

A COMPLETE BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO SPORTIVE TRAINING

In partnership with...

AndyCookCycling



For beginner to pro

HIGH5
SPORTS NUTRITION

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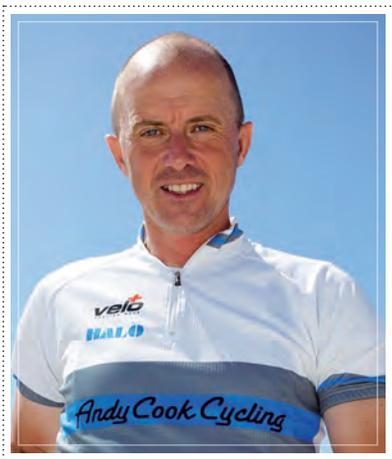
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AndyCookCycling

COACHES

Andy & Jacqui Cook

Andy Cook is a former President of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) "Cycling for All" Commission and is currently a member of the UCI "Mass Participation" Commission. Andy has held senior positions at both British Cycling and the Cyclists Touring Club (CTC).

Jacqui Cook is a lifelong cyclist and former National Record holder. Jacqui has trained thousands of cyclist of all ages and abilities.

If you are interested in more personalised coaching, visit www.andycookcycling.com

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WELCOME

Andy Cook Cycling is run by British Cycling qualified coaches. In the last 25 years they have trained and coached thousands of cyclists from absolute beginners to top level competitors, helping them improve their performance. A knowledgeable and adaptable approach makes it easy to develop your bike fitness. This training plan will build on your current fitness over a 12 week period and develop the key ingredients to get you to the finish on the big day.

We recommend that you can already ride for up to 1 hour before starting.

The right nutrition in training will help you along the way to a successful Sportive. Using sports nutrition correctly can help strengthen your immune system, improve your endurance performance, and contribute to muscle growth. Carbohydrate is the fuel that your body uses for energy when exercising.

Although your body has a limited store of carbohydrate, it's normally sufficient for exercising up to 90 minutes. So for shorter training sessions, you only need to take on fluids with electrolytes to remain **HYDRATED**. A zero calorie electrolyte drink like High5 **ZERO** enhances hydration and can help you control your calorie intake.

WEEK 1

MONDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Ride at steady pace, without getting out of breath,
Pedal at 80-85 rpm

Work out a flattish route, to use over next few rides.
Maintain a steady pedalling rhythm

TUESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

WEDNESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady ride, still without getting out of breath. Pedal at 85-90 rpm
Change to a lower gear, if necessary to maintain rpm. Treat your pedals
like a treadle, not like a treadmill. Use the same route

THURSDAY - REST DAY

Try a few gentle stretching exercises

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Rest

SATURDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Introduce a few harder exertions so as to feel levels of effort

SUNDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Another steady paced ride, as Saturday. Pedal at 90-95rpm
Ride with a friend, so that you can chat while riding. Try to
involve someone of similar ability and ride together, not race

WEEK 2

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Clean and check your bike

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Ride at steady pace. You should be able to chat while riding.
Don't get out of breath. Turn the pedals at 90-95 rpm
Consider how your riding compares with last week

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Warm up at the steady pace of 90-95 rpm for 20mins.
Then ride briskly for 5mins at 110 rpm. Ease off and ride 10mins
at 80 rpm, before another 5mins brisk at 110 rpm. As a warm
down ride at 90rpm for a further 20mins

The brisk efforts will help anaerobic fitness. Maintain
the supple pedalling of the previous sessions

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

A Steady paced ride at 90-95 RPM- trying not to get out of breath
Try to exert yourself a few times so as to feel levels of effort

SUNDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Another steady paced ride at @90-95rpm but in company
Ride with a friend and chat as you go along. This will check your
breathing. Remember to ride together and not race each other

WEEK 3

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride. Pedal at 90-95rpm
- trying not to get out of breath
Check that you are recovering after each training session

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady ride for 20mins at 90- 95 rpm to warm up. Then 5mins
brisk ride at 110rpm. Ease off and ride for 10mins at 80 rpm
before repeating the 5mins brisk at 110 rpm. Warm down
with 20mins ride at 90 rpm

Ensure rest and recovery after this ride

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Give some thought to energy drinks and food; try different brands both
before and on your rides in the next few weeks

