



# CHALLENGING TIMES!

The Official Wooden Spoon **Ford** Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge Newsletter

## A VERY WET BUT VERY WONDERFUL £69,754.00 PLEDGED!!

The 14th **Ford** Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge was a challenging year with the weather trying to get the better of us and teams going temporarily AWOL on the mountain section! The rain poured, then the wind came, then some more rain and once everyone was across the finish line the cloud eased up and the sun tried to shine.... Sixteen teams battled against the elements by giving it their all to canoe England's longest lake, cycle it's steepest pass and climb it's highest mountain and all within 12 hours!! Congratulations to all competitors, sponsors and marshals who, in spite of the wet weather, worked so hard to make this 14th year so special!



At 07.30 on Friday morning, 16 teams headed off the start line at the bottom of Lake Windermere in their bid to conquer the 14th Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge. A tranquil start on the water belied the conditions to come as teams powered their way up the lake and, in some cases, recorded some very impressive sub-two hour times....



With storm clouds brewing and adrenaline pumping, the canoe/cycle transition area was a flurry of activity as teams raced to get ready for the cycle start, with some dreading what lay ahead. The passes are some of the steepest roads in Britain and all our challengers turned 'Kings of the Mountains' and conquered this part of the event making the mountain start before the 2.00pm cut-off!



The mountain section was extremely wet and foggy with visibility down to a few feet at times. Most teams came across the finish line, however in increasingly poor weather conditions some teams' navigational skills failed them and they were instead turned back and completed a shortened course having summited Scafell Pike...

Meanwhile at the finish line the rain didn't dampen the atmosphere, with family and friends cheering on the challengers and everyone in high spirits enjoying the free bar and BBQ and remaining to cheer the last teams in.



Everyone's a winner on the Ford Ranger Great Lakeland Challenge, but special congratulations go to: Overall winners **Powered by Diesel** who won the Challenge Bowl. **Eastern Region Ford Dealers** did some phenomenal fund raising to win the Funding Bowl pledging an amazing £6000.

**Willing Fit and Able** won the Fastest Time Bowl and team **The Lost Comms** were left stroking the canoe bowl with a calm 1 hour 56 minutes; **What Were They Thinking?** rode off with the Cycle Bowl in 2 hours 27minutes and **Fat Chance** ran away with the Mountain Bowl. **Enie, Meenie, Minie and Moe** took the Veteran's Bowl with a total time of 9 hours 53 minutes. And finally **The Wheatley Rockets** sped off in the Best Dressed Vehicle having been rescued from the passes where they suffered two punctures on their team vehicle!...



Congratulations to you all, but the real winners will be the disadvantaged children and young people throughout the UK who will benefit from your amazing hard work and dedication – thank you one and all.



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# SALUTE THE SUPPORTERS...

The financial success of this event would not be possible without the support of our sponsors and volunteers. Firstly a huge thank you to **Ford Motor Company** for supplying team and marshal vehicles as well as logistical support and teams on the event. Special thanks to Mark Beal and his team for supporting the event from Head Office and Jennifer Banfield from the **Ford Event Team** for handling the vehicle logistics and Tim and Andy for their logistical support and event dressing on the day. The vehicles were once again insured free of charge by **Groupama** and we thank Neil McGovern for their continued support. Thanks to **Panavision and Audiolink** who provided the marshal communication, Peter Midwood and Paul Bennet, on and the staff at **YMCA Lakeside** who did an excellent job once again providing canoe training and safety cover on the event.

Thanks also to Nick Lancaster and Jackie Lancaster and all the staff at **The Langdale Hotel & Country Club** who provided a fabulous venue and service, to the **National Trust** for allowing us to use **Fell Foot Park, Low Wray Campsite** and **Wasdale Head**, and the Rowand family for allowing us to finish the event at **Stool End Farm**.

Last & by no means least, very special thanks to the voluntary committee and section leaders and our cheerful and willing band of marshals – we couldn't do it without you. Thank you one and all....



Please let us know if you require a copy of all of the event photos, the disk is £10.00 per disk per team. Plans are already underway for the 2011 Challenge. The date is yet to be confirmed. Please visit [www.spoonchallenges.com](http://www.spoonchallenges.com) for updates, or contact Kerry at [challenge@eventsunlimited.co.uk](mailto:challenge@eventsunlimited.co.uk) for an entry form.