

COMPETITION WILL BE VERY TOUGH IN CENTENARY RUNNING OF CLASSIC MOTORCYCLE RALLY

The weekend of March 7-9 will see the running of the international Johannesburg-Durban Rally for about 200 classic motorcycles which will mark the centenary of the staging of the first motorcycle race on public roads between these two cities in 1913.

The event starts at the Mall@Carnival, near Carnival City in Brakpan, at 06:00 on Thursday, March 7 and will finish in Hillcrest on Saturday morning before a mass ride to Durban in the afternoon.

About 200 motorcycles are expected to take part which makes this one of the largest single events on the SA motorsport calendar this year. . All the machines taking part in the rally have to be 1936 or older models as this was the year when the authorities stopped the annual event as being too dangerous. (It is of interest to note that there were numerous injuries but only one death in the races, despite them being run on public roads – many of them gravel).

Staged under the auspices of the SA Vintage and Veteran Association (SAVVA) the three-day commemorative rally has attracted extensive international interest with 17 riders from beyond the borders of SA. Entrants are coming from New Zealand, Australia, the UK, the Netherlands, the US, Zimbabwe and Ireland.

The event will have overnight stops in Newcastle and Nottingham Road and will follow the route of the original races for much of the way. Competitors are split into four average speed groups and are penalised for early or late arrival at control points on the route.

There will be more than 50 makes of motorcycle taking part – most of them British and most of them brand names that have long since faded into the mists of history. The most popular brand is BSA with 27 entries; this was once the biggest motorcycle manufacturer in the world but went out of business in the 1970s.

Brands still on the market that will be competing include BMW, Harley Davidson, Husqvarna, Moto Guzzi, Triumph and Royal Enfield.

BMW, which has 10 entries, is assisting the organisers with the loan of official vehicles and so continues a link with a race that is steeped in heritage, as is the BMW brand, which started making motorcycles in 1921. Among the BMW riders will be Alistair Gibson, the former chief mechanic at the Honda F1 team, who now lives in the UK and will ride his father's machine, and Simon Fourie, the editor of Bike SA, Africa's largest circulation motorcycle magazine.

One of the favourites for victory will be Kevin Robertson, who has won five of the DJ Rallies since they were introduced in 1970 to commemorate the original DJ Race. Robertson, who usually rides a Velocette, has notched up five wins so far including the 2010 and 2012 rallies.

Martin Davis is a three-time winner on his 1936 Sunbeam Model 9 and will also be as strong contender for a podium place.

The winner in 2009, Gavin Walton, who was very keen to win the centenary event, has been sidelined after a freak accident that resulted in a broken leg. Walton was riding home after the recent Pre-DJ Rally and stopped to shelter from the rain under a bridge on the N17 highway. While waiting for the rain to stop he was hit by a car that skidded out of control on the wet road, losing a front wheel before ploughing into him and inflicting serious injuries which means it will be some time before he can ride his 1936 AJS again.



Gavin Walton, winner of the 2009 DJ Rally, on his AJS, has been side-lined from this year's event after being hit by a wayward car during a rainstorm recently.

The original road race was staged 20 times between 1913 and 1936 with no races taking place from 1915-1918 owing to the First World War. The race went from Johannesburg to Durban in the first nine years and then from 1922 the routes was reversed and the race was from Durban to Johannesburg. This is the reason the 2013 centenary event is being run from Johannesburg to Durban.

"We are getting very good cooperation from the authorities in Ekurhuleni and EThekweni (Durban) for the finish, which is much appreciated," said clerk of the course Pierre Cronje.

"The assistance of these civic authorities will focus at the start and finish of the event respectively, with those who reach the final control at the Hillcrest Corner Centre, Main Road, Hillcrest, going on a mass ride to the Durban City Hall for a ceremonial finish on the Saturday afternoon. EThekweni is, in fact, giving the event a civic reception to honour its centenary.

"I am fortunate as the chief organiser of this major event of having a willing team of committee members from a number of classic motorcycle organisations and clubs to assist me," said Cronje. "In addition we have had very good support from a number of sponsors which is vital as we do not have an overall sponsor."

Sponsors include: African Electroplating, Anderson Engineering, BMW South Africa, Bike SA, Cape Crane, Castrol, Classic Motorcycle Club, Feltra, Kargo, L & G Tools, Maizey Plastics, Nevsway Conveyor Supplies, Propsol, Protea Metering, Randburg Coin, SA Vintage and Veteran Association, Stick-a-Tile, Sher-Light, Traditional Triumph, Wimpy Standerton and Wynn's.

For more information:

www.djrun.co.za

Pierre Cronje (Clerk of the Course) 072 513-9432

FIRST RACE, 1913, JOHANNESBURG-DURBAN, THREE DAYS

In the 1913 Race there were 66 entries. The following first twenty results were compiled by Victor Hart.