SATURDAY - CYCLING 1 - 1.5 HRS

A steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath
while maintaining 90- 95rpm
Add a few gentle climbs to the route so as to introduce some variety

SUNDAY - CYCLING 1.5 - 2 HRS

A steady ride in company - try not to get out of breath.
Pedal @90-95rpm
As it is more enjoyable to ride in company, ride with a friend
but also consider joining a cycling club or group

NUTRITION TIP:

Your rides are now starting to get longer and you may find low
energy levels towards the end of your ride. When exercising for
longer, you should focus on **HYDRATION** and **ENERGY**. Your body's
limited store of carbohydrate can be depleted after 90 to 120
minutes and as a result your energy levels will drop. Your body is
telling you that it needs more carbohydrate to maintain your pace.

Fuelling your body with a drink like High5 **EnergySource** or using
High5 **EnergyGel** will help maintain your performance and provide
the extra carbohydrate you need for longer sessions. You will
also not feel so tired the following day.

WEEK 4

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Easy week. Stretching. Try joining a yoga, pilates or similar class

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedalling at 90-95rpm
Ride steadily without hard efforts. Relax and enjoy.
Consider a new route

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Just relax and enjoy a steady pace

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 1 - 1.5 HRS

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm

SUNDAY - CYCLING 2 HRS

A steady paced ride with company - trying to not get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Steady paced ride at your speed. Ride with friends or group but don't
try to match other peoples speed if faster than you

NUTRITION TIP:

It is time to consider your rest and recovery routine. Now that you are riding further it is important to re-fuel immediately after your ride, use a recovery drink like **Protein Recovery**, or a meal with both protein and carbohydrate.

High quality whey protein helps grow and maintain muscle mass. Aim to have this as soon as you finish your training for maximum effect. This is where a recovery drink that mixes quickly comes in useful. If you are having a recovery drink then have a balanced meal one to two hours after your ride.

WEEK 5

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Steady pace will need to add a few miles on to training route as will be increasing speed slightly from this week

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Warm up for 20mins at steady pace of 90-95 rpm, before
- 5 mins brisk at 110rpm, ease off for 10mins at 80rpm -
then another 5mins brisk at 110 rpm. End ride with warm
down for 20 mins at steady pace of 90 rpm
Try and keep the brisk efforts constant. Rest and recovery
drink afterwards

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Rest

SATURDAY - CYCLING 2 HRS

Steady paced ride at 95-100 rpm. Try making some efforts
on the hills and keep pedalling over the top
Change into lower gear where necessary. Remember
your rest and recovery drink/ food after the ride

SUNDAY - CYCLING 2 - 2.5 HRS

Ride with friends or club. Keep pedalling rhythm smooth and constant
Make sure that you rest, drink and eat so as to re-fuel after this ride.
For more efficient riding consider your pedalling action.

To maintain a good cadence, treat your pedals like a treadle
operated machine. With practice this will involve the ankles
so as to create a smooth, complete pedalling action. Avoid
the temptation to just push down on the pedals. Think of
Treadle rather than **Treadmill**

WEEK 6

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Check through your clothing shorts, base layers, shoes. If change
needed start to replace now, so as to get used to it

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedalling at 90-95rpm
Review and rearrange your training route to increase distance

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 HR 15

Warm up for 20mins at steady 90-95 rpm. 5mins at brisk
110 rpm followed by 10mins riding easily at 80 rpm. Then a
second brisk ride at 110rpm, followed by 10mins at 80 rpm.
Now a third brisk ride at 110 rpm before warming down
for 20mins at the steady 90 rpm pace.
Try to maintain the efforts and concentrate on pedalling,
or cadence. Rest and re-fuel afterwards

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 2 HRS

Steady paced ride @ 95-100 rpm, incorporating several
efforts on the hills - keeping pedalling over the top
Concentrate on maintaining smooth cadence both
up hill and over the top. Recovery food and drink

SUNDAY - CYCLING 2.5 HRS

Ride with group of friends or club. Keep pedalling rate
smooth and constant
Rest and recovery food and drink as soon as finished

WEEK 7

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Check your bike- including tyres, chain, brake and gear cables.
Clean and adjust where necessary

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedal ling at 90- 95rpm
Steady pace

