



Alice Cobb, Professional Cyclist, Lares Waowdeals

"Given the circumstances of the lead up to this race, it will feel very momentous for me to be on the start line making my Women's WorldTour debut on home soil," said Cobb, who studied at the University of Warwick, which again is on the route of the Warwickshire stage on Friday 9 June.

"To think about how far I've come in a year – from hunching over textbooks to lining up alongside the world's best female cyclists – feels pretty special. It definitely makes all the hours on the turbo worthwhile!"

"I'd like to hope that it will suit me more because I do tend to prefer the longer and hillier stage races. Bizarrely the 'harder' the race the more I enjoy it so I'm really looking forward to getting stuck into the Tour."

"I'm sure the rolling terrain and punchy hills of Warwickshire and Derbyshire will make for tough and attritional racing which will be great for spectators and should set up a good general classification battle."

Elisa Longo Borghini, Professional Cyclist, WiggleHIGH5

"I'm really looking forward to the OVO Energy Women's Tour because it looks like a great race. It looks very hard as well, and also spectacular with the finish in London. I'm very curious to see how it will be, and how the race will be held."

"It's also very nice to race in the UK, because the crowd is very cheerful, and it's very nice to be there."

"Finally I'm healthy again, because I've been through some bad weeks; from Amstel on. I took one week off, then I started building up again. I feel fine now, and hopefully I can be in good shape for the Women's Tour. I will try to work very well with my team, and I'm pretty sure we can achieve good results."

"Jolien will be there, and there are some stages where she can be strong. Giorgia will be very active as always; we also have Audrey and Emilia there, and they are super strong. Claudia looks very good, because I've been in altitude with her, and she was very strong."

"So I'm very confident in the team."

Floortje Mackaij, Professional Cyclist, Team Sunweb

"I am really looking forward to racing in the UK. The OVO Energy Women's Tour is always a really nice race with a very strong field of riders and the parcours are really challenging. We start with a strong team so hopefully we can get a good result together. It's always nice to be in the UK, there are always a lot of supporters"





and they are super enthusiastic about cycling which is brilliant. Having so many people out on the road to support is a great feeling."

Graeme Herd, Director Sportif, Team WNT

"We're really happy to be making our debut in the OVO Energy Women's Tour. It's one of the major events on the women's cycling calendar and has been a priority on our calendar since we were fortunate enough to be invited. We hope to have positive impact on the race in what is sure to be a field packed with the best riders in the world"

Hannah Barnes, Professional Cyclist, Canyon // SRAM

"I am really looking forward to racing on home roads and seeing familiar faces. It's special to have the support, especially from family and friends that don't get to see me race very often and see for themselves the excitement around the racing. This is a great race on the calendar to be at."

"The stages are long and the routes are hard so it will be critical to stay well-fuelled and hydrated for the five days. I had a small break after Tour de Yorkshire and then started to rebuild. I had one week altitude in Park City in USA, then raced the Amgen Tour of California and followed that with a hard training week in California."

"All of the stages add a different dimension, but I believe with the team we are taking we can do well in the longer more rolling days. For me personally, I am confident to get over the QOM's in a small group and follow it with a good result."

"The first day is long and the terrain is challenging. Everyone will be fresh and excited to get racing. The stages are long so it will be important to conserve as much energy as possible in the earlier stages. The finish is the same as the previous two editions so the riders will know what to expect and will even recognise some of the roads."

"Stage 2 will likely split on Gun Hill because there is only 25km to the finish. Sprinters and their teams will have to work hard to make it over the top of the climb or chase back in time for the finale. The British roads are notorious for being grippy which makes the effort of racing a lot harder. This stage has the sort of terrain a small group can get away when the pressure is on and potential go to the line if the composition of riders and teams are right. This one will be exciting to watch!"

"Stage 3 could be a large group coming to line but with both QOM's coming in the final 40km I think it's more a stage for the opportunist. Edge Hill (1.1km at 9.5%) and Burton Dassett (600m at 9%) come within 10km of each other. It could be the day where the races QOM is decided."

"Stage 4 looks really hard. If the GC hasn't already been decided then this stage is perfect for teams to be aggressive and create pressure for the GC contenders. There aren't many hard climbs in the final 70km but





with the roads being heavy and now coming into the end of the tour, I predict there will be small groups coming to the line in Chesterfield."

"The final stage in London will be really exciting! The crowds are always great and the course has a lot of corners plus some hairpins so it will be explosive and with the stage being shorter than the previous days it will be more intense and a great finale to the tour."

