

## CTC - HERTFORDSHIRE

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Dear Cyclist,

### **EMITREMMUS DESREVER - YEAR SEVENTEEN**

Thanks for your entry for our seventeenth Summertime Reversed populaire on Sunday 30 October. It really helps when people enter in advance as we are expecting hundreds of riders. As well as the 101K this year we are experimenting with "Emit Lite" which is shorter and slower than the main event.

Here is the information I promised to send out soon after the closing date. We continue to have problems with the postage rates based on size and the list of entrants gets longer and longer so this time we will put the start sheet on [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) a few days before the ride. Should save a few trees. We promised a free souvenir for the first 360 entries. Here it is with your route sheet. It's a TdeF / PBP style number for your bike. Please put it on – it adds to the atmosphere of the event and helps to let us know who has entered. In most cases it will go under the top tube. I've used 200mm cable ties. If you've included sufficient postage on your return envelope I've included some. Leave the number on as long as you like! It's good advertising for us! Brevet cards, plastic wallets and any last minute information will be given out at the start.

#### **Arrival and Start**

Please come to Costello's Café – the café at the Sailing Centre in Fairlands Valley Park. Please try to arrive at least fifteen minutes before your ride. The entrance to the park is off Six Hills Way, Stevenage. The Ordnance Survey grid reference is TL255242 (Landranger 166). Alternatively search for SG2 0BL on a street map website. If you come by car please park in the large car park on the left as you enter Fairlands Valley Park. The smaller café car park will be needed by others during the day. Please do not cycle down the footpath between the large car park and the café. Please walk or use the access road.

The café will be open by 9.15a.m. so you could arrive in time for breakfast.

If you have entered in advance you do not need to queue when you first arrive. Cards will be distributed to groups in the training room or on the patio outside the café just before they are due to start. Look for your group letter.

The actual start will be near the Sailing Centre. Watch the helpers (red tops this year) for directions. To avoid big bunches in the first few kilometres the start of the ride will be in groups. These will leave at 5 minute intervals. Please see the start sheet on [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk) to find out which group you are in. Please do not leave before your start time. Once you have left Stevenage you can, of course, ride alone or in whatever group you wish. The Mayor of Stevenage will be at the start. We will try to get some photos of each group so, if you have one, wear your best CTC or club jersey. In any event look happy!

#### **Route and Route Sheet**

The ride is mostly on quiet country lanes. The route was checked on 1<sup>st</sup> October. Watch the website for any late changes due to road works, etc.

The route is not marshalled or waymarked but you have a detailed route sheet. The route sheet will get you round but you can trace it on Ordnance Survey Landranger Maps (166, 167, 154 and a small part of 153). A GPS map is available from the website. If you go off course please retrace until you pick it up again.

#### **General**

I hope you have a good day out. Here are a few organisational notes: The ride is organised according to Audax UK's regulations and is included in the CTC's Tourist Trophy calendar.

For the benefit of those who have not ridden a randonnée before please remember:-

- (1). These are not races. Please ride safely. If you are in a group please do not stop without warning.
- (2). To check that your details are correct on the list of entrants. Make sure I know if you are a member of a CTC group or cycling club.
- (3). You will be given your **brevet card** just before your start. Please complete any details that may be

- missing. Don't join the late entry queue if you've already entered.
- (4). You can fold your route sheet inside the plastic wallets that will be available on the day.
  - (5). The groups are based on estimated times where these were given. Otherwise I've guessed. Sorry if I got it wrong. Riders in later groups will be given the appropriate time allowance.
  - (6). Your average speed from start to finish and between controls should be between 12.5 and 25 kilometres per hour for this populaire event. Don't worry if lots of fast women and men overtake you before Hare Street. You can ride alone or in a group.
  - (7). On "Emit Lite" the average speed range is 12 to 20 kilometres per hour.
  - (8). You **must** get your card timed and signed at every control.
  - (9). Don't forget the **information control**. You need to note the answer in the box on your brevet card.
  - (10). Watch out there may be a secret control so please stay on course and within the time limits.
  - (11). Essentially you should be self sufficient and able to complete the ride without assistance from a support vehicle. So that everyone can enjoy the event we do not expect to see riders being closely followed by cars. Obviously participants can help each other. If you see someone who appears to be in trouble please check they are O.K.
  - (12). Your bike must be roadworthy and if there is any chance of you still being on the road after 4.50p.m. you must have **reliable lights**. Bring a basic tool kit including a spare inner tube.
  - (13). Full mudguards are optional though others may appreciate you using them.
  - (14). Be prepared for the rich variety of late October weather. Mists and mellow fruitfulness – we'll see.
  - (15). If you drop out leave a message on 0774 862 3453, 0793 968 7509 or at Costello's on 01438 748458.
  - (16). **Photos** are good and useful. If you or your friends get any good shots it'll be good to see them please. Digital images and links can be sent to me and to [gallery@stevenagectc.org.uk](mailto:gallery@stevenagectc.org.uk).

## Controls

The controls are to ensure everyone follows the correct route and to give you the chance to get some refreshments. It is essential that you get your brevet card timed and signed at every control including any secret controls. Your brevet card confirms that you have completed the whole ride.

Do remember the co-operation of Costello's Café, Old Swan Tea Rooms, Mocha's Café, the Fordham Memorial Hall and Therfield WI have made this event possible. Please support them by **buying something** and please do not abuse their hospitality by eating your own food in their premises or blocking access for other customers - we want to go again in the future! Lots of people are expected. There may be times when the cafés and our volunteers are trying to cope with large numbers of cyclists. Please be patient.

The Hare Street control will be round the back of the Old Swan Tea Room. Basic refreshments will be available. There is a minimum lunch-time charge of £1.50 at Saffron Walden. At all controls please park your bike with care.

There should be an event helper at every control. If for some reason there is not please ask one of the café or tea room staff to sign your card. If you know anyone who would like to **help** please let me know.

## Finish

The control will be inside Costello's Café. You should sign and hand in your card at the finish. It will be returned in your second sae after it has been ratified by Audax United Kingdom. This will take some weeks.

Emitremmus polo shirts can be purchased and Emitremmus road jerseys can be ordered. There's a form on [www.emitremmus.org.uk](http://www.emitremmus.org.uk). Commemorative medals will be on sale at the finish. AUK medals and cloth badges for 100 kilometres can be ordered. The certificates are free – just ask!

Apart from all that don't forget the event is literally on the first day of GMT. Remember to change your clock! Ride safely and enjoy yourself.



See you up the road!

**JIM BROWN**

Not yet a CTC member? Please consider joining! Go to [www.ctc.org.uk](http://www.ctc.org.uk)  
CTC Christmas Dinner, Sunday 11 December. For details visit [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk)