

Press Release

Full Details:

“Hell of the North Cotswolds”

This ever popular classic cycling event promoted jointly by Winchcombe CC and Cheltenham & County CC will be held on Sunday 15th April 2012 starting from the picturesque Cotswold Town of Winchcombe with a mass start of riders at 09-00 hrs.

2012 is the 28th year of the event. It also coincides with 500th anniversary of the birth of Katherine Parr, the last wife of King Henry V111, who in the later years of her life lived at Sudeley Castle Winchcombe and whose tomb can still be seen at the castle. During the event there will be a recognition of her links with Winchcombe and on the day of the event there will be a major open day at Sudeley Castle, which may be of interest to family members of participants.

The first event in 1984 was the brainchild of the late Pat Smith and Tim Groom who had ridden the Paris-Roubaix sportif and wanted to bring the flavour of that event to the Cotswolds. The event has taken place in April each year except for two occasions. In 1986 it was abandoned due to deep snow, making it impossible to travel and so it was postponed to September. Also, in 2001, when we had the outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, a similar postponement also occurred. Last year the event attracted over 1100 riders.

Route. The event is aimed at experienced riders and there will be a 100Km route for the really keen riders and a 50Km route for those who know how tough the off-road Cotswold Hills can be! The routes will be signed with direction arrows throughout, supplemented by a printed map and will also be available as a digital Tracklogs GPS route. The event will use a classic route consisting of tarmac roads and bridleways including everything from technical rocky single track to rutted possibly muddy tracks and will offer a challenge to all riders. Refreshments will be available at approximately half distance.

All riders **MUST** wear a Helmet whilst participating in the event. Riders will be identified by a self adhesive number that will be affixed to the helmet. A limit of 1200 entrants will be accepted and all entries must be made in advance.

Entry fees are:

Riders over 18 years of age £15.00 pre-entry ONLY

Youth Riders (under 18 years of age on 14/04/2012) £6.00 pre-entry ONLY.

Last year the organisers donated over £3000 to various charities including Cancer Research and the Air Ambulance.

Entering the event.

Online entering will be available from

3rd January 2012, 10am onwards.

Go to the following website: www.honc.org.uk

For more information please contact:

Telephone: John Taylor 01242 603234 or Pat Alexander on 01242 863290.

e-mail: HONCWinchcombe@aol.com

website: www.honc.org.uk

HONC Junior Awards – supported by Marin.

Continuing the tradition of recent year's awards, Marin will present awards to three lucky riders under 18 years old who complete the HONC course. The first name to be drawn out of the hat will receive a brand new Marin mountain bike whilst two others will have Marin cycling clothing or bike accessories. The main award will be a Marin



Shoreline Trail Disc cross-country mountain bike with a lightweight double-butted 6061-T6 aluminium alloy frame, 100mm travel Suntour XCM V3 front suspension fork, Truvative E300 crankset, Shimano drivetrain, Tektro disc brakes, Geax Saguaro tyres. This bike retails at £425.

Internet reference

<http://www.marin.co.uk/2012/bikepage.php?ModNo=12SD>

Brief Event Details:

The original and Classic British Endurance Cycling event is now in its 28th year

Hell of the North Cotswolds 2012

Sunday 15th April 2012. Mass start at 09-00

Start and Finish at Winchcombe in the Cotswolds

100Km or 50Km route choices

Helmets are compulsory

Online entry system, in advance of the event only, 1100 entries limit.

For more information please contact:

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e-mail: HONCWinchcombe@aol.com

website: www.honc.org.uk

Pat Alexander 12th October 2011

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