

CTC Ch&NW Audax 'Momma' rides , September 5th 2015

Having experienced the aftermath of Hurricane Bertha in 2014, it is a refreshing change to report that we had good weather for all three rides this year.

The event was originally scheduled for early August but then had to be moved as the 'Mark Cavendish Sportive' based on Chester was dropped on us, using many of the same roads at merely 5+ times the entry fee.

Once again **Old Ma's cafe** opened for a long stretch from 07:15am until the last 200km rider arrived back just inside the official finishing time at 21:40pm.



A special mention for Bob Bialeck who rode through the early morning from Halifax, rode the 200km event and then returned riding overnight back home to complete 400km in around 24 hours. Also to the tandem team of Ashley and Cathy Brown who rode to and from Macclesfield in addition to completing the 200km, clocking up around 300km for the day.

Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3500m (11500ft) ascent

18 riders completed this challenging course, including Marius Stigter from Ch&NW CTC, in times varying from 10h 58m to 13h 40m. John Wilkie should have been our second qualifier, but unfortunately missed out 10km at Pistyll Rhaeadr due to a route finding mix up, so could not have his ride validated. (He now intends to ride the full route as a "permanent" within the next couple of weeks).

Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m (6600ft) ascent

Your organiser rode this course one week in advance (as allowed by Audax rules) to check the route and cafés in advance. This was fortunate as the café in Chirk had forgotten about the event, several road signs had been altered and the level crossing near Lavister was closed for track work. All this road information was then available at the event.

This ride was a landmark for your organiser as after 26 years of riding hilly Audax UK routes in UK, Eire and France, AAA award number 15 was achieved - at which point there is likely to be a retirement from such demanding, though very worthwhile, lumpy routes.



Twenty-three riders completed this difficult route which includes some very steep hills, including the "Old Horseshoe" which has gradients of 20%+. Five riders were from Ch&NW CTC and a special mention goes to 7 riders from North Cheshire Clarion who completed the route in fine style.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 50km

Possibly the easiest Audax UK route, the leafy lanes provide a pleasant ride for people new to Audax or those of us who are time pressed (thanks for riding Lowri) or have a few health/age problems but still want to enjoy the memories and camaraderie of Audax/CTC rides.

Eleven riders enjoyed this course including one gentleman on an electrically assisted bicycle (now allowed on Audax UK events up to 199km). Four of the riders were from Ch&NW CTC.

Thanks to everyone who turned up to support the rides, to Margaret Matthews for issuing Brevet Cards and to Brian and "Old Ma" for their sterling work in looking after the riders in the cafe at the start and finish of a very long day.



The Event is back on for September 3rd 2016 - hope to see you there.

David Matthews - Organiser