

SPONSORED BY



CURLEW CUP

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2023
RACE STARTS 8.45AM



WELCOME TO THE 2023 CURLEW CUP

This year's Curlew Cup women's race will take place on the morning of Sunday 17th September, starting at 8.45am.

This year, we are once again grateful for the backing of our lead sponsor, Northumberland National Park and we share their love of this beautiful corner of the park and enjoy sharing it with our riders and spectators.

We'd also like to thank Northumberland County Council for their invaluable support in running this year's event.

As ever, our event is entirely reliant on our generous sponsors and partners and we always welcome new additions to this important line-up. If you are interested in sponsoring any of the Cyclone Festival of Cycling's races or public participation events, please drop me a line via info@cyclonecycling.com

I'd also like to mention the local communities who welcome and support all our Cyclone Festival events and allow us to share this wonderful corner of Northumberland for the day. I hope that visiting the race, either as a spectator or competitor, inspires you to return in the near future and explore it further. It only remains for me to wish all our competitors the best of luck!

Peter Harrison – Cyclone Festival Organiser



HISTORY OF THE CURLEW CUP

The Curlew Cup was launched in 2012, the year after we hosted the women's national road championships, which was won by Lizzie Diegnan, who has since become one of the world's leading riders. In 2012 our inaugural race was won by Dame Sarah Storey, the record-breaking Paralympian.

Other notable winners down the years have included Hannah Barnes in 2013. Hannah graduated to the world tour, racing alongside Lizzie in the sport's biggest events, before announcing her retirement a few weeks ago.

Our 2014 winner was Katie Archibald who has had such a stellar Track Cycling career, whilst 2021 winner, Abi Smith, is one of a number of young British stars making their way in international road racing.



PREVIOUS WINNERS

2012 Dame Sarah Storey
2013 Hannah Barnes
2014 Katie Archibald
2015 Laura Massey
2016 Nicki Juniper

2017 Julie Erskine
2018 Jessica Roberts (*National Championships*)
2019 Elizabeth Bennett
2021 Abi Smith
2022 Alice McWilliam

THE RACE

The race will start and finish adjacent to the village green in Stamfordham. The race will get underway at 8.45am. Riders will tackle three anti-clockwise laps of a 25-mile circuit. Total race distance is 76.1 miles.

A Queen of the Mountains (QoM) competition will be the focus of riders on all three laps, with points awarded at the summit of the Ryal climb (pictured).

A podium presentation will take place as soon as possible after the race, next to the start/finish line. As well as the overall winner (prize sponsored by **Northumberland National Park**) and Queen of the Mountains (sponsored by the **Cyclone Festival of Cycling**), there will also be prizes for the leading Under-23 rider (sponsored by **Padon Contracts Ltd**) and the leading team (Sponsored by **Physiotherapy Matters**), determined by the sum of the times of a team's first three riders to finish.



Photo: Thank you to Chris Maher who also supplied the front cover images

COURSE MAP



SPECTATING AT THE CURLEW CUP

The race takes place around the village of Stamfordham and includes the race-defining climb of the Ryals (the hamlet of Ryal, at the top of the climb, is marked on the course map). Both of these locations are popular with spectators. Spectating from a bicycle is highly recommended. Some people cycle the main lap in reverse direction, which afford regular and repeated views of the race. And it a great little bike ride!

Watching the Race in Stamfordham

Stamfordham village is a great place to watch the race, with a lovely village green, where a mobile ice cream cart will be located. Here you'll have a chance to see the riders every lap, as well as before the start and at the finish and post-race presentation. The Race HQ is Stamfordham Village Hall (*What3Words location: ///loafing.leopard.status*), where there will be a wide range of refreshments, plus toilet facilities, all open to spectators. The Swinburne Arms pub in Stamfordham, will be open, whilst, just up the road, in Matfen, there's a café at the village store, on the green.

Spectator Parking is situated at Stamfordham Cricket Club and Sports Pavilion, just South of the village on the B6309 (*What3Words location: ///feuds.ferrying.flap*). There is a fee of £3, cash only, with proceeds supporting the venue. Refreshments will be available here. There is no postcode for this facility, so please check the map carefully. Please note, there will be strictly NO spectator or competitor parking in the village or surrounding roads. Residents only can park in front of properties in the centre of Stamfordham.

Race Timings At Stamfordham

Race Start:	08:45
End of lap 1	09:45 (+ or – 10 minutes)
End of lap 2	10:47 (+ or – 15 minutes)
End of lap 3/Finish	11:48 (+ or – 15 minutes)

All race timing are approximate and may vary depending on conditions and race speed.

Watching the Race at the Ryals Climb

The Ryals climb is located approximately 6 miles before the finish, four miles to the NE of the village of Matfen. The climb consists of three steep ramps and often proves to be a decisive point in the race and is the location of the Queen of the Mountains sprint.

Please take special care when moving to and from the Ryals during the race and when spectating on the hill. Parking is extremely limited and the best way to spectate here, and anywhere away from Stamfordham or Matfen villages, is by foot or by bicycle.

Race Timings At The Ryals

Lap 1	09:31 (+ or – 5 minutes)
Lap 2	10:32 (+ or – 10 minutes)
Lap 3	11:33 (+ or – 15 minutes)

All race timings are approximate and may vary depending on conditions and race speed.

STAMFORDHAM VILLAGE MAP

