

RADAR RIDE

RIDER BRIEFING

JULY 2010

GENERAL

- Please ensure that you have re-read the rules and regulations governing the event. The document is available on the event web site at www.sus8events.co.uk.
- Helmets are compulsory. No helmet, no ride, no exceptions.
- There is a Wanlockhead facilities map that accompanies this briefing. Everything available in the village on the day of the event is noted on the map – HQ, changing, parking, food, toilets etc.
- The event will be run on open roads. Please adhere to the Highway Code at all times.
- The only exception to the above is the stretch of the B797 at the top of Wanlockhead which will be closed from 0800 till 1000.
- At the end of the ride please ensure that you return your transponder and race number to the marshals at the top of Lowther Hill before you descend. The marshals will be suitably equipped to relieve you of said items.
- Wanlockhead is as remote as the highest village in Scotland should be! As a result, mobile service can be a little sketchy. Vodafone appears to provide the best signal in the village but from there along the Mennock Pass to the A76 (ie the first 7 miles of the event) you can pretty much forget it!

LOWTHER HILL/GREEN LOWTHER

- The road up to the radar station and beyond is private, as is the land that surrounds it. The land provides work and income to many local people – please do not do anything to make these people sorry they invited us in!
- It should go without saying that the radar station itself is strictly off limits as are the telecommunications installations atop Green Lowther. Please do not attempt to gain entry or do anything that might jeopardise the efficient operation of any of these facilities.

- Once you have reached the finish there is still the small matter of the descent off Lowther Hill. It is very fast, very twisty at the top and very dangerous. There will be riders coming up the other way who, due to the effort they are making, may not be entirely focused on their surroundings. You are not being timed on this descent so take your time and come down in one piece.
- In the event of bad weather the road to the top of Lowther Hill will not be opened and the **RADAR RIDE** will finish in Wanlockhead. Dense fog and/or high winds are most likely to prevent the event finishing up Lowther Hill. In such conditions the road up the Hill is very dangerous and attempting to climb it on a bike is not advisable.
- Vehicle access on the day will be limited to NATS and Scottish Power employees and a very few event vehicles. There will be no public access. Any supporters wanting to watch on the final climb or see the finish will have to walk. Please bear in mind that it is a 6-mile round trip and very, very steep.

PARKING

- Wanlockhead is the highest village in Scotland with a population of c150. It is not blessed with copious parking. However, with the kind co-operation of the local Village Council and community, we will be providing 7 separate car parks. They are highlighted on the facilities map and numbered. Last year the event Team managed to shoe-horn them all into car parks 1, 2 and 3.
- On arriving in the village you are advised to try one of the bigger car parks first – P1 or P2. Once these are full, drivers will be directed to the next available car park.
- All parking will be marshalled.
- There is parking available on the Mennock Pass between Wanlockhead and Mennock. Please bear in mind that this road is also the first 7 miles of the **RADAR RIDE**. Give due consideration to other road users when leaving your car.
- In the event of bad weather (especially heavy rain) some of the parking may be unavailable due to the fact that it is on grass!
- There is **NO PARKING** at the Community Centre.
- There is **NO PARKING** at the Wanlockhead Inn.
- There is **NO PARKING** at the Hidden Treasures Museum unless you are visiting the Museum or its café.

TOILETS/CHANGING

- The attached facilities map shows the location of toilets and changing rooms.

- Toilets are available on the day; at the event HQ (from 0630), the **Hidden Treasure Lead Mining Museum** (from 0800) and the Community Centre (from 0700).
- Changing rooms are in the Community Centre and, again, open from 0700. There are male and female changing rooms with toilets and showers. Please **DO NOT** leave belongings in the Community Centre. Participants do so at their own risk.

FOOD

- There will be three feed station points during the event at 40, 82 and 102 miles. The organisers will endeavour to provide fluid and food at all three but supplies cannot be guaranteed. There are also cafes at St Mary's Loch and in Moffat. However, it is advisable to take your own food consistent with a challenging ride of 105, 70 or 40 miles.
- The final feed station at 102 miles will be smaller than the main station at Greenhillstairs. As there is just the final 3-mile ascent to the radar station left at this point there will be water and a selection of 'grab-and-go' snacks only.
- In Wanlockhead there will be a number of places to buy food before and after the event for competitors, and during the event for supporters staying in the village
 - **Wanlockhead Inn** – the highest pub in Scotland will be open for breakfast from 0630.
 - **Hidden Treasures** – the café in the Lead Mining Museum will be open from 0800.

ROUTE

- The area of the Southern Uplands – including the entirety of the route - is protected by Scottish Natural Heritage as a place of special scientific interest. Please respect this and behave responsibly. Scottish Natural Heritage, NATS, Buccleuch Estates and Hopetoun Estates will take a VERY dim view of our event if we leave the obvious signs (eg litter) of having passed through.
- Although the route is fairly simple to follow all riders will be issued with a route card. There will also be signs on all junctions and marshals on those junctions where we felt riders might go wrong.
- Take care on the descent of the Mennock Pass which constitutes the first 7 miles of the event. Sections of this road are deceptively quick and few of the many sheep to be found grazing at the road side will look both ways before attempting to cross in front of you! Some of the faster sections have recently been re-surfaced with super-slick, super-smooth tarmac so they are now even faster.
- The descents of Talla and Lowther Hill need to be approached with care. The descent of Lowther is dealt with in the section on 'Lowther Hill' above.

The descent of Talla, whilst not particularly long or steep, **IS** very narrow and not blessed with the greatest surface. The rock-strewn moorland on either side of the road will be particularly unforgiving to those who get it wrong (and their bikes)!

REGISTRATION

- Registration will take place at the event HQ from 1500-1900 on Saturday 10th July and from 0700-0900 on Sunday 11th.
- This year registration is divided alphabetically by surname; A-F, G-L, M-R, S-Z. For the fastest passage through the registration process, please ensure you go to the correct station.
- All riders will be issued with a registration pack including route card, race number (with zip ties) and emergency contact details.
- Please bring along some form of photo ID.

START ARRANGEMENTS

- The attached facilities map shows the location of the start on the B797 at the top of the village.
- This stretch of road will be closed for 2 hours around the start of the event to protect riders.
- Riders will start in groups of c50 at 5 minute intervals. The Start List available on the 'Rider Briefing' page of the web site will enable you to identify your start group and time.
- The Junior and Baby Radar riders will go off last due to the shorter distance they are covering.
- All other riders will roll out broadly in the order in which their entries were received. Consideration has also been given to individuals requesting a particular start time or position based on personal circumstances.

SUPPORT

- Event staff – **THE RADAR TEAM** – are identifiable by their pink hi-viz jackets and ID badges. They are here to help. If you need anything just ask.
- First Aid on the event will be provided by a local community group.
- Mechanical support will be provided before and during the event by **Castle Douglas Cycle Centre**. Labour is free. Parts will be charged for should you need them. Please ensure that you have some form of payment with you at all times.
- Feed stations will be provided by the **Wanlockhead Inn** which is also hosting the HQ and registration.
- The flip-side of your route card has mobile numbers for all the support services on the event.