

## **Sulley Rides 2020** by Peter Witting

Riders were suffering from “cabin-fever” after storm Ciara, storm Dennis then storm Jorge delivered gales and floods, decimating club-runs on consecutive Sundays. But March 1<sup>st</sup> was dry and sunny at last, and 40 riders signed on. That was the highest number for 5 years! By comparison, the 2016 event clashed with Mothering Sunday, 2017 was ridden in a continual deluge, in 2018 the ride was cancelled due to snow and ice, while in 2019 everyone was terrorised by storm Freya!

The 40 riders covered over 2,250 kilometres. The yellow weather warning of high winds expired at 9am, just as the ride began, and everyone managed to avoid the myriad water-filled potholes.

Congratulations to the 3 riders who completed the full 100Km. route, riding back to Lutterworth from Tilton-on-the-Hill directly into the stiff headwind with gusts over 30mph. They were Roger Pullin and Andy Kerridge, both South Leicestershire, and Richard Jones of the Thursday Club. Some hills were walked!

12 rode the 70Kms, 20 chose the 50Kms and 4 chose the 32Km shortie. One rider abandoned when he decided his house was nearby, to save continuing into the wind to Lutterworth. The final group of 9 had all stopped to refuel only 8 miles from the finish, at Shearsby Fishing Lakes. Thankfully they phoned to let me know as I was about to list them as “missing in action”!

Thanks to Dave Gair for arranging the hall, to John Cox for assistance at the start, and to Barbara Witting & Sandra Whittington for providing hot drinks and cakes for riders at the start and finish.

With the Covid-19 lockdown following only 3 weeks later, this was probably the last club event of the year!