

ECSA Cycling – National MTB Event – 19 May 2017 – Matlock and the White Peak

Mountain biking becomes the latest ECSA event to be included on the UK calendar on 19 May 2017. We have designed a test of fitness and navigation that will exploit the best of this National Park, taking in the very best lanes, trails, bridleways and tracks in the area. The main routes are 43km for the Standard event and 73km for the Full Championship course and having test ridden them we're confident that everyone – from novices to experts alike - will love it. The routes make the most of the beautiful rolling countryside to the North and West of Matlock, including some iconic sections through Chatsworth Park.

Everyone will head out on the same anticlockwise loop initially, then those tackling the longer Championship route will split away and ride an additional anticlockwise loop that takes in some of the rugged exposed moors and grassy dale bottoms. The further you go the more points you will score for your team, however make sure you don't fall foul of the official timer as you have to make crucial decisions in order to maximise your score.

Whichever route you tackle you are guaranteed a big cycling day out in stunning countryside navigating your way around arguably one of the most beautiful parts of the country. We provide a quality, waterproof, custom-made and pre-marked Ordnance Survey map for each rider to follow, **we don't create GPS files for this event**. Teams are made up of either 2 or 3 riders with the best 2 scores in each team counting for the competition you've entered. The main championship event is up to 73km and has a 7 hour time limit. The shorter standard distance event is 43km and has a time limit of 6 hours. Both of these routes will have options for you to cut short should your legs be giving up a little early.

If you're unsure about off-road riding can I stress that whilst mainly off-road you certainly don't need full body armour and a massive suspension bike to be able to join in. The routes chosen do not include any drop larger than a kerbstone and the emphasis is much more about covering beautiful countryside rather than flying down mountain trails. Points are awarded for visiting check points and those prepared to put in the miles will be rewarded. Whilst this is a self-navigated event the organisers may use a limited number of navigational aid signs at their discretion.

The event will start and finish from the ARC leisure Centre at Matlock which is next to the Premier Inn. There is plenty of free parking and a kitchen that we can use to provide hot drinks at the end of your rides, we'll also do our best to get some cakes!

General Information and Rules

- Team entries and accommodation requirements must be made via your ECSA Representative. Individuals without a team will be placed into Composite teams at the Organisers' discretion.
- Teams will consist of two or three non-gender-specific riders, the aggregate net points of the best two riders finishing with a positive or neutral score to be counted. Riders exceeding their respective class time limits (of six hours or seven hours) will score zero points.
- Irrespective of which team they are in, on the day riders may ride alone, or with their team mates, or with members from other teams, and may choose their own start times.

- Latest starting time is 9:30 for the championship route and 10:00 for the standard route. Any rider may start after then but will be given a start time of 9:30 or 10:00 respectively. All riders may start from 8:30.
- Time penalties will begin to apply after 4 hours for the championship course and 2 hours for the standard course. These penalties will be equal to 1 point for each minute over the time limit.
- The courses may only be ridden on the sequential routes as marked on the map and in the directions as marked on the map. Anyone retiring from the event may return to the event centre by any route, please place your safety above other considerations if ending early. If you chose to retire from the event do not collect any further checkpoints. Suggested bail out routes will be explained in the final briefings.
- In the event of tied scores, the higher aggregate age (in whole years) of the two scoring riders in the tied teams will gain preference. Any remaining ties will be broken at the Organisers' absolute discretion.

Health & Safety Rules

- **All roads, trails and bridleways are open to the public during this event. Care must be taken throughout.**
- All riders must obey the Highway Code when riding on roads, and when off-road they must follow the Countryside Code, giving way to walkers and horse riders.
- All riders must wear a proper cycle helmet whilst riding.
- All riders must carry a working mobile phone with sufficient battery power and call credit to last the day.
This is to ensure two-way contact remains possible between the Event Desk and riders out on the course.
- The full detailed rules, risk assessment and health and safety briefing will be provided before the event.

Entries & Accommodation

All entries including accommodation bookings **must** be made through your ECSA Representative.

Accommodation is available at Premier Inn Matlock on Thursday 18 and Friday 19 May, at a cost of €75 for Dinner, Bed & Breakfast per person sharing per night, so for two nights it will be €150. There is plenty of parking at the hotel. The Dinner is 2 courses from the hotel restaurant menu and includes a drink. There will also be a **€20** competition entry fee.

Extra night's accommodation is available on application but may be in a different hotel nearby or within easy travel.

Non-cyclist residential package **€150** per person, dinner bed & breakfast for 2 nights.

The nearest airports are East Midlands and Birmingham, with Manchester also in easy reach. Assistance with transfer to and from the hotel can be arranged. Andrea Scott-Lewis will advise.

Closing date for entries requiring accommodation is Friday 31 March 2017.

Further details

Any questions about the route or organising teams or the accommodation please contact me.

Andrea Scott-Lewis
ECSA UK Representative