

= 2015 Tour de Yorkshire =

The 2015 Tour de Yorkshire was a cycling stage race that took place in Yorkshire in May 2015 . It was the first edition of the Tour de Yorkshire and was organised by Welcome to Yorkshire and the Amaury Sport Organisation , who also organised the Yorkshire stages of the 2014 Tour de France . The race started in Bridlington on 1 May and ended in Leeds on 3 May . It included three stages and was rated as a 2 @. @ 1 event as part of the 2015 UCI Europe Tour .

The first stage of the race was won by Lars Petter Nordhaug ( Team Sky ) in a sprint from a small group . He kept his lead through the second stage , which ended in a bunch sprint , and was able to extend it slightly in the third and final stage of the race . He won the general classification in the race by eleven seconds . Samuel Sánchez ( BMC Racing Team ) was second and Thomas Voeckler ( Team Europcar ) was third . Nordhaug also won the points classification and Team Sky won the teams classification . The mountains classification was won by Nicolas Edet ( Cofidis )

= = Race route = =

The race was first discussed publicly in July 2014 , after the first stages of the 2014 Tour de France that took place in Yorkshire . It was organised by the Amaury Sport Organisation , the organisers of the Tour de France , and Welcome to Yorkshire , who had been the organisers of the Yorkshire stages of the 2014 Tour de France . On 22 December 2014 , the start and finish locations for the event were released , these were Bridlington , Leeds , Scarborough , Selby , Wakefield and York . On 21 January 2015 , details of the three stages of the route were unveiled at the Bridlington Spa . The first two stages ( especially the second ) were expected to suit the sprinters , while the third stage was described as the " queen stage " . It included several roads and climbs that had been part of the second stage of the 2014 Tour de France between York and Sheffield . The stage was rated as a 2 @. @ 1 event .

There was also a women 's race that took place as part of the Tour de Yorkshire event . This took place on the second day of the men 's race over four laps of the 20 @- @ kilometre ( 12 mi ) route around York that was also the final part of the men 's racing that day . Lizzie Armitstead , who did not compete in the event due to a conflicting event in Europe , expressed a hope that the women 's race in future would be a three @- @ day event like the men 's race . The women 's race was won by Louse Mahé ( Ikon @- @ Mazada ) in a sprint finish .

= = Teams = =

18 teams were selected to take part in the inaugural Tour de Yorkshire . Five of these were UCI WorldTeams ; six were UCI Professional Continental teams ; six were UCI Continental teams ; one was the Great Britain national team . Teams could enter between five and eight riders . Fourteen teams selected eight riders and four teams selected seven ; 140 riders were therefore entered into the race . One rider ( Caleb Fairly of Giant ? Alpecin ) pulled out before the start , so the race began with a peloton of 139 riders .

= = Pre @- @ race expectations = =

Much of the pre @- @ race media focused on the presence of Bradley Wiggins , Britain 's first ever winner of the Tour de France , who was riding his first race for his new team , WIGGINS . Wiggins was controversially not selected for Team Sky in the previous year 's Tour de France ; the race organisers expected his presence in the Tour de Yorkshire to be one of the principal attractions for British cycling fans . Wiggins was not , however , expected to attempt to win the overall classification in the race ; his main objective was preparing for his hour record attempt in June .

Cycling Weekly expected that the race would be dominated by " punchy all @- @ rounders " . The riders expected to perform strongly over the three days included Ben Swift ( Team Sky ) , Moreno Hofland and Steven Kruijswijk ( both LottoNL ? Jumbo ) , Greg Van Avermaet ( BMC Racing Team )

, Thomas Voeckler ( Team Europcar ) and Erick Rowsell ( Madison Genesis ) . The second stage appeared most likely to end in a sprint , with Marcel Kittel ( Giant ? Alpecin ) the favourite to take victory , although he had suffered an illness and had not raced since the Tour of Qatar in February . Other prominent sprinters included Swift and Hofland , as well as Matteo Pelucchi ( IAM Cycling ) , Rick Zabel ( BMC Racing Team ) , Gerald Ciolek ( MTN ? Qhubeka ) and Steele Von Hoff ( NFTO ) .

