

Vyrnwy or C ride to Carriages - July 26th 2017

Just six of us gathered at the **Loch Cafe in Bala** on a very wet Wednesday. I hope the low turnout was due to the weather rather than my confusion of left and right in the directions for the car park!

We welcomed a new rider, **Debbie** who had opted for an extra twenty miles by riding with me from **Llangwm**, and we all drank tea for an extended period hoping the rain would lessen - but in the end we set off along the lake shore.

Pilgrims' Cross, Bwlch y Groes

Soon we were on the climb and at the top of the **Bwlch-y-Groes** which claims to be the highest tarmaced road in **Wales** - although I am told the **Gospel Pass** in **South Wales** is actually a few ft higher.



The rain continued so we moved on, down to **Llyn Vyrnwy** amongst much conversation about the exploitation of **Wales**, its people, minerals and landscapes by the wicked **English!** We arrived pretty wet at the **Old Barn Café** and soon felt a little drier and refreshed, the rain having reduced to drizzle now with even the occasional hint of sun. We paused over the dam to look at the plaques erected by the **English** to commemorate their achievement of building three pipelines to take the stolen **Welsh water** to **Liverpool**.



Llyn Vyrnwy

Back we went along the lake, pausing to look at the hand that was carved from what was once thought to be the tallest tree in the **UK**.



The **Hirnant pass** (see photo) was steeper than I recalled, I thought, as we climbed up through the forest which **Peter** thought "*sublime*".

The descent was amazing, although I wondered if we had taken time to appreciate the views fully as we sped down. I noticed at one point I was doing 41mph while **Richard** and **Debbie** in front of me were pulling away from me. In no time at all we were back in **Bala**. **Cheryl** made a quick departure while the rest of us had an impromptu cafe stop watching the backwards clock in the **High Street**. (Does anyone know the story of this clock?)

I think I can safely say we all enjoyed the ride, such a shame that the drizzle continued all day! Not often its worse than the forecast.

if you'd like to relive it without the rain click here (remember to do full screen)
<https://www.relive.cc/view/1102516641>

I have heard that five people turned out for the local ride to **Carriages** with **Brian L**, had a good ride and a very nice lunch.

Chris Smith