

Xcalibre

Team up for new MTB tour

BRITAIN'S FIRST televised off-road racing tour takes place from 16-23 August, with CTC as a partner.

Xcalibre has seven stages and three venues: the Brecon Beacons, Exmoor, and Pembrokeshire National Parks.

The event is for 500 two-person teams. It will test riders across a range of terrains and disciplines – cross-country, enduro and downhill. Teams will earn points towards four pairs of jerseys: yellow ones for the leaders overall, and others for best women's, mixed, and over-80s' teams (combined ages!). ITV4 will be filming the action on every stage.

The first two stages are at National Trust Stackpole



Teams will compete over seven stages in three National Parks

Estate in Pembrokeshire with clifftop singletrack and a relay race. Then it's on to Brecon Beacons for a night race, plus a 60km stage over SAS training grounds.

Finally, the tour will go to Exmoor on Devon's north coast, where Porlock hosts the Grand Finale weekend: a punishing enduro stage followed by a mystery wild-

card stage.

Xcalibre is as much about the camaraderie as racing, with food and evening entertainment at the group campsite. The all-inclusive eight-day team package will be around £900 per person.

An overview of the routes will be in Cycle's next issue. For up-to-date information visit xcalibremtb.co.uk

HEBRIDES TOUR AFTER AGM



Take time out after the CTC AGM to tour the Western Isles

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CTC GLASGOW is running a tour of the Outer Hebrides right after the AGM weekend on 10-11 May. From Monday 12 May to Monday 19 May, the eight-day tour will take in 300 miles of quiet roads from Barra to Lewis, through breathtaking scenery.

Travel (by train or car) from Glasgow to Oban, meet the group, and take a ferry to Barra. From there, you'll cycle the length of the Hebrides, using ferries and causeways to travel between islands. At the end of the tour at Stornoway, you could do a Scottish coast-to-coast, from Ullapool to Inverness in 59 miles. From Inverness there are excellent, frequent rail links to Glasgow and Edinburgh, and also a sleeper train to London.

May is a great time to visit the Hebrides, and long hours of daylight enable you to see the islands at their best. The anticipated cost for all

trains, ferries and accommodation is £320 per person. For details, visit ctcglasgow.org.uk or contact Martin Jamieson, mdjamieson@hotmail.co.uk. Early booking is advised.

If you're only in Glasgow for the weekend, don't forget that there is a choice of led rides on the Sunday morning. Cycle to Queens View and back via Loch Lomond or up to the spectacular Whitelees Wind Farm Centre, or enjoy a short family ride along the Clyde to the award-winning Transport and Kelvingrove Museums. There will also be tryouts with a Commonwealth Games theme: at the velodrome, the MTB course, and through the city of Glasgow following the road race course.

If you wish to attend the National Dinner on Saturday 10 May, see last issue for a booking form or contact Sue Cherry: sue.cherry@ctc.org.uk, 01483 238302.

EVENTS IN BRIEF

› CYCLISTS' MEMORIAL SERVICES

Cyclists from Yorkshire and Teesside will converge on the village of Coxwold, north of York, on Sunday 11 May, for their 88th annual service of Remembrance at St Michael's Church. The Service begins at 1.30pm and is preceded and followed by refreshments in the nearby village hall. Offers of cakes and sandwiches, or of cleaning tables afterwards, would be gratefully received. Contact Eddie Grainger 01642 312921. The Heart of England Cycling Rally, which includes the Centennial Meriden Memorial Service, is a week later on the weekend of 17-18 May. More details next issue – or visit ctc-heartofengland.org.uk.

› BIKE MAINTENANCE AT DALBY

Are you confident that you can fix your bike if something goes wrong when you're out and about? CTC can help, with extra maintenance courses running throughout winter at Dalby Bike Barn, our National Centre of Excellence in North Yorkshire. Whether you are a beginner wanting to know how to look after your bike and make basic repairs, or a more experienced cyclist wanting to know your bike inside out, there are day courses for all levels. Email dalby@ctc.org.uk for more information.

MEMBER GROUP MEETINGS

■ Tyneside & Northumberland member group will hold a Special General Meeting on Tuesday 25 February at Merton Hall, Merton Way, Ponteland, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE20 9PX at 10.15am to appoint a new Treasurer and Auditor.

■ Phoenix Cycling Club is holding a CTC Formation Meeting on 27 March 2014 at 7pm in 'The Cabin', Lisvane Old School, Heol y Delyn, Lisvane, Cardiff CF14 0SQ.

STEVENAGE TOURING WINNERS

Alan Baxter defended his title in Stevenage CTC's year-long competition for local cyclists. He won with a record score of 179 points, 19 ahead of Jim Brown. Leading lady Lynn Bonnici became only the second woman to beat the 100 point barrier. Her 109 was only 10 short of Alison Mills's all-time record. For more information, visit the website stevenagectc.org.uk

London Bike Show returns



Photo: Ian Chandler © The London Bike Show



THE LONDON BIKE SHOW

returns to the ExCeL exhibition centre in the capital from 13-16 February. It's the UK's largest cycling show, and attracted 38,000 visitors in 2013. CTC members can save 30% off the price of adult tickets, which are normally £20 on the door. Just quote LBCTC when booking online at londonbikeshow.co.uk

A ticket also grants entry to The Telegraph Outdoor Adventure and Travel Show, the Triathlon Plus Show, and The London International Dive Show, which are on at ExCeL at the same time. The London Bike Show is open from 1-8pm on

Thursday 13 February, 10am-5pm on the Friday, 9am-6pm on the Saturday, and 9am-5pm on the Sunday.

The show is a good chance to see 2014 bikes and components. And you can try some of the bikes out too: there's a test track at the show. Other features include: a bike training hub; a 'fit zone' for bike fitting (see the feature on page 38 for more on that); a 'performance theatre' for talks from cycling experts and professionals; and cycling stunt displays.

If you're travelling there by tube, the nearest stop is Custom House on the Docklands Light Railway. If you're cycling there, use the TFL Bike Route planner at <http://cyclejourneyplanner.tfl.gov.uk>

Up-to-date details about exhibitors and events can be found on the website londonbikeshow.co.uk

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TOUR DE FRANCE FESTIVAL

HUNDREDS OF thousands of cycling fans are expected to descend on North Yorkshire for the first two stages of the Tour De France on 5-6 July. CTC members can avoid problems with accommodation by taking advantage of a 10% discount to attend VeloFest, a four-day camping, cycling and music festival that's perfectly positioned along Stage 1 of the Tour de France route at Kilnsey Park Estate, near Kidstones Pass in the Yorkshire Dales.

The 60-acre site will have pitches for 3,000 tents, camper vans and caravans, and the facilities will include hot showers. There will be tiered viewing platforms offering far-reaching views of the peloton, and a giant screen to show the race live. There will also be a cycle show with

trade stands, live music, an open air cinema, and a Yorkshire Food Village to showcase local produce.

Organiser Tom Hawkins said: 'This is one of the most exciting events to come to Yorkshire in decades and we know there is a huge demand out there for those who want to be in the heart of the action. We've been looking for months for the perfect location and we believe we've found it.'

Pitch prices start from £150, which includes one tent, one car and four people for a three-night stay. That's £37.50 per person. Caravans and campervans are £190 for a three-night stay.

For details, visit velofest.co.uk. Use the code CTC10 when booking.



Watch this year's Tour on one of the many climbs in Yorkshire

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