



# European Junior Cycling Tour Assen

## Introduction

The information below has been written from the perspective of a parent whose child attended the European Junior Cycling Tour of Assen in 2023 for the first time, our experience and knowledge of the event (and youth racing in general) is limited, however we hope that it provides you with a useful insight into our experience, and encourages you to consider attending the event with your youth rider in the future.

Many PPYCC riders have competed at EJCTA over the years so please reach out to the coaching team, and/or other parents and riders (past and present), who may be able to share more guidance, advice and information about their experiences.

## About the event

The Internationale **Jeugdtoer Assen** is the largest youth cycle race held in Europe. It has been held annually since 1960 in the city of **Assen** in the Netherlands. Each year it attracts hundreds of racing cyclists, many of whom go on to success in later years.

**Riders race in Categories based upon their year of birth**, with girls riding down one year group (i.e. boys born in 2012 will race with girls born in 2011).

**For the 2024 event the youngest category** (Category 1) will comprise of **boys born in 2016**, and **girls born in 2015**. The categories continue to be split by single years of birth up to Category 7, after which they combine riders from 2 years of birth, and also separate the boys and girls into their own races. **This is different from the British Cycling age category system** which usually sees riders grouped by two years of birth. The Dutch system of 'single years' has the effect of **making the racing very competitive and close!**



Open for riders aged  
8 - 18 years



Racing with riders born in  
the same year (not 2 years  
like in the UK)



Girls and boys race together  
up to the under 17 category  
when they are split)



## 2024 Event

### Key Information



**Registration opens:**  
**5th February @ 10:00hrs**



**Racing takes place**  
**29th July - 2nd August 2024**  
**(5 stages over 5 days)**



**Official Website [Here](#)**



**Road Bikes**  
**(with age group gear**  
**restrictions)\***



**Stadsbroek 11a, Assen,**  
**Netherlands**



**British Cycling letter of**  
**authority required\*\***

**\*Gear Restrictions are different to those imposed by British Cycling** please check the organisers website [here](#) for details



