

departed for Greyton, a short stage of (only) 73 km with an ascent of (only) 1 976 m. This was followed the next day by a circular route in and around Greyton, covering some 114 km with an ascent of 2 202 m.

After spending two nights in picturesque Greyton, the show departed for Oak Valley in the Grabouw region, in the process covering some 111 km with a total of ascent 2 233 m. The penultimate stage consisted of a circular route in and around Grabouw, covering some 86 km with a total of 1 546 m of climbing.

The team's fortune almost changed on the night of the penultimate stage. Allen seems to recall having said to Barto on the evening preceding the ultimate stage: 'Go

break a leg.' On an improbable and unreasonable interpretation of this good wish, Barto applied it literally and (on his version), slipped down a slope and twisted his ankle on his way to his tent. The next morning, Allen awoke to find Barto in full battle dress on his way to the medical tent. The medical personnel quickly diagnosed a 'sprained ankle' and sent him on his merry way to the start of the final stage with a handful of painkillers and a strapped up ankle.

The final stage of 60 km, with ascent of 1 760 m, took riders from Oak Valley over the historic Gamtou Pass to the Lourensford in Somerset West for a picnic on the lawns of the wine estate, and a reunion with supporters and family. Back in Pretoria, Barto

had X-rays taken of his ankle, where it was established that he had a fracture of the fibula, which required surgery. Today Barto is wrapped in steel sheeting and pins. Had it not been for the initial misdiagnosis, Team TwoBar would probably not have been allowed to finish the race. It took determination to finish it with a fractured ankle!

The members of Team TwoBar would like to express their gratitude towards their instructing attorneys, who patiently awaited the return of their briefs until after the event; their spouses for putting their family life on hold; the organisers for hosting this prize event; and the timekeepers for waiting patiently for Team TwoBar to finish each stage just before official cut-off. 



Barto du Plessis (left) and Allen Liversage after stage six of the ABSA Epic Mountain Bike Race.

IBA's annual conference

The International Bar Association's 2009 Annual Conference in Madrid will take place from 4 -9 October 2009.

In addition to more than 150 working sessions covering all areas of practice and addressing current industry-wide issues, three outstanding showcase sessions will be presented this year, of great interest to lawyers of all disciplines:

- The *IBA Legal Practice Division* will discuss critical issues related to the financial crisis, based on work done by the recently appointed Presidential Task Force, with recognised experts from various fields providing the most current information from their perspective.

- The *IBA Public and Professional Interest Division* will examine ethical and practical issues relating to the handling of money in the course of your practice.
- The *IBA Human Rights Institute* will look closely at striking the balance between national security and protection of fundamental rights in the fight against terrorism, as handled in the European Courts.
- Additionally the *Rule of Law Symposium* on Friday 9 October will present a variety of distinguished speakers and interactively discuss the rule of law around the world and how best to promote adherence to its principles.

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