

More entries for off-road ride

By NG WEI LOON

weiloon@thestar.com.my

Photos by SIA HONG KIAU

A BIGGER turnout is expected for Pedalphilies Cycling Club (PCC)-Proton Presidential ride to be held at Taman Kajang Perdana this Sunday.

The 60km challenging leisure and non-competitive off-road ride organised by PCC has attracted 650 avid social mountain bikers this season compared to 540 entries last year.

In fact, more participants wanted to sign up. However, the organiser had to turn them away.

"We can only accommodate up to 650 riders to ensure that the event runs according to plan. More than half of the participants are outsiders comprising riders from outside the Klang Valley and expatriates," said PCC president James Bak, adding that almost 100 riders from Penang will be joining the ride.

Currently, the Klang Valley-based club has approximately 800 members.

"Only about 200 of them are active members and take part in our club's activities regularly," added Bak.

Debutant Dorothea Heng, 34, is looking forward to experience the downhill adrenalin rush in her first endurance mountain bike ride.

"I have enjoyed cycling since young. I enjoy riding with PCC because the members provide each other with friendly company. So far, the furthest I have done on the mountain biking trail is 30km," said Heng, a sales executive.

Heng, who has just joined PCC this year, is hopeful of completing the full ride.

"It is going to be tough. But the satisfaction of crossing the finishing line will definitely spur me on to achieve my goal," she added.

Besides appreciating the tranquil natural scenery that the trail has to offer,



PCC members preparing for the ride.

the riders will have to negotiate the undulating terrain through rubber and oil palm estates, a memorial park, ponds, orchards, duck farms, a sugarcane plantation, an orang asli settlement and a quarry.

"Although the uphill climbs are demanding, it is a rewarding experience to enjoy the fresh outdoor air. I have been riding in the Presidential ride since its inception four years ago," said Jessther Sia, 34, a technician.

The course will be divided into four sectors. There will be escape (shortcut) route after each sector. Each sector is about 15km.

Average riders will take between six and seven hours to complete the full course.

"The whole idea to go out there is to enjoy the beautiful surroundings while riding. It will defeat the purpose if you push yourself hard to finish the ride," added Sia, who usually finishes the ride either among the front riders or in the mid pack.

In the final route reconnaissance conducted last weekend, the riders' safety remained a main priority.

"We are trying to minimise and avoid the dangerous spots with precaution checks along the route. We are trying to make the course easier and cater to riders of all abilities," explained Bak.

For the ride, about 30 volunteers will be serving as marshals and support crew.

Proton has also pledged its commitment as the main sponsor for the second consecutive year and is contributing 10 Proton T-Bikes full carbon frames and 10 units of mountain bikes to be given away at the end of the ride.

Only those who compete the full 60km ride stand a chance to win the prizes.

Among other mountain biking activities hosted by PCC include holiday on bikes and self-support rides to secluded camping locations.

For more details, visit www.pcc-cycling.freeservers.com.