= = Stages = =

= = = Stage 1 = = =

1 May ? Bridlington to Scarborough , 174 km ( 108 mi )

The first stage of the race began in Bridlington on the North Sea coast . The riders first travelled north @-@ east to Flamborough , where they turned to the north @-@ west . Initially this kept them along the coast , but soon took them into the North York Moors , where the first climb was the Côte de Dalby Forest . This came after 51 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 32 @.@ 0 mi ) ; the categorised portion of the climb was 0 @.@ 6 kilometres ( 0 @.@ 37 mi ) at 8 @.@ 9 % . The riders then turned to the south @-@ west and descended to Pickering , where the first intermediate sprint was positioned . The route turned north , back onto the Moors , where they reached the Côte de Rosedale Abbey after 92 kilometres ( 57 mi ) . This was the longest climb of the day : 2 @.@ 8 kilometres ( 1 @.@ 7 mi ) at 7 % . The riders continued north as far as Castleton , where they turned east . After 123 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 76 @.@ 7 mi ) , the riders climbed the Côte de Grosmont ( 0 @.@ 4 kilometres ( 0 @.@ 25 mi ) at 16 @.@ 9 % ) , then the Côte de Briggswath ( 1 @.@ 3 kilometres ( 0 @.@ 81 mi ) at 6 @.@ 2 % ) . From here , they returned to the coast at Whitby , where there was another intermediate sprint ; the riders then turned south . The final climb of the day came after 146 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 91 @.@ 0 mi ) ; it was the Côte de Robin Hood 's Bay ( 1 @.@ 5 kilometres ( 0 @.@ 93 mi ) at 10 @.@ 3 % ) . The riders then continued south to the finish line in Scarborough , doing a loop around the town before finishing on the sea front . In total the day included 2 @,@ 000 metres ( 6 @,@ 600 ft ) of climbing , although the highest point was just 350 metres ( 1 @,@ 150 ft ) above sea level . Thomas Voeckler ( Team Europcar ) described the stage as " much tougher than we thought " due to the small roads .

An initial breakaway was formed by Mark Christian ( WIGGINS ) , Loïc Chetout ( Cofidis ) , Eddie Dunbar ( NFTO ) , Mark Stewart ( Madison Genesis ) and Rasmus Quaade ( Cult Energy Pro Cycling ) . They built up a five @-@ minute lead but Team Sky chased hard ; the break 's lead was reduced to a few seconds by the Côte de Rosedale Abbey . A new breakaway was formed here by Perrig Quéméneur ( Team Europcar ) and Tim Declercq ( Topsport Vlaanderen ? Baloise ) , while Marcel Kittel ( Giant ? Alpecin ) was dropped and abandoned the race shortly afterwards . With 50 kilometres ( 31 mi ) remaining , the peloton descended into Egton in wet conditions . Team Sky were riding at the front of the peloton . Sky 's Ben Swift and Ian Boswell and NFTO 's Eddie Dunbar crashed . Dunbar suffered a broken clavicle and Swift a shoulder injury : both were forced to abandon the race .

The crucial move of the race came with 40 kilometres ( 25 mi ) remaining as the race went through Whitby . A 15 @-@ man group formed here . This was reduced to five riders on the Côte de Robin Hood ? s Bay . Philip Deignan ( Team Sky ) rode hard on the climb , with only Stéphane Rossetto ( Cofidis ) , Samuel Sánchez ( BMC Racing Team ) , Voeckler , and Deignan 's teammate Lars Petter Nordhaug able to follow him . Despite attacks on the way into Scarborough , these five riders came to the finish line together . Nordhaug won the sprint ahead of Voeckler and Rossetto . The peloton was more than a minute behind ; the sprint was won by Greg Van Avermaet ( BMC Racing Team ) .

Thanks to bonus seconds , Nordhaug led the race by four seconds ahead of Voeckler . He also led the points classification . The mountains classification was led by Quéméneur . Quéméneur was also awarded the combativity prize after the online vote : Dunbar won the vote , but was unable to receive the prize because he had been hospitalised due to his crash .

## == Stage 2 ==

2 May ? Selby to York , 174 km ( 108 mi )

The second stage of the race , which was much flatter than the first and third stages , began in Selby , North Yorkshire . The stage began with an 8 @. @ 2 @- @ kilometre ( 5 @. @ 1 mi ) neutralised section , which included a loop around the town centre ; the racing started as the riders headed east for 25 kilometres ( 16 mi ) towards Market Weighton . Here they turned south and climbed the first of the day 's two categorised climbs ; this was the Côte de North Newbald ( 1 @. @ 2 kilometres ( 0 @. @ 75 mi ) at 5 @. @ 3 % ) . The route again turned east and the riders reached Beverley after 45 kilometres ( 28 mi ) . From here the route turned north and entered the Yorkshire Wolds ; there was an intermediate sprint as the route passed through Wetwang . Immediately after the intermediate sprint came the second climb of the day , the Côte de Fimber ( 1 @. @ 1 kilometres ( 0 @. @ 68 mi ) at 6 @. @ 2 % ) . At the summit of the climb , there were 78 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 48 @. @ 8 mi ) to the finish line . The riders continued north as far as Malton , then turned south @- @ west towards York . The race concluded in York with a 20 @. @ 5 @- @ kilometre ( 12 @. @ 7 mi ) finishing circuit . The riders entered the circuit with 52 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 32 @. @ 6 mi ) to the end of the stage and rode the 11 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 7 @. @ 1 mi ) to the finishing line , where the second intermediate sprint of the day took place . They then rode two complete laps of the circuit ; the race finished with the third crossing of the finish line , after 174 kilometres ( 108 mi ) .

