

Rhonde Ohop FAQ's

What kind of race is the Rhonde Ohop? The Rhonde Ohop is a Northwest-style Kermesse race. Kermesse are circuit races that incorporate dirt sections between 25 and 50% of the total race length. The races run between 1-1/2 to 2 hours.

What's a Kermesse? Kermesse literally means "fair". In Belgium it refers to short, fast circuit races run in small towns during the week. The races are often include cobbles and rough pavement. The Kermesse races held in Washington and Oregon evoke the traditional Belgian Kermesse.

Is this cyclocross? The Rhonde Ohop is not a cyclocross race: there are no barriers or run-ups. However, cyclocross riders looking for a good warm-up to the season will find the race a good mix of power and technique.

What kind of bike should I use? The Rhonde Ohop has been held five times and won on a road bike four times. Overall podiums representation is about even. The most important consideration are 25-28c tire to resist flats and a well maintained bike.

What kind of rider wins? Kermesse races are designed to favor riders who have a balance of skills: power, pack riding and technical. Riders who race both road and cyclocross have an advantage but riders who specialize in either discipline should be able to enjoy the race as well.

What if I flat? Kermesse racing is unique in that riders who flat can ride back into the group. There are three wheel pit on the course (wheels in / wheels out).

Will the pack break up? Another feature of Kermesse races is the emergence of multiple groups on the road. It is common for three to four groups to form. Getting into the right group by maintaining good position and bridging groups is part of the magic of Kermesse.