

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the route like?

There are three sections to the Sunday route:

- a) **The middle loop:** This goes along some private field headlands, along a very quiet road (on/off verges most of the way), through some private grassy fields and up a shooting track to the top of the first hill. The shooting track is nice, with a grassy middle. It's a long hill though. Once you get to the top, you'll either turn out onto the rest of the route if you are doing one of the longer classes, or you'll head back down the hill along a byway. That bit of the byway is probably the stoniest track on the whole route but it's OK, and we've tried to keep the stonier sections to the parts where you'll be going downhill so taking it easier anyway. There is a ford about halfway down the hill.
- b) **The top loop:** The longer classes do a loop up towards Skryeholme and Grimwith Reservoir. You drop down off the moor towards Skyreholme along the byway, which turns into road at the bottom. At Skyreholme you head back up the steep hill along the road (on/off verges most of the way), and you join a grassy green lane with excellent going which takes you towards Grimwith Reservoir, still climbing most of the way. Then you're riding along a grassy track to Grimwith Reservoir, through the waterboard car park, and across some private grassy farmland to make your way back to cross the road a little bit below Stumps Cross Caverns onto another green lane. Eventually you'll meet the byway that you came in on again.
- c) **The bottom loop:** This is the easiest loop. It takes you round field headlands over private land, along a bridleway, and back to the venue along more field headlands. There are some very short stretches of quiet road on this section, again with on/off verges.

The 10km pleasure ride consists of the bottom loop.

The 20km pleasure ride consists of the middle loop and the bottom route

The 32km routes consist of the middle loop and the top loop

The 40km routes consist of all three loops

The 65km routes consist of the middle loop with two circuits of the top loop, then vetting back at the venue, then the middle loop and the bottom loop.

The Saturday pleasure ride routes consist of the bottom loop and some permissive paths to the south in the woodland near Fewston Reservoir.

### How fit does my horse have to be?

The Saturday rides and the two shorter Sunday pleasure ride routes should be within the capabilities of any horse who is fit enough to do a couple of hours' hacking.

The longer routes involve more hillwork so horses will have to be a bit fitter.

### Is it suitable for barefoot horses?

This has to be a personal decision, as you know your horse and how good its feet are. The going is mainly very good and there are lots of long, long grassy stretches, but there are stony sections on some of the downhill stretches. The first year we ran this ride, and when we didn't have access to as much of the private land with better going, we did have barefoot horses taking part and they were fine. However, most of the barefooters booted.

### I've never done an EGB ride before – help!

Newbies are more than welcome. You will need to enter the ride in advance, and you will then be sent your ride information, start times and rider number. The Saturday ride is a very informal unvetted pleasure ride. The Sunday rides will be a bit more structured but still friendly; there will be a pre and post ride trot up for the vet. You can ride on your own or with friends, or we can find you some new friends to ride with. There is water available on course so you don't need a crew. The ride is run under Endurance GB rules: <http://endurancegb.co.uk/main/Rules/Riding-Rules>