

Chester and North Wales Audax Rides - 20th October 2012

We were very fortunate to have an ideal day for these rides. The early rain had cleared by 8am showing a magnificent rainbow over **Corwen**. The fine weather continued all day with very little wind and occasional warm sunshine. Considering these rides are in late October, a big thank you must go out to the weather gods!

Barmouth Boulevard - 208km, 3450m of ascent

Thirteen riders started and 11 finished this demanding ride in times ranging from 10:44 to 12:40 hours. One rider had fitted a new chain on his bike without changing the sprockets. By the time he got to **Barmouth** "swarf and sparks" were flying from inner ring and cogs, which necessitated a direct limp back to **Corwen**; a brave effort with over 170km ridden.



Start of the Barmouth Boulevard at 8.00am

Another rider had a scary experience when his front tyre exploded when descending at speed in the **Dyfi** forest. Fortunately he managed to stop without injury - then had to walk 8km in cleats to **Mallwyd** where a taxi took him back to **Corwen** for the small sum of £40; another brave effort. All riders commented that this is a cracking route and may be back for more next year.

Brenig Bach - 107k, 200m of ascent

Thirty-seven riders started out (9 **Ch&NW CTC** members), and 31 finished this remote and hilly ride through spectacular **Welsh** scenery. Times varied from 5:52 to 8:20 hours.



A small group of **Ch&NW CTC** riders were getting "out of time" at the **Pentrefoelas cafe**.

Start of the Brenig Bach

To their credit, they continued by a direct route up to **Llyn Brenig**, rather than short-cutting back down the A5 to **Corwen**. A good turnout for this **Graham Mills** (former President) classic ride.

Bala MiniBash - 60k, 1000m of ascent

Thirty-five riders started (13 Ch&NW CTC members), and 31 finished this pleasant event which circumnavigates **Lake Bala**, with a control stop in the excellent **Eagle Inn** at **LLanuwhllyn**.



Start of the Bala Mini-bash



Slumming it at the Llanuwchllyn

Sunning it at Llanuwchllyn

The two riders who didn't finish made the mistake of following a late **Brenig Bach** group and got way off track; a lesson to us all to check the route sheet at junctions.



Overall - good rides, good weather and good company, (and special thanks to **Vicky Payne** for helping out at the start.)

David Matthews