



Susan interviewing Becky Durrell about a women's Tour de France

Susan: The Tour de France is starting with four stages in Brittany.

Becky: The Tour de France is like a cycling pilgrimage really, so many people travel to it, to come and spectate and I'd love to be there but unfortunately not. But I'll definitely be watching on the TV and seeing how they get on.

Susan: I've heard that a lot of people are really hoping that there'll be a women's Tour de France, even as soon as 2022. How do you think about that?

Becky: Yes. It's quite a controversial subject within the women's cycling world actually because there are kind of two trends of thought with it with the women's Tour de France. I believe there used to be a women's Tour de France quite a while ago and then that got taken away. Now the argument is that there is so much effort put into organising the men's it wouldn't actually be too difficult to have a women's stage before or after the men's race on that day. Logistically, in women's sport in general it's not only cycling it's with the sport, you know in every different discipline. One of the most essential things that a team needs is coverage on television and it's because that's how sponsors get their name out, that's how the team gets their money to be able to race and pay riders and have a full race program. So obviously with the Tour de France being such a hugely broadcast race all over the world, and it's not just cyclists who watch it, it's all sport lovers who watch the Tour de France. It's a pinnacle of endurance sport. That's why there is so much of a movement at the moment to get a women's race involved because it would just boost the women's cycling world so much just with the visibility and also, women's cycling has got such a different dynamic. It's very exciting, it's very unpredictable, it's shorter so it's good to view for the whole race. So that's another reason why a lot of people think it would work very well. The other train of thought that some people argue is well, why should the women kind of just pin onto the men's race and it almost risks becoming a bit of a sideshow to the men's race. Why can't the women have a stand-alone, like three-week Grand Tour race like the Tour de France but not the Tour de France. And why don't we invest in that instead and then build a race of its own which that has its own pros and cons as well. So, it's a tough one really and I personally think a women's Tour de France would be brilliant and it would be the way to go and it's such a compact form for young people to watch and so that young girl can watch the TV and see women racing out there and that becomes normal. And they think, oh I want to do that one day, I want to become a sportswoman whereas, but certainly when I was a child most of the time when I watched cycling on television it was all men and you think well, that will never really happen to me, I'm not a man. So I think it is moving for the better, definitely, and hopefully it will become a women's Tour de France. Fingers crossed.



Susan: Hmm.

Becky: So yeah that's a very long winded answer, unfortunately, but ...

Susan: Well, thank you very much.

Becky: You're welcome. Thanks.