

PELTON PROFILE: MARTIN HAINZ

The Roads to Mallorca



Courtesy of the SICC

Quite often cyclists spend hours riding next to one another in the peloton but never get to chat, just focusing on the next challenge or being out of breath once it's done. Just recently I had the opportunity to catch up with Martin Hainz from the Czech Republic, who currently works as a logistician at NCIA CSU MONS Warehouse providing logistic support with IT equipment to SHAPE, NMRs and NCIA customers. Read on to find out about his cycling life with the SICC.

“ I joined Shape International Cycling Club (SICC) 2 years ago and to make the decision took me at least 3 months because I hesitated about my capability to ride with SICC team. However I found out that there are many options to choose from and so I started with social rides on Mondays and Wednesdays for newcomers, to learn how to ride with a group and from there I constantly improved, in order to progress to the rides on Tuesdays and Thursdays. When I joined the club I met super friendly people who organize longer rides at the weekends, of which you can choose the ride with a speed and distance which is feasible for you.

As a fanatic fan of cycling, I always dreamed of riding the most monumental sportives. Liege – Bastogne – Liege, Paris – Roubaix and Tour of Flanders. My first Sportive was Liege – Bastogne – Liege (LBL) which is the oldest, I completed the 145 km with elevation of 2500 m and rode along side other SICC members who supported me during the race . I can say LBL was the most difficult for me as the route is only up and down with no time to rest but I somehow managed it. The Tour of Flanders is the most popular cycling sportive in Belgium with 16000 riders taking part. I had already



tried some hills, the Paterberg and the Kwaremont before, but the difference is, that this sportive is put in the calendar and it doesn't matter if the weather is awful, cold and windy, it takes place. This year, it was 1 degree in the morning when we set out and during the ride, rose to a max. of 5 degrees, with a headwind at the end . This ride is infamous, with narrow routes, cobbles, short but steep hills and unpredictable weather. Paris –Roubaix is named as the hell of the North, a flat route the cobbled sections (18 sections over 30 kms). It is the most uncomfortable ride! The body is shaking when you hit cobbles and continues to do so especially in the Arenberg forest, which is an iconic part of the race, 2 km long and full of pain.

Of course if you are member of SICC club you often hear about the trip to Mallorca - how it is a nice trip with beautiful scenery, staying at a super hotel with full board, riding with a professional agency and awesome



weather. I decided to go there and everything was absolutely with my expectations except for the weather, which wasn't bad but could be like being in a wind tunnel at times. When I saw the planned routes, I was sure that it would be mission impossible, but we were divided into 2 groups fast or slower. Rides were fantastically organised by Captains of the hiring company and so I felt comfortable at all times, that I could keep up with others. Only before long climbs we were told to keep our own pace to the top of the hill and then wait for the last rider. The hardest parts for me, were the descents which were long with many corners but after 3 days I found more confidence to do them. Whilst there I hired a Pinarello bike which was fantastic, the price was 200 euros per week. Maybe you can say it is a lot but if you see how expensive these bikes are to buy ... and your wish is to ride one...just once....

During long rides there are many famous coffee stops where you can order coffee, Cortado, tasty sandwiches or pizzas and meet other riders from different countries. Mallorca is a beautiful Island. We rode beside the sea, through cities, villages and valleys. Heading out around 9:30 a.m. and returning to the hotel, mid to late afternoon, where swimming pools and SPA facilities were available for those who wished to stretch their achy muscles.

1. Day - Route to Petra

92 km, Elevation 509 m, Time 3h:22 m.

2. Day - Route along the sea to do shopping after rain

36 km, Elevation 29 m, Time 3h:23m.

3. Day- Hill Randa

124 km, Elevation 959 m, Time 5h:00 m

4. Day- Valley route

60 km, Elevation 455 m, Time 2h:32 m

5. Day - Coll d' Honor

114 km, Elevation 1155 m, Time 4h:38 m

6. Day - The lighthouse

42 km, Elevation 820m, Time 2h:07 m



Contact the SHAPE Cycling Club at:

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Come and join the fun!

Would I do it again? Definitely!!



YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED!