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Warm up for 20mins at steady 90-95 rpm pace. Then 5mins brisk 110rpm effort followed by 8mins easy 80 rpm. Another 5mins at 110 rpm followed by 8mins at easy 80 rpm. Then a third 5mins at brisk 110 rpm and finally 20mins at 90 rpm to warm down
Recovery time reduced to improve anaerobic capacity

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 2 - 2.5 HRS

Steady paced ride - try not to get out of breath.
Pedalling at 90-95rpm
Concentrate on cadence and smooth riding position

SUNDAY - CYCLING 3 HRS

Group ride at steady at steady pace, still avoiding breathlessness.
Pedal at 90-95 rpm
Enjoy a stop on this ride, just 15-20 mins. Still rest and re-fuel as soon as you get home

WEEK 8

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Easy week. Think about drinking and eating on bike. This week practice doing it, so you can do it safely when with others. Consider introducing a few mobility exercises as a daily routine

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 - 1.5 HRS

Steady ride. Just enjoy the bike ride
Relaxed ride – use a different route for a change. Take a friend

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1 - 1.5 HRS

Steady ride, as Tuesday
Relax and enjoy. Practice using bottle while riding and taking food bars from your back pockets

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - REST DAY

Rest

SUNDAY - CYCLING 3.5 HRS

Steady paced group ride – try not to get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Ride with friends or club. Include a tea stop but also eat and drink on the bike. Remember your recovery routine when you get home

NUTRITION TIP:

With only 5 weeks to go it's time to think about the nutrition strategy for your sportive. Find out what products/brand will be on course but remember that it is easy to carry your nutrition in your jersey pockets and saddle bag so you don't have to rely on the nutrition available on course. The feed stations will have water available so you can mix more drink later in the ride. Try out your nutrition strategy on your longer ride to be sure that it works for you and you can go into the sportive with confidence.

Check out the High5 [Sportive Guide](#) on page 7 for some advice on your best nutrition strategy.

WEEK 9

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises
Think about the event(s) you are aiming for. Check the route to see how much climbing is involved. Plan a new route to include as many hills as possible to practice on

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Steady pace, increasing your cadence when climbing hills, stay sitting in saddle as long as possible
Make sure to maintain speed right over the top of hill

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

20mins warm up at a steady pace of 90 - 95rpm - 5mins brisk at 110 rpm followed by 8mins easy at 80rpm, then 5mins brisk at 110 rpm, then 8mins easy at 80 rpm, 5mins brisk at 110rpm, 8mins easy at 80 rpm, 5mins brisk @ 110rpm Finishing with warm down for 20mins steady at 90 rpm
Make sure you warm down well and use the recovery routine

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 2 HRS

Steady paced ride pedalling at 90-95rpm
Vary the route for a change

SUNDAY - CYCLING 4 HRS

Steady paced ride – still trying to not get out of breath.
Pedal at 90-95rpm
Steady paced ride with your group or club. Have one stop of 15 mins. Eat and drink on bike. Recovery routine as soon as home

WEEK 10

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching and mobility exercises
2 weeks to go now so more time in the saddle to build up to hardest ride next week

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Steady paced ride at 90-95rpm
Using regular route-You should notice you are going up the hills faster and easier

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

20mins warm up at steady pace of 90 - 95rpm - then 5mins brisk at 110 rpm followed by 8 mins easy at 80rpm, then 5 mins brisk at 110 rpm, then 8 mins easy @ 80 rpm, 5 mins brisk @ 110rpm, 8 mins easy @ 80 rpm, 5 mins brisk at 110rpm and finally warm down for 20 mins steady at 90 rpm

Increase speed in interval session. Make sure to warm down well and do recovery routine

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Rest

SATURDAY - CYCLING 3 HRS

Steady paced ride, keeping your cadence high.
Concentrate on climbing the hills smoothly...

