

CTC Cymru Treasure Hunt and Map Reading Competitions

This year the competitions were held from Bodfari to coincide with the 70th anniversary camping weekend. Competitors started to arrive at the Downing Arms before 9am and as usual there were some riders from far afield (London, South Bucks and Hampshire). At 9.30 the route sheets were handed out and the first riders were on their way; other competitors took a more leisurely approach but eventually all 35 started safely thanks to Jean and Arthur Miller marshalling the 1st right turn.

The first riders back at the Downing Arms seemed to have completed the course remarkably quickly; however it soon transpired that the route sheet was in miles but they were working in kilometres and had gone off course, once the route had been confirmed they started again. The route from Bodfari went out to Tremeirchion, the through Rhuallt and up past Cwm to Dyserth before retuning via Trefant. The good weather meant that riders could enjoy spectacular views over the Vale of Clwyd as a reward for their efforts (in between deciphering the clues).

Once again the results were very close in both the team and individual treasure hunt. Mike Batchelor (who was the 2008 overall winner of the tourist competition) was in equal 1st place with Mark Beauchamp; Alun Jones was ½ a mark behind in 3rd. After the competition people were eager to find the answers to any clues they had missed; John Mawson (5th) was able to supply a remarkable amount of information about the dogs on the gates at Gorphwysfa, however no bonus points were available for the dog's names. John and Sue Ingold were 4th and 6th respectively, and Chester and N. Wales riders Diana Clarke, Mike Gilbert and Ifor Jones filled 7th to 9th positions.

There were more entries in the team event this year, and the winners were Tim Erasmus and Ros Thomas who were competing for the first time. Dave Hill and Glennys Hammond were a close second, and tying in third place were Janet Gregory and Annabel Dickson, and Bob and Gillian Witton.

At one o'clock the grid references were handed out for the map reading competition, and the planning began; competitors were huddled over their maps trying to find the locations and work out a feasible route. After a quarter of an hour's planning they were allowed to start, they had two hours riding time after which penalties would be applied. As the riders returned Mike and Pam Cross checked the time before the points were totalled (points were accumulated by collecting the post codes on selected letter boxes).

Once again Mike Batchelor won the event, with Dave Hill a close second (even though he hadn't fully understood the point scoring system until after the event). Mike Gilbert came third; his route was blocked by road works which cost him valuable time. John Ingold from South Bucks was 4th, Mark Beauchamp 5th, and Diana Clarke from Anglesey did well to gain 6th place just ahead of Sue Ingold, 8th was Ifor Jones. Vicky and Graham Payne rode the event, however having forgotten a pair of reading glasses they made the task more difficult. Glennys Hammond, Bob and Gillian Witton also took part and found several good views but fewer letter boxes than the winners.

Thanks are due to everyone who helped with the event and supported it by taking part.

Lowri Evans - Organiser