



World Champion Villumsen adds more star power to PlaceMakers Le Race

18March 2016

World Champion Linda Villumsen has added some more star power to tomorrow's PlaceMakers Le Race with a late entry.

Villumsen, the first New Zealander to win a world road championship, winning the time trial world title in the United States last year, is keen for a tough day out before she heads to Europe next week to join her professional women's team United Healthcare.

The Christchurch based rider and Commonwealth Games gold medallist has been battling illness and says it has taken some time to get on top of bronchitis which has affected her early season training and racing but says her health is improving and is looking forward to racing for the first time in Le Race.

"I have no real expectations about a result in Le Race and I haven't entered to go for the win," she said. "I just need a hard day to see how the body is and will see how the day goes. I am not hoping for much as it is the end of a really hard training block, so it's just that last bit of training before heading to Europe start racing again."

Villumsen has been a regular at her doctors with daily recent visits as she has taken things 'one day at the time' with the hope of getting her season back on track as she build towards the time trial at the Rio Olympics.

She joins former World Tour professional and double Olympic medallist Hayden Roulston and a number of strong domestic based elite riders on the start line in Cathedral Square tomorrow morning.

Villumsen will have two time women's winner Charlotte Lucas along with Hannah Gumbley, Julia Grant and Jeannie Blakemore as her main rivals.

Ends

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Editors Notes

Saturday 19th March 2016

7:00 am Le Race riders village opens

7:45 am Compulsory Race Briefing Race on the Start Line.

8:00 am Start for Le Race at Cathedral Square

8.05 am Start for Le Race Petite



9.30am First riders in Le Race Petite arrive in Little River
10:39am First Riders descend into Akaroa
2:00 pm Last of the Riders arrive (the 6 hour club)
2:00 pm Prize Giving Starts at Le Domain
3:00 pm Prize Draw

Sunday

8:00-11:00 am Various Brunch rides leave Akaroa for Christchurch

Entry numbers and seeding

- The men's seeded riders numbers allocated 1 (Hayden Roulston) to 30 are white numbers on a black background.
- The women's seeded riders are allocated 51 (Sharlotte Lucas to 58) are white numbers on a red background.
- Competitors having done more than 10 Le Race events are gold numbers - black on a white background - these are numbered 101 to 116
- General classification numbers start at 200. These are black on a white background.
- Le Race Petite are black numbers on a yellow background

Historical notes

The course used for Le Race has some historic roots that date back to before the Second World War. The road was mostly shingle in 1935 and was finally fully sealed in 1959. Until after 1958 the race was from Christchurch to Akaroa on a Saturday, then Akaroa back to Christchurch on Labour Day Monday. It later changed from Christchurch to Akaroa return on the same day with an hour and a half break for lunch.

Le Race was first held in 1999.

For more information see www.lerace.co.nz

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