

Endurance Athletes from all over South Africa will participate in the Quarter century Challenge to do FIVE daring events IN ONE YEAR!



Midmar, Dusi,

“Millennium Big 5 Challenge 2025”



Cape Town Cycle Tour, Comrades, Mt. Kilimanjaro

Midmar Mile

In 1974 a mere 154 swimmers swam across the Midmar Dam due to previous year fuel restrictions that prevented swimmers from travelling to out of Province events. Otters water-polo club with the help of Glenwood raised funds to purchase a new water-polo ball. In February 2023, at the 50th staging of the Midmar Mile literally thousands participated in the four day staggered event. The Midmar Mile is the biggest open water event in the world.

The Dusi Canoe Marathon

There may be easier ways of getting from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, but none can be more adventure filled and challenging than participating in the three-day Dusi Canoe Marathon. Since ordinary game ranger Ian Player was the only person to complete the trip in 1951 around 13 000 “paddlers” have since braved the rapids and excruciating portages and many other potential hazards along the Umsindusi and Umgeni Rivers, between Camp’s Drift and Blue Lagoon in Durban. With the odd unscheduled swim, some have dubbed the Dusi South Africa’s toughest triathlon but it remains the hardest canoe race in the world.

The then “Argus” and now Cape Town Cycle Race

In 1977, following an initial protest entitled “Ride-In” that addressed terrible conditions of the Cape Peninsula road for both recreational cyclists and those using their bikes for work purposes, the City Council eventually issued a “greenlight” for the staging of a cycle road race around the Cape Peninsula.

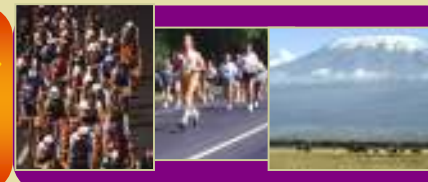
Since the first staging of “The Argus” (so-called because of the generous sponsorship of the local newspaper) the Cape Town Cycle Tour has become the largest timed cycle event in the world.

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The Comrades

Vic Clapham formed the idea of a race between Pietermaritzburg and Durban to honour fallen soldiers - hence the name “Comrades” which has in the course of time been described as the “Ultimate Human Race”. In 1921 Bill Rowan completed the race in which a mere 34 athletes took part. With the effluxion of time things have changed and now over 130 000 athletes have completed the 90 kilometre journey (which alternates in direction each year, resulting in an “up run” and a “down-run”, Durban to Pietermaritzburg, then Pietermaritzburg to Durban). Both runs said to be equally and technically difficult.

In 1988, Wally Haywood ran the race in just over nine and a half hours, beating more than 60% of the field and in June 1989, he completed the distance in just under 11 hours at the age of 80! In 2023, 81 year-old Polokwane bricklayer, Johannes Mosehla simultaneously finished his 10th Comrades and became the oldest runner ever to finish the Comrades Marathon.

Mount Kilimanjaro

Of all the events comprising the Millennium Big 5 Challenge 2025 this is the one where the Challengers of the year 2000, no matter what their sporting pedigree or level of fitness, stated they had been taken “out of my comfort zone”.

Kilimanjaro’s snow capped peaks may be seen rising out of the African savannah at an eye-catching height of 5895 metres is the highest free-standing mountain in the World. Although not regarded as a “technical climb”, Mount Kilimanjaro is described in the following way by Peter Hillary, son of the late Sir Edmund Hillary who stated “It is a hard day out and everyone who climbs Kilimanjaro feels that they have really accomplished something special..”

For the Challengers of the year 2000, the climb remained a rigorous and daunting challenge as they sought and accomplished reaching Mt. Kilimanjaro’s summit, just as the sun was rising.