

New safe way of handing over bottles in the Tour de France

Riders that collect their bottles in a safe way. This is takes place for the very first time in the "Tour de France" thanks to the GIFFID®, an instrument which is developed by the Dutch company: Head First cycling innovations (HFCI). GIFFID® is launched in the Tour de France in the team of Vacansoleil-DCM.

How does it work?

The rider takes the bottle out of the GIFFID®. Therefore the timing at the moment of releasing the bottle by the person who hands it over to the rider is taken out of the equation. That is safe and reduces the risk of dropping the bottle. This prevents the rider from missing a bottle on vital moments in the race and not being able to perform with optimal result.

Why was the GIFFID® invented?

Ton Kueter from HFCI: 'The idea of the GIFFID® arose during the accident of Fabian Cancellara on April 1st 2012. Also we noticed that a considerable number of bottles fell on the road when they were handed over to the riders. This also occurred during the Rotterdam Marathon in 2012. Due to this riders and runners missed their bottle at vital moments in the race. Also there was an increased risk of collisions due to the bottles that fell on the road. Industrial designer Arnold Jager from HFCI: 'We wanted to solve this problem. We immediately started sketching and we have intensively built and tested prototypes with different materials and different constructions. In the early stage of development we contacted the targeted customers. For example I rang Lieuwe Westra's doorbell on a Tuesday afternoon and asked him if he wanted to test our product. He agreed to test our first prototype. At first we were somewhat surprised that such a simple solution did not yet exist. Just the type of product to apply an invention patent for, so we immediately did that!'

The benefits:

- an increased grabbing surface
- extended reach by 30 centimeters
- reduced risk of dropping the bottle because the bottle stays in the GIFFID® if the rider misses the bottle

The GIFFID®-bag

The GIFFID®-system is a unique tool for people who hand the riders their bottles. The GIFFID®-bag is tied up round the waist. After that the bottles including the GIFFIDs are placed in the designated compartments inside the GIFFID-bag. The bag also provides the opportunity to include cold packs or hot packs in order to keep the bottles at the right temperature. The bottles are handed over to the rider from the GIFFID®. The GIFFID®-bag is made with the heart and by hand in The Netherlands.

The benefits:

- both hands can be used for handing over the bottles
- more bottles can be handed over to the riders successfully
- the bottles can be kept at the right temperature due to the hot packs and cold packs

- *******note for the press not for publication*******

Do you want more information? Don't hesitate to call us at +31624218714 or visit our website: www.hfci.nl