

Riders in the storm

adapted from an article by MIKE CORDER



- 1 NEELTJE JANS, Netherlands (AP) — Call them riders in the storm. While much of northern Europe hunkered down Sunday and hoped that Storm Ciara would blow over quickly with its hurricane-force winds, an intrepid band of cyclists made the most of the conditions to take part in the Dutch Headwind Cycling Championships, an annual ride that is announced three days before a storm is expected.
- 2 The ingredients were simple: A basic bicycle with no gears, no featherweight carbon race frame, no drop handlebars, strong legs, steely resolve and wind. Lots of wind. Yet completing the 8.5-kilometer (5.3-mile) course along the coast of Zeeland province in the southern Netherlands and across a storm water barrier as heavy winds blasted riders with sand from nearby beaches was anything but simple, even for experienced riders. Organizers provided vomit buckets at the end. 36, the gale-force winds became too strong even for this punishing event. Organizers brought the race to an early end after 250 of the 300 riders had finished.
- 3 While the idea of plowing headfirst into a major storm on a bicycle may sound like madness, it's surprisingly popular in the Netherlands, where many people commute to work by bicycle despite wind or rain. Some 11,000 people expressed interest online in taking part but organizers only had a maximum of 300 places available.

- 4 This was, organizers say, as close as you can get in the largely pancake-flat Netherlands to tackling an Alpine stage in a bike race. “We call this the Dutch mountain,” organizer Robrecht Stoekenbroek told The Associated Press. “It’s like climbing a 10% slope on the worst bike you can imagine.”
- 5 With red-and-white wind socks snapping in the wind, riders hunched over their handlebars in a desperate attempt to remain as aerodynamic as possible. Many competitors wore tight Lycra cycling clothes. Crossing the Oosterscheldekering storm barrier, riders weaved across the cycle path as they struggled to maintain their balance.
- 6 Many participants, who rode one-by-one against the clock, weren’t too interested in their times. It was simply about completing the event. “This is a bucket list thing,” Edwin van Gaalen said, as he leaned, gasping for breath, on his handlebars after finishing. He paused to further explain. “When you’ve done it once, you want to do it twice. And more and more and more. You have to take part in this to feel the wind, to feel the experience, to get it all,” he said.

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Tekst 8 Riders in the storm

- 1p 35 What becomes clear from paragraph 1?
- A A cycling contest had to be postponed due to extreme weather conditions.
 - B Cyclists trained in extreme weather conditions to become fit for an upcoming contest.
 - C Extreme weather conditions were a reason to arrange a cycling contest.
- 1p 36 Kies bij 36 in alinea 2 het juiste antwoord uit de gegeven mogelijkheden.
- A Consequently
 - B Instead
 - C Therefore
 - D Ultimately
- 1p 37 What is 'madness', according to paragraph 3?
- A that many Dutch love cycling in extreme weather conditions
 - B that the bike lane was closed in response to the weather forecast
 - C the great number of spectators that turned up for a cycling event
 - D the limited number of cyclists that had a possibility to compete
 - E the popularity of cycling as a means of showing how fit you are
- 2p 38 Geef van elk van de volgende beweringen aan of deze juist of onjuist is volgens alinea 5 en/of 6.
Omcirkel 'juist' of 'onjuist' achter elk nummer in de uitwerkbijlage.
- 1 De deelnemers zaten zoveel mogelijk voorovergebogen op de fiets.
 - 2 Veel van de fietspakken waren van ongeschikt materiaal gemaakt.
 - 3 De deelnemers hadden moeite om recht vooruit te fietsen.
 - 4 Veel deelnemers deden vooral mee aan de race voor de ervaring.
- 1p 39 'It was simply about completing the event.' (alinea 6)
→ In welke eerdere alinea wordt duidelijk dat dit niet iedereen gelukt is?
Noteer het nummer van deze alinea.

Bronvermelding

Een opsomming van de in dit examen gebruikte bronnen, zoals teksten en afbeeldingen, is te vinden in het bij dit examen behorende correctievoorschrift.