

Eureka Audax/Ch&NW CTC rides - April 26th 2014

This is the second year of running these rides. A number of changes were made based on the experience of the first rides in 2013 - not least routing everyone over Saltney Bridge (closed in April 2013) rather than through the centre of Chester.

The weather forecast at the start of the week was very poor but gradually improved day by day. So on Saturday we were blessed with good dry weather and a stiff East wind which blew the 200k riders home from the last control at High Legh.

- **Eureka Excursion 215 Km** This ride was 230km long in 2013 to accommodate the "Powers That Be" at Audax Towers to ensure that the route covered a straight line minimum of 200km between controls. However, changes were allowed after reviewing the first event which resulted in a superior route, travelling to High Legh rather than Wilmslow and the Manchester conurbation at the Northern end, and a distance closer to the advertised 200km. This ride is to be run to the strict BRM (Brevet de Randonneur Mondiaux) rules established in 2015 which allows a maximum time limit of 13h 20min and enables the route to be used as 200k qualification for the 1200km Paris -Roubaix Audax in August. (300km, 400km and 600km also needed! Thirty riders started this event of which 6 were registered as C&NW CTC; 28 riders finished the full distance; two riders opted for the 100km ride at Bunbury. All finished well within the time limit.
- **Two Mills Tour 113km** We had a bumper entry of 53 riders for this event so were forced to make 3 riders "reserves" as we had a 50 rider entry limit. This limit is due to our restricted car parking availability and concerns as to the numbers we could process through Eureka Cafe in 30 minutes. (We hope to improve on this in 2015). There was a last minute problem arranging the Bangor on Dee control at the post office so we are very grateful to Kathy at the Stableyard hotel for laying on tea, biscuits and a control at very short notice.

Fifty-one riders started this event of which 17 were registered as C&NW CTC. Fifty-three finished as this number includes 2 riders who transferred from the 215k ride. There was a joint problem for Tour and the 215km riders at Tilly's, Bunbury as the early 215km riders merged with the 113km riders. The overcrowding was compounded by the fact that a staff member of Tilly's let them down at the last moment.

To avoid this problem and also the difficulty of arranging a control at Bangor on Dee, the Tour is no more and has become the 135km "Tea in Prospect" for next year. The new ride visits the Prospect Tea Rooms above the Panorama and then returns via Ruabon to Bunbury. This routing ensures virtually no overlap of this and the 215km rides.

- **Two mills Twirl 68km** 12 riders entered of which 8 were registered as C&NW CTC. All 12 finished in good time.

Thanks are due to John Ferguson for his assistance with the Car Parking and Andy Whitgreave for handing out the brevet cards. Especial thanks are due to the Anne and Holly Peek and the staff at the Eureka Cafe for putting in a shift from 07:00 to 21:00 to serve food, drink and cheerfulness to all our riders from start to finish.

The Event is on again for Saturday April 25 2015. Look forward to seeing you there.



David Matthews - Organiser