Remember to eat and drink on ride.
Good recovery routine, once home

SUNDAY - CYCLING 4 HRS

Ride with group or club. Include one tea stop of 15 mins
Eat and drink on ride. Remember your recovery routine once home

NUTRITION TIP:

Practise your race day nutrition strategy on long runs.
You'll find it easier to follow on race day

WEEK 11

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching and mobility exercises
Take it easy as your legs will be tired and a bit sore after the weekend.
Your stretching exercises will be appreciated

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Steady paced ride - increase effort and speed by pedalling faster not by using a bigger gear
Stretch and recover

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Rest

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

20mins warm up at a steady pace of 90 - 95rpm - 5mins brisk @ 110 rpm followed by 8mins easy @ 80rpm, then 5mins brisk @ 110 rpm, then 8 mins easy @ 80 rpm, 5mins brisk @ 110rpm, 8mins easy @ 80 rpm, 5mins brisk @ 110rpm and finally warm down for 20mins steady @ 90 rpm

Your last interval session before the event so really try hard.
Make it hurt! Make sure you recover properly when finished

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching and mobility exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 3 HRS

Steady paced ride, keeping your cadence high
Go with a group if possible. Very important to practice good recovery routine at this stage of your preparation

SUNDAY - CYCLING 4.5 HRS

Ride with group. Have a short tea stop. Keep cadence high and keep going over the hills

The last big ride before event so enjoy it! Feel good about getting to this point in good shape

WEEK 12

MONDAY - REST DAY

Stretching and mobility exercises
This week riding will be gentler. Ensure your bike is ready **NOW** and you have all your kit, food and drink prepared so as to save last minute panics

TUESDAY - CYCLING 1 - 1.5 HRS

Ride at steady pace. Keep cadence high

WEDNESDAY - REST DAY

Final check of bike and kit. Buy anything still needed.
Don't wait till Saturday

THURSDAY - CYCLING 1.5 HRS

Steady pace, with a few bursts and/or a few sprints up the hills to break up ride
Go with a friend. Don't forget good recovery routine

FRIDAY - REST DAY

Stretching and mobility exercises

SATURDAY - CYCLING 1 HR

Have a relaxed spin of the pedals Enjoy a bike ride at an easy pace
You have now done all you can as preparation. You are right, the bike is right, all your kit and food is ready, so just relax, have a good meal and look forward to tomorrow

SUNDAY - CYCLING

THE BIG DAY

Enjoy the event. Make sure you pace yourself

NUTRITION TIP:

Carbo load in the days before the race.
[Find more info here](#)

SPORTIVE NUTRITION GUIDE

These guidelines are based on the latest science and real world feedback from thousands of athletes. Research shows that by just following these guidelines, athletes were able to maintain their pace 26% longer during an endurance ride. This was compared to their existing brand of sports nutrition consumed as they would normally¹... **Yes these guidelines work!**

THE FUEL FOR SPORT

Carbohydrate is the high-energy fuel that lets you ride fast and far, and it's what makes your time on the bike enjoyable. Unfortunately your body only has a limited store of carbohydrate, which can be depleted after around 2 hours of riding.

Think back to how easy it is in the first couple of hours of a tough ride, as compared to the last hour when you have depleted your carbohydrate reserves. Fuelling your body with additional carbohydrate, by consuming sports drinks and gels as you ride, will extend your endurance and provide the extra energy you need to enjoy your longer events - particularly in the latter stages.

It might seem logical that the more carbohydrate you consume the better, but you should take care. You are able to consume (swallow) a large amount of carbohydrate, but that does not mean your digestive system can process it as quickly. Research shows that if you consume more than **60g per hour** of the carbohydrates found in **traditional**² sports drink and gels, any extra will simply sit in your digestive tract and not be absorbed. Unless carbohydrate is absorbed into your bloodstream, it is of no benefit to your sports performance. Consuming too much carbohydrate can also lead to stomach cramps.

To exceed the 60g per hour limit, you have to switch to a new type of sports drink. The recommended intake for **2:1 fructose** drinks is **90g per hour**. This ability to deliver additional carbohydrate can make a substantial difference to your performance in an endurance event.

HOW MUCH DIFFERENCE?

If you follow this guide, you will get 90g of carbohydrate each hour to fuel your working muscles. **That's a total of 450g more carbohydrate during a 5-hour Sportive.**

Remember: If you cannot consume the full amount of drinks and gel shown, then consuming 70g of carbohydrate per hour is better than 50g and that's better than 30g.

¹ For more details see <http://highfive.co.uk/research-and-development/go-further.html>

² For the purpose of this illustration, a "traditional" energy or sports drink is one containing a source of carbohydrate that breaks down to glucose and contains little or no fructose.

BREAKFAST BEFORE:

Your breakfast should be light and high in carbohydrate; good examples would be cereals, toast and porridge. 60 to 90 minutes before the start you should **Caffeine Load**. This is achieved by drinking the following amounts of **EnergySource X'treme** based on bodyweight. For higher bodyweights (80kg and above), you will also need to take gel containing caffeine.



