

THE FANTASTIC ST FILLAN'S MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE

IN AID OF THE MARGARET J GORDON ART AND CRAFT TRUST
(REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY SCO37349)

ABOUT THE COURSE

Keep to the left hand side of the road throughout the course.

The course is 18 miles long and set in a very beautiful area above Loch Earn in Glen Tarken and Glen Beich and is an amazing test of fitness and character.

After leaving the Drummond Hotel at St Fillan's you cycle towards the Four Seasons Hotel where you turn right into the forest. A marshal will be on duty here to guide you onto the forest road and you then climb up through the forest out in to beautiful Glen Tarken, with panoramic views over the loch and the hills around you. Some times you will be fortunate enough to hear the Stags bellowing which is a magnificent sound indeed. There are also livestock on the route so be careful when approaching them but they usually run away. Remember sheep can be unpredictable!!!

You climb about three miles to 450 feet from the start and you will emerge through the deer gates into the glen and then the road undulates for around four miles.

Signs and marshals will be in place to keep you on the "right track" throughout the course. British Red Cross officers will also be on duty around the tracks.

The course here is undulating and after approximately four miles you turn left at the arrow which takes you on to a one way system down to the water crossing at approximately 6.5 miles. This road is very rough and rutted but makes for "good fun" as you approach the water crossing. You can either go straight through the water or, you can opt for the slightly easier route to the left where you can wade through in about four inches of water! Going straight through may cause a problem as small rocks can be moved by the force of the water if it has been raining the night before. The choice is yours!

After crossing the water you climb up a small hill and turn right towards the north and again the road is undulating for about one mile. You will encounter a muddy area here but you can go around it if you wish. And then the final steepish hill is approached. This hill takes you up to the highest point on the course and you then pass a junction on your right but you carry on up the remaining hill to the turning point 2.5 miles further on in Glen Beich. A marshal will be here to check your number through this check point. You then return and descend to the next junction on your left and turn left to take you around the "LOOP" where you get a little respite from climbing!
At this point you have covered about 11 miles. Seven miles to go!

After completing the loop you climb up another few small hills which are quite easy to negotiate and again rejoin the road, (at the left hand junction you took to the water crossing) and you are now on the easier part of the course where you find it undulating until the road starts its downhill run. Keep to the left all the way from here and please be careful of riders coming up towards you as they can waver around when climbing so warn them by shouting that you are "coming through" or by any other warning system you may have.

You are now on the homeward journey down through the deer gate and back down through the forest where you will go straight on ignoring the junction on your left at approximately 15 miles.

You then turn left at the next junction where you see the marker arrow and there will be a marshal here as well to keep you right.

When you arrive at the down hill zig-zag please be careful as it can be a little greasy at times and of course when you approach the cottages and caravan site on your left be careful of patrons emerging from your left where the ruins of the railway bridge is. You are now riding down Station Road and there are houses on your right and left so be careful of residents here. When you approach the main A85 road you must adhere to the "Highway Code" rules and regulations. You turn right here which will take you back to the Drummond Hotel and the finish line where your time will be recorded. You have completed the 18 mile course!

I hope you can come and support the trust and enjoy the beautiful scenery as well.

John R Gordon,

Chairman.