

## Report from 2025 Momma Rides – John Gallagher

The Momma series of audax events were ridden on Saturday 6th September. The paragraphs below will hopefully give you a flavour of the day from the organiser's perspective.

The Momma series of routes are three rides of different durations, the 211km Pistyll Packin Momma, the 130km Momma's Mountain Views and the 55km Momma's Leafy Lanes. All started from the wonderful Barbour Institute building in Tattenhall at 08:00, 08:30 and 09:30 respectively. The riders were given a pre-start briefing including details of the route controls and any hazards which had been identified.

Riders in the Pistyll Packin Momma event were also encouraged to visit the Dafarn Newydd Stores at Abertridwr (near Llyn-y-Vyrnwy) as the proprietors are great supporters of other audax events and will stay open overnight to supply these riders hot drinks and hot snacks. Similarly, riders of the Momma's Leafy Lanes event were encouraged to visit Tilly's Cafe in Bunbury.

Helping at the start and kindly giving their time were Caroline Wrench, Dave Sale and Brandon Edgeley. The riders enjoyed tea, coffee, cold drinks and a range of pocket-sized snacks which were all included in the modest entry fee - plus good conversation with old friends or new acquaintances before departing. The weather was set fair, temperatures were mild and it stayed dry all day. Winds were initially a fairly gentle southerly breeze, although windspeed increased in the afternoon and evening.

Before the departure of the 55km Momma's Leafy Lanes, the President of Chester and North Wales CTC Dave Matthews (resplendent with the presidential chain of office) presented the President's Trophy to Brandon Edgeley for his services to organising audax events, particularly those under the Chester and North Wales CTC banner.

Each rider for the three events was issued with a brevet card, prominently marked with the Chester and North Wales CTC 80th Anniversary logo. For those who don't know what a brevet card is, it provides a record of the ride: simple questions are asked at some control points, other control points are timed by virtue of obtaining a till receipt from a shop or cafe. There was also the option of using e-brevet, using a GPS-based phone app to register at the various control locations along the route.

Looking at several Strava posts from the riders, it looks like all had a good day and enjoyed themselves. There are plenty of photos to enjoy and I saw the Pistyll Rhyadr waterfall had a fairly good rate of flow. Various positive comments were made by riders at the finish and there were no grumbles, both of which are pleasing.

The finish location was the garden area of The Sportsman's Arms in Tattenhall. Brandon also kindly stayed for this and in all, had a long shift. The pub had a chef on duty from 12:00 to 19:30, hot meals were enjoyed by those who wanted to have one. Tea, coffee and cold drinks were also available to purchase.

The way audax events work is there is a minimum average speed to discourage dawdling and a maximum average speed to discourage racing. The time allowed for all events includes stoppages for e.g. food & drink, mechanical problems, etc. (the clock doesn't stop!) and the key for successfully riding an event is

time-management to minimise them. The minimum speed is quite generous, none of the riders were out of time but the time-frame for arrivals in all three events were between 11:42 and 22:04. The Sportsman's Arms opens at 12:00, this is the reason for the hour-long gap between the start times for the 130km and 55km events.

There were quite a few DNS and three DNF. No one was out of time. There were no accidents or incidents. The basic statistics for the three events are on the attached spreadsheet.

**211km Pistyll Packin Momma, 08:00 start**

Entries	DNS	Starters	DNF	Finishers	OOT	Incidents	Accidents	Comments
19	9	10	0	10	0	None	None	None

**130km Momma's Mountain Views, 08:30 start**

Entries	DNS	Starters	DNF	Finishers	OOT	Incidents	Accidents	Comments
6	2	4	3	1	0	None	None	None

**55km Momma's Leafy Lanes, 09:30 start**

Entries	DNS	Starters	DNF	Finishers	OOT	Incidents	Accidents	Comments
15	4	11	0	11	0	None	None	None

The next series of Momma audax rides is already in the Audax UK diary and planned for Saturday 5th September 2026. Save the date!