



THE MIDLANDS

MTB STAGE RACE

June 29-July 1, 2018 Howick/Karkloof



KZN Midlands Stage Race Media Release

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New family-orientated stage race in the KZN Midlands

LOOKING for a luxury mountain biking stage race with all the bells and whistles, but not ready to tackle a 100km stage? Want to spend a weekend in the KZN Midlands with your family, riding some of the best trails in the country? Want to introduce your kids / spouse to a stage race or simply looking for an enjoyable mountain biking event rather than an epic achievement?

Yes? Then The Midlands MTB Stage Race on June 30 to July 1 could just be the perfect event for you.

Race organiser Johnny St Clair Gibson has recently returned from an extended stint as a golf administrator in Asia and could not believe the stunning Hilton-Howick-Karkloof triangle was not overflowing with races.

"This area has got to contain some of the best riding in the country, all packed into such a compact area," said St Clair Gibson. "The KZN Midlands is bursting with riders having so much fun every weekend – I knew it needed something to encourage riders from the rest of the country to come and experience the trails that are putting smiles on the faces of the locals."

St Clair Gibson's solution has been to create a "family-orientated" three-day stage race that offers achievable 50 to 56km stages. All routes are "carefully designed by our course designer so to be manageable, but packed with safe, fun riding" said St Clair Gibson.

Entrants can also opt to just ride the weekend stages as a two-day race, while the less fit or younger riders can do the half-distance stages of 21km and 23km on the weekend, or ride the shorter stages as a dads-and-daughters, mums-and-sons or husband-and-wife bonding event.

Also included are options for younger U14 riders,

An interesting sub-category that is sure to promote a lot of good-natured rivalry will be the inter-schools event with current school boys and girls and perhaps old boys representing their alma maters in what could become a fiercely-contested battle a bit further back in the field.

Although this is the first mountain bike race St Clair Gibson will be organizing, he is a long-time organizer of quality events all over the world, including a fourteen-year stint promoting, organizing and staging some of the biggest professional golf tournaments in Asia.

It is an often-repeated maxim that mountain biking is the new golf, and St Clair Gibson has made the transition, bringing the attention to detail from his years as a professional golf tournament organizer to The Midlands MTB Stage Race and riders can expect to be as pampered and spoiled as the world's top professional golfers.

"We are looking to provide riders and their families with something different that makes them want to come back and enjoy this event for year after year. That means ensuring their on-bike enjoyment is matched by their after-ride experience – there has to be something exciting and enjoyable for riders of all levels of skill and fitness.

"If you are a weekend warrior or a person with a busy life, committed to family or work or both and don't have the time to train all day, every day but still want to experience and enjoy a stage race, then this is the one for you."

Entrants have an option of a full package (limited to 200 entrants) which includes sleep-on-site accommodation, all meals, the race entry and access to the full race village. The second option does not include accommodation, breakfast and dinner and is convenient for people who live in the area or who would like to make use of their own accommodation and dinner/breakfast arrangements. All entrants will get a goodie bag which includes a quality shell jacket, a shirt, a pair of sunglasses and more.

For more information and entry details go to www.themidlandsmtb.co.za

ENDS

<i>Photo</i>	<i>Caption</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Click to download high-res pics</i>
	The Midlands MTB Stage Race Logo	No photo credit required	Download Here
	Riders at The Midlands MTB Stage Race will enjoy some of the best forest trails in the country.	Photo: Gavin Ryan, QuickPix	Download Here

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