



## **Brandywine Tour Postponed to 2021**

*Marian Venturini, DVBC President*

At the July board meeting, a motion was made and unanimously approved to cancel the Brandywine Tour, originally scheduled for August 30, 2020. This was not a decision made lightly, in fact, heavy hearts were the order of the evening. With that said, we will be looking to make the 2021 45th Brandywine Tour Extra special. You won't want to miss it!

As for club rides, we have a limited number of them and they are still preregistration only, members only, maximum 6 riders, masks worn at the start, finish and any other time when physical distance cannot be

maintained. To join a ride, please follow the instructions given by your ride leaders on the hunt calendar.

Be safe!! If you've recently traveled or possibly been exposed to COVID, please do not join a ride. Per the latest news, the 6' distance at rest is probably not enough, so be very aware of your proximity to other riders. If we act as though we all have it, taking safety precautions seriously, our chances of contracting the virus are greatly diminished.

Questions or concerns may be directed to myself (venturmt@msn.com) or another board member; contact info is available on our website. Thank you for the support you've shown this board.

See you on the road!

## **DVBC Group Rides Resume**

*DVBC Board*

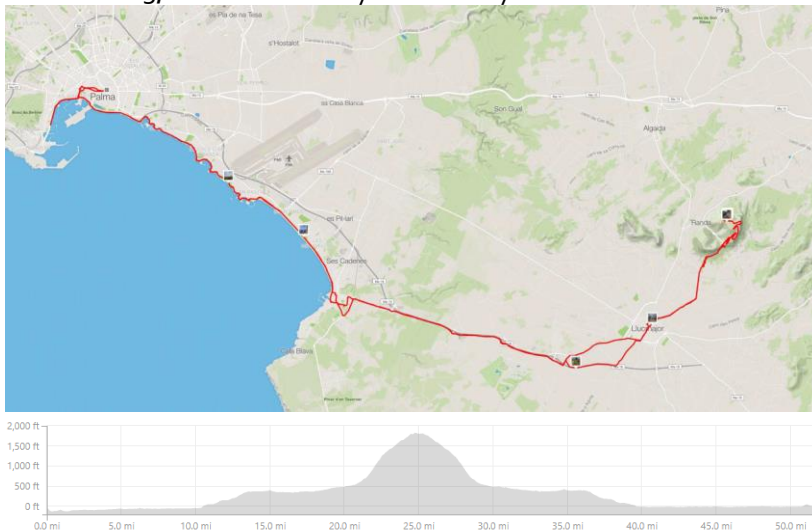
Good News! The board has voted to resume group rides. We have set rules and parameters to ensure all riders are safe. These measures include the use of face masks/coverings at the start/finish of rides, or when stopped or unable to maintain proper distancing, limiting the total number of riders, all riders must be paid club members and **preregistration is required**. Note that the maximum number of riders allowed by the club is 6, but you have the authority to limit it even further if you'd be more comfortable. You also have the authority to deny inclusion in a ride if someone is not following the safety guidelines. You can review these guidelines here:

<https://www.dvbc.org/docs.ashx?id=644221>

## Ride Report: Mallorca Part 3

*Taylor Sproul*

Back in the June 2019 newsletter, I wrote up Part 1 to my trip in Mallorca in February 2019, and promised that it would be the first article in a five-part series on my trip. In Part 1, I flew to Mallorca, and checked into my AirBnB in Palma, the main city. In Part 2 (April 2020 Newsletter), I did a loop from Palma up across the mountains and down the northeast coast, battling the famous Mistral wind. This is Part 3, which covers my second day.



51.4 miles – 2,844 ft elevation

Towns: Palma, El Arenal, Lluçmajor, Randa

Climbs: MA-19 from El Arenal, Randa Monastery South Side (Cat2)

I was cooked after almost 7,000 ft of climbing on Day 1! Not wanting to give up so easily, I replanned a little and decided to pick modify my route. I wasn't feeling fantastic, and one of the challenges of riding in the mountains is that there are very limited

bailout options. There's always a 1,500 ft ridge between you and Palma, and the passes over it are few and far between. I had intended to do the Randa Monastery climb as part of a larger loop around Palma with Col d'Honor first, but instead I decided to go straight to Randa for an out-and-back.

In the summer I am sure the beach path would have been crowded with tourists, but on a weekday in February there was a reasonable amount of riders. I got passed by the entire CCC pro women's team heading the opposite direction as me. The path ran along the beach, through a nature reserve by the airport, for about 12 miles down the coast to El Arenal.



