

Chester and North Wales CTC

Corwen Audax Rides 19th July 2014

The first thing to say is that there was an appalling weather forecast for the whole day of these rides. Drenching rain in abundance.

The effect on the ratio of entrants to starters is very interesting. The hard men on the 200km mostly turned up as did the geriatrics on the 60km. The field for the 100km Brenig Bach was decimated with only 15 of 40 entrants turning up.

[Barmouth Boulevard 204km; 3650m ascent](#) Thirteen from 19 entries turned up and set off bravely into the rain. As you can see from the comments posted on YACF, copied below, the riders had a great day out. There were 11 finishers as one rider packed and another suffered a broken derailleur. [Peter Dilworth](#) flew the flag for [C&NW CTC](#).

"Had I been on my own I probably wouldn't have started as I hate setting off in the rain and the forecast was dreadful. But I had gone with a friend (his first 200km audax) so I didn't bottle it. I Bounced the first control as it was still raining and had a good run to Harlech, which is a place I love, chatting with James B on the run in. The waterproofs came off shortly after and stayed off, contrary to the forecast. This ride is full of beautiful valleys and the scenery is stunning, even in poor weather; the hills just keep giving and giving! It was very humid as I got to Bwlch y Groes and the sweat was streaming off my face but the sun came out shortly after and it was a lovely evening. Good to have a chat with other finishers at the pub. Many many thanks to Dave Matthews for putting on this ride - there were 13 starters and it deserves a lot more, a great combination of lanes, scenery, sea views and hills".

Quote from: Tail End Charlie on July 20, 2014, 10:25:45 AM

"Many many thanks to Dave Matthews for putting on this ride, there were 13 starters and it deserves a lot more, a great combination of lanes, scenery, sea views and hills."

I totally agree - much undersubscribed - considering entry rates for other Wales Audaxes too!! (DM)

Re: Barmouth Boulevard

« **Reply #18 on:** July 21, 2014, 11:24:02 PM »

"Agreed - this was a great day out. I might not have started without the encouragement from James at about 7am, but was really pleased I did. Shame about the small numbers, but this was obviously a very select group. Enjoyed the company of Andy, Ian and Mark on the road, and most of the others at the cafe stops. Everyone helped me get round. I really love this part of Wales, having spent nearly six months working near Barmouth between school and university (summer of 69 - 45 years ago!!) Much of it hasn't really changed. Thanks again, David, for organising it. See you again soon."

Brenig Bach 107km; 1920m ascent As stated previously there was a good entry of 40 riders for this event. However, in the face of the early morning deluge only 15 riders started including our Secretary Lowri, Paul Mills, Steve Larwood and Terry Davies from C&NW CTC.

There was a crash involving 3 riders on a downhill section near Bala, fortunately without injury, but which caused them to pack in. Two other riders packed in at Pentrefoelas. Congratulations to the 10 riders who successfully completed this hilly ride.

Bala Parade 60km; 700m ascent A low entry of 10 for this ride. Six riders started, all from C&NW CTC and all finished. The rain stopped by 11:30am - we had dried out by lunch time at Llanuwchllyn and all enjoyed a short day out in glorious, if damp, Welsh scenery. All 3 rides are back on next year, currently targeted for July 18th 2015. Start times return to the original schedule of 08:00; 08:30 and 09:00 hrs.

David Matthews July 2014