Hannah Walker, Professional Cyclist Team WNT

On Stage Two... "It's a great stage. It looks really hard but it will be exciting and it will be great for the crowds to come out and watch."

Hugh Roberts, Chief Executive of race organisers SweetSpot Group

"We have a fantastic field of the world's best teams, a testing route with an iconic finale in the heart of the world's foremost city and a very important and entirely fitting partnership with Breast Cancer Care. After three editions The OVO Energy Women's Tour continues to grow and go from strength-to-strength."

"We are delighted to be at the start of what we anticipate to be a long and exciting partnership with OVO Energy. The Women's Tour and The Tour of Britain are leading events within the world calendar and the partnership with OVO Energy will enable these events to continue to grow, engaging more fans and communities."

"With a mission of being better for everyone and a passion for innovation and sustainable energy, there is a natural fit with cycling and our events. This year's OVO Energy Women's Tour be a fantastic race and we are really excited to be working with the OVO Energy team to make them the best yet."

Jolien d'Hoore, Professional Cyclist, WiggleHIGH5

"I've done it now two times. Last year was a bit harder for me than two years ago, but it's really fun racing and there are a lot of crowds and a good atmosphere. The courses are always really tough, but that makes it good racing as well."

"I always look forward to racing in the UK. In Yorkshire it was incredible; so many people were cheering or us, and I think it will be the same for the Women's Tour I think."

"We have to see. We also have Giorgia there, so we are there with two sprinters. I'm especially looking forward to the first stage; the finish is in Kettering, and we had the finish there also last year. I know how it is, and I think it can be a sprint with a big group."

"So I'm just looking forward to the first stage, and then we'll see how it'll go with the team."





Katie Archibald, Professional Cyclist for Team WNT

“The race being hosted by London is a fantastic opportunity for women’s cycling and shows how far the sport has grown over the past couple of years.”

“I’m excited but also nervous about the opportunity to ride the OVO Energy Women’s Tour since it’s one of the most competitive stage races on the women’s UCI calendar. Riding for Team WNT I hope to make an impact on the road scene after a change of focus from an enjoyable track season in 2016.”

“The parts we’ve seen so far have been really nice, there’s lots of really narrow twisting roads, and I think that’s going to be one of the hardest things to manoeuvre so I’m glad we’ve been able to see it.

“There’s lots of rolling roads around it so I think in terms of marking things for where’s it going to go, the Queen of the Mountains are certainly important, but I think there’s going to be some other key moments for attacks throughout.”

Lisa Brennauer, Professional Cyclist, Canyon//SRAM Racing

“I’m looking forward to returning to the Women’s Tour; there is always a great buzz around the race. Now with a new title sponsor, OVO Energy, it will be great to see it become even bigger.”

Lydia Boylan, Irish Champion, Team WNT

“It’s pretty relentless so far what we’ve seen. I think it’s quite difficult, it’s up and down most of the time, and there’s usually one or two punchy climbs throughout, and that will really test the field out so I think it’s going to be a hard stage, just like every day on the Tour so I’m looking forward to it.”

Mick Bennett, Race Director

“We’re delighted to have the opportunity to bring the OVO Energy Women’s Tour into the city centre. Having the race finish in London on such an iconic circuit, takes the event to another level providing the ultimate platform for women’s sport.”

“Having the Mayor of London invite us to London for the final stage of The OVO Energy Women’s Tour shows the status of the event, that just three years on from its creation it can be a part of the UCI Women’s WorldTour and feature all of the world’s top 15 teams. This year’s route will combine testing climbs and beautiful scenery in the heart of England with the London finish, which will be an undoubted highlight of the sporting calendar.

“Counties such as Northamptonshire, Warwickshire and Derbyshire have embraced The OVO Energy Women’s Tour, so this year’s edition will see yet more of the huge roadside crowds cheering on the world’s best.”





"We're absolutely thrilled to be returning to Warwickshire again in 2017. The stunning countryside in the county is perfect for lots of exciting racing and we're sure the world's best riders will put on quite a show for all the thousands of spectators that come out to support"

Rosella Ratto, Professional Cyclist, Cylance Pro Cycling

"The OVO Energy Women's Tour is going to be really hard, the stages are very long and on roads where tactics and position is important, but at the same time it is one of the most beautiful races for the crowd and the good organisation. I just wish to be a protagonist and help some of my teammates hopefully winning,"

