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WORLD CHAMPION HEADS STAR-STUDED LINE-UP FOR 2022 RIDELONDON CLASSIQUE

- **Elisa Balsamo leads entries for new-look three-day race**
- **Three past winners and British champion also on start list**
- **UCI Women's WorldTour race take place between Friday 27 May and Sunday 29 May**

World champion Elisa Balsamo (Trek-Segafredo), reigning champion Lorena Wiebes and British champion Pfeiffer Georgi (both Team DSM) headline a star-studded entry list for the first-ever three-day RideLondon Classique on Friday 27 May to Sunday 29 May.

Previously a one-day race in central London, the RideLondon Classique has not taken place since 2019 due to the Covid-19 pandemic and returns in 2022 in a new stage race format that has attracted a collection of the world's best riders.

Balsamo will wear the famous rainbow bands of World Champion on the Start Line of Stage One of the RideLondon Classique on Friday 27 May. The Italian won the World Championships in Belgium last September and has continued her rich vein of form in 2022, winning two UCI Women's WorldTour one-day races in March: the Trofeo Alfredo Binda-Comune di Cittiglio in Italy and Gent-Wevelgem in Belgium.

Balsamo said: *"I'm excited that the RideLondon Classique is back for 2022 and it's now even bigger than before with two additional days of racing."*

"Previously, this has been a race that has suited me and I've been really close to the top step of the podium. I'm hoping that I can start my second big block of racing this year with a nice result here."

"I'm heading to London off the back of a short break from racing following the Classics period. You never know how your body will react after that, so it will be good for me to be able to see where my form is at this key moment before Giro Donne and Tour de France Femmes."

Balsamo has twice come close to winning the RideLondon Classique, finishing third in 2018 and second in 2019, when she was beaten in a sprint by Wiebes.

Aged just 23, Dutch star Wiebes already has 40 race victories to her name, including the 2019 RideLondon Classique, and four triumphs this year including Ronde van Drenthe, part of the UCI Women's WorldTour. She is one of three previous winners of the RideLondon Classique on the entry list, alongside Coryn Labecki (Team Jumbo-Visma) who won in 2017, and Barbara Guarischi (Movistar Team) who won in 2015.

Wiebes said: *"I'm really looking forward to racing again in London. Now it's a three-day race that makes it more exciting, with two harder stages and the finish in the city centre. I'm looking forward to sprinting again in the city!"*

British champion Georgi is one of the rising stars of world cycling. Aged just 21, she became British champion last October and has impressed in the Spring Classics this year, finishing fourth in Dwars Door Vlaanderen and ninth in Paris-Roubaix.

Georgi, who was born in London, is one of 20 Brits scheduled to ride on home roads with Elynor Backstedt (Trek-Segafredo), Hannah Barnes (Uno-X Pro Cycling Team) and Alice Barnes (Canyon/Sram) among the other leading domestic names.

Georgi said: *"It's really exciting to be back at RideLondon this year. It's always nice racing on home soil and it makes it even more special wearing the national"*

looking forward to being back on the Start Line in its new three-day format, which I think will bring some really exciting racing.

Scott Sunderland, RideLondon Race Director, said: "We are thrilled to have such a strong field taking part in this new-look RideLondon Classique. With the quality of riders on show we're going to see some fantastic and super-competitive racing over three days."

For the full list of riders and teams competing in the 2022 RideLondon Classique, [click here](#).

The 2022 RideLondon Classique will start with two stages in Essex on Friday 27 May and Saturday 28 May before a final stage in central London on Sunday 29 May. To find out more on the three stages, [click here](#).

Media accreditation for 2022 RideLondon is now open. To apply, [click here](#). The closing date for completed applications is 17:00 on Friday 6 May.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

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.
- In the first seven years of the world's greatest festival of cycling (2013-2019) more than 467,000 participants have taken part including more than 140,000 new or lapsed cyclists who were inspired to start cycling. More than £80 million was raised for more than 1,000 charities.
- RideLondon will partner with Essex County Council in 2022. Surrey County Council previously partnered with the event from 2013 to 2020.
- London Marathon Events gifts its surplus each year to The London Marathon Charitable Trust.
- Since 1981, The London Marathon Charitable Trust has awarded grants totalling in excess of £95 million to more than 1,500 projects in London and across the UK.

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