

“The organiser got his vintage idea from an Italian classic sportive”



Pendle: tough for machines ancient and modern

Pendle Witches Vintage Velo

Rawtenstall, Lancashire, April 4, 53 or 13-mile charity ride

In its first year running, this charity ride encourages cyclists to get out their classic bikes and kit to ride the hills in the Lancashire countryside

Fastest time: 3hr 30min
Slowest time: 7hr 50min

Event story

One hundred and twenty riders toed the line to tackle the Lancashire climbs frequented by the Tour of Britain on Easter Sunday. The aim was to get as many as possible in vintage clothes and on old steel bikes. The organiser Sean McAdam got his inspiration from an Italian classic sportive and wanted to re-create this unique idea in northern England.

Over 40 riders dusted off vintage kit and got the prestigious start time 10 minutes earlier than the modern cyclists. The oldest bike on the route

was a 1960 Raleigh Gran Sport, so climbing over Nick o' Pendle was a challenge on a 52/50 and 13-26.

Climbing Waddington Fell and Whalley Heights put the zing in people's legs and made for hungry cyclists at the only feed station on the course. Raleigh had donated all the goodies, making plenty for all, so the ride was a real bargain at £10.

The finish was in the Craven Heifer pub where there was a complimentary pie, chips and peas. Many washed it down with a beer; no fancy recovery drinks, in keeping with the ride style.

All entrants raised a total of £2,100 for local children's hospice Stepping Stones and Cancer Research.

CA says:

This is a tough ride with three major climbs. It has a great old-school element to it and many described it as a friendly clubrun, great for those who like an inviting environment.

We rode it

Clive Gordon

Age: 51

Lives: Lancashire

"Very challenging for me, I usually ride at Delamere on my mountain bike so the climb up Nick o' Pendle was a bit of a shock!"



Glyn Thompson

Age: 36

Lives: Cumbria

"I thought it was a good ride but perhaps a bit too difficult. Lots of small hills on the course made it a real challenge"



Martin Leake

Age: 38

Lives: Lancashire

"It was really good fun and well organised. I had a good day out on my 1990 Peugeot mountain bike."

