

The Corwen Autumn Audax Rides - 17th October 2015

It's **Daniel Craig**'s fourth outing as **Bond** and he says he is enjoying the role more than ever. It's my fourth time organising these rides and I can say the same. I think I have finally relaxed into the role which is just as well as I've taken on another set for next year! This year everything did seem to go very smoothly: most of leaves were still on the trees and not lying in sodden heaps on the roads waiting to unseat riders, and even the weather played ball for once. It stayed dry and the wind was kind especially for the riders returning from **Pensarn**. All too often they arrive at the pub completely spent but this year they were all quite lively and able to enjoy the convivial company of the local lads and lasses.

The details of each ride are as follows:-

Clwydian



River Teifi and Henllan Bridge

Twenty started which is a big improvement on previous years when between twelve and fourteen started. For the first time there were ladies taking part: one of whom was a stoker on a tandem so a girl after my own heart! Eighteen finished, all well within the time limit with two getting lost around **Henllan** (missing the turn into the secret valley). There were two **Chester and North Wales CTC** members on the ride and riders came from as far afield as **Herefordshire, West Yorkshire** and even **Hampshire**.

The following extract from a review posted on yacf.com epitomises the experience of many of the riders:

“long steady climbs over rolling hills before the final long long 4-8% climb up onto Denbigh Moors / Llyn Brenig--but by jove it was worth it with a setting sun behind the mountains of Snowdonia, blood red, a silver crescent moon reflecting in Llyn Brenig---late evening riding can't get much better.”



Denbigh Moor Llyn Brenig



Such unsolicited testimony is what makes it all worthwhile for me and makes up for the countless hours spent on the computer when I could be out on my bike, the route and control checking, the

fielding of all sorts of queries in the last two weeks - when I'm starting to get nervous, the odd skirmish with irrational riders who have bonked at the end of an event. No, it is not easy organising an **Audax** event but all told it's generally spiritually rewarding.

Clwyd Gate

Part of this ride had featured in this year's **Tour of Britain**. OK, the pros were travelling in the opposite direction! Don't know if this was the reason we had a field of fifty starters, although



Ruthin Square

numbers were slightly down on last year. Has the cycling boom peaked? Or was it the fact **Wales** were playing in the **Rugby World Cup**? Anyhow, there were seven **Chester and North Wales CTC** members taking part together with riders hailing from **Somerset, Worcestershire, Shropshire, Staffordshire** and **Herefordshire**. There was just one dnf. and even he enjoyed his ride.

Bala Mini Bash

This ride is always well supported by local riders many of whom ride from home. There was a field of thirty-four, eight of whom were **Chester and North Wales CTC** members - but again, entrants were drawn from a wide area: **Lancashire, Derbyshire** and the **West Midlands**. Everyone finished in good spirits.

Many thanks to everyone who took part and all those at the various controls especially the new café in **Ruthin** whose owner was very nervous about being a control but who enjoyed it so much that she has agreed to do it again next year. Thanks are also due to my husband who puts up with the monster I become as the event approaches!! And my daughters, who manned the control at **Pensarn** after the café closed.



Lake Bala

Events in 2016 will be on Saturday the 15th October.

Vicky Payne