

Paul Sherwen

Paul Sherwen, who died from heart failure in December 2018, lived most of his life in Africa, but earned his reputation as a professional cyclist and a cycling commentator, by working and racing in Great Britain, Europe, the United States and Australia.

His first club in Britain was the Weaver Valley CC in Cheshire and after a very successful period he moved to the Altrincham RC, where, at 19, he won the season-long Star Trophy and major one-day events including the Manx International, the the Pernod Grand Prix and the following year, the Folkestone-London.

Invited to join the famed ACBB, Paris-based club in 1977, Sherwen had such a successful year, he turned professional for Fiat and rode his first Tour de France in 1978. Leaving Fiat at the end of the 1979 season, Sherwen joined the newly-formed La Redoute team, where he stayed until he retired from European racing at the end of 1985, having ridden seven Tours. Although he never won many races he fitted in well as a super domestique for his two teams in Europe.

A fluent French and Swahili speaker, he became a noted rider in Europe and always in demand by his team because of his ability to lift the morale of his team mates when the going got tough. Sherwen was a hard man of the sport, never wearing gloves on the coldest of days, and always earning the praise of his team.

In 1985, Paul was invited to join Phil Liggett as a co-commentator on television and although he rode for Raleigh-Banana during the 1986 and 87 seasons winning the National Road Race and National Criterium Championships he had begun a career in television alongside Liggett. The partnership lasted for the next 33 years, making it the longest-running in any sport around the World, until Paul's unexpected death in 2018.

Date: 12th February 2020

Phil Liggett
for Paul