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SIX-TIME BRITISH CYCLING CHAMPION ALEX DOWSETT NAMED ASSISTANT RACE DIRECTOR OF FORD RIDELONDON CLASSIQUE

Former professional cyclist Alex Dowsett has been announced as the Assistant Race Director for the Ford RideLondon Classique.

The former world hour record holder will support Race Director Scott Sunderland for the UCI World Tour event, as the globe's best female cyclists take to the streets of Essex and London between Friday 26 May and Sunday 28 May.

The roads on the first two stages of the race are ones that Dowsett knows well, having been born in Maldon and grown up in Essex. Dowsett, who is also a Commonwealth Games silver medallist, began his cycling career at Maldon and District Cycling Club, the town which hosts the second stage of this year's Ford RideLondon Classique.

Dowsett called time on his career last September following a successful 12 years in the professional peloton, in which he won two stages of the Giro d'Italia and was crowned national champion on six occasions. The Ford RideLondon Classique marks his first step in race directing.

Alex Dowsett, Assistant Race Director of the Ford RideLondon Classique, said: *"It is a real pleasure to be Assistant Race Director for the Ford RideLondon Classique. This event has made big strides in a short space of time, and it is now an important part of the UCI Women's World Tour calendar. To see it in my hometown and on the roads I have spent hours training on makes it even more special.*

"This is a unique opportunity to watch elite women's cycling in the UK, and the race shows the best of Essex and London. North Essex is beautiful for quiet lanes and rolling roads and the towns are so picturesque, and the exposure of finishing on The Mall is exciting for everyone.

"Women's cycling is growing in popularity in the UK and we should celebrate the riders who have played such a significant role in making that happen. It promises to be a hugely exciting race."

Dowsett is confident the same community spirit he felt as a young rider in Essex will result in increased participation moving forward.

"There is a real community in Essex for welcoming young cyclists. The county is quite flat which

makes it more enjoyable when cyclists are starting out, and there are vast networks of tiny lanes where you can disappear and stay off the main roads. That is why Ford RideLondon is so popular as it gives people the chance to enjoy closed roads. I love riding here as I feel part of something bigger and I hope this can continue to inspire people to take part."

Scott Sunderland, Race Director of the Ford RideLondon Classique, said: *"It is a real coup to secure Alex as Assistant Race Director for the Ford RideLondon Classique. His knowledge of the roads in Essex is second to none, having grown up on these roads and his expertise will be invaluable in making this race day even more personal and memorable, for the riders and the spectators."*

The Ford RideLondon Classique starts with two stages in Essex on Friday 26 May and Saturday 27 May. Stage One (150km) is from Saffron Walden to Colchester while Stage Two (140km) starts and finishes in Maldon. The final stage (91km) is the iconic finale in central London, starting and finishing on The Mall.

For more information about the Ford RideLondon Classique, [click here](#).

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Images from RideLondon-Essex 2022 are available to [download here](#) (password: RL2022, credit: RideLondon-Essex)

About RideLondon

- [RideLondon](#), the world's greatest festival of cycling, was developed by the Mayor of London and his agencies. It was first held in August 2013 and is a legacy event from the London 2012 Olympics. It is delivered by London Marathon Events (LME).
- The 2023 Ford RideLondon Classique is part of the UCI Women's World Tour.
- The Classique was granted UCI Women's WorldTour status in 2016. It was a one-day race between 2016 and 2019, becoming a three-day stage race in 2022 after returning following the Covid-19 pandemic which forced the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 events.
- For a full history of the Classique including the full list of past winners, [click here](#).
- The 2023 Ford RideLondon also includes the mass-participation events: Ford RideLondon FreeCycle, Ford, RideLondon-Essex 100, Ford RideLondon-Essex 60 and Ford RideLondon-Essex 30.
- In January 2023, [Ford was announced as the title partner of RideLondon from 2023 to 2025](#)
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Foundation. Since 1981, The London Marathon Foundation has awarded grants totalling in excess of £98.3 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

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