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TANDEM CLUB EASTER 2016 RALLY at AVON TYRRELL

WELCOME TO THE TANDEM CLUB WESSEX REGION

ROUTE SHEET INFORMATION AND DIRECTIONS

The rally routes have been ridden and prepared by John and Sheila Ward.

If you have any queries about any of the routes please contact us:

Before the rally - e-mail: cyclingnewforest@gmail.com

During the rally - phone: 07549 643784

Before anything else please read the following important points about cycling in the New Forest:

- Animals roam freely and can be unpredictable in their behaviour.
- Foals, in particular, are likely to cross the road suddenly.
- At Easter there will be quite a few motorised tourists and, if they are staring at the ponies, they can be just as unpredictable.
- There are quite a lot of cattle grids, which can be slippery in wet weather.
- Horse riding and carriage driving (Pony and Trap) is an everyday part of New Forest life. Please slow down and make your presence known when passing or overtaking. Calling out is a good way to attract attention because horses are used to the human voice.
- Off-road cycling in the Forest is allowed on designated car-free gravel forest roads. Walkers wanting to enjoy the landscape, including family groups with young children, also use these roads. Please do not cycle elsewhere on the open forest, because the fragile habitat is easily damaged.

There are 13 main landscapes within the New Forest:

1. Ancient and Ornamental woodland, which naturally regenerates itself – mostly oak and beech with a holly understorey
2. Inclosures with softwood grown for timber
3. Inclosures, with mature trees, which have been thrown open to animal grazing
4. Hardwood inclosures on a long (100+ years) rotation
5. Dry and wet heathland
6. Forest lawns, which are extensive areas of grazed grass
7. Manorial waste and commons, mostly in the north of the Forest
8. Large Estates managed for agriculture and forestry
9. Enclosed pasture, formerly used in conjunction with open forest grazing but increasingly lost to recreational horse keeping
10. Flashy rivers draining to the Avon Valley and Solent
11. Valley mires and bogs – the most extensive system remaining in Europe
12. Open Solent coast
13. Coastal saltmarsh – the most extensive remaining in southern Britain

The long and medium routes have been designed so that in the course of the rally you will have a chance to see something of all of these, as well as visiting towns and villages and, of course, cafés.

Most of your cycling will be within the Perambulation of the New Forest, which is the area within the jurisdiction of the Verderers Court, who are responsible for regulating commoning. Within the Perambulation animals roam freely and can graze the roadside verges (apart from fenced main roads) as well as the forest itself. Roads out of the Perambulation have been gridded since the 1960s. Until then animals could stray, sometimes as far as Lymington and Christchurch, or even Southampton City. All of the Perambulation is within the New Forest National Park.

All of the routes are on public highway, apart from some short route options using Forest gravel roads. These are clearly indicated on the appropriate route sheet(s). The short section of Ancient Highway on the route back from Lymington is closed to motorised vehicles.

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Route Sheet Direction Abbreviations:

L = Left

O = Roundabout

R = Right

mini-O = Mini roundabout

SO = Straight on

CG = Cattlegrid

X = Cross roads

TLs = Traffic Lights

T = Tee junction

Immed = immediately

Sp = Signpost

Direction instructions prior to a café are shown in **bold**

Road names are only given when there is a visible street name sign (although some are more obvious than others).

Route sheets are available in miles or km versions, but they do not have both on the same route sheet. All routes were ridden in kms and converted to miles.

Left column is instruction-to-instruction distance

Right column is cumulative distance

In addition to the rally routes, there are Audax New Forest Permanent Events covering 100km, 160km, 200km and 300km. Their routes all go through Burley. For further information contact John Ward.

If you would prefer to cycle in a led group, there will be the option to join a led medium-pace version of that day's **Medium Distance** route. These will be led by tandem couples from the Wessex Region of the Tandem Club, starting at:

09:30 am on Saturday, **10:00 am** on Sunday, and **10:30 am** on Friday & Monday.

Rally Routes:

Friday 25th

SHORT 30km (19miles): River Avon flood plain and Burley

MEDIUM 60km (37miles): River Avon flood plain, Burley and Brockenhurst

Saturday 26th

SHORT 44km (27miles): Central Forest, Lymington and Coast

MEDIUM 80km (49miles): Central Forest, Ornamental Drive, Lymington and Coast

LONG 109km (68miles): North and Central Forest, Lymington and Coast

Sunday 27th

SHORT 51km (32miles): Ornamental Drive and Brockenhurst

MEDIUM 64km (39miles): Ringwood, Fordingbridge, Breamore and Western Escarpment

LONG 112km (70miles): Lyndhurst, Beaulieu, Lepe, Calshot and Bucklers Hard

(This ride can be reduced in length by not including the leg to Calshot)

Monday 28th

SHORT 45km (28miles): Ringwood, Fordingbridge and Western Escarpment

MEDIUM 78km (49miles): Lyndhurst, Beaulieu and Bucklers Hard

LONG 108km (67miles): Western Downlands, Broadchalke, Cranborne and Breamore

There are also optional rides on the Isle of Wight using the ferry from Lymington:

100km (62miles) Isle of Wight End to End takes you through the best of Island scenery from the Needles to Bembridge lifeboat station, returning via the Cowes chain ferry and the north of the Island to Yarmouth – a long day out but a great bike ride.

OR, a 20km (13miles) circuit taking in the Needles and Freshwater Bay, with time to explore the sights and have tea at the (not to be missed) Dimbola Lodge.

Ask John or Sheila for more information if you are interested in going to the Island

Moors Valley Country Park, which is a great destination for children, is nearby and information about this and directions to cycle there are also included.