

The Corwen Summer Audax 2018

When **Graham and I** left home at half-past six it looked like it would be another fine sunny day. By the time we arrived in **Corwen** about an hour later it was misty and noticeably cooler. "Don't worry," said **Graham** " it will be fine here in about half an hour once this mist has burnt off". And as usual he was right: a beautiful warm sunny day with little breeze to speak of. Probably the best weather we've ever had for an **Audax** event.

Wind Farm

We had an excellent turnout and the day went by without a hitch which is always good news for the organiser! The only stress was of my own making in that for some



inexplicable reason I was late ordering the brevet cards and that not only meant I incurred a hefty surcharge but I also had a sleepless night worrying that they would not arrive on time. It won't happen again!

The Bala Parade

Designed as an introduction to **Audax riding** this is a lovely little ride along the **Dee** and up the south side of **Llyn Tegid** on quiet roads. The control at **Llanuwchllyn** is a pub which doubles as a village shop and serves good homemade food. We have had several people enter this ride and then move on to the longer events. It's also popular with families and our super vets. This year we had ten starters finishing in times ranging from three to four hours. There were five declared **Chester and North Wales CTC** members.

The Brenig Bach

This is a very hilly ride in surprisingly remote countryside. **Graham and I** rode it the Tuesday before the event on what we thought was a cooler day. I still found it very taxing but the scenery is amazing. The reservoirs were definitely lower than they usually are apart from **Brenig** and there were some oddly very green fields here and there presumably

irrigated. There were thirty-one starters including **two Chester and North Wales CTC** members finishing in times ranging from a speedy five hours two minutes to a more sedate but still good time of eight hours sixteen minutes. As a fan (?) of the TV show **League of Gentlemen** I was intrigued to notice a number of entries from the **Royston Vasey Cycling Club** (the fictional village in the series) and sure enough about half a dozen turned up including one lady. They all completed the ride but their entries cannot be validated as they don't bother with controls and info's. Nevertheless they all enjoyed their day. (A bit like the Simply Greys.)

Our youngest rider was fourteen year old **Thomas Joyce** from **Lancaster** who rode with his father. They usually ride the shorter event along with **Mrs Joyce** but as she was engaged elsewhere they opted for the longer ride. I hasten to add Dad is an experienced **Auk**. They finished in good time - so very well done **Thomas**.



Brenig Bach

There was at least one other person on this ride who was riding their first Audax event and hats off to them as I can imagine it's a baptism of fire and could go either way as far as future rides are concerned. **Richard Cowan** kindly provided the ride photos attached.

The Barmouth Boulevard

A long hard hilly ride, again crossing remote areas. There were twenty-five starters including one declared **Chester and North Wales** rider, finishing in times ranging from nine hours-thirty nine to twelve hours-thirty nine. There were two DNFs - one as a result of a back problem and the other as a result of getting lost. All the returning riders raved about the scenery some saying it was the finest ride they had ever done. Special mention must

be made of **Shaun Hargreaves** who cycled over from **Stoke-on-Trent** to take part and then cycled home afterwards. All on a fixed wheel!



Our youngest rider and his Dad

We were exceptionally lucky with the weather this year. I doubt whether the reviews would have been so positive had it rained for eleven hours like it has done in the past.

However, all these rides attract a hard core of people who return every year and to them I am truly grateful.

The Gentlemen enjoying afternoon tea

It just remains for me to thank everyone who entered, everyone at the controls especially **Sandra** at the **Manor Craft Centre** and **Ian** at the **Royal Oak** who both open early especially for us and go out of their way to welcome the cyclists.



And lastly thank you to long-suffering **Graham** without whose support I would not be able to manage.

Text Vicky Payne - Organiser

Photos by Richard Cowan