

## EARLY SEASON TOURIST TRIAL - APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> 2012

5.30 AM was an early start to the day in our household, but as 2 organisers, 2 helpers and 2 riders were residents, it was very necessary.

We also had to pick up **Janet, the event organiser**, at 7.00AM to be at **Kinnerton Scout Hut** at 8.00AM to open both the hut and the connecting gates to the school to use their car park.



Early arrivals were directed to their parking places, and we soon had the water boiler up to temperature for a welcome cup of tea.



Fortunately, after a week of very mixed weather, Sunday dawned a beautiful day, which remained with us for the duration of the event.

All too soon it was time to call "1<sup>st</sup> group sign in please!" and we were off to start another Tourist Trial.



This year, with the very welcome help of **Graham Lewis (Merseyside CTC)**, we had decided to duplicate our usual method of timing riders by using **electronic tagging** to log people from start time to their finish time.



It proved very successful, so we must now decide if we should spend some money to buy the necessary equipment for future events.

183 riders were eventually processed through the manual and electronic system and directed to their start position for the day.



The **1<sup>st</sup> check of the day at Cuddington** went smoothly before the onward ride to **lunch at Overton.**

Whilst everyone did take lunch (they had paid for it!), some rested less than most and were back at Kinnerton in well under 4 hours.

Checking in and collection of the ever popular certificates was the usual happy affair with much chatter about the day's ride.



**Signing in**

**John and Barbara** only had to make one emergency stop with the 'sag wagon'. Regrettably, one rider fell, broke his leg and collar bone, and finished up being taken to hospital by ambulance. I am happy to report that he is now well on the way to recovery.

### Signing in

### After ride posing



### Chatting and catching up

Notable highlights from the day: **Youngest riders**; **Harry Tozer** (aged 11) and **Ben Evans** (12). Oldest; well, **52 riders** ticked the 'aged over 50' box; **Families**: at least 3 and plenty of **spouses, partners, friends** and otherwise **related groups**.



There was a healthy presence from visiting teams which included; **Chester Fabulous Ladies**, **Port Sunlight CC**, **Merseyside CTC**, **Wirral Cycling Campaign**, **Birkenhead North End CC**, **Cefni CC** and **Team Grommet** - not forgetting our Welsh members who represented the **Wrexham Reivers**, **Mold**, **Eryri** and **Anglesey (Ynys Môn)**. Riders had travelled from as far afield as the **West Midlands** and **Shropshire**. **Forty women** took part and **60 riders** completed the 50 miles in less than 4 hours.

**The Bike Factory** in Chester kindly supplied **High Energy Gels** for all our riders.

Yes, it all went wonderfully well on the day. **Congratulations to Janet**, and **all who helped** in any way to make it another great success.

**Bob Witton**

*(Messages are on the next page)*

**Here are some of the messages received from riders:**

*"I would like to say thank you for another well organised event. As usual the food in Overton was really enjoyable. Please pass on my thanks to all of the lovely ladies for looking after all of those hungry cyclists! Could you also thank all of the other volunteers who helped make the day a success. I'm looking forward to next year's event."*

*"I know the weather helped but again I would like to thank all those involved particularly yourself, those from Two Mills and those at Overton feed station for the superb event of last Sunday. The facilities and lunchtime provisions were way beyond what is expected and I hope I have persuaded someone new to cycling who cycled the Trial to join the CTC."*

*"Just a note to thank you and everyone else involved for a very enjoyable, and highly successful, event on Sunday. We all enjoyed the day."*

*"Thank you and your team for the splendid organisation my companions and I enjoyed on Sunday. May I also compliment you on your buffet lunch content which made a welcome break at Overton."*

*"Many thanks for squeezing me in today. Had a great day and you booked some lovely weather! Organisation ran like clockwork as always."*

*"Thank you, Janet, for all your work (and that of your helpers) in making today's event such a success. Much appreciated."*

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