



### **ACKLAM LODGE C2C CHALLENGE (COAST TO COAST)**

This challenge was accepted by twenty-four people to raise money for MANDET [ Midwifery & Diabetes Educational Trust ], ZOE'S PLACE & MENINGITIS RESEARCH

In preparation for the event a number of training sessions were arranged in order to assess the fitness of the group, which would enable the organisers to sort the men from the boys!.

Grateful thanks go to Mark Roberts (the Master of Acklam Lodge), Steve and John (the very capable driver) for the amount of time and effort, which was required before the big weekend. Trying to organise twenty-four riders, bikes and support personnel is no mean feat. The much-appreciated patience of Mark's wife, Vanessa is not forgotten.

The Thursday afternoon start on the West Coast saw horrendous weather, with thunder and lightning, mist and flooded roads. Almost every element was encountered over the next three days and nights, including even some sunshine. Some relatively flat roads, but also inclines which had to be seen to be believed.

And so to Consett where we opened the champagne which had been supplied by big Darren....what a kind thought and greatly appreciated.

Cyclists and supporters worked well as a team. Not once was a moan heard or did anyone refuse to do anything. After much hugging, photographing and congratulating, all the participants went home. Having set off as strangers they finished as friends, in the knowledge they had raised considerable funds for some exceptionally worthy causes.

Mark Roberts is coming to the end of his year as Master of the Lodge, a year in which he has raised £9,500 for charitable causes. This particular venture raised no less than £2,500. Well done Mark.