



3 Plots 2 – The Suffolk Trials

Below are the initial details for 3 Plots 2019, in aid of the Rob Stephenson Trust which will be held in coastal East Suffolk on the 13th and 14th July, 2019. This weekend event covers a maximum of 80 miles or as little as you like. There will also be a dinner and fun charity auction on the evening of the Saturday 13th July

There will be a single start and finish point for both days – **The Thorpeness Golf Club and Hotel, Thorpeness, Aldeburgh, Suffolk, IP16 4NH**. The tiny village of Thorpeness was first established in only 1911 from farmland and the whole village is late Victorian/art deco style including the hotel which is currently being sensitively modernised. See the video and hotel details at www.thorpeness.co.uk

I have put 16 rooms for Friday 12th and Saturday 13th on hold under “**Watson 3 Plots Challenge**” until the 14th April. After this date, any unused rooms will go back on the open market. Call the hotel direct on 01728 452176 to book. These rooms can be singles, twins or doubles. I have arranged a discounted group price for us which is significantly cheaper than normal at this time of year:-

£125/room/night – single room or £135/room/night for a double or twin. All including breakfast.

Please quote group name and a minimum £30 deposit/person is payable on booking and you should not pay any more than these prices unless you upgrade to a superior room.

From the survey I sent out previously, many of you are planning to stay one night (Saturday) but some of you are coming from further afield and will also be staying on the Friday night. The restaurant can also get busy on a summer Saturday evening, so I have booked a private dining room for us all (at no cost) on the 13th.

I have visited the hotel which has 36 rooms and appears ideal. The whole village and surrounding area is an SSSI and the hotel overlooks a lake. This is not a modern chain hotel but a characterful and beautiful spot. There is the usual bar, restaurant (grill), lounge etc and obviously, given the name, it is surrounded by a very nice golf course.

Event Dinner and Charity Auction (Saturday 13th July)

There will be an event dinner in a private dining room on the 13th. This will be a fixed price/head to cover food and drink but sponsor/s are being sought for this event. More news later but the absolute maximum cost/head would be £50 and hopefully less.

There will also be a fun charity auction after dinner on the Saturday night. In a post-Brexit world where we can't import or export anything, tesco's shelves are empty and the pound is worth about 5 US cents, the emphasis is on fun not large value items. We are looking for auction items with a monetary value of less than £20 from individuals or organisations which can be anything you wish from a special drop of something to fun items or memorabilia. Basically anything that you think would be desirable, interesting or amusing. For example, commercial freebies from now or in the past or embarrassing photographs that someone may wish to buy just to avoid wider distribution.

Perhaps, if you can't ride in the event, you may wish to donate an item. The donator of all items will, of course, be credited unless they wish anonymity and a reserve can be specified. All proceeds to the Rob Stephenson Trust. Please bring your items along to the event or send them to me, FAO Andrew Watson, NIAB, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge. CB3 0LE by the 30th June or just give them to me or Patrick Stephenson if you see either of us before July.

This dinner and auction is open to all, not just event riders. Please fill in the relevant section in the attached registration form if you just want to attend this evening event and do pass on the event details as widely as possible.

Draft Routes

See attached pdf for the draft rough routes over the 2 days. Please note that I have not ground truthed these yet so changes will occur. Once checked, I can send files for Garmin. These detailed routes are on my Strava account which many of you have access to from last year but remember they are just drafts. Routes will largely be designed for road bikes but mountain bikes are fine for shorter distances.

On each day there is a short and long route depending on your preference. You are also free to just cycle a part route e.g. up to lunch or just after lunch. All riders meet at the same venue for lunch each day. Lunches are self-financing unless a kind sponsor/s come forward. Riders on the short routes typically do 8-10 mph whereas riders on the longer rider are around 10-12 mph (both including time for frequent refreshment stops).

The event is open to individuals or teams. There is a fixed charge for riding in the event of £20/person for up to 1 day or £30/person for 2 days. All monies to the Rob Stephenson Trust and payable on the day.

Saturday 13th July.

AM - 10.30 am (to allow time for traveling to the event if not staying on Friday night) – All riders start at the hotel and head south to Aldeburgh and onto Orford Ness peninsula to the Martello tower. Then double back and head west to Snape for lunch about noon. (10.7 miles)

PM- 1.30pm - Short route head north and west back to the hotel (8.0 miles). Long route heads east and south to the coastal village of Orford and then west, north and east to circle back to the hotel via Saxmundham. (27.9 miles)

Sunday 14th July

AM- 9am - Short route heads north from the hotel past the west side of RSPB Minsmere and then east to Southwold for lunch (14.4 miles). The long route overlaps the short route in sections but loops west and north (28 miles). Everyone meets for lunch around noon in Southwold.

PM – 1.30pm – All riders (short and long) follow the same route south down the coast through Walberswick, Dunwich, past the east side of RSPB Minsmere and right past the beautiful edifice that is Sizewell Nuclear Power Plant and finishing in Thorpeness about 3pm (13.3 miles) glowing with pride (or Caesium 137).

Finally, as last year, the emphasis for the event is fun not endurance or a race. The distances are less in 2019 but still designed to be challenging at various levels. We want you to enjoy the event and the company but still be able to say “I did that”.

Please fill in the attached entry form and send back to me by the 30th June. If you need accommodation, I would recommend booking ASAP.

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