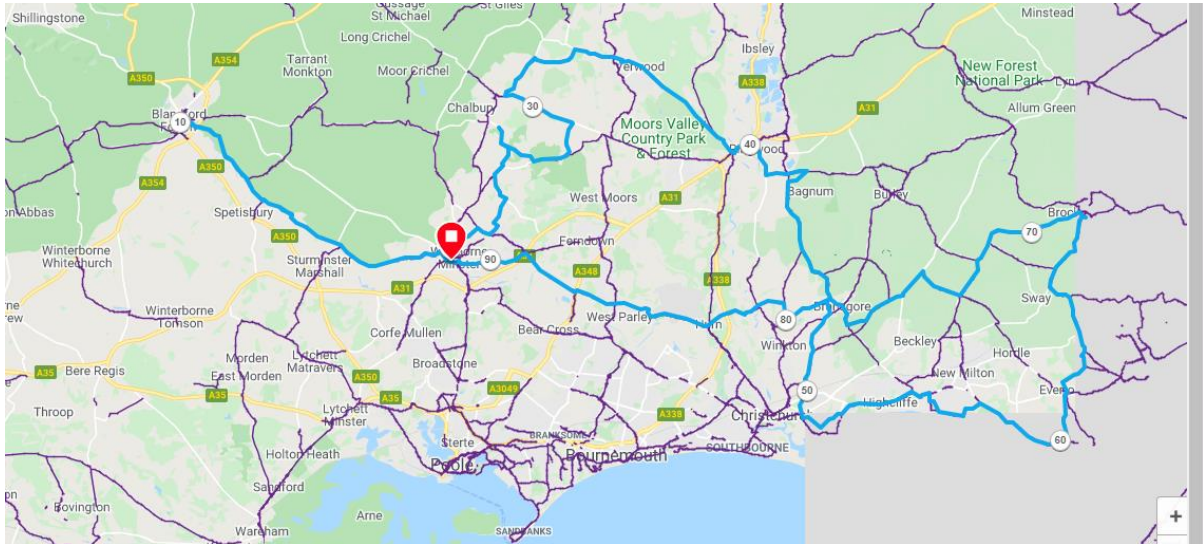


Ride the Circuit for NCH – Action for Children

The story of the day... by Richard Crispin



5 riders in total undertook all or part of the challenge to cycle to all of the Circuit churches on Saturday 10th July in order to raise money to support Action for Children.

The day started at Wimborne with prayers being offered by our Superintendent Minister for safe journeying, and as the Wimborne Minster clock chimed 8AM, 3 of us set out and headed for Blandford Forum, at the beginning of a 91.94 mile ride.





As had been forecast, it was raining. I guess when I set the date, I should have known there was a risk it would be wet. After all, it was Wimbledon fortnight. But Sunday 11th was Action for Children Sunday, so it was an appropriate weekend to undertake the ride. The 1st leg of the ride was steady, as we got warmed up, but we kept a good pace, until we found a fallen tree across the road. Fortunately, one end was being held up by a wall, so we managed to duck underneath it and continue our journey. We were amused by the Police Slow sign. Not sure how slowing down would help cars under the circumstances.



We rode on to Blandford where we were greeted by Joyce and David Wild who opened the church for us to use the facilities and get out of the rain for a minute or two.

Riding back to Colehill we collected another rider and again were welcomed by Benny Gauler and Dennis and Jackie Brewer, who made their facilities available and took pictures for us.



The rest of the morning took us to Holt Wood, Horton Heath, Woodlands, Verwood and into Ringwood, where we stopped for a well-earned lunch, right on our planned schedule.







By the time we had finished our lunch, it had mercifully stopped raining and we were blessed with fine weather for the rest of the ride, which enabled us to dry out some of our soggy clothes, (although my socks were still very damp when I got home). Pushing on from Ringwood through Crowe Hill and on to Bransgore, we then dropped 2 riders and picked up a new one.





The 3 of us made good time down to Mudeford Lane, Highcliffe and Barton, where we were met and provided with some excellent hospitality by Liz Ward and Margaret Havers, who plied us with tea, coffee and cakes, which were welcome fuel for us.



By this time, the chain and gears on my bike were making some rather alarming noises. Closer inspection revealed that the rain had washed every trace of lubricant from my entire drive train. Fortunately, Liz found a can of WD40 in the church cupboard and with chain and gears sprayed and refreshed, we pushed on towards Milford and finally Brockenhurst, where we were again provided with more tea and cake by Carolyn Waterman, in another act of excellent hospitality.





We left 1 rider at Brockenhurst and started on our final leg back to Wimborne to complete our circuit of the Circuit. Passing through Bransgore again, we collected one of the riders we had left there on our first visit, and the 3 of us made good time back to Wimborne, arriving at 6:20PM, just 20 minutes after our forecast finish time, which was very satisfying.



We were welcomed home by our Superintendent and re-united with the other riders who had also made their way back to Wimborne, for a final team photo (see below) at the end of a cracking day, which I hope will benefit Action for Children and their excellent work amongst children and young people.



The riders (L to R): Sarah Crispin#, Alan Sharp#, Richard Crispin*, James Ruddiman*, Michael Crispin#.

*Completed entire ride. #Completed part ride.

Transport for the team was provided by Rev Pauline Crispin, Sarah Crispin and Jenny Rands.

Refreshments were provided by Liz Ward, Margaret Havers and Carolyn Waterman.

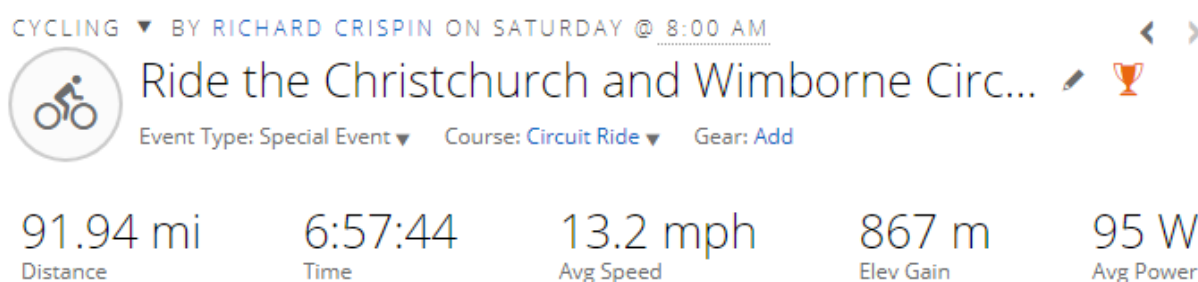
Facilities and Greetings were provided by Joyce and David Wild, Jackie and Dennis Brewer and Benny Gauler.

My thanks to all the riders for their fantastic support, commitment to the ride and helping me to get round, to the support team and those providing hospitality and a special thank you to all who have supported us with their sponsorship and donations. The current total stands at **£1,346.50** with a further **£253.75** to come from Gift Aid, **but it's not too late to support this event...**

My JustGiving page has is still available to receive sponsorship and donations at:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/RideCandWMCforActionforChildren

For those with an interest in statistics, below are the details of the ride:



NB: The time of 6:57:44 is moving time, not elapsed time, which was 10 hrs 20 mins.