Just before reaching El Arenal, it turned into a limited access cobble road for bikes and buses at only. It was becoming clear to me that Mallorca is pretty much Germany's Cancun. There were countless sausage/currywurst stands and German restaurants, and the signage had German as a first language, English as the second

language, and Spanish as a distant third. This was peak summer beach tourist area, and felt like a slightly foreign version of the Wildwood boardwalk.

At El Arenal, it was time to punch inland. A steep little climb through the town later, I was on a busy highway, with a 4 foot high wall to my right and what appeared to be a bike path beyond (why does this keep happening?). I bunny-hopped it (Editor fact check: it was more of an awkward hoist over a low spot in the wall) and was on my way up a more steady, gradual climb inland.

Along the bike path I spotted a caterpillar train - about twenty caterpillars moseying across the path together, nose to tail (or head to toe, I have no idea what sort of anatomy they gave going on). Apparently, they learned pacelining from passing cyclists. If they start flicking elbows (do they have elbows?), then we should start worrying that they might know too much about us.



Eventually, the MUP ended but merged with a frontage road, the famous Via Servica (weird how all of the frontage roads are called that, right?). This was a nice little cruise, with only a couple of “abruptly ending and then making you cross over/under the highway to pick it up on the other side” incidents. The frontage road is nice because it’s got pretty much no traffic, few intersections, and is straight as an arrow towards my destination. There was one natural mystery here that still keeps me up at night, over a year later. Don Simon ‘Vino Tinto’ is a popular cheapo wine that comes in a carton. There were discarded cartons of Don Simon along the side of the road. However, what was truly puzzling was the precise regularity between cartons. They were spaced 20 feet apart from the next one, like clockwork. You didn’t need a speedometer, you could just count the cartons to measure your speed. Either an extremely drunk person or an extremely slow person must have been going through a liter of cheap wine every 20 feet as they made it down the Via Servica.



The Via Service terminated at the town of Lluçmajor, which was a complicated maze of narrow streets that were all one-way (but lacked any discernible pattern to their directionality). I found the main square and was pleased to note both a café and a grocery store. After the climb, I planned to get some sort of real lunch after not getting one the prior day and bonking a little bit after just snacking on some gummy bears that I got 5 minutes before the store closed for 2pm siesta. I knew I would be fine to get back with plenty of time to spare to 2pm [Editor's note: Ominous Music].

On the way out of Lluçmajor (which is not related at all to Lluç as far as I can tell), I had another nice alley / access road with no traffic. It was mostly a communal driveway for a bunch of people living in big walled yards on either side of the road, with dogs or chicken or sheep. I assume that they were all retired Germans named Fritz who ventured down to El Arenal to keep the dozens of currywurst stands in business. This road gradually climbed up to the base of the real climb.



At the end of the road was a sign warning me of the climb ahead, 1.9km at 8.3% average. The 'north side' is the main road into Randa, but I was taking the 'south side' Randa climb, which was a semi-private back road limited to cyclists and local traffic. The south side road merges into the main road about halfway up. The south side climb was one of my favorites. It was steep and challenging, with tight technical switchbacks. But it was shaded and quiet with no traffic. I quickly learned that the left hand switchbacks are easy because you take the normal line. The right handers are tricky – if there's no traffic you can go wide and do a light-bulb shape, but if there are cars coming you just have to hit the apex where it's just bonkers steep.



Finally, we merged into the main road. It's worth nothing that I assumed that the top of the south side climb was the end of the climb or close to it, but really it only got me about halfway up. The second half got tougher, since it was just as steep as the first half and I hadn't really paced myself for it. Near the top, another

women's team blasted past me, while a directeur sportif with a stopwatch screamed encouragement out the window of the team van.



Finally I was at the monastery, which was a big stone building that I'm sure some poor saps had to lug up the mountain by hand. Some dark clouds rolled in and the temperature dropped, the first time I was reminded that it was indeed winter. [Editor's note: won't be the last. Ominous music]



I turned tail to make it to Lluçmajor before either the food places closed, or it started raining. It's amazing how a 30 minute climb only takes 8 minutes to descent. I came into one switchback a little too hot and almost ran straight into a rock wall, thankful for hydraulic disc brakes and 28mm tires.



