

Competitor Feedback

from the Tour of the Karakurrams,
September 2006

Andy Reid

New Zealand
September 13, 2006

Hi Khurram,

Just want to personally thank you for inviting me to your event and also for your extreme generosity and hospitality while we were in Pakistan. This was without a doubt one of the best races I have ever been to; superb organisation, a great course, fantastic scenery and a really cool bunch of people, everything was perfect. Good times all round!! You and your team have got great vision and the cause is all good. You are the MAN! I will be keenly following your progress over the next months / year and hope to see you again next year. Keep in touch.

Cheers
Andy.

Anna Barbara Elsner

Germany
September 19, 2006

hi khurram,

we are save back, sorry for the problems and trouble...
my sister gota baby last night, he is very nice and so small...
i have some nice pictures, but me internet connection is so slowly,
when i have a better one, i will send you some pictures!

thank you for the great time in pakistan, i enjoyed it very much!
say hello to hassan!

take care

anna

Birgit Schnapp

Germany
September 19, 2006

Hello Khurram,

yes,we arrived good in germany after that trouble at the airport. Thank you very much again for the trip to pakistan.

I did my homework and met a jounalist of a news paper. Maybe we will have any questions the next days.

Best wishes

Birgit



Competitor Feedback



Elizabeth McCluskey

Ireland

September 11, 2006

Hi Khurram,

I'm really sorry I didn't get to say Good bye to you properly before i left Islamabad. I really was quite sick the day following the final reception. Thanks for getting me the medication and hydration salts as i don't know how i would have coped without them.

I'm only feeling totally recovered today, back in work and loving it :(

Anyhow thank you so much for a truely awesome and captivating experience in Pakistan. It really surpassed any expectations i had, and my expectations were huge :)

Your courage and vision in undertaking the school project is very inspirational and i wish you every success with it over the coming months.

I'm planning on writing an article for one of Irelands outdoor magazines so i'll send you copy when its printed.

keep up the good work,

Beth

Francis Cerny

Germany

September 13, 2006

Hi Khurram,

here I have some photos for you, as you can imagine, most are not from the race. I have much more(also from training), but I'm not sure, if you can use and need them.

These pictures here are really low resolution, just to send them to you. If you like them, I can send them in about 600kb - 700kb in bigger size and resolution. Just let me know, there are ready to send.

I'm very curious about the pictures, others send. Thank you, that you make yourself the work to collect them and show them to us. Thanks also for all the work you and others had to bring us to Pakistan and make such a great event. If I see my pictures, I enjoy it again and really want to come back... I hope, everything is going its way now and we could help you and all the children also.

Hey, let me know about the pics.

Greetz,

Francis



Francis Helling-Linthorst

The Netherlands

September 30, 2006

Dear Khurram,

Finally my reaction for saying thank you for one of the nicest experiences in my life. I'm still thinking a lot of the time in Pakistan and I tell all the people it is such a nice country. I like to sent you and Mansoor a little present. It is something for in your company for saying thank you to all the people. Can you give me your adress and the adress of Mansoor?

I spoke with a women and I told her about the race. She knows a man who's giving money for special projects in the world. The money is from a foundation. Every year they are looking for special projects. The women I told, she thinks your school-project is a good one to give the money (20000 euro) to. I will give her the site-adress and your mail-adress. Maybe you can explain a little more. Is this ok for you? I think it is worth trying.

Take care,

Francis



Competitor Feedback

Gudo Kramer

The Netherlands

September 8, 2006

Dear Khuram, Nathan,

Congratulations with a great event!!

The guys I have spoken afterwards, were all totally impressed by the environment, the devastating results of the earthquake, the people and especially the perfect organisation!! It must have been quite a job to organise things so well in that environment, with so little technical resources left. Great job!!

Just wanted to let you know this and mention that if you want more involvement from our club/team/project next year, we will certainly do what we can in communication towards the cycling community or whatever other way you would like. We can also make sure that a few more of our team riders will be present. This time that was hard, as the race doubled up with Tour of Indonesia and Asian Championships preparation.

We'll stay in touch!

Regards, Gudo

Marco Polo Cycling

Jan Hermsen

The Netherlands

September 6, 2006

Hello Khurram,

This is not a message from Bas, but from his father.

Bas just returned home after a very long flight. He will tell us a long story tonight when we visit him. The whole event, inclusive the flight to and back, made such an impression on him that he will never forget what he saw and experienced last week.

greetings

Jan

PS.

For our local newspaper I need a short article and results of the Tour of the Kurakurrans of 2006. There were two riders from our town that competed in this race.

Let's all hope that the organisation was a great succes and that the fundraising will be fruitfull. I cannot understand that in these cases of big disaster, funds are comming in so slow, even the funds from governments.

I hope the people in north-east Pakistan will not have such a cold experience as last winter!!!

Thanks in advance,
Jan Hermsen

Competitor Feedback

Joe Cruz

United States
September 14, 2006

Dear Khurram,

I have been home for a week, and while the ungentle and hasty transformation back to the appearance of a tweed coated bespectacled philosophy professor was straightforward enough, the images in my mind's eye remain in Pakistan: diesel smoke, the sounds of 'Pindi, drawn carts, broken asphalt, chipatis, breathless pedaling, truck art, tea with shopkeepers and police, children on handlebars and long dusty van rides, goatherds and indiscernible mosques and magisterial peaks, stares and suspect water, and Italian diplomats. The juxtaposition of these and a thousand more things and this glinting, deliberately bucolic New England college campus has me unbalanced and disconnected.

