

## Eureka Audax/Ch&NW CTC Rides - 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013

**230km Eureka Excursion:** this long ride took in controls at Ellesmere, Bunbury, Astbury and Wilmslow. A number of early entrants requested transfer to the 116k ride as they felt it was still too cold for such a long day out. All credit then to the hardy 18 riders who set off into a chilly morning and a convoluted initial route through Chester as the Saltney Ferry bridge was officially shut for works on the parapet. Only one rider packed out on the road due to a snapped cable



Ch&NW CTC Treasurer looking pensive before the start of the ride

- the other 17 returned a little chilled but unfailingly in good humour.

Six of the riders were members of Chester and North Wales CTC – so especial congratulations to the Treasurer who successfully rode this long route as his inaugural Audax ride.

Anne Peek with some of the 230km riders at the start



Riders starting out on the 116km ride

**116km Two Mills Tour:** this was the most popular ride with 45 riders following the Excursion out to Bangor-on-Dee and then returning via Malpas, Bunbury, and a stiff climb above Delamere Forest. For various reasons, including fighting off a swan, rescuing a duck, overindulgence in the cafes and getting lost from late riders, only 27 starters returned in time to have their ride validated. Ten of the successful riders were from Ch&NW CTC.



The route sheet was essentially correct (just one typo) and it can only be left to the imagination as to why so many capable local riders finished between 1hr and 3 hrs out of time on a route with a minimum overall speed of only 15 kph (9.5 mph)

**70km Two Mills Twirl:** 28 riders set off on this route, following the other two rides to Borrass whence a left turn enabled a fast descent to Hildegard's Cafe in Holt. The weather had warmed up a little by this time and a number of riders partook of Hildegard's excellent fare whilst sat outside in the sun - definitely a first in 2013. All riders returned safely and within the time limits.

This was a complex event to manage due to the off site car parking, a half hour gap between ride starts and the regular clientele entering the cafe after 08:30. Many thanks to Peter Williams and Graham Turner who assisted with the car parking at the Tudor Rose, Andy Whitgreave for checking route sheets and dealing with brevet cards, and especially to Anne Peek for allowing us to use Eureka cafe as a base and her unfailing cheerfulness and assistance during a very long day. All in all - a successful start for this event held on the first decent cycling day in 2013 with many complimentary comments from returning riders. Based on this success, I hope to repeat the event at a similar time in 2014.

**David Matthews** (organiser- April 2013)