



## **Women's cycling race saved after campaigns raise public support**

EMBARGOED: 12:00 Saturday 16 April

Sex Matters and Fair Play for Women welcome the announcement that the Women's CiCLE Classic has been saved, with an offer of a three year sponsorship deal being finalised by the race organiser.

The CiCLE Classic race was left in peril after the withdrawal of sponsorship last week in protest at British Cycling reviewing its "trans and non-binary inclusion policy".

Sex Matters and Fair Play for Women were able to step in with an immediate offer of sponsorship for one year, which meant that the race would go ahead no matter what.

Colin Clews said:

"We cannot thank enough all those who have given their support to us regarding this issue. We wish to particularly thank the joint "Sex Matters" and the "Fair play for Women" offer to make good the shortfall this year from a single source. That immediately gave us heart that come what may, the race would continue. We remain eternally grateful for this offer. "

Following multiple offers of support, and the prospect of a three year sponsorship deal, Mr Clews has opened up a crowdfunder for this year, to harness the groundswell of support from the cycling community and from those concerned with fairness and safety in women's sports more broadly.

Maya Forstater, Executive Director of Sex Matters said:

"So many women and men contacted us, and the race organiser, to say that they would support the race. We are proud that we were able to act quickly with Fair Play for Women to offer to step in as sponsors. We wish the organisers luck with the crowdfunder and hope that the funding target will quickly be reached - showing how many people are willing to stand up for fairness and safety in women's sports."

Nicola Williams, Executive Director of Fair Play for Women said:

"Women must never be punished for wanting safe and fair sporting competition. I instantly knew our supporters would want us to intervene to save this race and I'm delighted to hear the long-term future of this prestigious women's event is once again secure.

## **Notes for Editors**

The CiCLE crowdfunder can be found at: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/ciclewomens4ever>

## **Sex Matters**

Sex Matters is a human rights organisation campaigning for clarity about sex in law, policy and language.

It is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to promoting human rights and equality, particularly concerning the protected characteristic of sex (as recognised in the UK Equality Act 2010). It advocates for sporting bodies to have clear sex-based rules for participation in female sports and provided technical feedback to British Cycling on its policy.

## **Fair Play For Women**

Fair Play For Women is a campaigning and consultancy group which raises awareness, provides evidence and analysis, and works to protect the rights of women and girls in the UK.

It has earned a reputation amongst the general public, policy-makers, politicians and the media for our rational, fact-based approach and good-faith debate. It engages directly with national and international sport governing bodies to ensure women and girls are centered in discussions and policy-making on female sport.

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