

## **The Classic Ride: Rider Information**

Welcome to The Classic Ride. Here we will answer your burning questions about the ride, including what to wear, what bike to dust off, what to have for dinner the night before, what the weather will be like on the day, what Donald Trump will do next and what love's got to do (got to do) with it.

### **What's all this then, some kind of race?**

The Classic Ride is not a race, not a sportive, and definitely not an opportunity to stare at your stem and worry about average speed. It's a celebration of Bristol mountain biking: the local trails, the hidden links, the bits you've forgotten about and the bits you ride every week but never get bored of.

It's also a chance to support Ride Bristol and the volunteers who work hard to protect, improve and champion mountain biking in and around the city. It's our gift to you in exchange for your £15 donation.

The route is predominantly off-road, with a handful of road crossings and short road sections linking together the good bits. Along the way you'll find the answers to ten questions. Some are easy, some are less easy, and all are designed to encourage you to look around and appreciate where you're riding rather than charging through the woods with your head down. In that spirit, there are also two cafés on the route. They've stocked up and are expecting you.

### **Frequently Asked Questions we think you should be asking**

#### **Is this a race?**

Absolutely not. Stop and chat. Help people with punctures. Admire the view. Take photos. Eat cake. Take more photos.

Please close all gates that were closed when you went through them. You have time. It's not a race.

#### **Is there a photo competition**

How did you guess? Yes. A prize will be given to the most Bristolly picture posted on social media that tags @ridebristol. What is Bristolly? We'll figure that out when we see the photos at the end of the day. Photos means prizes.

#### **How do I find my way around?**

Download the GPX, load it onto your device and follow the route. The route will be emailed to all registered riders a few days before.

#### **Will the route be marked**

It's a self-navigation route and you need to have what you need to stay safe (tools, snacks, helmet), enjoy yourself and get home without a call to your Mum. Make sure you have a way of following the route and/or finding your back to Shredfest HQ. Relax and enjoy, but leave enough time to take part in the Triple Crown!

There are signs warning drivers that cyclists are around. (But that doesn't mean they'll slow down or pay any attention to you).

If you get lost, remember that every wrong turn is just bonus riding.

### **What's all this about questions to answer on the way round?**

Well, there are ten questions to answer on the route. These are marked on the Komoot route you'll receive in advance and on your Brevet card (with kms from the start).

You don't have to answer them but, well, hey why not...

### **What is the perfect bike for the ride?**

There isn't one.

We're remarkably unbothered. Ride whatever makes you happy.

There is no perfect bike. There are only perfect trails.

### **What should I wear?**

Anything you like. Definitely something. (We have sent smoke signals to the trail fairies but do bear in mind the brambles grow 11cm every day at this time of year).

In the spirit of getting back to mountain biking's roots, we're encouraging 90s fancy dress.

What exactly constitutes 90s mountain bike attire is open to interpretation. Purple is usually a good start. Tie-dye works and so does neon. Ancient race jerseys, flannel shirts, backwards caps and sunglasses that look ridiculous are all entirely appropriate.

To be honest, any fancy dress is welcome. Pirates, superheroes, dinosaurs, cowboys, whatever makes you smile.

The whole point is not to take any of this too seriously.

Anyway none of the organising committee were even alive in the 90s so we have no idea.

What do you mean you don't believe us?

### **What should I bring?**

A working bike, a helmet, a way of navigating, enough food and drink, and the tools and spares to look after yourself.

You are responsible for yourself throughout the ride.

The organisers can offer encouragement, sympathy and possibly gentle mockery, but not mechanical support on the route. Dr Bike will be present at Shredfest HQ for last minute tinkering before the ride and when and if you get back.

### **Will I be safe?**

We recommend riding in groups, and looking after each other. It's not a wild, dangerous and remote ride, nor does it smash along A roads with a high risk of traffic. Most of the route is off-road, but there are a few road crossings and linking road sections. Please take good care on these, and follow the highway code at all times. Please remember that motorists are under no obligation to stop because you're having a lovely day out on your mountain bike.

You will also be on shared routes with pedestrians, horses, dogs and potentially other farm animals/wildlife. Keep your wits about you and follow the number 1 rules – be nice, say hi.

### **Will there be cake?**

There are two cafés on the route.

Draw your own conclusions.

### **Do I have to eat cake?**

No.

But if you choose not to, we reserve the right to question your commitment to off road riding. A ride without cake is really just a commute with extra mud.

### **Can I ride the Triple Crown as well?**

Absolutely yes. Go for it. We encourage it.

Ride The Classic Ride, have a burger, sit down for a bit, contemplate your life choices, then ride the Triple Crown on exactly the same bike. Or get your friend/neighbour/life partner to bring an alternative up to Shredfest.

Will it be sensible to ride both?

Definitely.

### **Will I get a prize for coming back first?**

If you have answered all the questions, eaten all the cake, smiled at all the dogwalkers, taken brilliant photos, made new friends and got dust in your teeth from all the grinning, and you STILL get back first, then you will definitely get a lot of praise and free hugs.

There will be spot prizes for all. We reserve the right to give prizes to people who are generally ace.

### **Is there a Shredfest tshirt for all finishers?**

Tshirts will be available for sale. We'd rather you bought yours in advance because it helps avoid waste. The link's on the zeffy site. We will have some for sale on the day.

We won't be giving swag to all finishers in the interests of a. Avoiding unnecessary waste and b. THIS IS A FUNDRAISER AND WE ONLY CHARGED YOU £15 FOR THE TICKET...

Did I mention that Shredfest is a fundraiser and all funds are going to the trails and the Bristol Shredders kids mtb club. And we're selling raffle tickets.

So no free swag, sorry.

BUT there will be spot prizes. Yay!

### **Where does it start from?**

All the rides at Shredfest start from the Miniature Railway field up the top of Ashton Court. There is limited parking. You need to ideally park at Church lodge or somewhere outside the park and ride in.

At registration we will ask you where you came from. Those who cycled from home, from the furthest, will get a special prize.

### **Why We're Here**

A reminder... The Classic Ride is about celebrating Bristol mountain biking and raising a bit of cash for Ride Bristol, which maintains our trails, and our kids club, Bristol Shredders.

It's about great local trails, good people, a bit of adventure, a bit of cake and supporting Ride Bristol and the work they do on behalf of all of us.

### **What has love got to do with it?**

Everything.