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**Race Reports**

**It's a wrap!**

By Pyro

So, the Raid Bimbache 2009 has now come to a close, with extremely positive comments from all the racers. Of the 26 teams who started the race 10 withdrew, 7 completed the shorter course having missed the cutoff at the rafting, and 9 went on to finish the complete race, with times ranging between 77 hours for the flying Finns of Multisport.fi up to 103 hours for the last team across the line, Sport Nature Ville-le-Grand.



The top 5 teams all spoke about their experiences as they were presented with their trophies. Rob Preston of 5th place Blackheart.com.au paid great respect to the beauty of the Castille y Leon area and in particular to the views from the high mountain sections. Blackheart had suffered problems with the kayaking and rollerskating sections, but had raced strongly for the entire week, pushing hard on the final trek to try and make time up on their southern hemisphere neighbours.

Next, Mark Collins of 4th place team McCain Adventure Addicts, talked of the extreme cold of the nights and the heat and humidity of the days. He had suffered his fair share around the route, having been called into the team at the last minute and therefore not having had the same time to train as his teammates. They return to South Africa 2000 Euros to the better.

Jacky Boisset, captain of Sport2000 Vibram took the opportunity to thank the volunteers and marshals for their dedication and attention over the course. He and his team have had a hard race, holding second position for a long time, before injuries slowed them down in the final stages.

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### Race Reports

#### It's a wrap!

By Pyro

Second place, and the most amazing recovery of the whole race, went to Team Explore. Mikael Lindnord actually walked onto the stage with a prepared speech, setting aside the question asked of him by the MC, and thanking Antonio and the organisation team for such a fantastic route and an awesome experience, high praise coming from another successful World Series race director. He also thanked his team for their strength and determination over the entire event.



The shortest speech came from the victors themselves. Janne Mononen took only a brief moment to echo the thanks of the other teams, adding that they enjoyed the course, that it was good for them to win and they were very happy about it. Their prize package includes not only a significant cash prize, but also free entry, and in some cases also flights, for CAT Columbia, Septos Cerros de Medellin and this year's [World Championship race, XPD Portugal](#).

And lastly, race director Antonio de la Rosa and Geoff Hunt, director of the Adventure Race World series took to the stage. "I had an experience during this race" said Hunt "where I realised I was sat at a cafe bar, near a checkpoint. I looked around at the group I was with, and realised there was a Portugese, a Kiwi, a South African, a French/American, an Estonian and a Brit. That got me thinking about how international this community we have is. And how great it is that teams will travel from the depths of the southern hemisphere to come to a race like this, with great terrain, a good atmosphere. It is with this in mind, and that earlier I shook hands with Antonio, and I will do it again here and now, and say that I am proud to announce that Raid Bimbache Extrem 2010 will be the Adventure Race World Championship" After very large round of applause, and a brief note of thanks to all the racers, race staff, press and Geoff himself, a very proud Antonio de la Rosa officially closed the Raid Bimbache Extrem 2009 with wise words: "Now I need a beer..."

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