



# STRATHSPEY & BADENOCH HERALD

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## [Hundreds rise to the Challenge](#)

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THE 17th running of what is regarded as one of Scotland's toughest duathlons took place on Saturday when the men's Corrieairack Challenge title was claimed by Terry Christie in just over three hours 24 minutes. The winner of the ladies' race Catriona Phin followed home half-an-hour later in three hours of 55 minutes and 45 seconds.

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The race covers 17 miles from Fort Augustus to Garva Bridge by Laggan climbing 2,350ft through the Corrieairack Pass followed by a 26-mile road cycle race to Kincaig.

The winner of the men's mountain bike race was Ian Nimmo, who set a new men's veteran course record with his time of two hours 51 minutes and 26 seconds, while Shelley Farrar broke the ladies' previous mountain bike veterans' section record, stopping the clock at 3 hours 45 minutes and five seconds.

Good weather with some cloud cover and a cool breeze gave participants a perfect day for racing and gave the top athletes a rare opportunity to beat personal bests and course records.

Organiser Andrew MacKenzie said: "We had extra water out on the toughest part of the hill climb, but fortunately we were spared the fierce sun and heat from earlier in the week.

"Importantly, it's been another year with all competitors returned safe with no major injuries.

"We also had a great turnout with 395 participants and £55,000 pledged on the day.

"This put our worries to rest about raising the funding we need to support Speyside Trust's holiday care programme for people with disabilities at the Badaguish Centre."

He added: "As usual, the challenge had outstanding local support from volunteer helpers, from the communities along the route and from many local businesses who provide a hugely generous prize list for the award ceremony.

"They also provide hands-on assistance to help organise the event. Participants love this hospitality and so do we as organisers. Having this local goodwill and support makes all the hard work worthwhile."

Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber MSP Fergus Ewing handed out the prizes and gave an update as chairman of the Speyside Trust's "Save the Corrie" campaign.

Mr MacKenzie thanks Mr Ewing for being instrumental in securing £29,500 from Historic Scotland and £5,000 from Highland Council.

He also thanked GF JOB contractors who were presented with the Kincaig Shield for outstanding local team support. The firm managed to complete emergency drainage work on the Corrieairack's famous S bends in time to ensure the event went ahead as planned.

The Bank of Scotland Shield for the team bringing in the most sponsorship went to Warehouse 1 from Aberdeen who pledged £3242.

The Sandy Caird Trophy for outstanding local individual support went to Duathlon Supervet Penny Weir on completing her sixth Challenge this year..



Possibly the most colourful team in the Corrieairack challenge this year – The Wheezy Riders – James Hendry, David McKendrick and Shaun Longmuir