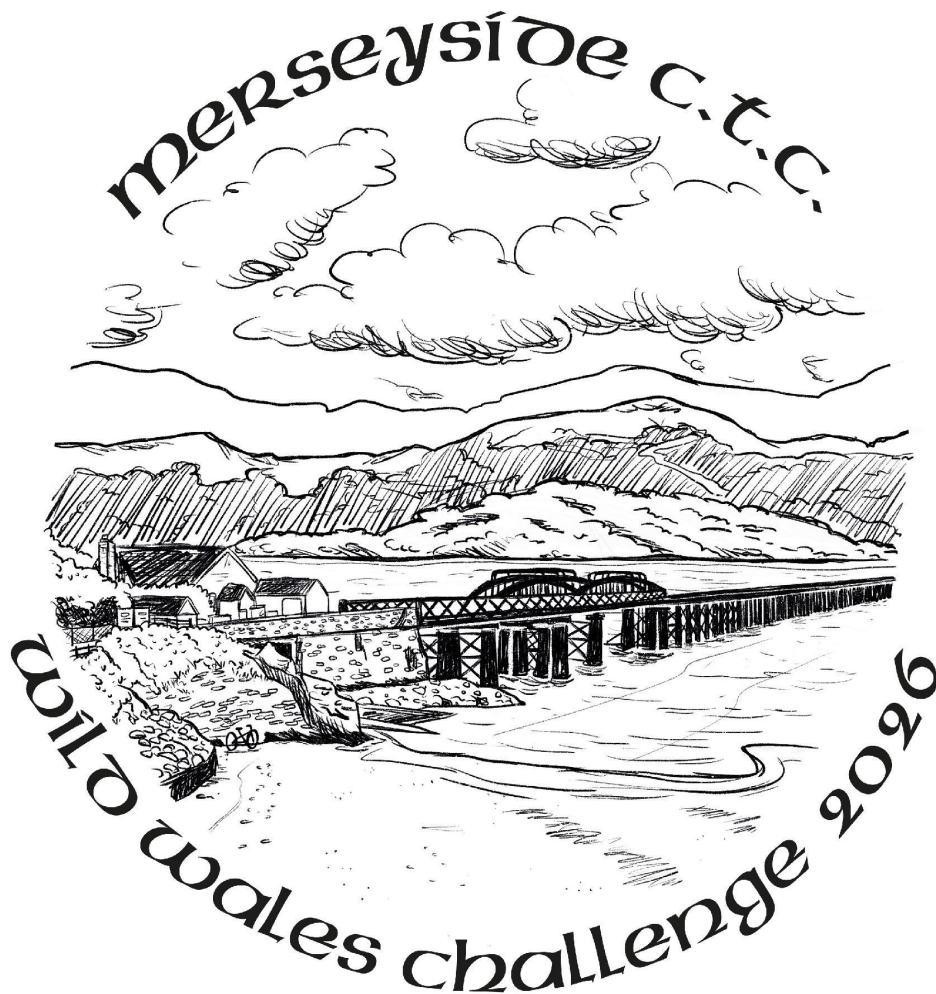


**MERSEYSIDE CTC
ST HELENS AND WARRINGTON
CTC
WILD WALES CHALLENGE**



SUNDAY 30th AUGUST 2026

Welcome to the 42nd Wild Wales Challenge.

This event is one of cycling's best kept secrets. For over 40 years it has been traversing the highways and byways of the area around Bala in good weather and bad and still even after all that time we manage to find approximately 10 miles of previously unused roads.

One of the major attractions of this traditional challenge ride is every year is a different route, this year the route is in a generally west / south westerly direction, out through some wonderful Welsh mountain roads arriving at Penrhyndeudraeth after some 27 miles for the first stop. The route continues down the beautiful Welsh coast passing near Harlech castle and crossing the Victorian wonder that is the Barmouth Railway bridge. This is a shared cycle lane and as such please do treat all other users as we would like to be treated. Onto Brithdir after a further 30 miles for lunch. Just after lunch the course once again splits into a shorter and longer routes. The shorter route takes in some lanes to arrive at the south edge of Bala Lake and returns via the east bank after approx 69 miles.. The longer route heads north then east crossing the Trawsfynydd mountain road before following the east lake road and arrived at Bala after approx 93 miles.

Please read the event notes carefully they are to ensure you take part in the event both **enjoyably and safely**. And do remember, the roads are NOT CLOSED for this event so take extra care as you would on any cycle ride in the mountains.

