

Hi, here are my brief race ramblings after doing the Wiggle New Forest sportive - epic distance (85mi). Well it was fantastic weather and so a great day to be cycling round the New Forest! The start was pretty relaxed and spread out in small groups, but I had a problem right at the start of the race where a stone had caught in my shoes and I couldn't clip in so had to stop and then catch up to the group again - good thing to remember to check at the race start. The route was quite tough as the groups were really fragmented, plus quite a few hills and a fair measure of potholes which meant you had to keep yourself on your toes! I almost went into a large one as the guy in front failed to warn us, but fortunately at the last minute managed to jump the bike over it just catching the back tyre but no problems. There was also one particular short hill which was really, really steep and you had to literally have a granny gear otherwise impossible to get up it - the guy ahead of me started going up but ran out of steam and fell over in a heap - many people resorted to walking up it! There was one bit of the race I really enjoyed when I happened to see Eric and his group passing by so I quickly jumped on the back and joined them through'ing and off on a nice long straight section - but they stopped at a water hole and I carried on only to be passed by them about 20 mins later!

According to my Garmin:  
Distance: 137km (85mi)  
Time: 4:42  
Ave: 29.1 kmh (18.07 mph)

So not a bad effort over that distance - my legs were really protesting at the end - obviously not made by Duracell!

I've put the route onto mapmyrun if you're interested:

<http://www.mapmyrun.com/ride/united-kingdom/brockenhurst%2c-new-forest%2c-hampshire/285127162314457806>