An early breakaway of 18 riders formed . This included Philip Deignan ( Team Sky ) , who had been in the winning break in the first stage and was 10 seconds off the race lead . The other teams in the peloton were not willing to let a breakaway that included Deignan go ; eventually he and nine others dropped back to the main peloton . Eight riders were therefore left in the lead group : Andy Tennant ( WIGGINS ) , Bert De Backer ( Giant ? Alpecin ) , Stijn Steels ( Topsport Vlaanderen ? Baloise ) , Giovanni Bernaudeau ( Team Europcar ) , Matt Brammeier ( MTN ? Qhubeka ) , Nicolas Edet ( Cofidis ) , Ivar Slik ( Team Roompot ) and Mark McNally ( Madison Genesis ) . McNally won both categorised climbs . The break 's lead was nearly seven minutes with 78 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 48 @. @ 8 mi ) remaining ; Sky and IAM Cycling began chasing hard and reduced the gap sharply ; the breakaway had less than two minutes ' lead as they entered the laps around York .

The breakaway split up ; McNally and De Backer remained alone in the lead with 11 kilometres ( 6 @. @ 8 mi ) left . McNally was voted as the day 's most combative rider through a Twitter vote , but he was unable to stay with De Backer in the final 5 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 3 @. @ 4 mi ) . De Backer continued alone ; he was briefly joined by Loic Chetout ( Cofidis ) but the pair were unable to stay away from the chasing pack . As they were caught , with 700 metres ( 2 @. @ 300 ft ) remaining , Greg Van Avermaet attacked . Although he appeared to have a lead large enough to secure the stage victory , he ran out of energy shortly before the line and was caught by the sprinters . The first of these was Moreno Hofland ( LottoNL ? Jumbo ) , who won his team 's first victory of the year , with Matteo Pelucchi ( IAM Cycling second and Ramon Sinkeldam ( Giant ? Alpecin ) third .

Because of a split in the peloton , Voeckler and Rossetto both lost six seconds . Samuel Sánchez therefore moved up into second place overall , while Nordhaug 's lead increased to ten seconds .

## == Stage 3 ==

3 May ? Wakefield to Leeds , 167 km ( 104 mi )

The third stage was the queen stage of the race and included several of the roads used in stage 2 of the 2014 Tour de France . The stage began in Wakefield , West Yorkshire , outside the city 's cathedral ; there was a neutralised lap of the city centre before the riders left the city to the south . The route passed through Sandal and reached Barnsley after 8 kilometres ( 5 @. @ 0 mi ) . Here the roads turned west and entered the Pennines . The first climb of the day came after 40 kilometres ( 25 mi ) : this was the Côte de Holmfirth ( 2 @. @ 9 kilometres ( 1 @. @ 8 mi ) at 5 @. @ 5 % ) . From here the route was twisting , though it generally travelled north as it passed to the west of Huddersfield and Halifax . The next climb , the Côte de Scapegoat Hill ( 2 @. @ 2 kilometres ( 1

@. @ 4 mi ) at 8 @. @ 3 % ) , came after 55 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 34 @. @ 5 mi ) of racing . The riders briefly left Yorkshire for the only time in the race ( the route entered Greater Manchester but immediately returned to West Yorkshire ) . The roads were hilly throughout , with barely any flat road . The next categorised climb was the Côte de Hebden Bridge ( 4 @. @ 1 kilometres ( 2 @. @ 5 mi ) at 5 @. @ 5 % ) after 95 kilometres ( 59 mi ) with the Côte de Goose Eye ( 1 @. @ 3 kilometres ( 0 @. @ 81 mi ) at 10 % ) shortly afterwards . After 129 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 80 @. @ 5 mi ) , there was an intermediate sprint in Ilkley , then the Côte de Cow and Calf ( 1 @. @ 8 kilometres ( 1 @. @ 1 mi ) at 8 % ) . At the top of the climb , there were 35 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 22 @. @ 1 mi ) to the finish line . The final categorised climb of the race , the Côte de The Chevin ( 1 @. @ 4 kilometres ( 0 @. @ 87 mi ) at 10 @. @ 3 % ) , was 24 kilometres ( 15 mi ) from the finish ; there was also a slight climb to the second intermediate sprint in Arthington . There was then a fairly flat 15 kilometres ( 9 @. @ 3 mi ) section to the finish line in Leeds , with the finish line in Roundhay Park .

