

Corwen Autumn Audax 2016 - 16th October 2016

There I was sitting at the **Corwen Manor Craft Centre**: brevet cards all ready, controls on standby, routes checked - but where were all the cyclists? The weather forecast was good so why had no-one turned up? Luckily it was just a dream I had in the week leading up to the event. In reality the weather was a bit iffy but most of the entrants arrived and everyone seems to have enjoyed their ride.



The Clwydian

Twenty-four cyclists left on this demanding route in light drizzle and twenty-one finished in dry but windy conditions. Three had abandoned near **Mold** : one due to a mechanical issue and two because they were not convinced the weather would improve. Times varied from 10hrs 39mins to the full value rider who clocked in at 10.06pm two minutes before the cut off in a time of 14h.06. As always I am in awe of the distances people travel to take part in the event with riders from **Hastings**, **Southampton**, **West Yorkshire** and **Bristol** not to mention two from **Atherton**, **Manchester** not far from where I used to live. There were two declared **Chester and North Wales CTC** members and one **Two Mills** member.



The 'away' riders were very complimentary about the route and waxed lyrical about the scenery which makes me think I should be looking at

the scenery and not my **Garmin** when I'm out.

The Clwyd Gate



There were twenty-seven starters on this route and twenty-six finished. One abandoned at **Pensarn** after struggling with a bad leg. As there are three big climbs between there and the

finish I can't say I blame him. The weather was again wet at the start but improved over the day. I heard it was quite misty on the **Horseshoe Pass** which some found a blessing as the full climb was hidden from view. Times varied from 7hrs 20mins to 9hrs 51mins. There was a good turnout from the **Midlands** as usual and four declared **Chester and North Wales CTC** members.



The Bala Mini Bash

There was an excellent turn out of thirty on this ride which I was pleased to see as I was considering dropping it after the disappointing field of seven in the equivalent event in July. I now realise that a lot of people enjoy this ride because of the Autumn colours although the punctures from hedge trimmings are not so welcome. Times ranged from 2hrs 29mins to 4hrs 38mins and ages ranged from 12 to almost 80. The **Anglesey** contingent was at full strength and in fine fettle and one rider had travelled from **Haverfordwest**. One rider emailed me subsequently to say this was only his second Audax ride and after his first he had decided they were not for him. However he had tried again and found this event to be what he expected an Audax ride to be and had thoroughly enjoyed it.

I am happy with the way everything went and hopefully everyone who took part feels the same. Even though this is the fifth year I have run this event I still see things I can improve on. Thanks to everyone who took part - hopefully I'll see you all again next year. Thanks to everyone at the controls. Thanks to our **Lanterne Rouge Neil Matthews** for the lovely photographs he took which I have attached. And finally a big thank you to my husband **Graham** for being such a support not only on the actual day but in the preparation and aftermath.

Vicky Payne - Organiser

Photos by Neil Matthews