

MICHAELCHURCH RIDE SUN 28th AUGUST. TALK ROUND

MARKING: Combination of orange ribbon markers, orange flags (on common land) and orange spray paint.

PLEASE NOTE. Only 2 crew points. CP1 and CP 3. Please do NOT crew anywhere else - roads too narrow.

Start goes from corner gate in the venue field.

Take left turning (not acute left). Follow road uphill 1 mile. Turn right through a small gate onto the common land (Vagar Hill). Follow orange flags diagonally uphill across the common.

18km route goes straight ahead through gate. 32km route goes through gate to the right.

18km ROUTE; Go through gate straight ahead - follow path between the trees until coming to another gate which will be open. Follow track short way until coming to a field. Keep to the fence line on the right, through the field. Go through gate onto the road - this is CP1. and also crew point.

32km ROUTE; Go through gate on the right. Follow route downhill, passing through another gate. Carry on downhill on a driveway. Upon reaching the lane, turn left. Follow this lane (plenty of grass in middle) along straight, then wiggling around a farm (beware barking dogs in a hole in the roadside barn!). Continue to follow road, going downhill until reaching forestry on left side. Then take narrow entrance into forestry. Follow markers carefully here, at a walk through the trees, until turning left onto the track (the walk is very brief). Having turned left, take the track all the way up hill, until you reach a large gate at the top (we hope this will be open). Turn left and go along road a very short distance until reaching CP1 and crew point.

CP1 All riders cross road - a bit of grass (follow markers carefully as there is a ditch hidden in the grass) then onto a track - forestry on right and common land and fence on left. The track will eventually bear right into the forestry. Follow track along straight and then round to the left. Ahead of you is the 2nd route divergence.

18km ROUTE; Continue on straight ahead, passing through a barrier. We hope to have this barrier open. If not, please ride the gap to one side carefully. It is possible, but narrow. After barrier continue on straight ahead down grassy track. At the end, turn left up steep hill on narrow track (beautiful views to the right!). Continue to the top and then take left up very short bank. Then turn left onto major track NB THIS is a 2 way section as 32km route riders are going down the other side.

32km ROUTE; Turn left at the route divergence. Follow major track for some distance, going up, initially, then for the majority of time, downhill. Eventually the track will pass through open fields on either side until it comes to a lane. Turn RIGHT. Follow this lane down hill for just over a mile, then turn right back into the forestry. This is CP2. Continue down track across stream, then keep right. You will pass through a forestry barrier which will be open. Following that is a wonderful long canter, the majority of which goes steadily up hill. BEWARE. Unfortunately rogue sheep have got into the forestry - do look out for them particularly around bends! I will try to get them rounded up before the ride but can't promise this will happen! Also of course, there are deer in the forest. At the major junction of tracks, turn left - further up you will rejoin the SHORT ROUTE.

Both routes continue along major track until making a right turn along a rough track (can be slippery when wet). Gate onto open hill at the end will be open.

Go through gate and follow orange flags over open hill right to the far end. There are horses on the hill. At the far end, there are a series of gates. Some will be open, some manned. A couple of fields contain cows. We will try to keep them away with the help of those manning gates. Keep along the ridge until dropping down to the left through a couple of fields and then down a track with a stone house on your left (Coed Robin) and 2 further houses belonging to the famous Llanarth Stud. This track needs to be walked down. Upon reaching the lane below, turn RIGHT. Follow the lane just over a mile, where you will come to Michaelchurch Sch. CP 3 and crew point.

18km ROUTE; shortly after CP3 you will be directed left over a couple of fields and a stream, then steeply upwards, passing large barns on your right. Please look carefully for markers as exact route will depend on last grass being cut and stock movement just before the day. You then will come to a lane. Turn LEFT. Upon reaching a junction with grass triangle go LEFT. Follow road for short way, then you will be directed RIGHT off the road up a couple of fields, the last of which will bring you to opposite the double gates to the venue.

32km ROUTE. Shortly after CP3, you will be directed RIGHT, up a beautiful long field to some woodland at the top. You will then be taken on a circuit of the Michaelchurch Estate containing beautiful fields and woodland with ample opportunity for canters. The exact route will depend on stock whereabouts on the day so please follow markers carefully. Come back down adjacent field and return to the road. Look carefully for markers as it could be left or right turn depending on stock - you will then enter field in the same direction as the field you just came down, head over stream and take the fields up to the lane. Upon reaching the lane, turn left and follow instructions for short route.

ENJOY YOUR RIDE! Please thank the gate people. Some of these gates are remote and the ones on the Cefn will have meant a hike for those volunteers, as they are a fair distance from a road!