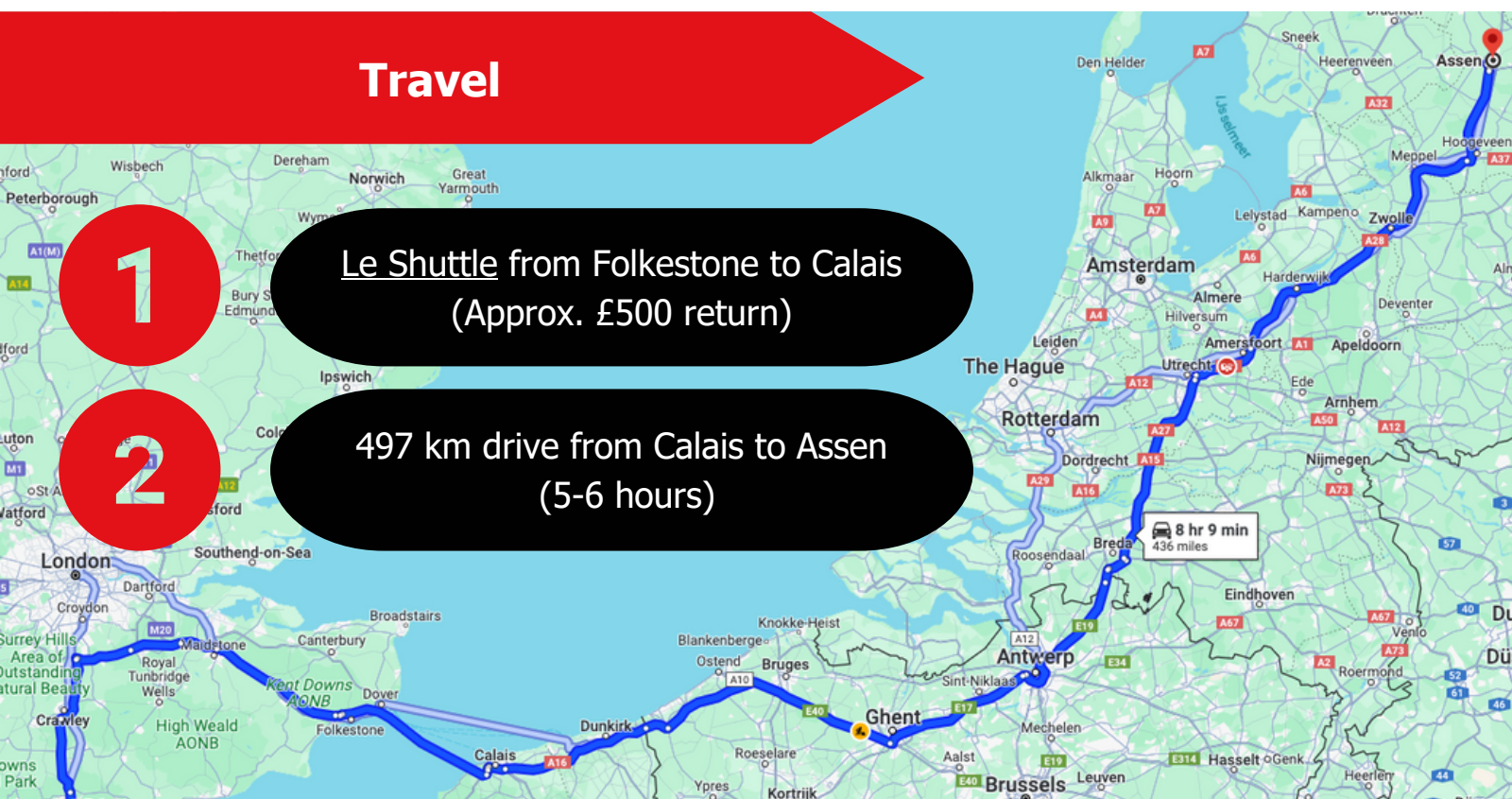
## \*\*Racing abroad

It is a requirement of UCI that members of British Cycling obtain a letter of authority to race abroad. To qualify for a letter of authority, **you must be in possession of a current Full Racing Licence.**

**Requests should be sent with your BC membership number and stating the name/s of the countries you will be racing in to [membership@britishcycling.org.uk](mailto:membership@britishcycling.org.uk)**

It is a requirement of UCI that all riders must be covered by **adequate medical insurance** when racing overseas. While the National Health Service in the UK provides for British riders competing in Britain, it may be necessary for you to take out additional travel insurance to cover you whilst you are racing abroad. For races in Europe, it is strongly advised that riders also carry a UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) or a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Please refer to the advice above on GHIC/EHIC cards.

## Travel



**Riders are encouraged to pick up their race pack/ numbers on the Sunday afternoon before 5p.m,** ahead of the racing which starts on Monday morning, Therefore it is recommended that you plan your travel times around this.

Arriving earlier on the Sunday will allow you time to settle in, relax, and ride a quick recce lap of stage 1 (**which is highly recommended!**)

- We took Le Shuttle from Folkestone to Calais departing around 08:00hrs on Sunday morning.
- Followed by a 497 km drive from Calais to Assen (5-6 hours).
- We arrived a little after 17:00hrs (due to stops and refuelling) - but the organisers re-opened registration again at 19:00hrs (**in 2024 we will get an earlier crossing maybe 07:00hrs**)

**The roads were a lot quieter than in the UK** and there are plenty of service stations with good food and facilities, there were also **plenty of EV charge points on route.** The **speed limits vary as you cross the borders between France - Belgium - and The Netherlands!**

The event closes on Friday evening with a presentation, it is difficult to know when this will start and end, therefore we chose to **travel back home on Saturday morning** and booked the return (Le Shuttle) crossing for 15:00hrs.

## Travel Recommendation

**1** If you are happy to pay a little more - book a "Flexi" ticket for Le Shuttle. You can then turn up anytime during the day you have booked for and get on the next crossing

**2** Leave as early as you can bear on the Sunday morning, that way you will have a chance to recce stage 1 (which is highly recommended)

**3** The racing finished on Friday late afternoon and the presentations that followed finished around 17:00 - 18:00hrs. We started our journey home at around 07:30hrs on the following day (Saturday morning) and got a Le Shuttle crossing at around 15:30hrs - which was perfect

**4** Whilst all 5 stages are usually based in or very close to Assen - in 2023, the organisers had a problem with obtaining the required local authority permits for some of the stages, therefore a couple of the stages were out of town (approximately 40km away) this made having a car pretty important!





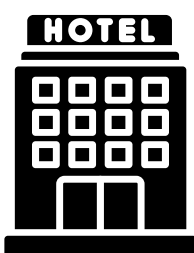
# Accommodation



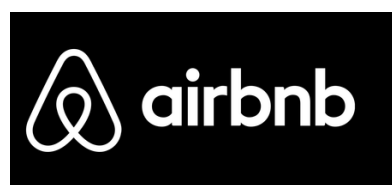
Options to suit all budgets and tastes



## Camping



## Hotel



## Rental

### Proximity to Race HQ (walking)



## Various

### Campsite at Stadsbroek

During the European Junior Cycling Tour Assen you can stay at the cycling campsite at Stadsbroek.

