



Rose's Forest of Dean Spring Classic

Forest of Dean, Monmouthshire, May 2 2010, 87-mile sportive



Forest of Dean: peaceful and green

An 87-mile hilly sportive through the beautiful Forest of Dean with lots of climbing but incredible views, excellent organisation and lots of free food

Fastest time: 4hr 37min

Slowest time: 10hr 47min

Event story

Despite the typical Bank Holiday weather, nearly 600 riders signed on for this very hilly 87-mile event in Monmouth. Starting off with a climb, the route takes in 14 hills, all numbered for you to count off, the main ones packed into the last 25 miles. There was a mix of long, short, steep and gradual climbs with famous Bulls Hill and the 25 per cent gradient of Symonds Yat.

A slightly tweaked route this year and the welcome introduction of indoor feed stations drew praise from all entrants. With excellent signage,

full mechanical back-up and motorbike marshals on the route, rider safety is well taken care of. The free food at the start and finish, combined with well stocked feed stations on the route, meant the only excuse not to finish was a lack of preparation.

The Rose's Forest of Dean Spring Classic is one of several sportives promoted by Wheels in Wheels Events. Now in its fifth year, the event continues to grow in popularity and the organisers are constantly listening to rider feedback to make sure the event doesn't become stale.

CA says:

This is a hard event make no mistake, but it is an excellent day out and a really good event to train up to for next year.

“The route takes in 14 hills, numbered for you to tick off”

We rode it

John Hopkins

Age: 58

Lives: Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire

87 miles in 6hr 55min

“A really enjoyable day for me despite the chilly, wet and windy start. A clearly signposted route, good feed stations, and 14 steep scenic climbs combined with some welcome free hot food and drink at the end to make it a great ride.”



Jeannie Fry

Age: 49

87 miles in 6hr 28min

“This was my third sportive event this year, and by far the most challenging. The relentless hills that kicked in 40K from the finish provided the mental and physical challenge I was looking for. Good sausage rolls at the feed station!”



Chris Scott

Age: 52

Lives: Coventry

87 miles in 8hr 06min

“After the first four miles going uphill in wet, cold, cloudy weather, we knew it was going to be a hard day in the hills. The views and company of the other riders soon passed the miles away, and made the event enjoyable enough to repeat next year.”