Throughout late 2025 and all of 2026 a number of keen local cyclists from Merseyside CTC and ST Helens and Warrington CTC volunteer their time to enable this event to take place. Their efforts culminate with the event today, so please spare them a thought, be kind and even give them a wave as you go past.

Enjoy your day, but more importantly ride safe and return home having had a great ride.

Jim Wright and Terry Bulmer

Route Directions.

Bala To Brithdir via Penrhyndeudraeth.

From Rugby club Turn R out of car park and L onto B4391, continue on the B4391 until the T junction and turn right. Immediately turn left onto A4212 sign posted Trawsfynydd. Continue along this road for approx ½ mile and take a left signposted Rhyduchaf. Continue through Rhyduchaf onto Llidiardau passing through onto junction with A4212.

Care required Junction of A4212 busy road with fast moving traffic. Turn left and immediately right onto B4391 and follow this road for approx 6 miles, passing the B4407 on the right. Continue to the first left turn onto a small lane with a sign banning trucks. Follow this lane and descend to the T junction with A470.

Care required Junction of A470 busy road with fast moving traffic. Take a left crossing the bridge and immediately turn right, go right again in about 100 yards and follow this lane to a T junction at the bottom on a steep hill.

Care required Junction of A496 busy road with fast moving traffic. Turn right and follow the road for approx 300 yards. At the junction with B4391, keep left signposted Blaenau Ffestiniog and immediately after the junction take another left turning back on yourself. Follow this lane along the valley floor to a T junction with the A487.

Care required Junction of A487 busy road with fast moving traffic. Make a right turn (there is a cycle path on the righthand side of the road as an alternative to riding on the A496) and after approx 200 yards take a right onto the B4410 signposted Rhyd. Follow this road for approx 3 mile take a left turn on a small lane showing the national cycle route 82 direction arrow. Follow this lane closing all gates until it meets the A4085 at a T junction.

Care required Junction of A4085 busy road with fast moving traffic. Turn right and follow the A4085 into Penrhyndeudraeth and at the crossroads with the A487 turn left for approx 100 yards to the first feed station. **27M**

On leaving the hall, turn right and follow A487 for 100 yards. At X roads turn left signposted Harlech. Continue on this road for approx 1 mile, at the X roads with the A496 go straight over and climb steep hill.

Care required Junction of A496 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Continue on the small lane for about 1 mile and bear right near the greenhouse, signposted with a NCN direction arrow. Continue on this lane ignoring the all turns (2 right and 1 left) for about 2 mile. At small pond take a left turn signposted Llanfair and follow this lane. Note the many views of Harlech Castle. After approx 3 miles turn left at the X roads by Telephone and post box, signposted Cwm Bychan. Continue to the T junction and turn right. Continue for about 1 mile and take a left over the bridge near the white house. After approx 100 yards turn L signposted Cwm Nantcol / Capel Salem taking care on the cattle grid. Follow this lane for about 2 miles ignoring all turns and closing any gates passed through and taking care on the cattle grids. Continue along this road ignoring all turns and follow signs to Dyffryn Ardudwy and join the A496.

Care required Junction of A496 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Turn left and follow A496 into Barmouth, passing through Barmouth take a Right and access the National cycle route 8 and cross the Barmouth shared path across the Afon Mawddach.

Cross the Afon Mawddach by the shared path. Please be respectful of all other users and keep your speed appropriate.

After crossings the river keep left and join the Mawddach trail for approx 500 yards. At the gate, pass through and take a right to (car park on right), take the lane to T junction with A493.

Care required Junction of A493 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Turn left for about 300 yards and turn right up steep hill, signposted Llynau Cregennets lakes. Continue to T junction, closing all gates. At T junction turn left and continue passing Llyn Gwernan on your left and take the next right after the lake. Note WWC sign.

Continue on the road bearing left at the T junction, drop down toward Dolgellau, after passing the 30 sign take right at T junction. Follow this lane and take a left turn at the cemetery. Follow this lane until you meet the A487.

Care required Junction of A487 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Turn left and after 300 yards turn right onto the B4416 and follow into Brithdir and the second feed stop. **58 mile**

Short Route

Leaving the food stop, turn right and follow the small lane passing the Caravan park on your left follow the left turn off the Roman road and descend. Once over the small bridge and just after the sign for 'Acorn

Enterprises' take a right turn. Ignore the second right immediately and keep left. Follow this lane until it meets the A494.

Care required Junction of A494 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Turn right and follow the A494 for approx 3 mile, taking a left turn at Pont Rhyd Sarn just after the no through road and by the Chapel and bus stop.

Follow this lane until it rejoins the A494 and turn left at the T junction.

