



Hi Chainganger's!

Sappi Mankele race this Saturday - time to channel all that Epic fever into pushing on yer own pedals! It's always a great race and the boys have got some great new single track to rip it up on so don't miss it - www.mankele.co.za for info.

It is here! The biggest Mountain Bike race on the planet has started in De Kaap and already there's been more drama than a whole series of 'The Wild', from a hectic sprint on Sunday to yesterday's suffer fest in the Cistrusdal heat and sand it left 50 riders short at the cut off. For the top riders the prologue went pretty much as expected with the XCO specialists revelling in the max heart rate - full taps racing and it was little surprise to see Sauser and Kulhavy on the top step, but 24 hours later and all hell broke loose with mechanicals and animals taking their toll. Our own local hero Max Knox came in 7th in the time trial but was forced to let Sauser plunder his bike in Stage 1 for a back wheel, very disappointed for Max, he deserves better than being someone's spare part, poorly treated by Specialized, they should be ashamed! Despite all the action it was great to see Jose Hermida and Rudi Van Houts pull off a memorable victory, they had few problems and their hard tails proved less of a handful on the climbs and numerous running sections, as they say, to finish first you've got to first finish!

All the action is so easy to follow on Twitter, you get a blow by blow update and is the next best thing to live TV, even our Brad Shuttleworth, one of the Commissaires, updates now and again, well done mate!

I spent this Saturday in Jozi at the CSA AGM and all is good in the cycling world, the preparations for the World Champs is roiling on - on that subject the entries are now open for the Masters World Champs a week prior to the Elite race, entry fee is a bit steep at R850, but this is a once in a lifetime opportunity to take part in the top race on the World MTB calendar, don't pass it up!

Chainsuck!

Mark Mayhem and I had a great meeting last week with the York Timbers CEO and there are definitely exciting things afoot for MTBing in the Sabie area! The one thing that did come across though is the increasing prevalence of guys taking a fat chance and just riding anywhere in the forests, this is unacceptable to both the forestry industry and us as MTB administrators. We rely entirely on the good relationships we have enjoyed with all the local land owners and reckless 'exploring' by a few irresponsible cyclists can easily undo all the good work and seriously jeopardise our races. Even at Mankele it is becoming an issue with guys simply ignoring trail closure signs and doing their own thing, remember the landowners don't know the difference between Joe Blogs the knob and the rest of the local mountain bikers, to them we are all the same so are judged by our stupidest link.

LOWVELD QUEST!!!! - Time to channel that Epic Gees!

Its getting closer by the day! The preparations are well under way and there are some fantastic new trails which are totally unavailable to mountain bikers any other time of the year! After Mark and Geoff's Oscar winning performance on TV last week ENTRIES have been flooding in! If you haven't got yours in then don't delay, this race is going to be a classic and wouldn't you love to sit on the start in 10 years time and say you've done every one? There are now some great sponsors on board and the course is looking incredible with some of the best trails ever seen anywhere, its like discovering oil in your garden!

Go to www.lowveldquest.co.za and don't miss out!

WEBSITE NEWS!!!!!!

Anyone got anything for our website? Keep checking it out I'm uploading pics all the time and will soon have some special offers up there! Go to www.lowveldchaingang.co.za and check it out! This website is for YOU! It's a work in progress and I'm inviting anyone to contribute - your personal race report, Chainsucks, stuff for sale, pictures, whadeva! E mail it to me and if it's bad enough, funny, poorly written or controversial I'll definitely post it! Embarrassing pictures or those of wound's sustained will also be gratefully received!

Also keep an eye on the www.vbike.co.za site for some fantastic specials on Bikes and accessories, it's also being updated regularly as stock comes in!

BTW, for all the latest MTB news and general skinny follow me on Twitter - @brettmtnb, Im also using it to announce rides now as well as sms.

See ya on the dirt!

Cheers Brett.

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