

“Momma Rides” - Saturday, September 2nd 2017

At last - good weather! These rides have been blessed with storms and the tail end of hurricanes in the last few years so it was a great relief to have good, fine weather at last - and not a day too soon, as the following day was dreadful.

Last year we reported that **Old Ma's café** owner **Brian** was ill in bed with an infected knee. This year he is suffering a bout of shingles but in spite of this ran the café from 7:15am to 10:00pm, as the last rider from the 200km ride arrived to request a meal. Well done and thanks to **Brian** and his wife “**Old Ma**” for their support.



In the Café

200km riders leaving the Café



Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3400m ascent (Am I the only person old enough to remember the early 60's song “**Pistol Packing Momma**” by **Gene Vincent**?)

This was a tough ride but thoroughly enjoyed by all the riders who experienced dry conditions and could see the beautiful views for once. Even the notorious sh*t slide near **Pistyll Rhaeadr** dried out this year and failed to claim any victims. All 36 riders completed the route in times varying from 10hrs 02min to 13hrs 40min - the latter just inside the time limit. **Shaun Hargreaves** completed the route on a fixed wheel - an amazing achievement, and probably not a recommended exploit. **Mark Walsh** and **John Wilkie** were the two riders from **C&NW CTC**.

Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m ascent

This was still a tough ride with three very steep climbs between **Chirk** and the **Ponderosa Café** including the **Old Horseshoe pass** - and then steeply up **Hope Mountain** out of **Llanfynydd**.

"**Momma's Mountain Views**" was a **CUK** challenge ride this year. Riders received a musette and water bottle at the start and a Certificate and rather elegant medal at the finish. So for a £6 entry fee riders received free parking, a mug of tea or coffee, and the Audax route and validation. How's that for value?

I rode this route in advance to check out the cafés and as a final heart pacemaker assessment, since the pacemaker was inserted last March. As I am still here to write a report, the device passed this stringent test.

All 24 riders completed the route in times varying between 06h-15min and 09h-59min. Eleven riders were registered as C&NW CTC members.

Momma's Leafy Lanes 57km



This proved to be a very pleasant day out with two family groups taking part. Special congratulations to **James Rees aged 7yr 10 months** who completed the ride along with his father within time. Four riders were registered as **C&NW CTC** members.

James and Gabriel Rees

Judging by the feedback I received in the café everyone had a thoroughly good day out and were impressed by the quality and scenery of the routes. Next year the rides are on again on Saturday, September 1st with a brand new information control at **Harthill** (200km and 130km) to ensure that no one gets confused leaving **Tattenhall**.

Thanks to all the cafés and volunteers at controls for their help and especially to **Margaret Matthews** for handing out **Brevet** cards at the start.

David Matthews - Organiser