



www.rockandrut.org
P.O. Box 30440 Windhoek Namibia
info@rockandrut.org
committee@rockandrut.org

Dear Conquerors of the FNB Otjihavera Experience 2020

It is with a tear in one eye and a smile in the other eye, that we bid farewell to the 2020 edition of the FNB Otjihavera Experience. It was indeed a difficult and testing time leading up to the event with the postponement and uncertainty of whether we would be able to host the event at all this year. Now that it did take place, it was overwhelming to have had so many entrants (I think we even had a record number), and to then to see all of you on the start line. Another record that was broken was the finishing time of Stage 2. Even though the route was a little longer this year than in 2015, Alex Miller and Bergran Jensen managed to finish a little over six minutes faster.

I must admit, it was a testing route, but then, the Otjihavera Experience has never been easy. By the smiles and the feedback we received at the end of both stages, the majority of you enjoyed the Experience and you need to give yourself a huge pat on the back and a massive applause for conquering the Otjihavera mountains!!

I would like to thank ALL our sponsors once again for coming on board and for supporting us in such a tremendous way even though the economic situation is not at all favourable. It could be seen in the Goodie bags that were handed to you, the water points that were stacked to the brim and the lucky draws that we could hand out. We had 50 hampers to give away – another record!!!

FNB – you deserve a special word of thanks for remaining involved with this event and for having committed a sponsorship for another year.

Food Lovers Market – A **HUGE** shout out to you for stocking up our water tables!! Every rider appreciated the variety and selection of refreshments on offer and was full of compliments for that.

Our other sponsors, Namibia Breweries, F A Gerber, Komnik & Franck, Build – It, T & C – thank you from the bottom of our heart for supporting this event and cycling.

Tony and Sigi Bassingthwaighe and his team which included Hans Kolberg – **THANK YOU** for the awesome, awesome route. We appreciate all your sacrifices and efforts

that went into scouting, marking and then joining us for the event as lead and sweep vehicles.

E-med Rescue – your presence gives everyone peace of mind and you did a great job by taking care of the minor and major bruises and aches.

To our farmers (Mr Hoffmann, Mr & Ms Wright, Mr Voigts) that allowed us to traverse their lands and who also managed the water points on their farms, as well as the lodges that hosted us, you are the best!! We also need to specially mention Thomas Soutschka who managed the last water points on each of the days and who ensured that loads of ice was available for the weary cyclists – thank you!.

Cycletech! Thank you for making additional resources available so that each bicycle could get a wash and a service.

Then to my Rock & Rut Committee and their helpers – what a tremendous display of team effort! You managed all the organisational aspects on top of your ordinary work, sitting late into the nights preparing goodie bags, gift hampers and sorting the entries. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH** to each and every one for your input. Everything went like clockwork.

Lastly, all of you that participated and displayed such an awesome spirit, it is because of you that the event was such a success. It was really amazing to see the smiles and the faces filled with pride on the finish lines at Midgard and Okapuka. This, together with the feedback we got is always the best reward for us as organisers. You guys are stars!!

If all goes according to plan, and barring any further pandemic disruptions we will be back in 2021 to offer you the 16th edition of the FNB Otjivera Experience. Hope to welcome all of you there again.

Until then, HAPPY TRAINING!!

Michael Lowe

Chairperson Rock & Rut Mountain Bike Club