I hopped back on the south side switchback descent, doing my best to keep the back wheel on the ground as I braked through tight and steep switchbacks. In no time at all I was back in Lluçmajor, but did get a little turned around in some of the confusing one way streets. 1:29pm, plenty of time to spare for my 2pm siesta! Except, wait, the Spar grocery store is starting to pull down the rolling metal shutters over the door. I awkwardly clomped up in my cleats. The cashier recognized my plight and shouted "uno minuto!". I ducked under the metal shutters, asked "Agua?" with a drinking motion, and got pointed to the first aisle. I grabbed the first bottle on the shelf and bought it, all within about 45 seconds, and they locked the shutters behind me. A more thorough investigation of my prize revealed that I accidentally bought Agua Con Gas, which means it's carbonated. Luckily the café was still open, so I managed a ham and cheese sandwich in broken Spanish (getting thrown for a loop when he asked if I wanted tomatoes, I think).



With full fuel, I hopped back on Lappy tried to get out of Lluçmajor. Unexpectedly, there was a massive group of cyclists heading down the main road, so I jumped on the back of it until we hit a traffic circle and split in three directions, like fish scattering from a shark. I stopped and checked my map, realizing I had actually saved a bit of distance and could take a shortcut to return to Via Servica.

Back on Via Servica, my water bottles were noticeably less full than when I left. The cranks and my shoes were suspiciously wet. It was at this point I could draw the obvious conclusion that my spirited riding has caused my Agua Con Gas to violently release the gas and become regular ordinary Agua, about half of which exploded out onto my feet.



With the false flat in my favor (and a newfound ocean breeze not in my favor), I continued back towards El Arenal. The caterpillar train was on siesta. I got to my gap in the wall, but now if I was to retrace my exact steps I'd be going backwards on a divided highway. After some more last-minute navigation planning, I was able to find another way through El Arenal and make it back to the German equivalent of the Jersey Shore boardwalk. A slow peloton of other riders caught me and stayed with me awhile (I wasn't trying to draft, but they gradually passed me and stayed just in front of me) before they veered off onto a side street.



I continued a fairly leisurely cruise, as the path was a bit more crowded in the afternoon and being a foreign Pathlete is no Bueno as they say. Aside from the usual 'path ends and reappears a hundred yards away with no signage', it was a quiet ride into Palma and I did a brief extra loop of the harbor before hitting the little cobbled climb and lugging Lappy up 4 flights of narrow stairs to the AirBnB.

## **Pro Cycling Spotlight**

*Taylor Sproul*



Sorry for the three-peat but there's just no way to name a Pro Cyclist of the Month other than Annemiek van Vleuten. Since being named DVBC Pro Cyclist of the Month for a second time in late 2019, she has won the 2019 World Championship and won every race she has entered in 2020, including Omloop het Nieuwsblad and Strade Bianche.

Annemiek's latest victory was at Strade Bianche. In the final 20 km, a lone rider (Garcia) was off the front with a 3 minute gap to a 10 rider chase, and another 2 minutes to the peloton. Annemiek attacked from the peloton to catch the chase. Once she caught the chase, she attacked on the final gravel climb to get away. She caught Garcia a few kilometers before the finish. When the race hit the streets of Siena for the steep final climb, Annemiek kicked on the afterburners and won the race.

Wout van Aert notches his first DVBC Pro Cyclist of the Month following a win at Strade Bianche. The 25 year old Belgian cyclocrosser-turned-roadie was injured in a bad crash in the 2019 Tour de France. He was off the bike until December 2019, but came back to win a CX race and place well in Omloop before the season was postponed. He made the winning move on one of the gravel climbs for a solo victory.



