

## Witham Wheelers Sportives - 2008

To help celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year the club will be holding a number of social sportive style club runs across various locations across the Midlands and Yorkshire. Planned dates are as below: -

1. Sunday 20 April 2008 - Echo Challenge
2. Sunday 18 May 2008 – Tour of the Lincolnshire Wold's
3. Sunday 15 June 2008 – Tour of the Peaks
4. Sunday 6 July 2008 – Tour of the Yorkshire Dale's

Each ride will be approximately 100 miles in distance and will become progressively more difficult as fitness and endurance improve throughout the season.

The rides are intended to be social and not a race and there will be regular food stops at prescribed times. It is intended to run one group at an average 16-17mph but, depending on interest, there may be scope to run a slower group at 13-14mph.

Whilst each sportive is designed to be challenging and an individual challenge for each rider the motto will be 'no-one gets left behind' and the challenge should be seen as a group challenge so that everyone at least arrives at the last food stop together. This needs to be viewed as a series of social rides for the club rather than training rides for individuals. If you want a competitive training ride it is probably better that you go and do your own thing.

It is intended to run a support vehicle which will be in phone contact with the group leader and this will be available for riders to take spares, clothing, food and drink, as well as acting as first aid vehicle and broom wagon.

The rides will be planned so there will be set stop times at approximately 25 miles, 50 miles and 75 miles for refuelling. Other than the Ashwell café stop at 75 miles, the rest stops may not be at café's so riders will need to bring their own food and drink along, although the support vehicle can carry these. Start times will be staggered if there are two groups, with the slower group going off an hour before the faster group.

It is intended to make a small charge, to cover the cost of fuel for the support vehicle and some basic provisions, for the rides and this will be as follows:-

Juniors	FREE
Others	£5

## Sunday 20 April 2008 – Echo Challenge

This ride of approximately 100 miles will start and end at the Cricket club ground on Gorse Lane.

A full map of the route is attached and this will be ridden in a clockwise direction.

The start time for the main group will be 8am and the route will initially take the riders to Little Ponton, Old Somerby and Ropsley before heading south to Grimsthorpe, Swinstead and Pickworth on the '50' course where the first (roadside) rest and refuelling (R & R) will be taken.

Under the A1 and then heading down to Edith Weston, North and South Luffenham and through (several times) the arches of the impressive Haringworth viaduct. Rockingham (Rockingham Forest café may be open) will be the site of the second R & R stop.

The third quarter of the ride is probably the toughest and takes us from Rockingham to Ashwell via Hallaton and Launde Abbey (watch out for the sheep) and what will be a welcome main café stop at Ashwell.

Phil Etches has planned the route so the final quarter of the ride has a sting in the tail (well it is a challenge) and this takes us from Ashwell up to Wymondham and onto Garthorpe and Waltham before heading onto Eastwell and home through Knipton and Denton.

Arrival time back at the Cricket club ground is anticipated to be between 3pm and 4pm, obviously depending on average speed, length of R & R stops and any repair stops etc. It is hoped that the club will be able to lay on some refreshments and we can all help Phil Etches celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, which is the day before the ride.

Please confirm your interest in riding the above to Phil Atherton at 'phil.ath@talk21.com' or let him know when you are out an about.