

Michael / Stan / Colin / Petie hi

Unfortunately I have to report on a disappointing end to what I felt was one of my strongest performances, on Saturday!

**Mabalingwe Lion Man 85k Marathon - led the entire race, only to miss a turn a few k's from the finish and get DQ'd**

After pulling away from Sam Oosthuysen and Theresa Ralph less than 20km's into this marathon at Mabalingwe Reserve, I rode my absolute heart out to get the win. 77km's in I was still on track - on the right route - with a massive lead over second placed lady Theresa Ralph. But disappointingly I have to report that somehow in the last few km's I missed a left turn on the course and landed up on the wrong route back to the finish line, and I was disqualified.

The leading men (Renier Bellingan and Jan Wittar) also missed the same turn, but luckily they had the lead motorbike to redirect them back up the right road. I wasn't so lucky! I know of numerous other riders (some acquaintances and friends of mine) that missed the same turn, which obviously was not marked properly ... some realising and finding their way back to the right road, and others continuing on the wrong route to the finish. I was the only rider disqualified .... as the results of the other riders that took the wrong route didn't affect the overall podium positions.

Looking at the results, it seems I would've placed around 10th overall, approx 13 or 14 mins ahead of second placed Theresa Ralph, as I passed and pulled away from the likes of Carel Bosman (who finished 13th overall in 3hr49) more than 25kms from the finish, and still passed a few men after that.

A very disappointing result after all the work, but rules are rules and I guess that's racing.

Thanks again for all your support and backing to allow my racing to happen!

Carla