

Chester and North Wales Corwen Summer Audax

15th July 2017

The day dawned somewhat overcast and rather damp in complete contrast to the beautiful weather we had been enjoying. Nevertheless there was a good turnout and everyone seemed to have enjoyed the day. This is my second year organising these events and coupled with the five years' experience organising the autumn set I am at last beginning to relax and enjoy. This year's seemed notably easier in that when I rang round the controls they all "got it" and I didn't have to go into any long explanations of what was happening or indeed worry that they would not be ready for an invasion of cyclists.

Barmouth Boulevard 200km

Eighteen started this hilly event out of a field of twenty registered to take part. Seventeen finished in times ranging from nine hours ten minutes to twelve hours thirty seven minutes meaning everyone was in about an hour before the cut off time. The DNF abandoned at the first control realising that his damaged hamstring was just not up to it. There was one declared **Chester and North Wales** rider and one tandem. The weather had been wet but warm and like last year there was mist on **Bwlch Y Groes** which I think must be a blessing but am assured is a curse when it comes to the descent. It never ceases to amaze me how far entrants travel for these events. Riders came from all over the **UK** namely **Clydebank**, **Huddersfield**, **Manchester** and **Leyland**. One rider who looked as fresh as a daisy on arrival at the arrive was turning this 200km event into a 300 by riding to **Bala** and doing a loop of the lake both before and after the event.

Brenig Bach 100km

Graham and I were fortunate to ride this the Wednesday prior to the event in glorious sunshine. Yes - it is a very hard event but the scenery is stunning and as it is quite remote there is very little traffic. The most dangerous hazard being the sheep which have no road sense whatsoever. However the returning riders reported that there was a wedding on at the chapel in **Cwnpananner** which to me seems like the middle of nowhere. Consequently there was some traffic. There was also another wedding going on in **Llansannon**. There were fifteen finishers out of twenty-four starters. There was one abandonment and the other eight finished out of time. Six were declared **Chester and North Wales** members. Finishing times ranged from five hours twelve minutes to eight hours twenty-eight minutes - just six minutes before cut off. It had been very windy on the **moors** and I thought most of the riders on this ride looked more tired than

those on the 200km ride. Again we had riders from as far away as **Pembrokeshire**, **Northants**, **Stoke-on-Trent**, **Telford** and **Derby**.

Bala Parade 60km

Fifteen started out of eighteen registered to ride. All finished in times ranging from three hours ten minutes to four hours twenty-three minutes. There were five declared **Chester and North Wales** riders. Again, people had travelled a fair distance to enter this event with three coming from **Market Drayton**, one from **Leyland** and another from **Chorley** not forgetting the usual contingent from **Anglesey**.

Next year's event will be the same weekend and it only remains for me to thank all the controls especially **Sandra** at the **Manor Craft Centre** and **Ian** at the **Royal Oak** for all their assistance on the day. And lastly - **Graham**, not only for his invaluable help on the day but his support all year round.

Vicky Payne, Organiser



Manor Craft Centre, Corwen

Bwlch y Groes