The day 's main breakaway was formed by Lawson Craddock ( Giant ? Alpecin ) , Sondre Holst Enger ( IAM Cycling ) , Reinardt Janse van Rensburg ( MTN ? Qhubeka ) , Nicolas Edet ( Cofidis ) , James McLoughlin ( Madison Genesis ) , Ian Bibby ( NFTO and Rasmus Quaade ( Cult Energy Pro Cycling ) . They built a lead of around five minutes ahead of the peloton , which was led by Sky . Bibby won the first three climbs of the day ; the group then split apart on the Côte de Goose Eye . Craddock was the first to cross the summit with only Edet able to follow him . With less than 50 kilometres ( 31 mi ) to the finish line , the two riders had a lead of nearly five minutes . Edet won the next two climbs and secured victory in the mountains classification .

With 35 @. @ 5 kilometres ( 22 @. @ 1 mi ) remaining , the gap was about 90 seconds as Sky 's David López , Ian Boswell and Philip Deignan led the remaining part of the peloton . Josh Edmondson ( Great Britain ) made an unsuccessful attack from this group . On the uncategorised climb leading up to the final sprint of the day , Craddock dropped Edet and continued alone . In the peloton , Samuel Sánchez also attacked on the climb . Nordhaug followed him and won the final bonus second , putting him more than ten seconds ahead of Sánchez . Steve Cummings ( MTN ? Qhubeka ) and Steven Kruijswijk ( LottoNL ? Jumbo ) attacked together after the climb ; they too were unsuccessful . The final attack of the day came from Ben Hermans ( BMC Racing Team ) with approximately 11 kilometres ( 6 @. @ 8 mi ) to the finish line . He caught and passed Craddock 6 kilometres ( 3 @. @ 7 mi ) later ; meanwhile Sky led the group without making any particular effort to chase Hermans down .

Hermans won a solo victory ; the 17 @-@ man group was nine seconds behind . Greg Van Avermaet won the sprint for second , with Julien Simon third . Nordhaug finished in fifth to secure victory overall and in the points classification . Sky also won the teams classification . Edet won the mountains classification . The final combativity prize was won by Bibby .

= = Classifications = =

The race included three individual classifications and a team classification . The most important of these was the general classification . This was calculated by adding up each cyclist 's finishing times on each stage . Bonus seconds were awarded for top @-@ three placings in each stage ( 10 seconds for the first rider , 6 seconds for the second , 4 seconds for the third ) and for placings in intermediate sprints ( 3 seconds for the first rider , 2 seconds for the second , 1 second for the third ) . The rider with the lowest cumulative time after taking bonus seconds into account was the leader of the classification and was awarded a blue and yellow jersey . ( Blue and yellow are colours traditionally associated with Yorkshire . ) The winner of the general classification was considered the winner of the race .

The second classification was points classification . On each stage of the race , points were awarded to the top 10 riders . The winner won 15 points , with 12 for the second @-@ placed rider , 9 for the third @-@ placed rider , 7 for the sixth @-@ placed rider and then one point fewer for each place down to tenth place . Points were also awarded to the top three riders at intermediate sprints , with five points for the winner of the sprint and three , and one points for the riders in second and third places respectively . The rider with the most points was the leader of the classification and was

awarded a green jersey . There was also a mountains classification . Over the three stages , there were 13 categorised climbs . On each of these climbs , the first four riders to the summit were awarded points , with 5 for the first rider , 3 for the second , 2 for the third and 1 for the fourth . The rider with the most accumulated points was the leader of the classification and was awarded a dark pink jersey .

The final classification was a team classification . The team 's time on each was calculated by taking the best three riders from that team and adding their times together ; the team with the lowest cumulative time was the leader of the classification .

Another jersey was awarded at the end of each stage . This was a combativity prize and was to be awarded to the rider who " made the greatest effort and [ ... ] demonstrated the best qualities in terms of sportsmanship " . A jury selected a list of riders to be eligible for the prize ; the winner of the prize was then decided by a vote on Twitter . The rider was awarded a grey jersey .

= = Classification Standings = =