

## Hill Climb and Freewheel Competitions 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2009

Once again competitors and volunteers gathered at Llysfasi College; the wind was blowing hard and there was a hint of drizzle in the air. Gradually, as people signed in, the weather began to improve, and the wind that had caused problems to some as they rode out was a great help became a tail wind on the hill climb.

This year's event was well supported with 19 riding the hill climb. In first place was Lee Jackson riding for Nottingham DA with a very fast time of 6mins 26secs; second was Steve Heany (7min 17sec) a member of Chester and North Wales from Llanrwst. There was a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place between Andy Polakowski and Steve Larwood at 8 min 53 sec; Andy was also the fastest Vet. In 5<sup>th</sup> place was Graham Darlington, the fastest Super Vet at 8min 54 sec. Janet Gregory won the ladies event and finished 6<sup>th</sup> overall (9 min 1 sec) after a hard ride to the start. Vicki Payne was the first lady Veteran.

After the hill climb everyone made their way to Graigfechan as the sunshine gradually broke through. Chris Jones, who had started everyone on the hill climb, resumed his post and gave competitors a steady start for the Freewheel competition. The variation in distance covered by the riders was quite striking. Once again Dave Statham (Chester and North Wales' expert freewheeler) showed the rest of the field how it should be done, with Alan Mort coming second and Lee Jackson third. The four ladies in the event finished within a few yards of each other (and remarkably close to the pub door), with Sue Booth winning the event in spite of a 'wobbly' bike, and Janet Gregory coming second. For the first time there was a tandem entry with Pete and Irene Dilworth putting in a stylish performance.

Once the riding was complete, proceedings moved into the Three Pigeons where riders and helpers had lunch and the results were calculated and checked. The prizes were then presented by Mike Cross our president resplendent in his President's Chain of Office.

Thanks are due to all of the volunteers who help so readily every year; to Chris who started everyone safely, the time keepers, marshals and supporters, and most importantly to the riders who took part.

Lowri Evans