

Killamunda Challenge – Shannon Reid's feedback!

Well I gotta say I really did enjoy myself at the event. Having never participated in an adventure race of any sort I wasn't sure how I would feel about the experience but apart from a few small misshaps, It was great.

I started out really well but managed to twist my ankle somewhere between Germany and Japan, though I figured I had already paid an entry fee and had my bike serviced that I may as well keep going. I finished off the first exercise and jumped on the bike for a great ride down into the valley. All was going well, found the first CP no worries, then just after climbing over the pipeline and heading west, the spider bolts in my crank gave out! My large chainring went bush, my feet came off when the chain slipped and generally it hurt a little. At least I still had my middle and small chain rings right? well due to half of the spider bolts being left in the crank and poking out I could change onto the small cog without it throwing off the chain, but at least I had the middle cog right? Well it was kinda loose due to the aforementioned bolts coming apart but channelling McGyver, I managed to jam it in place with the chewy I had been chewing at the time...

Anyway back on the road now (though without the use of some hill gears that would have been handy) I finished out the MTB section 1. After arriving at exercise 2 and seeing it was all about the equator I thought 'I know nothing of geography, let's just start at 1...' well apparently Peru is NOT on the bloody equator! But after going from there to Kenya I only had to visit 7 and not all 8 of the CP's, yay.

Back on the bike again, found four with little drama, the uphill to 5 nearly killed me but found it ok (really should have looked at all my maps here cos going to 6 the 25 year old map showed this little track heading past a place called Gungin). So after ascending and descending that nightmare of a hill, the going from there was pretty good, though owing to my slowness and mistakes I got short coursed (body is here quietly pleased...). So I cruise back to Jacoby park only to have a big stack on the MTB 200m from the finish! Fate trying to tell me something?

Anyway, on to the final exercise, orienteering, had a decent run (hobble) through the course to finish off quite a gruelling day but maybe I am a bit soft in the head) I loved every minute of it! So hopefully the body will heal soon as I would love to be there for the Killafergus to have another go and hopefully do a better job of reading the maps and what not.

Cheers for the great event.

Shannon