



Edenglen Cycling Club – History

The story of **Team Edenglen** Cycling Club began in 2001, during a period of significant change in South Africa's fitness industry. Following the collapse of the Health & Racquet clubs, Virgin Active acquired the gyms and rebranded them across the country. What started as a group of enthusiastic cyclists in the front row of the Tuesday night spinning class would soon become one of the most respected and close-knit cycling clubs on the East Rand.

A handful of regulars Sandi Goddard, Vim Govender, Ian Py, and Colette Erasmus and Ozzie Ferreira shared a common goal. These initial members wanted to move beyond indoor training and prepare for one of Johannesburg's premier cycling events, the 947 Cycle Challenge. From that shared ambition, the Virgin Active Cycling Club was born. We went all over in the early days, competing in Mauritius, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. Vim was a novice yet completed the Tour de Lesotho which is on par with a Tour de France mountain stage.

As the group spent more time on the road, new friendships were formed. During one of these rides, we met Mike Hobson, Riaan Grobbelaar, Kevin Bilson, Eddie Bevan, Tony Klette, and the riders of the Vermooten Coffee Club. It quickly became apparent that both groups shared the same passion for cycling, friendship, and enjoying every ride. Before long, the decision was made to merge the two clubs, creating a larger and even stronger cycling community. So Team Edenglen was born.

From the very beginning, the club was built on more than simply riding bicycles. It was founded on friendship, camaraderie, and a spirit that welcomed everyone. Even when the club had only fifteen members, we proudly hosted a tent at the 947 Cycle Challenge. Team Edenglen soon earned a reputation, not only for their riding, but also for their legendary post-race celebrations. It became almost tradition that they would be the last club remaining at the race village, often needing to be politely asked to pack up and head home. In addition to this point, Edenglen Cycling club, is the only Club to have won the 947 Cycle Challenge, thanks to Brandon Downes.

By 2005, the club had grown to around forty members, a remarkable achievement in just a few short years. Many of those early members remain an integral part of the club today. Riders such as Warren Boyce, Denton Claassens, Tony Klette, Riaan Grobbelaar, and Tyronne Voller have continued to embody the values on which the club was founded, providing continuity and inspiring newer generations of cyclists.

As membership expanded, so too did the club's traditions. The first organised annual club ride was the Bela Bela Ride, held every January. It became an important training ride as members prepared for the major races leading up to the Cape Argus Cycle Tour. These out rides were more than building fitness, they strengthened friendships, created lifelong memories, and reinforced the club's culture of riding together.

The club also introduced the famous **Boerewors Koning** Club Championship, a competition that combined friendly rivalry with plenty of humour. While riders competed for bragging rights, the event reflected the club's belief that cycling should always remain enjoyable and inclusive.

Another tradition soon followed, the **Polar Bear Ride**, held annually in mid-June. Scheduled to coincide with the Comrades Marathon, the ride pays tribute to the incredible endurance and determination of those tackling South Africa's iconic ultramarathon. It has become another fixture on the club calendar, members riding together during the coldest day of the year according to a few members.

As a true community-based cycling club, Team Edenglen has always believed that its responsibility extends beyond the roads we ride. Over the years, the club has proudly supported local charities, including **Little Eden**, helping to make a positive difference within the community. The club has also played a significant role in improving cyclist safety across the East Rand. Through the efforts of its members and supporters, Team Edenglen was instrumental in the installation of **40 W309 "Caution Cyclists"** warning signs along popular cycling routes. More than two decades later, many of these signs are still visible, serving as a lasting reminder of the club's commitment to making the roads safer for every cyclist.

Over the years, Team Edenglen Cycling Club has evolved from a small training group into a thriving cycling family. Thousands of kilometres have been ridden together, countless races completed, and friendships forged that extend far beyond the bike. Members have celebrated personal achievements, supported one another through difficult times, and welcomed newcomers with the same warmth that characterised the club's earliest days.

While bicycles may have brought everyone together, it is the people who have kept the club strong. The spirit of generosity, mutual respect, laughter, and friendship has always defined Team Edenglen. Every ride is an opportunity to encourage one another, every event strengthens the bonds between members, and every new cyclist becomes part of a much larger family.

Today, more than two decades after those Tuesday evening spin classes first inspired a small group of cyclists, the club continues to thrive. Its history is not measured simply by races won or kilometres ridden, but by the friendships created, the traditions established, the communities it has served, and the unwavering sense of camaraderie that has remained its hallmark since 2001.

Team Edenglen has never been just a cycling club. It is a community, a family, and a place where the journey has always been just as important as the destination.