

24<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## **GRAND TOURS RELAY CHALLENGE**

### **Up the Grand Colombier in the Stevenage Cycling Festival**

A fantastic 2,000 kilometre effort on Sunday has put Cycling UK Stevenage at the top of Grand Colombier. In just three days, they have ridden La Course and completed 15 stages out of the 21 in this year's Tour de France.

As part of the Stevenage Cycling Festival they have set themselves the challenge of riding cycling's three big grand tours – Tour de France, Giro D'Italia and the Vuelta (Spain). That would be a total of almost exactly 10,000 kilometres.

Of course they are not in France. It's a virtual relay and every ride is at least partly in Stevenage. 27 members and other local cyclists rode on Sunday.

Starting from Nice Team Stevenage have already climbed many of the high mountains and fought the winds as they went from island to island on the west coast.

The Grand Tours Relay continues up to Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. It is just one element of the Stevenage Cycling Festival.

While health guidance prevents major events with lots of cyclists in the same place at the same time the festival programme offers a huge variety of led small group rides from 6 to 80 miles. There are ABC starter rides; a heritage ride round the landmarks of Stevenage; morning and afternoon rides – last Saturday there were three afternoon rides; and trips to Cambridge and Princes Risborough for those that like to get a bit further.

Several of the rides are on weekdays so there is plenty of choice. Unfortunately the current guidelines impose a limit of six riders per group and the organisers must have contact details for everyone so you must book in advance with the leader of the ride you want to do. You can find the programme on [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk); through the group's Facebook page – Cycling UK Stevenage or by going to [www.cyclinguk.org](http://www.cyclinguk.org) then to go cycling and local rides. You don't have to be a member and all the rides are free.

While there cannot be a rally in a park this year there are several activities you can do by yourself or with your household group including the local cycle routes loaded onto [www.stevenagectc.org.uk](http://www.stevenagectc.org.uk), a cycling treasure hunt and online there's a virtual film festival and Facebook Live cycling chats.

Other cycling organisations in the town have also contributed events to the programme. Enjoy!

ENDS

More from Jim Brown 0793 968 7509 or Tina Walker 01438 235881