

Chester and North Wales CTC/Audax Rides

Eureka Cafe, April 23rd 2016

First thing to say is we were very lucky with the weather - an improving forecast all week with a dry, mostly sunny day (albeit with headwinds after High Legh for the 200km riders).

Eureka Excursion 215km There were approximately 60 entries for this event, which whittled down to 42 starters on the day---caused by riders transferring to the shorter route and some no-shows. There were 2 DNFs due to mechanical problems; 40 riders returned safely in times varying from 08:57 (chapeau!) to 13:15 by a team from Liverpool Century Club. 9 riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC which is a pleasant increase in numbers riding the long event.

Tea in Prospect 135km The second year of this route, which is proving increasingly popular in spite of (because of?) the long climb from Ruabon up to the beautifully situated Prospect Tea Rooms above Llangollen. There were 53 entries for this event with 44 starters. Three riders DNF for various reasons; 41 riders returned safely of which 10 were declared as members of C&NW CTC. Riders gaining a taste for the Prospect Tea Rooms and the surrounding views can re-visit on the Berwyns' C&NW CTC/Audax Routes leaving Willington Hall on May 21 [see aukweb.net (*note that audax.uk.net no longer works*)]

Two Mills Twirl 68km The introductory ride with 31 entries leading to 23 starters and finishers (all of whom started completed the ride successfully). This year's route was the same as last year but the Holt control is now Cleopatra's - rather than our well remembered Hildegard who has now returned to Germany. Four of the riders were declared as members of C&NW CTC.

All in all a very successful and safe set of events in which returning riders said how much they enjoyed the day out. It is intended to repeat these rides in 2017 at a similar time with similar routes. Details to follow when available - hopefully within the next few weeks.

Many thanks to Anne and Holly Peek and staff at Eureka Cafe for dispensing tea, cake, support and cheerfulness through a long 13-hour day; also to Andy Whitgreave for invaluable help with the brevet cards and to Glennys Hammond, Graham and Vicky Payne for help with the car parking.

David Matthews