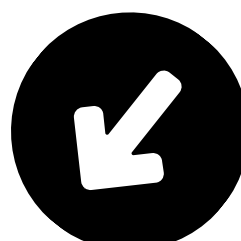
The costs for camping are €150 for a caravan, camper or large tent (>10m2) and €85 for a small tent (<10m2). These prices include electricity and use of showers and toilets, but exclude tourist tax. The municipality of Assen will still determine the tourist tax

The address of the campsite is Stadsbroek 11a, 9405 BK in Assen.

### De Bonte Weaver

stands out because of its convenient all-inclusive formula – you pay a set price for a complete package. Food and beverages, access to the sub-tropical swimming and sauna paradise, the bowling alley, the gym, and use of the various games activities are all included. You are also welcome in the Caféstraat with cosy bars where you can enjoy live music in the evenings. Our entertainment team organises many enjoyable indoor and outdoor activities for young and old. Having all the facilities under the same roof makes everything even more convenient.

### Various options and prices



Both the campsite and the hotel provide opportunities for the children to **socialise with other riders which makes the event really fun and memorable.**

We stayed at the hotel (**De Bonte Weaver**) - it was perfect, and we have booked here again for the 2024 event!



## Our Advice, Tips and Essentials

1

### It rained everyday!

If you are a spectator - pack wet weather gear (waterproof jacket), I wish I had also taken an umbrella and shoes that were not shy of a little mud!

2

### It rained everyday!

Your rider will need to be in fresh / dry kit every day - take at least two race kits (Club Jersey, shorts, socks and gloves)

3

### Be prepared for basic bike maintenance

If the weather is terrible you will likely be giving the bike a quick clean each evening. If you are staying in the hotel (De Bonte Weaver) you are permitted to keep your bike in your room.

The coaching team at PPYCC are best positioned to provide guidance and support in preparing your youth rider for the event, and for the youngest riders, **consistently attending the Saturday Club Sessions** should provide an adequate level of preparation.

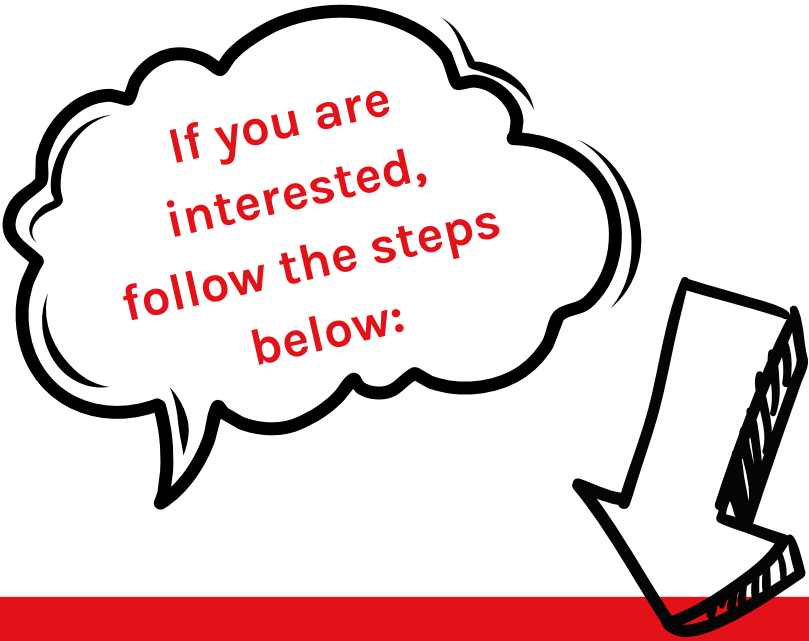
However as you move through the age groups the level of competition increases exponentially! I am not qualified to advise on the type and level of training required, so please speak to the coaching team if you have an ambitious rider!

In the 2023 event most of the racing across all age categories finished with a bunch sprint, where the finish time awarded to each rider was the same.

Success at the overall event, in terms of the **General Classification** was therefore largely determined by the individual riders performance during stage 1 (Prologue) and Stage 4 (Individual Time Trail).

The organisers have confirmed that the 2024 event will not have a Prologue, and that each stage will be longer - so expect the Individual Time Trail to be longer than in the 2023 event. You can get an idea of the range of speeds achieved during the 2023 time trail event by looking at the results [here](#) or from the table below:

Category	Average Speed (KM/H) (slowest and fastest)	Distance
1	26.71 - 32.96	2.1 km
2	23.52 - 27.56	3.0 km
3	24.11 - 33.28	4.3 km
4	25.58 - 33.90	6.0 km
5	27.12 - 35.87	7.5 km
6	29.11 - 38.12	7.5 km
7	35.85 - 40.88	7.5 km



1

[Register](#) for the event on 5th February

2

Book your accomodation

3

Book [Le Shuttle](#)

