

ST STITHIANS NEWS FLASH



10 December 2018

TEAM THANDULWAZI – YOU ROCK!



OUR TOP CYCLISTS IN THIS YEAR'S 947 CYCLE CHALLENGE

- ★ *Robin Brown –*
Time: 02:48:52
- ★ *Tim Schaerer –*
Time: 02:53:58
- ★ *Clive Thomson –*
Time: 03:01:55
- ★ *Hedley Pougnet –*
Time: 03:10:15
- ★ *Ian Amm –*
Time: 03:12:19

Since 2014, *Team Thandulwazi* comprising cyclists from the St Stithians community (governors, staff, parents, students and alumni) have signed up to ride for a purpose in the Telkom 947 Cycle Challenge in support of education. The Team's goal is to raise funds for the Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy, in support of an academic scholarship for a high potential, FET-phase student from a previously disadvantaged background. So far, two scholarships have been fully funded from this initiative. In our 5th year, 52 riders, the youngest of whom was 13 and the oldest 74, donned their *Team Thandulwazi* shirts on Sunday, 18 November 2018, and cycled the gruelling 94,7 km route, flipped this year, in scorching heat in support of education. Included in this number was the Rector of St Stithians College, Dr Tim Nuttall; the Heads of St Stithians Girls' and Boys' Colleges, Dr Sally James and David du Toit; Alistair Stewart (Head of Advancement); the school leadership of St Stithians Boys' Prep (Jakes Fredericks, Lester Lalla and Gavin Olivier); Council members (Clive Thomson, Russell Loubser) and the former Saints Rector, David Wylde.

Our Thandulwazi squad had a number of husband/ wife pairs; some family teams; and a number of "dads and lads" (father/son) duos - all cycling for a great cause!

Team Thandulwazi comprised cyclists of all abilities and ages. Seasoned cyclists like Robin Brown and Tim Schaerer took less than 3 hours to complete the Challenge; novices riding the 947 Cycle Challenge for the first time, like Saints parent Natalie Clayton and Girls' College student Jessica James, had a great experience; and we are in awe of Old Stithian, Hedley Pougnet, who rode his 22nd 947 Cycle Challenge in just over 3 hours – well done Hedley!



Feedback from a Team Thandulwazi cyclist:

"I rode my first 94.7 challenge on Sunday and chose to ride for a purpose, thus choosing Team Thandulwazi as I believe all our charity should go towards uplifting our economy and giving the gift of education. I was very nervous before the race but met a few friendly faces at the cocktail evening which put my mind at ease. Sally (James) was a great help and found me at the start to guide me to the starting pens where I met more of the team who were very friendly and supportive. I started the race strong and had time to stop at your stand where I was greeted with smiles, bananas, coke, water and sunscreen. A quick chat to my husband and kids who were waiting there for me, gave me the support I needed to continue with the challenge.

I felt strong all throughout the ride and even found a fellow Thandulwazi team mate (Niall) who became my riding buddy for most of the climbs. I took a bit of a fall coming out of Jhb onto the M1 and he was quick to assist me and put my bike back together, I carried on riding all the way to Kyalami race track where unfortunately my rear derailleur snapped off (must have been due to the fall) and that was the end of the race for me. I was very proud of what I had achieved up until that point but as you can imagine I was very disappointed that I could not finish due to bike problems. Niall (Hegarty) was there again to literally pick up the pieces and offer support ... I would love to personally thank him for helping me and offering support. I enjoyed every minute of the race and the support from the Team was overwhelming.

I look forward to accepting the challenge again next year and riding alongside this wonderful bunch. Thank you for all your support and assistance for this ride, you guys are all awesome.

Many thanks again and look forward to next year.

PS: I will be riding another road race in January just so I can say I did one 😊"

E-mail from: Natalie Clayton, 22 November 2018

**Team Thandulwazi you are simply the best!**

We are grateful to the Saints Family who donated funds in support of Team Thandulwazi riding for a purpose.

In total our amazing cyclists raised **R 143,617** this year (we still have a couple of donations that we are chasing) – nearly R20k more than in 2017! This funding will be allocated towards a Thandulwazi Academic Scholarship in 2019.

The top three funders in 2018 are:

- Mr Grant Naser – R20,300
- Mr Thabo Leeuw – R 20,000
- Mr Stephen van Coller – R 10,000

One + All = Ubuntu in action

Thanks to the Saints Family for making this event a great community builder too.

Staff, students and parents sponsored our cyclists; Saints parents, George and Sharon Miltiadou, donated bananas and a gift hamper; Mark Burger donated a prize for the top fundraiser; Thandulwazi staffers, Interact Committee members, and Michelle Strydom (Old Stithian and Thandulwazi graduate teacher) had loads of fun handing cyclists energy boosting bananas or water as they came up Homestead Drive. It was good to see so many current and past parents too on November 18th coming out in support of our Team.

Thank you, One and All, for popping in at our stand.



Thank you to

- Bev Johnson and Olga Carr, of the Advancement Department, for their organisation and coordination of this annual event;
- The Boys' College Interact Committee for sourcing donations for the goody bags and their kind assistance at the Saints "hydration station";
- Mark Burger and *The Higher Ground* for the donation of prizes;
- Paula Klemp of Sodexo for sponsoring the catering at the pre-race event held on 15 November;
- Pick 'n Pay (Brightwater Commons) for the bananas donated for the cyclists and gift hamper;
- Morgan Twala and the St Stithians Ops Team for their professional assistance and support on Sunday 18 November;
- The Saints Family for supporting our cyclists along the 947 route;
- The College Executive, St Stithians Governors, staff and students for their ongoing support.



Thandulwazi
MATHS AND SCIENCE ACADEMY

The **Thandulwazi Maths & Science Academy** is an educational programme initiated by the St Stithians Foundation. The Academy was established in 2005, with the overall aim of actively improving the state of Maths and Science teaching and learning in schools in and around Gauteng.

The St Stithians Advancement Office drives the fundraising for the Thandulwazi educational programmes offered to 3000 teachers and students annually.

For further information, please contact:

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