHANGE</b></p> <p>For the World Tour – we could use THREE PENS A B C with all riders visible and just let riders decide how fast they want their start...Perhaps with a +2min stagger on pen start – which should remove the temptation of riders sprinting after the riders in front...</p> <p>For FRR AUTOCAT gives us as many problems as it solves.</p>
<p><b>Flamme Rouge</b></p>	<p>One for the memory everlasting – keeping this here for new riders!</p> <p>Now whenever you are watching a race on TV as rider’s pass under the 1km banner and the commentator says ‘Flamme Rouge’ you will think of FRR.</p>
<p><b>FRHC Profile update</b></p>	<p>We extended the FRHC Class to include PEP which was really well received by everyone, however there is good argument that the top classes can be further split to add an extra tighter racing group from GHT up to CAP</p> <p><b>CHANGE</b></p> <p>New <b>DRAGONS Breath (DRA)</b> class to be introduced between CRP and CAP with revised baselines across the classes potentially.</p>
<p><b>Race Result = Peloton Size</b></p>	<p>vPeloton results are always in order of size of the peloton racing. More riders there are the faster the times. We offered more times to give riders options in different time zones but in reality riders made time to join the bigger events to help their GC.</p>

To compensate slightly finish points are grouped so same points for x number of riders and the point steps are smaller so the overall effect is much less outside of the top 10 places.

The consequence of this was later events were smaller on numbers than expected.

## **CHANGE**

### ***Week days***

0630 event draws back to 0600UTC and the 1400UTC back to 1330UTC.

1030UTC to remain.

Early evening times will change, the 1730UTC will remain but the 1830/1930 event will be replaced with a single race time of 1900.

The late show will come back to 2330

### ***Weekend***

0630 event draws back to 0600UTC, 1030 to remain, 1400 to draw back to 1330UTC.

1730 UTC and 1900UTC will be offered along with 2300UTC there will be no 0230 event

iTT events will be run during the week and not weekends as such peloton size is negated. iTT events may have additional times.

Yes some race time compromise will need to take place however this may just benefit the wider audience and allow for the vpeloton process to work better.

## **Rider Upgrade**

Over the course of the week there were far less rider upgrades than in Britannia. Riders still got things wrong or misunderstood the requirement but in general they got there.

That said things could be better.

## **CHANGE**

Not sure I can get the process to work before the World Tour or World Trophée but will try to pull the details needed for the Profile update, we can then avoid user input error. We will also look to base NP off FRR tour events for riders who have ridden them (iTT excluded) as this is a better test for our event than any sprint fests or short sharpe hill climbs that tend to elevate NP in a riders profile.



<b>Weight updating</b>	<p>First, great that people did – second - large day to day movements of 1kg are not realistic even for FRR events – for IRL 100mile daily events yes weight can move due to dehydration but let’s keep the changes sensible.</p> <p>Mid Tour weight updates do not affect a riders FRHC but do affect how Zwift applies virtual force and therefore can boost performance.</p> <p>One update before the Tour starts to set your FRHC correctly is sufficient and second update the following week for longer Tours.</p>
<b>Your Race Your Way</b>	<p>No change but we will remove the less populated times to try and improve peloton time, flexibility and increase participation.</p>

You know you need these badge's....



**FRR  
1**

**WORLD  
TROPHÉE**

**1900 UTC  
11-FEB-2023**

CAN YOU BECOME A **FRHC** CHAMPION  
COMBINED STAGE TIME = WINNER

**1 EVENT - 2 STAGES - BACK TO BACK - 9 CLASSES**

**STAGE 1** BOLOGNA ITT **8KM**

**STAGE 2** LOTTA LAVA RACE **52 - 28KM**

Registration Closes February 4 2023 - 23:59 UTC  
All riders will be assessed to ensure FRHC Classes are correct  
Register at [www.flammerougeracing.com](http://www.flammerougeracing.com)

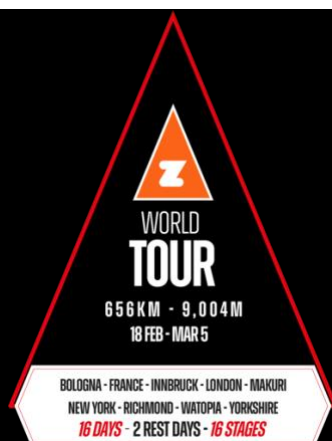
**TOUR FRANCE**  
265KM - 4335M  
OCT - 2022

**TOUR BRITANNIA**  
312KM - 4663M  
NOV - 2022

**WORLD TOUR**  
656KM - 9,004M  
FEB 18 - MAR 5

**TOUR WATOPIA**  
327KM - 4484M  
JAN - 2023

**4 EPIC TOURS**  
**FRANCE - BRITANNIA - WATOPIA - WORLD**  
41 DAYS - 40 STAGES - 1,560KM - 22,487M



Stage	Date	Event	Course	Distance
1	Feb 18	Race	France Petit Boucle	61km / 430m
2	19	Race	Makuri NEOKYO - All Nighter	49km / 114m
3	20	iTT	Watopia View from the Top	28km / 1161m
4	21	Race	Watopia Volcano After Party	40km / 266m
5	22	Race	London Pretzel	51km / 572m
	23	Rest Day		
6	24	Race	The Shock – 5 laps Dolphin	10km / 40m
7		Race	The Kick LaGuadia Loop – 3 laps	11km / 120m
8		ITT	The Bonk London Loop	9km / 190m
9	25	Race	Grandi Archi	48km / 900m
10	26	Race	France Reynard After Party Dash	33km / 1,700m
11	27	iTT	Richmond Libby Hill After Party	33km / 118m
12	28	Race	Innsbruck Twin Peaks	48km / 989m
13	March 1	Race	Watopia Out & Back	43km / 327m
	2	Rest Day		
14	3	ITT	France RGV	48km / 200m
15	4	Race	Yorkshire Pumping Iron	44km / 710m
16	5	Race	Watopia Big bang Finale	94km / 1141m