Position.	NAME.	MACHINE.	Leave Johannesburg	Arr. Standerton.	Time Taken.	Leave Standerton.	Arr. Lady-smith.	Time Taken.	Leave Lady-smith.	Arr. Durban	Time Taken.	Total Running Time
			a.m.	p.m.	hr. min.	a.m.	p.m.	hr. min.	a.m.	p.m.	hr. min.	hr m'n
1	A. W. McKeag	radbury	10 40	2 1	3 21	7 1	12 47	5 46	7 6	12 45	5 39	14 46
2	C Fenwick	Rudge	10 25	1 43	3 18	6 42	1 0	6 18	7 19	1 9	5 50	15 26
3	H. J. Thompson	Rudge	10 27	1 51	3 24	6 49	12 54	6 5	7 13	1 11	5 58	15 27
4	W. Arnott	Hazlewood	9 4	12 58	3 54	6 0	12 42	6 42	7 1	1 45	6 44	17 20
5	R. Witherspoon	Premier	10 26	2 6	3 40	7 4	1 49	6 45	8 8	1 49	5 41	16 6
6	G. B. Usher	B.S.A.	10 25	1 48	3 23	6 48	1 39	6 42	7 49	1 54	6 5	16 10
7	J. Hodgson	Bradbury	10 39	2 2	3 23	7 2	1 32	6 30	7 52	2 1	6 9	16 2
8	C. H. Holder	Douglas	9 32	12 58	3 26	6 0	12 11	6 11	6 30	2 11	7 41	17 18
9	C. W. Simons	Triumph	10 28	2 2	3 34	6 58	1 56	6 58	8 15	2 49	6 34	17 6
10	C. Zimmerman	Zenith	10 21	1 55	3 34	6 56	1 3	6 7	7 22	2 51	7 29	17 10
11	H. A. Singer	Triumph	10 23	2 20	3 57	7 21	2 20	6 59	8 40	3 5	7 35	18 31
12	W. M. Mail	B.S.A.	10 28	2 12	3 44	7 9	2 45	7 36	9 4	3 7	6 3	17 23
13	E. Rose	Rudge	10 26	2 12	3 46	7 11	2 20	7 9	8 40	3 31	6 51	17 46
14	F. Koenig	Rudge	10 24	1 53	3 29	6 54	1 40	6 46	7 59	3 37	7 38	17 53
15	A. H. Christian	Douglas	9 32	2 9	4 37	7 10	1 58	6 48	8 15	3 38	7 23	18 48
16	C. S. Pillans	Sunbeam	9 32	1 50	4 18	6 51	2 20	7 29	8 30	3 52	7 22	19 9
17	C. S. Brown	Triumph	10 29	2 50	4 21	7 45	3 22	7 37	9 41	4 54	7 13	19 11
18	S. Home	Rudge	10 28	3 0	4 32	7 56	3 53	7 57	10 0	4 57	7 57	19 26
19	C. Morris	Rudge	10 28	2 37	4 9	7 33	3 42	8 9	9 51	5 17	7 26	19 44
20	F. Gwilliam	Douglas	9 26	2 3	4 37	7 4	3 36	8 32	9 55	5 49	7 54	21 3

The finishers' list showing the first 20 riders in the first Johannesburg-Durban road race held in 1913



A group of riders before the start of the 1927 DJ event.



Five-time winner Kevin Robertson (Velocette) is one of the favourites to win the 2013 Johannesburg-Durban Rally



David Pitchford (BSA) was obviously pleased to reach the finish of the 2012 Durban-Johannesburg Rally. David and his two brothers, Ralph (Triumph), who is a successful co-driver in the Dakar Rally, and Harold (AJS) will all be competing in the 2013 JD Rally.

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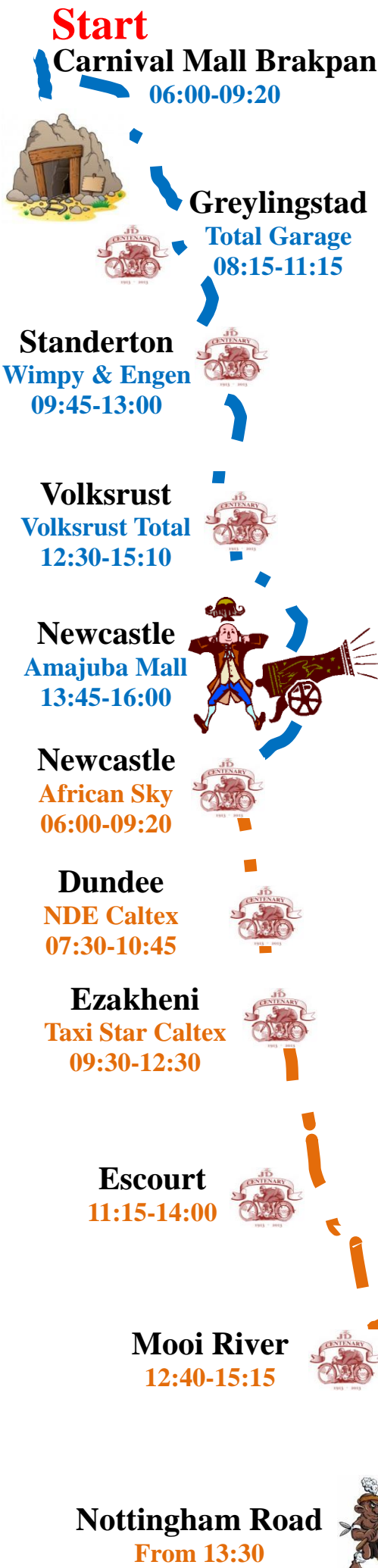
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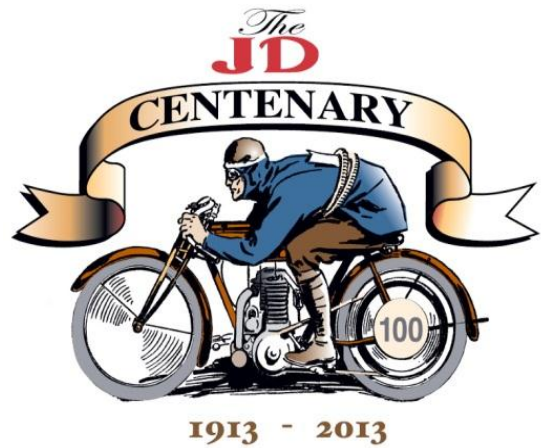
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The 2013 SAVVA International JD Motorcycle Rally

Thursday 7 March 13
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Saturday 9 March 13



Day 1 - 7th March
Day 2 - 8th March
Day 3 - 9th March

