



Jennings Rivers Ride

Keswick, Cumbria, September 18
36 or 85-mile charity sportive



Two beautiful courses were on offer at the Jennings Rivers Ride: an 85-mile and a 36-mile route. The latter option, despite being much shorter, would still provide some very testing terrain

How it went

Leaving the Keswick headquarters behind, riders headed up the east side of Bassenthwaite Lake, which was shrouded in low mist for the earlier starters. Once at the top end of the lake, riders crossed the river Derwent and headed on to the quiet rural lanes that lead to the pretty town of Cockermouth. Leaving Cockermouth behind, on Lorton Road, riders got their first glimpse of the Lakeland Climb that they were about to ascend — Whinlatter Pass.

They crossed the bridge at Lorton (recently rebuilt following the devastating floods of 2009). Once through Lorton, the lower slopes of Whinlatter began and the road took riders towards the heavily forested summit. Fabulous views were available from the top, while the rapid and twisty descent offered more glimpses of spectacular scenery along

the length of Bassenthwaite Lake before dropping into the village of Braithwaite.

A steep hairpin climb took riders high on the fells above Derwent Water with yet more stunning views across the lake. Turning left on the B5289, riders headed back to Keswick. The organisers (Rather Be Cycling and the Cumbrian Community Foundation) had put on a family fun day at the headquarters, which helped create a truly great atmosphere, drawing in a wide cross-section from the local community.

CA says

The organisers did a fabulous job, not only creating two great rides but also a family ride and a family fun day. The day's events raised funds for the local charity — Cumbria Community Foundation. Brilliant!

“I’ve seen bits of Cumbria that I didn’t know existed. Truly beautiful scenery”

We rode it

Peter Frost-Pennington

Age: 49

Lives: Ravenglass

“Fantastic! I’ve seen bits of Cumbria that I didn’t know existed, truly beautiful scenery. I managed to get around on my MTB, though it made it tough going. It was a great event very well organised.”



Marc Birkett

Age: 45

Lives: Carlisle

“The whole event has been brilliantly organised and the signage was really good. The climbs seemed to come along at the right time — towards the end!”



Liz Hunter

Age: 45

Lives: Cockermouth

“Tough and beautiful — a really good challenge. Even the smaller, ‘non pass’ hills were hard going. The marshals did a fabulous job too, and I had a really great ride with my Tri Lakeland team-mates!”

