



LADY'S WINNERS AFTER 3 STAGES: *Caroline Koptetz 1st, Christine Vardaros 2nd, Ekaterina Chugunkova 3rd*

Tour of Cyprus Challenge ends on a high

The Tour of Cyprus Challenge ended on Monday with an awards ceremony hosted by Yermasoyia's Mayor, Andreas Gavrielides and Andy Hadjivassiliou, the TOC 2013 event organiser, at the Yermasoyia Cultural Centre Amphitheatre.

More than 130 participants took part in the staged three-day event from more than 18 countries, cycling 170km over the duration of the strenuous and challenging three-day course. The organisers were delighted with the successful outcome and praised the mammoth efforts of volunteers and sponsors who helped make the event such a safe and well executed race. Hadjivassiliou, who is also the president of the Cyprus cycling organisation, Podilatokinesis, said "The planning and preparation has been worthwhile. We are delighted with the overall success of the 2013 race."

Some participants took part in the event as a fund raising challenge, others opted to cycle for one or two of the stages (the race comprised of three stages, one per day). The majority completed the entire three stages.



WELL DONE: *Overall individual winners Krzysztof Skupke 1st, Jason Vella 2nd, Marc Adam 3rd*

All set for Limassol Theatre Art School's third talent show

Limassol Theatre Arts School (LTAS) is preparing to host its third annual talent show later this month. The town's successful 'stage school for kids' is encouraging aspiring young singers, dancers, musicians and entertainers to perform in a competition showdown which will be judged by a panel of professionals.

As with previous years, a 'West End' judge will join the local professional judges to adjudicate the competition. Richard Roe, ex-dance captain for the West End production of *The Wizard of Oz* and Sweet Charity will also be holding a workshop on the morning of Sunday April 21 for all promising performers (eight - 18 years), where he will be working on sections from *The Wizard of Oz*.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to work with and be seen by a 'West End performer' said LTAS director, Lucy Georgiou.

The show will be held on Saturday April 20, 2013 and the deadline for registration is April 16.

Due to the high number of participants expected and to level the competitive playing field, the show is organised into three age categories - Juniors four to eight, Intermediates nine to 13 and Seniors 14 to 18-years-old.

To enter or to book tickets for the show, call 99784927 or contact the LTAS website on www.limasolarts.com. All competitors will have to attend a technical rehearsal in the week leading up to the competition. Lucky prize-winners will be competing for a LTAS scholarship or a recording opportunity.

In the four years since the LTAS was established, the school has grown enormously in popularity. It continues to expand its repertoire of musical theatre classes and regularly hosts visits from UK

professional artists and performers who offer master classes and workshops for the young students.

Last month, the school presented its annual show, Disney's musical 'Aladdin', and again, as every year, the successful four show run included a one-off 'closed' matinee performance for a specially invited charity audience - the charities attending included Alma,

Theotokos, Dancing Queen and Ayios Stefanos.

"The children really seemed drawn by the magic of the performance; the delight on their faces was amazing and they were all given gifts as they left.

"It's a great opportunity for our school youngsters to perform for such a loving audience," Georgiou said.

LIMASSOL NOTES

That Dunkirk Spirit

Are we there yet? Not sure if we've finally bottomed out and really hit the depths (my gut feeling is we still have a very long way to go) but however you look at it, things are tough; and they're going to get tougher still.

So, we can either moan and rant and rave, start cursing, blaming the world and its dog or we can just accept what is, make changes and get on with it...and frankly, since the outcome is not likely to change in the foreseeable future, I really don't think we have much choice.

Personally, I hope this has given everyone from the top down a really sharp wake up call. Years

of self serving, sanctimonious nepotism and burying heads in the sand (not to mention blatant corruption) has finally caught up with the lovely island and here we are. Not to worry, the sun is still shining, the sea is warming up and summer and souvla are just around the corner. Personally I have been amazed at the 'carry on re-

gardless' spirit that I am seeing as I go about my business on a daily basis. My experience of customer service has never been more positive. I've got nothing but praise for my local shop keepers and business owners who are hankering down and serving me with a smile and friendly chat. Not only that, some are even offering 'extras' and given the difficult times, very welcome this is too. Let's keep it up and see if we can't get back to that traditional, warm, friendly hospitality that Cyprus and the Cypriot people have come close to losing their golden reputation for.

As for moving with the times, have you seen how social media campaigns are helping communities get back on their feet? What a godsend. So many initiatives and new campaigns being set up and promoted on Facebook to help bring people together, to provide services, support, advice, information. Really there is an amazing boost of energy and drive on the ground from computer savvy citizens to propel us forward and inject some hope into an otherwise gloomy picture.

I feel passionately that unless we really do all come together as a community and work as a united island, the long drawn out process of coming through

this mess is going to be even longer and more painful.

Yes employers need to trim, save, protect businesses, differentiate and adapt, yes monopolistic industries need to offer realistic tariffs, loosen the noose around customers' necks, yes employees have to do even more for even less, yes families have to budget carefully and appreciate what they have, not bemoan what they don't/can't have and yes, we all have a duty to value and respect a new order. Including each other.

I hope this bleak period will really give us food for thought, literally; if I have too much, why not share with someone who doesn't have enough? Let's establish more barter trade-offs; if I can help you with a particular service or skill, maybe you can reciprocate?

It doesn't always have to be about cash money. A hot meal for someone who lives alone, car pool to save fuel among colleagues, swap clothes with friends, pool resources and ideas and get creative. If you have a garden, or a balcony, grow your own; there's a lot we can do to help ourselves and each other. No more everyone else's problem. We're in this together.



By *Andrienne Philippou*