

## “Momma Rides” Report - Saturday September 1st 2018

Once again - 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 again.



**Pistyll Packing Momma 209km; 3500m ascent** (Is your organiser still the only person old enough to remember the early 60's song “Pistol Packing Momma” by Gene Vincent?)

A tough ride but thoroughly enjoyed by all the riders who experienced dry conditions and could see the beautiful views once again. Even the notorious sh\*t slide near Pistyll Rhaeadr was dry and failed to claim any victims.

22 out of 23 riders completed the route in times varying from 10h 30 min to 13h 41 min - the latter just inside the time limit. The last rider in had been suffering cramp and hunger pains since Bala. It was unfortunate that the Cross Keys at Llanfynydd was shut due to a major electrical fire, so the normal resuscitation was not available this year, prior to the steep ascent of Hope mountain. Shaun Hargreaves completed the route with a dodgy ankle whilst riding fixed wheel--an amazing achievement and definitely not recommended.



As in 2017, Mark Walsh and John Wilkie were the two riders from C&NW CTC - so well done on coming back for a repeat dose of steep climbing.

### **Momma's Mountain Views 137km; 2000m ascent**

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

19 of 21 riders completed the route in times varying between 06h 16min and 09h 30min.

Just 3 riders were registered as C&NW CTC - Terry Davies, John Lyth and Paul Mills.

Footnote: AUK have re-assessed the climbing on this route and reduced it from 2.00 to 1.75 AAA points in future. In spite of this, the climbs remain as high and steep as ever.

### **Momma's Leafy Lanes 62km**

There was a major last minute re-route between Bunbury and Duckington as a lorry had overturned on the A534 near the Bickerton Poacher and spilled diesel all over the place. The re-route is now preferred to the original and is to be incorporated into next year's ride. Also, it became apparent after the ride that the previous declared distance of 57km (54km on the re-route) is well under the actual of 62km.

A very pleasant day out with three family groups taking part. Especial congratulations to Gabriel Rees age 8yr 10 months who once again completed the ride within time, along with his father.

4 riders were registered as C&NW CTC.

Judging by feedback 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 again on a September Saturday, but moved to the middle of the month. Actual date tbc.

Thanks to all the cafes and controls for their help and especially to Brandon Edgely for manning the Old Ma's café control throughout the event, as part of his apprenticeship to become an Audax Organiser.



DM Sept 2018