

Momma Trumps Big Bertha - 10th August 2014

The weather forecast for the "Momma" rides was truly horrendous yet again this year, as the remnants of Hurricane Bertha swept in from the Atlantic.

The weather during the early hours was truly horrible with pouring rain and strong west winds. One could only feel for the stalwarts riding Windsor-Chester-Windsor 600km who returned from the Chester control during the night in dreadful conditions. (and thanks to the people from Chester and North Wales CTC who stayed at the control until 03:00 hrs helping to feed and re-energise the riders).



**100km starters with David Matthews
(Organiser)**



200km starters



57km starters

The car park at Old Ma's café was open from 07:15, ably staffed by Glennys Hammond who endured a three hour soaking ensuring that riders' cars were tidily parked behind the barn.



Pistyll Rhaeadr Waterfalls

The one redeeming feature of the weather forecast was that it predicted clearance from the west during the day. So the riders on the 200km and 130km routes headed out into a big headwind

and big rain to **Chirk** where their easterly heading coincided with better weather from the west. So after **Chirk**, where the climbing starts, the conditions relaxed to reasonable. Once riders turned for home at **Llanarmon-yn-Iâl**, following the hilly centre sections of the rides, they were rewarded with dry weather and a tremendous tailwind.

We use the pub at **Llanfynydd** as an important last control and feeding station, prior to the ascent of **Hope Mountain** and the last 30km home. Unfortunately, and without informing your organiser, the pub was shut at the last minute due to an electrical fault. This is not much of a problem on the 130km as the riders are well fuelled after the control at the **Ponderosa cafe**. However, it is important for the 200km riders

who last ate at **Bala**. It is a tribute to the riders that they were all very understanding and managed to find some food stops in **Hope**, following their descent from the mountain.





The Cross Keys

LLanfynydd



We had a number of DNS riders due to the forecast conditions on the 130k m and 50km rides - but as at **Corwen** recently the 200km riders are made of stern stuff and most turned up in spite of the weather forecast. One rider slid off on high quality Welsh cow sh*t outside a farm early in the ride and returned to **Old Ma's** (with just a grazed arm to show for it) - otherwise everyone finished their ride.

Overall numbers were 10 finishers on the 200km, 3.5AAA **Pistyll Packing Momma**; 11 finishers on the 137km, 2 AAA **Momma's Mountain Views** and 5 on the 57km **Momma's Leafy Lanes**.

In spite of the weather in the morning everyone seemed to have a good time and we got lots of good feedback as to the quality of the routes and scenery at the finish.

Momma Rides will be held on Sunday August 9 in 2015. Let's hope for better weather next time.