



ericpettett.com

Contact: eric@ericpettett.com

Sport: XC Mountain Bike Racing, with interest in road and cx

About Me: I am a highly motivated athlete who has a great enthusiasm for cycling. I work at the Specialized Concept Store, Ruislip. I am a passionate ambassador for the sport of cycling and conduct myself with integrity and professionalism. I am committed to developing others.

Age: 29

Years in sport: 5 Years Competitively

What is your ultimate sporting ambition?

Represent GB in any event and represent England in Commonwealth Games.

Goals for 2011:

- To be an elite cyclist and a valuable member of a successful & professional team.
- To gain a 2nd category road license.
- To assist organisation of a regional competition series.

Coach: Matt Hart, Torq Fitness Consultancy

Race Schedule for 2011:

British Mountain Bike Race Series & associated team events

National XC and Marathon Championships

Mountain Mayhem, Dusk till Dawn, Sleepless in the Saddle, Bontrager 24/12.

Midlands Regional Races / Scottish XC series / Dragon Events.

Other local, regional and national bike events

Regional road races

Regional cyclo-cross races



Some achievements:

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------|
| 6 | BMBR Series Round 5 | Expert | Plymouth | 2009 |
| 8 | BMBR Series Overall | Expert | Overall Series | 2009 |
| 1 | Dirty Dozen | Pair | Gisburn Forest | 2009 |
| 3 | Mountain Mayhem 24hr | Open, Men Team | Eastnor Castle | 2008 |
| 10 | National Points Series | Expert | Overall Series (5 races) | 2008 |
| 3 | National Points Series | Sport | Overall Series (5 races) | 2005 |
| 19 | National Marathon Champs | Senior | Builth Wells | 2005 |
| 1 | Midlands | Sport | Rd 1, Rugeley | 2005 |

Numerous Merida 100 and Kona 100 Results, MTB marathon finishes and road race finishes, Numerous cyclocross results from Notts & Derby League and podiums from Tiviot Dale Summer Series. Three Nove Colli finishes, Italy. Etape Du Tour - Limoges to St Flour, France.



Why you think you deserve to progress to the next level in the sport?

I always give 100%. I have ability and I race to win.

I regard myself as an ambassador for the sport. I take an interest in the local scene and plan & lead club rides.

I have provided countless podiums, articles to local student newspaper and have contributed to the BBC action sports website.

I'm consistent. I ensure my equipment is in perfect working order. I have never had a 'Did Not Start' against my name.

I feel the prestige given by being at the head of the sport is returned by my integrity and commitment. I endeavour to return hard fought results and always provide positive media attention.

Team player

I'm a team player. I am supportive of all ability. For my altruistic services as captain of University of Leeds Cycling Team (2001-02) I was awarded the White Rose Award and the R H Evans School of Civil Engineering Departmental Prize. This role was pivotal in seeing and developing the grass roots of the sport. I really enjoyed planning trips, socials, budgeting and negotiating collective purchases and also supporting racing.

Community

I'm outgoing, friendly and am an ambassador for the sport. I promote cycling. I negotiated additional welfare facilities for green commuters at work and have started a cycling forum. I was pivotal in my work adopting 'cycle-to-work' tax free bike purchase scheme.

Dedication

I'm dedicated. I have endeavoured to travel the length and breadth of the country, offering to share lifts with others. I have travelled after work to cyclocross and road meetings arriving back often after midnight. I take precious annual leave to rest up before important races.

Helping a beginner – brief example

I take pride in my voluntary work. In this instance I was asked to help a beginner. She wanted to be green, save a bit of cash and exercise simultaneously by commuting in London by bike. I had my work cut out! However it was a really good experience for us both. She first learnt to ride in a grassy park before transferring skills to calm roads. A few weeks later she was able to confidently commute 20 miles solo daily in typical London traffic.

Brilliant result!

Integrity

Some of the many podiums from 2005 to 2010



Achievement



Teamwork



Athletic excellence



Describe your most memorable race:

Racing at Mountain Mayhem, 2008 was most memorable. This prestigious event is known as being one of the biggest, hardest, most closely fought 24hr off-road open races in the world and I was privileged to be invited to race for Torq Fitness. Results are dominated by professionals. The course promised punishing climbs, fast descents, singletrack plenty of wheel suckin' mud!

I remember thinking at midnight, 'Its dry, team is doing well, food is ok and we've even had no mechanicals.' **And then the heavens opened!**

Previously fast singletrack turned into a quagmire. Swamps replaced tracks. From then on it was a mental game and experience counted. A large chunk of the UK's eclectic biking community was present - each had their own perspective on the situation but everyone was so supportive. What a fantastic sport!

In the morning, at the time usually taken up by breakfast, I remember seeing the **big team boss cleaning my bike!** This in itself tells a story of how much teamwork meant. And he did a very good job: chain, wheels and forks all looked like they were hot from a showroom! Talk about support: that was first class!

Feedback from race HQ was that Torq were locked in a pitched battle for the podium. This would be a lifetime achievement! The very last lap mattered.

I swigged down a caffeine gel and felt like Pop-Eye on spinach. The last few laps were a blur. *Corner, singletrack, pump overtake, jump BRAKE, sprint, overtake!* Sure enough, after an exhaustive effort we'd claimed 3rd Open Men's team.

Standing on the podium, alongside team mates who deserved it was a really unique and unforgettable feeling. I was really glad to have given my all to the team.



Favourite training Session: 5 hour mountain rides in Les Arc

Your Favourite Race?

Mountain Mayhem 24hr
XC at the Olympic Games
Cyclo-cross World Championships

Who is your sporting hero?
Sven Nys because he lets his pedals do the talking. He doesn't always win but trys really hard every time. However, seeing novices develop and grow to love the sport is also cool.

What is your favourite piece of kit?

Nike Poggio size 13.5 shoes are my most prized bit of kit. The looks are amazing: silver 'sun ray' burst uppers matched to carbon fibre soles. They're pretty exclusive and were deliberately bought to match helmet, sunglasses and gloves: a nice touch! I had to save up to buy them and they were a special order on account of the size. I've ridden them in many memorable sportives and races in the UK and around parts of Europe. Slipping into them evokes loads of great memories and I feel even cooler.

They'd look fantastic in the discothèques too!

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