

Top football referee joins riders on cycling tour of area

Cyclists lined up for the 2021 Whitehead Tour de Gwent on Sunday to take on a number of demanding routes and raise funds. Reporter Dan Barnes was at the start line

PREMIER League referee Martin Atkinson was first out of the blocks when he cycled across the start line in the Whitehead Tour de Gwent in Caerleon yesterday.

Decked out in the 2021 orange event jersey, the keen cyclist was at the head of the pack as they travelled out from Caerleon School across Gwent.

Mr Atkinson, 50, who rode 1,700 miles as part of the Whistle Stop Tour from England's Training ground in Staffordshire to Kalinigrad, Russia, during the 2018 World Cup, was again raising funds in support of Newport's St David's Hospice Care.

The annual Whitehead Tour de Gwent, sponsored by Whitehead Building Services, attracts hundreds of riders and raises cash for St David's Hospice Care.

Mr Atkinson said: "The reason I am supporting St David's Hospice Care is be-

cause of the wonderful work they continue to do to support so many people. Having visited the hospice and having seen firsthand the care they offer left me humbled by just how much impact they have on people's lives."

Newport headquartered Whitehead building services managing director, Rhys Morton, who as well as sponsoring the event took part, said: "We're thrilled to be able to stage the Tour de Gwent and to have Martin's support."

Event organiser Tania Ansell, of St David's Hospice Care, said: "We were thrilled that Martin was able to find time in his extremely busy schedule to support the hospice once more. I was honoured to be on the start line with Martin to help him to get the 2021 Whitehead Tour de Gwent underway."

We'll be printing more pictures from the day in the Argus on Thursday, September 16.



PLATINUM: Martin Atkinson and Tania Ansell, of St David's Hospice Care. Pictures: Ollie Barnes



START: Tour de Gwent 2021



DIRECTION: Marshalls pointing the way in Monmouth



CHALLENGE: Coming over Chain Bridge, near Usk

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