After approx 100 yards turn right onto the B4403 and follow alongside Bala lake. Turn left onto the B49391 and after a 100 yards turn left and finish at the Rugby club.

Long Route

Leaving the food stop, turn onto B4416 and turn right following the B4416 down the hill until it meets the A494 as a staggered X roads.

Care required Junction of A494 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Cross the staggered X and continue up the hill and follow this lane ignoring all turns until you pass under the stone archway. At the T junction immediately following the archway, turn left and continue into Llanfachreth. Turn right at the junction adjacent to the War Memorial and continue along this lane keeping left at the chapel. At the X roads turn right signposted Abergeriw. Continue to T junction and turn R signposted Trawsfynydd and Abergeriw. Continue along this lane until crossing the Afoxxx on a large bridge and take the next right signposted Llanuwchllyn. Follow this lane closing all gates and taking care on the cattle grids until reaching the Dolhendre caravan park. Approx 300 yards after the caravan park turn R over the small bridge and follow lane to T junction with the A494.

Care required Junction of A494 busy road with fast moving traffic.

Turn right and after approx 300 yards turn left onto the B4403 and follow alongside Bala lake. Turn left onto the B49391 and after 100 yards turn left and finish at the Rugby club.

Event Notes – Please read carefully.

The event is a Tourist Challenge ride – It is NOT a race, a time trial or any type of competitive event. There are no prizes for being first around, and no times will be published. You have a generous time allowance to get round and so take your time and enjoy the wonderful scenery the wildest of Wales has to offer.

Make sure you are familiar with the course beforehand.

Because of the length of the course, at 90 miles, we have included an alternative route which at 65 miles gives a shorter but is a no less spectacular route. **Riders who know their limitations and those who do not are strongly advised to consider the shorter route.**

In any case, **all riders must notify the marshals at Brithdir which route they intend to take.** The course is not waymarked but a number of signs marked WWC will be placed at points where the directions may not be clear.

OS Landranger maps nos 124 and 125 cover the course. A GPX file is available to riders.

You will be issued with an electronic tag and rider number, you will need to present the tag at all checkpoints as well as the

start and finish. **Entries and rider numbers are not transferable.**
NO rider may ride under another riders ID

Start time is 7am until 9am. The opening and closing times for the control points are on the back of this route card.

Refreshments will be provided at all control points and food will be provided at the hall at Penrhyndeudraeth and Brithdir.

Riders should look for the special dietary needs at the halls.

Riders are strongly advised to carry emergency “bonk” rations and plenty of water.

The course often follow narrow lanes, where the road surface may be poor with deep ruts and loose gravel, as well as high hedges and poor visibility. Riders are urged to ride with due care and never ride more than two abreast. **Remember the roads are not closed for this event and you should expect the unexpected.**

Weather conditions at the end of August can be unpredictable and you should be equipped for any conditions. Always carry a mobile phone. A sag wagon will follow the riders and will respond to emergency situations where a rider cannot continue. Riders in difficulties should contact a marshal or organisers in the first instance. Riders should be aware that they may have to wait a considerable time before the sag wagon can get to them. It is **not** a taxi service, where possible the aim will be to enable the rider to continue.

In the case of serious injury, riders should use the Emergency Services. There are A and E facilities at Wrexham and at Glan Clwyd hospital Rhyl. There are minor injury units at Mold, Tremadoc Dolgellau and Llandudno. Advice should be sought via 999 as to which is the nearest available facility.

Check your bike over **before** the event, especially the tyres brakes and gears. If you are likely to be a late finisher carry lights. It is your responsibility to ensure your bike is fully roadworthy. The organisers cannot accept any responsibility for damage or injuries caused by a defective cycle. Any type of bike may be ridden, but no TT bars, thank you.

All riders will receive a Welsh slate plaque, specially engraved with a design featuring as aspect of the course. The Harold Kewish Trophy will be awarded to the club collecting the greatest number of points. Points are awarded for finishers * distance and totalled for each club, so ensure your club names are consistent.

Riders Log

Number.....Name.....

Club (If
any).....

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Checkpoint:

Bala (Start)	Open 7.00am	Close 9:00
Penrhyndeudraeth	Open 8:00am	Close 12:30pm
Brithdir	Open 11:00am	Close 4:00pm Long
route		
	Open 11:00am	Close 5:30pm short
route		
Bala (Finish)	Open 2:30pm	Close 8:00pm

Contact Telephone numbers:

Organisers:	Jim Wright.	07739 300 399
	Terry Bulmer	07931 475 349
Sag Wagon		07931 475 349
Penrhyndeudraeth		07887 623 870
Brithdir		07503 178 369
Bala		07739 300 399