



Rawtenstall, Lancashire, April 4

Pendle Witches VV

OLD steel bikes were fetched from the attic and twinned with wool jumpers and retro-style kit to climb some of northern England's most notorious hills.

In its first year, organiser Sean McAdam wanted to create an iconic ride and took his inspiration from the Italian vintage rides. Originally limited to classic bikes, McAdam had so much interest that he opened the event to all riders. However, if you were on a modern bike you were required to start 10 minutes after the classic machines.

Forty riders rolled and creaked out with an eclectic array of bikes including a 1960s Raleigh Grand Sport.

Vintage verve: this sportive has old school class



Taking in the climbs of Nick of Pendle, Waddington Fell and Whalley Heights, all used by the Tour of Britain, this was a tough route climbing over 1,000 metres three times in a short 55 miles. This was exacerbated



www.pendlewitchesvintagevelo.co.uk

Distance	55 or 13 miles
Climbing	1,000 metres
Major climbs	Three
Terrain	Rolling
Participants	120
First finisher	3hr 30min
Last finisher	7hr 50min
Best	Feed station
Worst	Nick of Pendle climb

Missed it? Try this...

THE MIDLAND MONSTER on Sunday May 16 has three routes on offer to suit all abilities. There's a 15-mile family ride or 76 and 100 routes with tough Peak District climbs. www.wheelsinwheelerscc.com/midlandmonster

Pendle-pounding on a classic steed



DON'T FORGET to rate your sportives at <http://tiny.cc/hfya2>

Photos: Rick Robson/cyclesportphotos

with the short gear ratios of the pre-compact era, leaving many riders grinding away with sheer determination to get up the climbs.

A shorter route of 13 miles was on offer for new riders and families. One lady couldn't ride a bike anymore but didn't want to miss out on the action and walked the course. Taking in the two



MY RIDE

Andy Beech (25)
55 miles in 4hr 30m

"BRILLIANT course, beautiful countryside and really well signposted. Chilly at times."



MY RIDE

Howard Lindow (33)
55 miles in 4hr 15min

"EXCELLENT course, well signposted, it's great to see a few older bikes," said Lindow after climbing Nick of Pendle on the 46x19 gearing of his 70s Raleigh."

significant climbs of Crown Point, and a well known local hill Burnleigh Brew, the lady made it in a total time of three hours 30 minutes.

Raleigh got behind the event and donated all the products found at the only feed station en route. Back at the pub finish there was no sign of plastic bidons. It was a pint and a free pie, chips and peas to get essential carbs and protein back into the body.