Naturally, the racing itself has faded a bit, and seems incidental to the power of my recent travels. The people, the kids in Naran, Murad and Naeem, some of the other racers, your thoughts on Islam, the groundbreaking ceremony, loom larger now and I welcome it. I can say with some confidence that in my conversation with other racers since we've been back, it has been revealed that our time was eye opening and importantly transformative. And for me the craving of returning grows; I look forward to getting back to see more of the place. Moreover, it was a terrific pleasure to meet you and to hang out, Khurram. I hope we get another chance to do so.

I have numerous photos that I'm keen to share. Shall I send them as attachments to an email, or might FTP'ing them be more efficient?

Yours,
Joe Cruz

Juergen Klasen

Germany
September 15, 2006

Hello Khurram,

please find hereby a ZIP of a selection of my pictures taken during this event. I hope this doesn't flood your inbox.

I reduced the size a bit, but it still is quite big ;-)))

Anyway: I still can only say "Thank you !" for that uncomparable experience and all the work that you - and the other guys - have put into the project.

The whole event for sure will last in my memories ...

All the best to you and to the success of the project.

Br,
Jürgen

Leda Cox

England
September 8, 2006

Hi Khurram,

Thanks again for a fantastic time in Pakistan. We had a great time and the racing was fantastic! and the people so kind and helpful.

I have written up about the race for several websites but I am lacking good pictures of me in the race or after so I hope to get some soon.

Hope your recovering well. Thanks

Leda

Competitor Feedback

Remko Kramer

The Netherlands

September 20, 2006

Dear Khurram, dear Nathan,

We would like to thank you guys very much for the great experience we had in Pakistan. It was a perfect event!

I am catching up with work here and try to stay a little fit for some races that are coming up. I want to write some more feedback sometime, which could be used for an eventual next event.

For now I have some suggestions for when you send out a mailing to all:

- suggest that everybody considers his personal situation and what he saw in Pakistan and offer an option to spend some money for the school.

- Let everybody check for publications (internet, magazines, television) and send them to you, so you can inform us about this. Some photos are at the www.marcopolocycling.com website.

Good luck with all the "after-work" of the event!

Say hello and thanks to all supporting people in Pakistan!

Best regards,

Francis and Remko



Rozanne Puleo

United States

September 19, 2006

Hi Khurram!

I did get home OK, I flew back on Sunday, and started my new job on Monday morning. All is well and I've already told them that I will be needing two weeks off next year at around the same time so that I can come back again!

My new job is good, but I certainly would prefer to be over there with all of you guys again. Your life must have really settled down again, huh?

I want to thank you again for such an amazing experience. When everyone asks me about my trip, they ask me what was my favorite. Most are expecting me to say that Thailand was my favorite, but I shock everyone when I say that the time I spent in Pakistan was the best part of my trip.

I have lots of pictures to share, but I have to figure out a way to send them to you without having to attach them all to an email. Maybe it would be easiest to mail you a CD? What address would I mail it to?

Talk to you soon! Tell everyone I say hello.

Roz

September 25, 2006

Hey Khurram! I hope you are well.

I raced in a large 50 mile race here in Vermont, and I ended up getting myself interviewed on the Travel Channel (which is owned by the Discovery Channel). They asked me a whole bunch of questions about general travel, and then they asked me where my favorite travel destination was. I went on and on and on about Pakistan! They said they may use my interview online, or possibly as an ad for the travel channel. I really hope they keep my bit about Pakistan. If I can get a hold of the piece, or if it ends up online, I'll pass it along. Just wanted to let you know that I am in fact sticking to my bargain of spreading good words about Pakistan! Though I never expected to get the opportunity to be interviewed by such a huge cable channel!!

Talk to you soon - Roz



Competitor Feedback



Steve Thomas

England

September 6, 2006

Hi Khurram;

Just a brief note to say thanks for everything – it was a great event and experience, and I hope it goes along way to break down barriers and boost tourism/help the school. I'm flat out trying to get images out, so am just enclosing a few low res pics for web use etc. I'll be back in 3 weeks and send cd's/larger files/

Thanks

Steve

Tim Vincent

New Zealand

September 14, 2006

Hi Khurram

First of all thanks for the great event. As with the first trip I thoroughly enjoyed my stay in Pakistan.

It was good to catch up with you again too.

It was a pity I had to rush back, I would have really liked to spend another week in Pakistan. My girlfriend (who is actually now my fiancé, we got engaged after I got back from PK and before I left for NZ) was sad that she couldn't come to PK and said she wants to come with me if I have to come back for the tourism ministry.

I have got a bunch of digital photos, (including lots of ones of trucks and busses). Do you want me to send them at full resolution or medium sized thumbnails? I could actually load them somewhere on the Tyneli website if that would be easier. I need to check but I think I have a few hundred MB of space there. I can get a graphics program to automatically make a gallery with thumbnails and full size photos.

Tim Vincent