Your body weight:

40kg: 425ml **50kg:** 550ml **60kg:** 650ml **70kg:** 750ml
80kg: 750ml + 1 Gel Plus
90kg: 750ml + 2 Gel Plus

This will provide you with an effective dose of caffeine (approx. 3mg per kg bodyweight). Avoid tea and coffee on the day of your event.

DURING YOUR RIDE

How much you are able to drink during your event will depend on weather conditions. In warm / hot conditions, the 2:1 fructose formulation in High5 **EnergySource** means that you should be able to drink up to 1000ml per hour. This will provide fluids, electrolytes and 90g of carbohydrate for energy. If the weather is cool and you drink less, your carbohydrate intake will be less and you will need to boost it with gel. If you drink the following amounts of **EnergySource** each hour, you should take the number of gels shown below:



800ml: no gel
750ml: 1 x gel sachet per hour
400ml: 2 x gel sachets per hour

It's important to focus on drinking as much as possible to remain hydrated. For gel intake you can use either High5 **EnergyGel** or **IsoGel** depending on personal preference.

Your body removes caffeine from your bloodstream over time. To keep your caffeine levels "topped up" your **first gel every hour** should be **EnergyGel Plus** or **IsoGel Plus**. Both contain 30mg of caffeine. **Any remaining gels each hour** should then be standard gel with no caffeine.



AFTER YOUR RIDE:

Drink 400ml to 800ml of **Protein Recovery** when you finish. Eat a balanced meal one to two hours later.

CAFFEINE NOTE:

If you have any medical condition including high blood pressure, if you are pregnant, breast feeding or under 18 years of age, **do not use caffeine**. If you are sensitive to caffeine and suffer any side effects when using caffeine such as muscle tremors, cramp, anxiety or a higher than expected heart rate discontinue use immediately. If you do not wish to use caffeine for any reason, then simply switch the caffeine products detailed with the non-caffeine equivalent from High5.

KEY PRODUCTS

ENERGYSOURCE (2:1 FRUCTOSE)



Advanced sports drink mix

- Caffeine free
- 2:1 fructose carbohydrate with key electrolytes
- Great light taste

ENERGYGEL



A smooth gel with a dash of real fruit juice for a light taste

- Proven in the World's toughest competitions
- 23g of carbohydrate
- EnergyGel (without Caffeine); EnergyGel Plus (with 30mg caffeine)

ISOGEL



23g carbohydrate gel that's more like a drink than a gel. Can be taken without water

- Smooth, light & not too sweet
- A dash of real juice flavours for a light refreshing taste
- Proven in the World's toughest competitions
- IsoGel (without caffeine); IsoGel Plus (with 30mg caffeine)



X'TREME (2:1 FRUCTOSE)



Advanced sports drink mix with HIGH caffeine

- High caffeine content (300mg/L)
- Intended for caffeine loading or a big caffeine hit*
- 2:1 fructose carbohydrate with key electrolytes
- Great light taste

*X'TREME IS NOT INTENDED FOR CONTINUOUS USE DURING EXERCISE.

ZERO Neutral



The UK's leading zero cal electrolyte sports drink tab

- Transform any drink into an electrolyte sports drink
- Boost the electrolyte levels of an existing sports drink
- Zero sugar
- Vitamin C electrolytes, including sodium and magnesium
- Suitable for a wide range of sporting activities
- Neutral flavour. No artificial colours or preservatives

PROTEIN RECOVERY



The ultimate post exercise drink mix with whey isolate

- The Pro's choice after exercise
- Contains the highest quality whey protein isolate
- Contains carbohydrate
- Mixes easily into water or milk

GREAT VALUE TRIAL PACK:

The High5 **Race Pack** contains a perfect mix of High5 award-winning nutrition to enable you to follow our Advanced Nutrition Guidelines for a 4 hour Sportive, MTB or Triathlon event. It comes with a **FREE** bike bottle and **4 FREE** gels.

This pack is intended to demonstrate what can be achieved using the latest generation of sports nutrition and a scientific strategy for your sport, **and without the need to spend a lot of money!**

Available from all good bike shops and online.



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For beginner to pro

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SPORTS NUTRITION