

Report on Corwen C&NW CTC Rides

Saturday July 18 2015

The first thing to say is that we had reasonable weather for once - a bit windy (but westerly to push riders home) with dry conditions, occasional sunshine to alleviate the chill, and good views.

Barmouth Boulevard 204km; 3750m ascent



There was double the normal entry for this ride (a new trend in 2015 is that 200k rides are attracting at least the same number of entries as the shorter rides, as witnessed at **Eureka** and **Tour of the Berwyns**) with 22 riders completing this tough ride. John Wilkie is the only **C&NW CTC** rider.



Everyone said how much they enjoyed themselves and there was a great atmosphere in the **Royal Oak** at the finish as people re-lived their experiences over a pint.

Some **YACF** comments are reproduced below:

*"Absolutely wonderful day out! The highlight for me was the trip up the valley to **Abergynolwyn**, under **Bird Rock**, but managing to ride **Bwlch y Groes** was also pretty special. Had some great company as well. Many thanks, **Dave**."*



"Now that was tough! Great day out with truly stunning scenery all the way, everything Dave had promised. Weather was generally ok, however a tough headwind out to Harlech and cross wind all the way to Llangelynin had sapped all my strength so I was unable to fully capitalize on the super tail wind back to H."

"Great route: fantastic scenery, sea views and some nice quiet lanes which we particularly enjoyed".

Brenig Bach 107km; 2000m ascent

Twenty-two riders completed this super-scenic, steep, remote, **Graham Mills** classic. Your organiser rode it a week later, as is allowed by **Audax UK** rules, and found it still a tough proposition but well worth the effort. Seven riders are from **C&NW CTC**.



Bala Parade 60km

The toughest of our introductory routes with 800m climbing. Your organiser rode this unofficially as **Brenig Bach** is his official Audax entry. The opportunity was taken to check the original return route to **Bala** along the main road on a summer Saturday and concluded that the route back along the east side of the lake is safer and more pleasant due to speed, if not quantity, of traffic on the main road.

Seventeen people completed the ride including 11 riders from C&NW CTC who enjoyed this amenable, scenic route and excellent pub stop at **The Eagles at Llanuwchllyn**.

Well done to all riders and thanks to cafés and the **Royal Oak at Corwen**. I am passing the organisation of these rides over to **Vicky Payne** next year so watch out for a possible change of date under the new management.

David Matthews - July 2015 Organiser

Photos by 'slohil' from YACF site