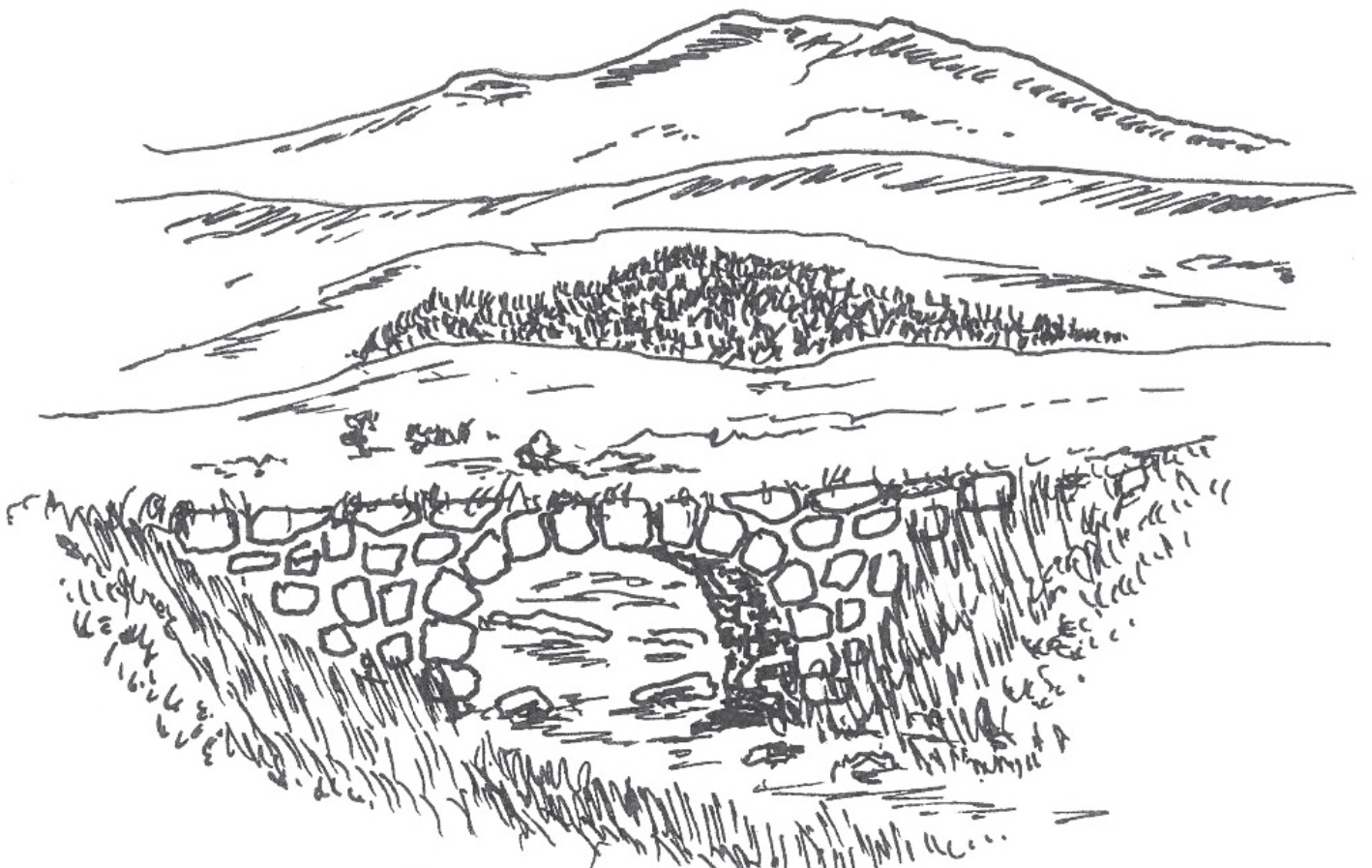


CYCLING UK MERSEYSIDE
ST HELENS AND WARRINGTON CTC

WILD WALES CHALLENGE



Rfestiniog

Wild Wales Challenge – 2023

Welcome! This year will mark the 39th edition of this most prestigious cycling event, which features a different route each year, but always set amidst the spectacular scenery of North Wales. The event is NOT a race – but a traditional tourist challenge ride in which riders are invited to complete the course within a generous time allowance. Riders should note that the roads are NOT closed for this event and that they should ride with due care and consideration for other road users.