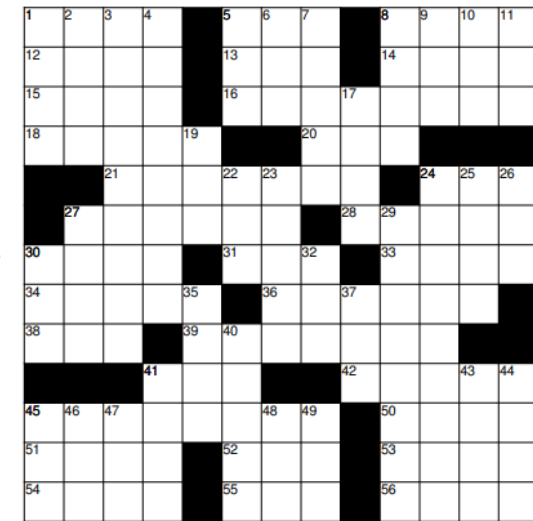
## Cartoon & Crossword

### Tour de France 2020

by Bob LaDrew

#### ACROSS

1. Bike competition
5. Female minded by a shepherd
8. American \_\_\_\_ Kuss, Jumbo Visma Tour rider
12. "I need \_\_\_\_!" (jet-lagged comment)
13. Charlie Parker's horn for short
14. 'Hey, what's the big \_\_\_\_?'
15. Country bordered by Niger
16. American tour rider Lawson \_\_\_\_
18. Yukon transports
20. '80's mile record holder Sebastian
21. Current Irish rider Sam \_\_\_\_
24. Frat consonant
27. Most prolific American Tour de France winner
28. Some cycling duels on Alpe d' Huez
30. Jumbo-Visma rider George Bennett by nationality, colloquially
31. Superlative ending
33. Pulpit utterance
34. Cocoa plum tree
36. "\_\_\_\_ said than done!"
38. Colorado airport code
39. Belgian veteran rider Philippe \_\_\_\_
41. Nth degree, in brief
42. Michelins and Continentals
45. Water bottle or musette bag, to a fan
50. Host of initial stage of 2020 Tour
51. State tree of Maine
52. A gold medal, in Quintana's language
53. Teri of "Mr. Mom"
54. Et \_\_\_\_ (Latin for "and others")
55. Elope, say

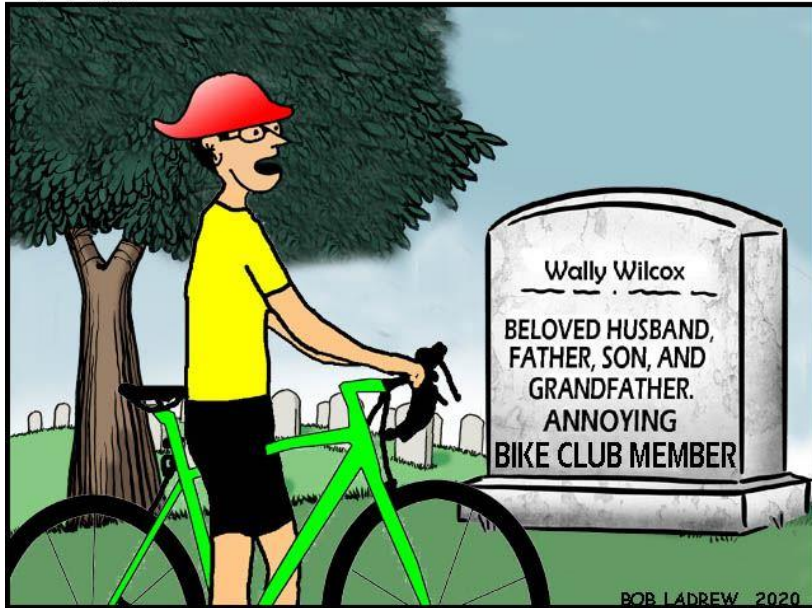


56. Veer offcourse

24. Penultimate stage of 2020 Tour

#### DOWN

1. 2018 Super Bowl losers
2. Obsessively orderly
3. Fastest man on wheels now (per Bob)
4. Cause of TdF postponement
5. Top row keyboard key
6. Pacifist's aversion
7. Take (vengeance)
8. Pass another rider on the left \_\_\_\_.
9. Tokyo, at one time
10. Chest muscle, in slang
11. Karachi's nation for short
17. Be excessively fond of
19. \_\_\_\_-Cat
22. Swarthmore-Ft. Washington direction
23. Ford flop
25. Computer brand
26. Annapolis grp.
27. They produce nits
29. Matchmakers' matchups
30. Joke, jest
32. Bill "picked up"
35. Gaze at lewdly
37. Pair (of wheels)
40. "Do \_\_\_\_!" ("Don't procrastinate!")
41. Eye layer
43. Almond-like hue
44. Withered, dry
45. Fancy bath
46. Recommendation for rusty chain
47. \_\_\_\_-cycle
48. Indignant state
49. Tennis player Laver who achieved two Grand Slams

**BONKERS**

## **Thoughts from the Editor**

*Taylor Sproul*

Thanks for reading the newsletter!

If you would like to contribute an article or photo to the newsletter, or if you have any other feedback, please contact Taylor via e-mail at [dvbc.editor@clubmember.org](mailto:dvbc.editor@clubmember.org). Have you gone on a fantastic ride recently, or travelled somewhere awesome for a ride? If so, please consider submitting a Ride Report or a DVBC Around the World story to the editor.