



About An Post Rás

An Post Rás is an annual, eight-day, stage race around Ireland. The race is Ireland's number one cycling event and in 2012 it took place from May 20th - 27th.



2012 was the second year of An Post's sponsorship of the celebrated Rás Tailteann, which is more commonly known as The Rás. It was a special year for the race, it being the 60th edition of the Rás. The epic race began in 1953 and has been held every year since. It is one of Ireland's top sporting events bringing world class sporting action and a significant economic boost to towns and villages nationwide.

The An Post Rás has a worldwide reputation for being a grueling challenge in the elite, international calendar. The open racing style allows amateur, county and club riders to pit themselves against domestic and international professionals.

The 2012 race year got underway in Dunboyne, Co. Meath. It moved clockwise around the country, and included stage finishes in Kilkenny, Gort, Westport, Bundoran, Buncrana, Killybegs and Cootehill, before concluding with the customary crowd-thronged finale in Skerries, North County Dublin.

The route covered 1168 kilometres with 28 categorised climbs, including three of the country's most challenging ascents.

The first ever Rás was won by Colm Christle from Ireland. The man with the most Rás wins is Se O'Hanlon also from Ireland, while Nicolas Baldo from France won the 2012 An Post Rás. Riders from Ireland have won the Rás on 42 occasions, the United Kingdom is next on the leaderboard with 7 Rás wins followed by the Soviet Union with 3. Riders from Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland and Sweden have all won once.





An Post Rás

- What was the average daily distance in kilometers traveled by riders in the 2012 An Post Rás?
- What was the daily mean number of categorised climbs during the An Post Rás?
- Stage one of the 2012 An Post Rás was 147km, stage two was 158km, stage three was 145km, stage four was 135km, stage five was 149km, stage six was 134km, stage seven was 141km and stage eight was 145km. What is the range of stage distances?
- What number of stage distances were above the daily average?
- What percentage of stage distances were below the daily average?
- Throughout the history of the Rás, what is the ratio of Irish winners to international winners?
- Throughout the history of the Rás many countries have been represented and many different nationalities have won the Rás. Draw a bar chart that represents Rás winners nationalities.
- Draw a pie chart representing the nationalities of Rás winners in the past 10 years:
 2012 – France, 2011 – Lithuania, 2010 – Sweden, 2009 – United Kingdom, 2008 – Ireland, 2007 – Germany, 2006 – United Kingdom, 2005 – United Kingdom, 2004 – Ireland, 2003 – United Kingdom.

Suggested Homework Activities:

- 1) Imagine you are commentating on the An Post Rás. Write a script that includes statistics that you think the audience will be interested in.
- 2) The winning time for stage 1 of the An Post Rás was 3 hours and 9 minutes. What was the average speed in kilometers per hour of Marcin Bialobloki, the stage winner?
- 3) Log onto the website www.anpostras.ie. Find the range of winning times of each stage of the An Post Rás.
 Which stage was completed in the shortest time?
 Which stage was completed in the longest time?

