

FUND-RAISER: Cyclists ready for mystery tour in the saddle

Ben, 10, takes on 25-mile ride for Children in Need coffers



A 10-YEAR-OLD cyclist will achieve an ambition this weekend when he completes a fund-raising ride for Children in Need.

Morton Trentside Primary School pupil Ben has organised his 25-mile challenge after missing out in 2008.

The determined sportsman from Greystones Road in Gainsborough wanted to support the charity 12 months ago, but left it too late.

But on Sunday morning Ben and his father John will join the ranks of the West Lincolnshire Cyclists' Touring Club leisure riders on a course round the county's rural roads network.

He will raise at least £100 for the international charity, which is holding its star-studded telethon next week.

"The furthest I've ever ridden is 10 miles, but I'm determined to do the 25 and all my friends are really behind me," he said.

And Ben added that he was pleased that so many people had agreed to sponsor him.

"Ben has had Children in Need on his mind ever since last year's event," said proud mum Dianne.

"He wanted to do something on his own, but just ran out of time."

Chief John, 49, confirmed that their route would be a mystery.

"We're meeting up with the Cyclists' Touring Club group and we'll find out where we're going

Chris Hall

By Gainsborough Press Staff

on Sunday morning," he said.

"Ben is pretty fit anyway because he plays in defence for Gainsborough Trinity Under 11s."

West Lincolnshire CTC's leisure rides co-ordinator Trevor Halstead also runs Church Street Cycles in Gainsborough and is chairman of the town's Aegir cycling club.

"John is a customer and he mentioned Ben's intentions, so I just thought it would be best if they joined our Sunday run," he said.

Morton Trentside's interim headteacher Mark Gallacher is not surprised that Ben is backing the charity.

"He's a terrific boy and this is typical of the kind of thing he would do," said Mr Gallacher.

"I can't praise Ben highly enough."

■ A sponsored cyclist called in on Gainsborough during an epic ride last week.