



Blandford, Dorset, Sunday January 27

# Ride to the Pies

## Patrick Trainor

**O**VER 200 riders took to the roads of Dorset for the Ride to the Pies, the first event in the 2011 CTC Sportive and Challenge Ride series. With five events taking place in different locations throughout the year, the series is a mix of old and new courses, with established favourites like the Phil and Friends getting a makeover along with new events such as this one.

There were two distances available on this event, a 57-mile route, which was rolling with a few short sharp hills; and the longer 80-miler, which had several tough climbs, especially along the coast and coming back inland.

### Blandford fliers

Starting out from Blandford Forum, riders headed off in an anti-clockwise direction and were soon into the quiet back lanes and pretty villages of rural



Rural roads are mercifully traffic-free

Dorset. Heavy rain in the week leading up to the event meant a last-minute change of route to avoid the ford near the start but the narrow roads were soon taking their toll in the form of punctures. The trade-off, though, was miles of virtually traffic-free lanes.

The long route headed

down to the coast with a lumpy but scenic ride to Lulworth Cove before coming back inland via a series of short, steep climbs.

Both routes went through the picture-perfect village of Milton Abbas, where the chocolate box setting distracted everyone from the stiff climb out of the village.

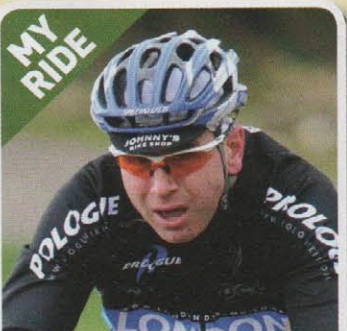


[www.ctcchallengerides.co.uk](http://www.ctcchallengerides.co.uk)

Distance	59/80 miles
Climbing	815m/ 1,430m
Major climbs	5
Terrain	Rolling with a few short, steep hills
Participants	88 per cent male and 12 per cent female
First finisher	3-09/4-36
Last finisher	6-45/7-47

Here, the shorter route headed back to the finish on flatter roads while the long route took in the killer climb of the day at Bulbarrow Hill, which caught out quite a few out, forcing them to walk on the steep slopes.

And how did the event get its name? Every finisher got a pie as their reward, and judging by the faces at the finish, they were certainly appreciated.



### Ben Weeks

Age: 34  
Club: London Dynamo  
80 miles in 4-40

"A GREAT route with a good balance of undulating and flat terrain and some tough climbs, especially the last two about 20 miles from the end. The pies were great."



Wet lanes require extra vigilance



### Hannah Reynolds

Age: 32  
Club: Cannondale Racing UK  
80 miles in 4-54

"THE Dorset hills looked beautiful. Okeford Hill was a sting in the tail but did make the tea and pies all the more enjoyable."