

THE 2013 FRAGRAM NATAL CLASSIC.

This year's event was again held at the Drakensville resort under the able leadership of clerk of the course Thomas Schubert, with the support of club stalwarts Aubrey Cilliers, Salome van Niekerk, Rod Thomas & Richard Sawkins, to name a few.

The field was slightly smaller than last year, with 36 starters, ranging from Stuart Anderson & Hans Coertse's impressive 1918 & 1921 Harley-Davidsons, to relatively modern continental & Japanese bikes of the 1980s.

The two-day event took the riders on circuitous routes in the Natal Midlands & the central Drakensberg, with a lunch stop at Griffin's Hill near Estcourt on day one & a comfort break at Dragon Peaks & then finishing in time for lunch at the resort on day two.

The weather was perfect & the scenery spectacular. The route was straightforward & just the right length, but the clues provided required the application of grey matter, catching out a number of us whose concentration powers are lacking.

There were several breakdowns but most made it back to base, & I don't know of anyone who did not thoroughly enjoy the ride.

Mention must be made of the excellent service & catering of Linda & her team at Drakensville who year after year go out of their way to accommodate us. Those who did not make use of the heated indoor pool after a hard day in the saddle really missed something.

Congratulations to Roland Nance-Kivell who was the hands down winner of the event on his 1957 NSU Sportmax, achieving the rare distinction of being first on both days.

Thanks are extended to Thomas & his hardworking team for the considerable time & effort that they put into the organization, & to L & G Tools (Fragram) (Grant Lyle & Richard Sawkins) & to Maizey Plastics (Ricci Maizey) for their generous sponsorship. It is a pleasure that our sponsors also actively participate in the event.

On the subject of participation, the numbers continue to dwindle, perhaps a sign of the economic times, but those who did not ride missed something special.

Raymond Meyer.