

This morning, Fátima Blázquez and councillor of sport Sergio Jiménez met before an audience in the plenary hall of the Formentera Council to unveil details related to Formentera Tracks 2015. Set to take place 22 February, the mountain bike trial proposes two different courses: one 90-km long and the other 50.

“Congratulations are in order to the event's organisers; passing the 200-participant mark the very first year is no small feat,” related Councillor Jiménez, who continued by describing the Formentera Tracks race as “a brilliant idea that brings together competitive sportsmen and cycling enthusiasts”.

Blázquez, who organised the event, explained the first half of the two-tier itinerary: “The 90-km portion begins in La Savina and continues counterclockwise along a route similar to the one used in the Formentera to Round trial”. Blázquez gushed about what she called “a perfect backdrop on Formentera”, saying: “The trial provides more than just ocean views – it delves into woods and cuts across the island's interior as well”. The circuit also jumps up to La Mola on two separate occasions, while Illetes, whose sandy shores were deemed too tedious by organisers, is avoided altogether.

Next, Blázquez described the second course – a 50-km jaunt that starts in Sant Francesc – as “ideal for anyone interested in a little more tranquility”. As of yesterday the total number of registered cyclists had reached 205 – one hundred forty-five for the long trial and sixty for the shorter one. The majority hail from Formentera and Eivissa though some 35 will make the trip from mainland Spain.

Blázquez thanked the Formentera Council, the Baleària maritime transport company and local businesses in Formentera for their support organising the event. She singled out Frufor, which will provide cyclists with food after the race, and Can Coixet, which will provide pasta, although she indicated that these two companies had not been alone. “All this help meant that no one sponsor got stuck footing too large a portion, which made for participation that was more widespread”.