

Chester and North Wales Audax Events – 18th September 2011

We were in luck with the weather – there were a few showers but not much wind. I started the day with some trepidation as the rides and the café - **Old Ma's Coffee Shop, Gatesheath** - were all brand new to this event.

David and staff of Old Ma's



Vicky Payne 'signing them in'



Pystyll Packing Momma 206km. Nineteen riders completed this event in times from 10 hours 27 minutes to 13 hours 40 minutes (4 minutes inside the time limit of 4 minutes/km).

I received favourable comments about the route and organisation, for example, *"just about the most impressive 200 I've done - 3000metres of hard climbing but who cares in such scenery"*.



Further favourable comments are on the YACF (Yet Another Cycling Forum) website - audax

section. There were 2 riders from our DA - Jo Jord and Geoff Mason.

I must mention especially, Bob Bialek who left Halifax at midnight on his bike, did the ride and then cycled home again.

Also to Peter Johnson of Derby Mercury who made the ride into a 400k by cycling to and from Derby on the day!



Momma's Mountain Views 134km

Twenty-four riders completed this event in times from 6 hours 53 minutes to 10 hours 12 minutes. There were 8 riders from our DA. I met the riders at Cross Keys control and they all seemed to be enjoying a good day out.

Leaving Old Ma's at the start of Momma's Mountain Views

Momma's Leafy Lanes 50km

Twenty-six riders completed this event in times from 3 hours 5 minutes to 5 hours 24 minutes.

There were 8 riders from our DA



including a number of ladies.



Momma's Leafy Lanes riders

This ride is rather short for an Audax event but provided an excellent introduction to this type of riding.

A number of experienced riders took their partners out for a spin and we had one tandem stoked by a 10-year- old. Seed corn for the future!

Momma's leafy Lanes riders taking a break at Tilly's, Bunbury



All the controls worked admirably on the day.

Thanks to [Sue Booth](#) for the original idea of including a 50km event and for the route sheet; to [Ray Stigter](#) for checking out the 206k and 134k route sheets with me on the road; and to [Vicky Payne](#) for assistance on the day.

Thanks also to staff at [Old Ma's Coffee Shop](#) for providing welcome drinks and eats.

I believe the event was very successful, and hope to repeat it on 16th September 2012.

David Matthews