

Maryland Fun Ride -Route Description

NORTH ROUTE

N.B. No crewing on the North loop until you return to the venue track.

From the start, follow a forestry track. This track becomes stoney and bends sharp right downhill. Continue downhill with a cottage garden on your left until you reach a minor road crossing. Cross this road and continue down hill on a narrow disused road - compulsory walk section as it can be slippery. At the T-junction, turn right onto the Whitebrook Lane. After about 0.5 Km follow a byway to your left that crosses the Whitebrook. In about 1 km you will see some pretty gardens on your right. A compulsory walk section until you reach the end of the drive. You will come out at the end of the track (house on your right, soil track up to your left). Bear right and then turn left onto the road, continue down this road for about 0.5km past a farm and turn sharp left on the right hand bend of the road after the farm and go by the barrier onto a disused railway track. After about 0.5 km, it is possible to drop down to the right onto the river bank bridleway, but this is not recommended unless it's been really dry. The route will be marked along the firm railway track. After about 2 km you will see a fisherman's shelter on your right. (You can exit from the river bank here). Turn left uphill following a forestry road. There is a salmon carving to your right on the junction. Follow this track uphill for a good 3km to a forestry barrier. Turn left onto this lane which can be a bit slippery- Please walk slowly down.

At T-junction at the bottom of the hill turn right. (Don't get confused if you catch sight of riders to your left on the outward-bound route). At the crossroads, take a track to your left uphill into the woods. Turn left onto main forestry track and keep going until you rejoin your route from earlier for a very short time! Follow the track uphill for a very short distance and take the path straight in front of you on the corner up into the trees. Near the top of the hill turn left onto forestry road. Keep straight on until you reach the parking area. Turn left and walk back past the trailers to the timekeeper at **Checkpoint 1 /Start & Finish**.

SOUTH ROUTE

Please keep an eye out for lead-rein riders and Novice horses on this loop and pass them with care. From the check-point, turn right, so that you are heading south towards the hamlet of Maryland. Cross the road carefully and follow the lane through Maryland. (2-way section). It becomes a stoney forestry road, continue through the boulders and past a new barrier. At a cross-road of tracks, fork right, then immediately right again, before a gateway. Follow a bridleway with a fence-line on your left. Keep straight on until you reach a junction with a hard forestry road. Turn sharp left, past a forestry barrier uphill. At the top of the hill is a cattle grid with a gate beside it that should be tied open. Keep straight on, enjoying the views across the Wye Valley. **Checkpoint 2/ Lead rein route split.** Take the 2nd track up to the right -- if you miss this and reach another cattle grid you are following the lead-rein loop! Follow this grassy track to another gate - which should be tied open. Turn left. The track goes downhill to a clearing. Turn right and follow this track downhill, past another forestry barrier to a junction with Beacon lane. Turn left to a T-junction. Turn left again on to the Trellech/Llandogo road.

Lead rein/ Novice loop- Continue along the forestry track passing a cattle grid with gate by the side (gate should be tied open). Then go past a forestry barrier to a T-junction of tracks. Turn right, track goes slightly downhill, continue on this track. Take the next left turn past a forestry barrier. Continue along track until you turn left onto the main route. Follow from **

After about 100m cross the road turning right, past a forestry barrier, onto a forestry track. This track bears left and takes you around the edge of Cleddon Bog to another forestry barrier and a road junction. Turn left onto this narrow lane then very quickly right, through a gap in the bank up into Ninewells Wood. Keep following this muddy twisting path uphill to a junction with a main path. Turn left, follow the forestry road up, then downhill to another forestry barrier by a car park and road junction. Turn Right onto the Trellech/ Llandogo road and follow this lane downhill for about 1 km until you see a forestry barrier. **Checkpoint 3** Turn left, go around the barrier, and follow the forestry road uphill. At the top of the hill keep straight on along a bridleway (Wye valley Walk) Follow this track downhill and across the top of Cleddon Falls.

Continue slightly uphill along the bridleway as it passes to the left of a B&B- Walk past the cottage please. Keep going through the woods to a junction of tracks - the lead rein route re-joins here.

** Keep more or less straight on at this junction following the bridleway signs down "Duchess Mile". Keep going until you reach a hunting gate which we will hopefully have tied open. The 2nd gate brings you out onto a very quiet, single track lane at Pen-y-Van. Take the first left, then left again at a T-junction and back into the forestry. Follow the forestry road, past a barrier, to the junction with the main forestry track that you started this loop on. Turn right and retrace your steps back along the 2-way section through Maryland, crossing the Trellech road and up the forestry track to the **Checkpoint/ Finish**.