

There is still much to do...



... to keep the Paris Roubaix legend alive

The legend

Paris-Roubaix race is one of the greatest cycle races.

It's a real legend full of successes, dramas and suffering. It has been an international landmark for 110 years. The greatest champions have been honored by " la reine des classiques " and their victory in Roubaix was one of their greatest successes. The uniqueness of the Paris Roubaix comes from its route over ancient cobbled roads that confer prestige and a tough reputation on the winner.

" Les Amis de Paris-Roubaix " - Why ?

The association " les Amis de Paris-Roubaix " was created by Jean-Claude Vallaeys 25 years ago.

He first aimed at preserving enough cobbled areas to allow this race to carry on. Indeed, the systematic macademization of roads continues to threaten the event.

At that time, many people thought that the famous " Enfer du Nord " was a negative image of the region.

The situation slowly evolved thanks to the actions of the association with deputies, public authorities and the media. TV programmes allowed hundreds of millions of people to discover and share the intensity, the suspense, the madness of this race. As a result, many deputies became aware of the positive impact of the race on tourism and took part in the event which became a great popular celebration.

Today, there is no doubt that the Paris-Roubaix will continue

An everlasting legend

" Les Amis de Paris-Roubaix " have focused their efforts on 2 things .

1. The preservation and the maintenance of the famous cobbled roads. A few years ago, the association started the renovation of the most damaged or forgotten sections with the help of " le Conseil Général du Nord ", " la Région Nord / Pas-de-Calais ", the Mayors or groups of municipalities, " Amaury Sport Organisation " and of course the participation of the local schools of horticulture.

The purpose of the undertaking is to provide the organizers with hundreds of kilometers of cobbledstones so as to plan a variety of routes.

2. The emergence of " le Paris-Roubaix " as a major sporting, cultural and popular event:
The legend is made of these 3 aspects.

Many actions are performed :

- The gathering of newspaper extracts, documents and TV programmes.
- The setting-up of thematic exhibitions in various places.
- Tributes are paid to former and famous champions.
- The organization of " Days of Discovery " to visit the area.
- The participation in the " Géants du Nord " parade and the will to develop the popular impact of the event and finally the ambitious project of the creation of a museum.

Let's save and protect our heritage

We need your help

Many things have been achieved but many things are still to be done.

Our strength is our passion. Former champions, V.I.P's, public organizations, cyclists and the people who love our region are the heart of our association.

Come and join us!

You can become our spokesmen!

Important dates

1979 : Albert Bouvet (former manager of " société du Tour ") and Jean-Claude Vallaeys tell the press how important it is to preserve the route of Paris Roubaix.

1998 : " Les Amis de Paris Roubaix " work with " le Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports " (with the help of the " Ministère de l'environnement et du Tourisme ") on the maintenance of the last 50 cobbled kilometres of the race.

2001 : Launching of an enquiry on the impact of the preservation and renovation of cobbled roads on tourism, the public expenses and environment (in association with " le Conseil Général du Nord ", " le Ministère de la Jeunesse et des Sports " and the committee of " le Tour de France).

2002 : " Les Amis de Paris-Roubaix " presented a huge cobblestone (5 tons) on a pedestal to Roubaix and engraved the names of the 75 winners on the last cobbled section called " Crupelandt " and proclaimed it " la Chaussée des Géants " to commemorate the 100th race. This was made possible with the help of the town council of Roubaix.

2002 : The day before the race (april 13th, 2002), a commemorative stamp was issued . An extension of cobbled sections was made possible thanks to the help of the mayors and " les Amis de Paris-Roubaix " who cleaned the roads and restored the cobblestones of " le Moulin de Vertain " in Templeuve.

2002/2006 : Partnerships with school of horticulture of Raismes-Valenciennes, Lomme, Douai and Dunkerque, and with groups of municipalities, Amaury Sport Organisation to restore cobbled areas in Wallers, Troisvilles, Templeuve, Cysoing, Pont Thibaut, Bourghelles, Aulnoy, Famars and Haveluy.

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Founder : Jean-Claude Vallaeys

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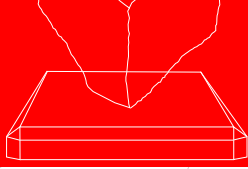
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LES AMIS DE PARIS-ROUBAIX



membership Form

name - firstname

firm or group

address

post code

Po.Box

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Town

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cell phone number

@address

Pick out the right box :

-  Member €20
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-  Town less than 2500 inhabitants €150
-  Town less than 10 000 inhabitants €300
-  Town more than 10 000 inhabitants €500
-  Town more than 25 000 inhabitants, groups of municipalities, and other groups €750

You receive your quarterly newsletter as well as the diploma, a souvenir and a mounted cobblestone: a reduction of the real one given to the winner of " Paris-Roubaix " (benefactor member, firm and company or group).

Please, send form and payment addressed to " Amis de Paris-Roubaix " to : Amis de Paris-Roubaix - Christian Prez - 129 rue Jules Guesdes - 59390 LYS LEZ LANNOY - France - christianprez.apr@numericable.fr

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