

CTC Cymru Treasure Hunt & Map Reading Competition, 3 May 2008

This year's event was based at Caffi Florence in Loggerheads Country Park near Mold. The Cafe had opened early and riders started to arrive shortly after 9am to register for the event (and have the first refreshment stop of the day). After a week of unsettled weather and pessimistic weather forecasts, the morning started overcast, and then gradually improved to a sunny spring day.

The Treasure Hunt was the first event; 21 riders took part, most rode as individuals but some rode as a team. The route was about 13 miles long, although the majority of the riders covered a far longer distance as they retraced their steps to find clues they had missed. The advertised start time was between 9.30 and 10.00 to allow riders to go around without bunching up. The actual start gently extended partly because many of the local riders had ridden out to the start (and some had misread the start time). This year there was an *optional* off road section; apologies to competitors who have spent many hours cleaning their bikes after the event. As in previous years the scores were very close:

=1 st Mike Batchelor	West London
Andy Polakowski	Chester & N. Wales
=3 rd Peter Dilworth	Chester & N. Wales
Mark Beauchamp	North Hampshire
=5 th Richard Delf	North Yorkshire
Chris Delf	North Yorkshire

The team competition was won by Pam and Mike Cross.

After the Treasure Hunt many of the riders opted for a chat and leisurely refreshments, but the 11 riders who had entered the map reading competition were back in action by 10'clock. As usual competitors had 15 minutes to locate the grid references, and then 2 hours to collect as many points as possible by finding the information. This year the numbers on selected water hydrant signs were the targets. The task was slightly trickier than usual because Loggerheads is right on the edge of a map sheet so two maps were needed for the event. The cafe was the scene of intense concentration as grid references were found and routes plotted, then the competitors cycled off. To be accurate, most of the competitors cycled off, but Diana Clarke from Anglesey had the misfortune to break her chain in the Treasure Hunt. As the bike was out of action she set off on foot to collect some points.

Everyone arrived back without incurring time penalties, the marks were calculated and checked then the winners were announced and the prizes were handed out.

1 st Mike Batchelor	West London
2 nd Peter Dilworth	Chester & N. Wales
3 rd Andy Polakowski	Chester & N. Wales
=4 th Andy Ankers	Chester & N. Wales
Mark Beauchamp	North Hampshire

Thanks are due to everyone who took part, to Caffi Florence for accommodating the event and to Chris Jones and others from the Wrexham section who helped with the time keeping and checking the results.