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Hitchin Nomads 80th Anniversary Sportive Report 12th June, 2011 Steeple Morden, Herts

Sunday 12th June saw the first outing of the Hitchin Nomads Sportive. In celebration of the clubs 80th Anniversary, the sportive, was designed as an 80Km circuit taking in pretty villages and rolling countryside, starting and finishing in the usually quiet village of Steeple Morden.

Glorious sunshine greeted the first participants arriving to register at 8:00 on Sunday morning but this was to be short-lived as by the time everyone started lining up for the first start at 9:30 the skies had clouded over and the winds had freshened.



Nevertheless spirits were high, particularly amongst over 20 riders from Hitchin Nomads club setting off at the head of the field.

Riders were released in small groups at 2-3 minute intervals to avoid congestion in the early miles and many groups stayed together

for long stretches enjoying the chance to ride some new routes and make new friends along the way.

By halfway the field had stretched out over an hour with the first riders largely ignoring the refreshments on offer. Those taking a more leisurely approach were thankful for the sports drink, jelly babies and cake available as well as the friendly faces waiting for them outside the village hall before heading out on a second loop through Litlington and Bassingbourne and then north over the river Cam to Gamlingay and back via Potton and Guilden Morden.



By the time the first riders finished shortly after midday the sunshine had been replaced by a constant cooling drizzle. Praise for the course was universal with some riders even electing to do an additional lap because they enjoyed it so much.

The Sportive was a huge success in 2011 with 75 riders signing up for the first outing, and vital funds being raised for Teach Africa. A charity set up to provide schooling for some of the brightest children from the Nairobi slums.



The event is set to grow in future years as the word gets out there, and with a longer distance format set to join the 80K in 2012 things are looking good for a spectacular Sportive around Hertfordshire in years to come. Here's hoping the sun will shine on us in 2012.

And finally.....



Riders from different eras taking part on 12th June. Believed to be the oldest and youngest full members of Hitchin Nomads CC.