

CTC Two Mills (Wirral) Early Season Challenge Rides

Sunday 20th March 2016

It was perfect weather for this popular annual early season event. Record numbers registered in advance using the new on-line system. On the day, 213 people checked-in at Farndon Sports and Social Club to start either the 50 mile or 50km course. There was a good mix of ages including several under 18's and plenty of women, some of whom were newcomers and brave

enough to ride solo. We were pleased to welcome especially large number from Gresford and Marford Velo Club.



Andy, Peter and John worked hard outside to get everyone parked up. Inside the tiny kitchen, Joan, Sylvia and Annabel brewed a steady flow of tea and coffee for our participants with only ONE kettle. Janet and Sue tried 'politely' to restrain those keen to start earlier than the designated time.

Eventually, we did invite people to come forward in their groups. The computer said

YES you can go, and the clock was ticking. It was less than an hour to see everyone off. On cue, our catering team arrived to set out lunch only just in time for the arrival of first riders back.

Lunchtime saw a packed hall as cyclists enjoyed food and a chat before heading back out for the second half. Thanks to the swipe check, organisers could relax in the knowledge that everyone was safely through the control.

By 1.30pm, the keen riders were returning to the control for the final time. More coffee, tea and cake and this time a certificate to commemorate the achievement. I am pleased to report that all starters completed the course safely. Many did achieve under the 4 hours including that stop for lunch. If you want to check individual times just ask me. But it is not a race. Today's bright spring weather was the day to look around and enjoy the route. Lindsey took this picture from above Marford of the views across the Cheshire plains.

My thanks to:

- Our team of volunteer helpers who made everyone welcome on the day
- Mark Watson and his staff for catering arrangements
- EntryCentral for hosting the on-line registration and payments.
- John Ferguson for photographing our riders at the start
- Andy Blomfield for lots of things!

Please do join us for future events

Janet Gregory, Event Organiser

23.03.16 **More photos will be added shortly**