

Corwen Autumn Audax – 12th October 2019

The weather which had wrecked last year's event was fairly benign: a few showers, very little wind and fairly warm. There were some pockets of mist as we drove down to Corwen but these soon cleared. The River Dee did look ominously high after several days of rain but I had not seen any reports of flooding. There was a good turnout with seventy one riders setting off over the three events. As events go it was an organiser's dream: no incidents or accidents to report and everyone home about an hour before the final cut off time.

The Clwydian 212km

Thirteen riders were set off on this gruelling event at 8am sharp. Twelve finished in times ranging from 8 hours 49 minutes to 13 hours 13 minutes. The DFN had to abandon at Pensarn as his handle bars had snapped! By all accounts a very rare occurrence? He was able to catch a train home from Abergele. This rider had been riding an "extended calendar event" where riders can add their mileage to and from the event to log longer rides with Audax typically 300 or 400km events so at least his car was not parked up in Corwen. Everyone seemed in good spirits although some were more tired than others. There was just one declared Chester and North Wales CTC member on this ride.

The Clwyd Gate 138km

Twenty eight riders eventually started this event. I say "eventually" as unlike the 200km riders who were all lined up on the road waiting for the green flag, the riders on this ride didn't seem to want to start. It was a good few minutes before they all got away. Twenty-one finished in times ranging from 7 hours 15 minutes to 10 hours 15 minutes. The DFNs were all accounted for. It would appear there was some hedge cutting in progress between Corwen and Carrog when they set off resulting in reports of numerous punctures. Some members of Chester Road Club were riding this event as an "extended calendar event". There were six declared members of Chester and North Wales CTC.

Bala Mini Bash 60km

Thirty riders set off on this popular short event designed as an introduction to Audax. There were twenty-eight finishers in times ranging from three hours ten minutes to four hours thirty-eight minutes. The DFNs were accounted for. There were three tandems, which I am always pleased to see being a stoker myself. There were three declared members of Chester and North Wales CTC.

Everyone was back well within the final cut off time and so another successful event was put to bed. My thanks as always to everyone who took part, to everyone at the controls including my daughter Sabina and her husband Carl who after riding the Bala Mini Bash went to Pensarn to man the control after the café closed and finally to my husband Graham without whose help and support I would not be able to organise anything! I have decided that next year will be my last year organising the Corwen events so if you would like to have a go please contact me.

Vicky Payne (Organiser)

