

Press Release

The Circle
MAURITIUS



Mauritius, 8th August 2007: The Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100km Cycle Tour 2007 is officially launched at The Black Steer on Wednesday, 8th August 2007 in the presence of the Minister for Youth and Sport, The Honourable Sylvio Tang and Mr Desvaux, the Chairman of the Mauritius Tourism Promotion Authority.

The event, which last year attracted nearly 1,150 riders, 250 of whom travelled from South Africa, Reunion, Dubai, France and the United States, will take place on Sunday 7th October. The Tour has a new starting point this year, just by the airport which organisers believe will ease the congestion at the beginning. After progressing through villages along the east coast the event concludes at the Mont Choisy Beach.

Last year's winner, but South African based but Mauritian born, professional cyclist, Thomas Desvaux is scheduled to return again this year along with other SA pro's. Indeed, Robbie Hunter, a winner of one of the stages of the Tour de France has also expressed interest in taking part.

Cycle committee chairman, Barry Haarhof has been interviewed on SA Sports station, DSTV's SuperCycling show and anchorman Arnie Gertz has agreed to return to Mauritius to cover the event in detail. This has already resulted in around 60 online enquiries from South African cycling enthusiasts as the word spreads about the attraction of the Mauritius tour.

The Tour, which has an underlying charitable objective to raise funds for local needy causes, is organised jointly by The Circle and the Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme (FMC).

This year's race chairman, Barry Haarhoff, was the instigator of the Mauritius Tour. *"This race is based on the famous Argus which takes place annually in Cape Town. That event started modestly with a few hundred cyclists and has now grown to 36,000. Our own event here in Mauritius attracted 1150 cyclists last year and this year we are hoping to top 1250. We plan to have electronic start and finish mats which will assist in more accurate timing and also a smoother start.*

"Of course, we couldn't do this without the support of our sponsors and we are delighted that our lead sponsor, Deutsche Bank has agreed to partner us again in 2007."

Haarhoff continues, *"We also welcome a number of other minor sponsors who offer valuable support and services and we are most grateful to have the backing of a number of government agencies whose input ensures the smooth running of the Deutsche Bank Tour on the day"*

Mark Bisson, Chief Country Officer for Deutsche Bank in Mauritius commented, *"We are delighted to continue our partnership with The Circle and the FMC. This event goes from strength to strength with increasing numbers of entries from both local and overseas sportsmen and women.*

"This year, for the first time, we are particularly looking forward to entering a team in the Corporate Challenge and our training regime is starting in earnest!"

"We are also proud to support an event which attracts many visitors to Mauritius, many of whom take the opportunity to participate in their chosen sport and enjoy a short holiday in Mauritius."

Entry forms are now available from local cycling outlets and supermarkets. Non-residents can enter online by going on to the website. www.cycletour.mu and click on to the Cycle Events logo and pay by credit card.

Entrants can compete on racing bikes or mountain bikes in male, female and veteran categories and there is a corporate challenge open to teams of five, none of whom may be licensed cyclists. Junior cyclists must be 13 years of age to take part and a time limit of six hours is set for the course. Last year's winner, Thomas Desvaux completed in 2hr 15m 23s!

Ends.

Notes to editors

- 1 The Deutsche Bank Mauritius 100km Cycle Tour will take place on Sunday 7th October 2007, starting from Pointe d'Esny finishing at Mont Choisy Beach.
- 2 Deutsche Bank (Mauritius) Limited was established in Mauritius in 1999 and is part of Deutsche Bank's Offshore group which has offices in Cayman, Guernsey and Jersey. More information is available from the Offshore Group's website: www.dboffshore.com. Deutsche Bank (Mauritius) Limited employs approximately 115 staff.
- 3 The Circle was formed almost seventeen years ago and consists of forty businessmen who meet once a month for fellowship and to organize fund raising events for the benefit of charities in Mauritius.
- 4 The Cycle Tour, the brainchild of local businessman and cycling enthusiast, Barry Haarhoff, was first established in Mauritius in 1999 and is run in association with the Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme. The idea is based on the successful South African cycle race, The Argus, which started off very modestly but has grown into a major event with 36,000 cyclists participating.
- 5 How to enter: Mauritius residents must complete the entry form and mail or deliver with cash remittance to Federation Mauricienne de Cyclisme, Royal Road, Belle Rose, Mauritius or to Cycletour, c/o Rehm Grinaker, P O Box 443, Port Louis. Non-residents should click on the "Cycle Events" Tab on the home page and enter via the Supercycling website. Entry forms are available from FMC and various cycling shops in Mauritius, South Africa and France
- 6 DSTV Supercycling is screened on Tuesday nights at 21h00 for the latest in the world of cycling.
- 7 Prizes will be awarded to veterans, mountain bikers and racing bikes in both male and female categories.
- 8 More information on the Tour is available from www.cycletour.mu.

