

The Druid, Pontblyddyn – 21st March 2018



We had another record turnout last week. There were twenty-eight people ready to start with Liz plus others who were either doing a shorter ride or making their own way to The Druids. I suggested dividing into

four groups ($4 \times 7 = 28!$) and was pleased to find plenty of volunteers who said they had the route available and were willing to lead. Harry was first to go with his group of seven. So far so good. Chris M went next, but such is her following that far more than seven went in this group.



We decided the remaining people were probably better as one group than two so Liz led us off and I was back marker.

It was a good route with only one notable climb which was the steady incline known as "Old Warren". Some of us even managed to catch up Chris M's group briefly at the new gate. The ride passed without mishap until we



reached the pub where **Liz** immediately said "*There aren't enough bikes here, someone's missing!*" **Harry's group** was nowhere to be seen.

We had parked our bikes, and formed an orderly queue for drinks, when I heard my phone ringing. A tricky decision was required - Beer or Phone? I gave **Mike M** my money to get me a drink and went to deal with the phone.



Sue S said something to the effect of - *We're at the top of a hill, don't know the way and Harry's gone back to the bottom to help Chris who has a mechanical problem.* Well after much too-ing and fro-ing the group was advised on directions - **Chris and Sue** set off to ride home with just one gear (broken cable) and we continued our lunch. As we finished lunch and were getting ready to go, **Harry's group** arrived! The various groups made their way home by a variety of routes as you will see on [this video](#) if you wish to watch. **The Druid?** Well, I thought, excellent chips - sandwiches not so great!

Oh - and as if by magic Sue appeared at the **Saltney Ferry Footbridge** with Jelly Babies!

Of course the big question remaining was how did **Harry's group** not only miss a right turn, but subsequently make a left one and head in the opposite direction to **Pontblyddyn**? The answer from **Harry** is that he had accidentally loaded a different route to his Garmin.

Text by Chris Smith

Photos by Chris Lamb