The event is open to all riders, whether or not members of Cycling UK. It is organised on behalf of Merseyside CTC and any type of cycle may be ridden, provided it is roadworthy. Low gears are advisable, and special attention should be paid to brakes, wheels and tyres. It is a challenge event NOT A RACE, but a reasonably fit rider should experience no difficulty in completing the course within the time allowed. Being set in the glorious North Wales countryside, riders should expect both steep climbs long descents and some non-metallic road surfaces so care is required at all times.

For Club riders, there is the Harold Kewish Team Trophy, awarded annually to the club providing most finishers on the Long Course Only, this is currently held by Macclesfield Wheelers. So, if you ride with a club, be sure to indicate this on your entry form and insert your club's name in **its correct format**.

Once again this year there will be two routes:

Long Course of 95 miles and 9,500ft of ascent.

Shorter Course of 71 miles and 5,750ft of ascent.

Club Riders please note: To be considered for the Harold Kewish Trophy you MUST complete the LONG Course.

We suggest you read the Event Notes carefully and pay heed to the advice therein. The roads are NOT closed for the event so take care and be prepared to meet farm vehicles on the small lanes you will encounter.

On a serious note Denis, Steve and myself will be standing down from organising the event this year and we are struggling to find any club or group prepared to take on the event management in the future. So anyone reading this who might be interested please contact anyone of us to discuss possibility of taking over.

As always the event would not take place without the massive contribution made by the volunteers from Merseyside & St Helens & Warrington CTC. So spare a thought for them and maybe give them a wave or a kind word of thanks when receiving their assistance.

Enjoy your day and return safely!!

Harry, Denis & Steve.

Event Notes – Please read carefully!

This event is a Tourist Challenge ride-it is NOT a race, or any type of competitive event.

There are no prizes for being the first rider round, and no times will be published. Indeed, there are only penalties-such as missing out on the glorious North Wales scenery. There is a generous time allowance, so just take your time and enjoy it.

Familiarise yourself with the course beforehand, and give thought as to whether you are going to attempt the longer route or the shorter- you **MUST** notify the marshals at the lunch stop at Llanwrst which you are intending to ride. The full course is 95 miles, and the shorter is 71 miles, and on both there are steep climbs and descents, so take your overall fitness into account. **NOTE!** The sag wagon will only pick up genuine emergencies-it will **NOT** rescue riders who are just “knackered”!

The course is not way-marked but a number of sign posts marked “WWC” have been placed where there may be ambiguity about the route or some other reason. All riders will have access to a GPX file giving full route directions. In addition, a limited supply of this booklet will be available.

You will be issued with an electronic tag and a rider number, and you will need to present your tag at all the Control points and the start and finish. Entry to the event and rider numbers are **NOT transferable, and no rider may ride under another rider’s ID. Any rider found to have breached this rule will be disqualified from the event!**

Start time is 8.00-9.00 am . The opening and closing times at the Control points are to be found at the back of this booklet. Please do **NOT** arrive at the Control points before the stated opening time, but remember you **MUST click-in at all the Controls with your wrist band.**

Refreshments will be provided at all Control points, and at the start and finish. A lunch with a filled baguette will be provided at Llanwrst Rugby Club. If you have particular dietary needs, please ensure you have specified these on your entry form and make yourself known to the volunteers at the controls when you arrive, they will find your specified request for you. All riders are strongly advised to carry “bonk” rations with them as well as plenty of water.

The route often follows narrow lanes, with poor road surfaces and visibility at times. Riders are strongly advised to ride **NO MORE THAN TWO ABREAST** and single out when appropriate. Remember- Welsh farmers often work on Sunday and you are quite likely to encounter tractors or other farm traffic when least expected. **Remember-** the roads are **NOT** closed for this event.

Weather conditions at this time of year are unpredictable and you should ensure you have equipment and clothing suitable for all conditions- **BE PREPARED!** Always carry a mobile phone, but bear in mind you may not always get a signal.

A “Sag Wagon” will follow the riders on both routes and will respond to emergency situations where a rider cannot continue, either due to injury or a mechanical which cannot

be repaired. Riders should contact a volunteer at one of the controls, who will contact the sag wagon crew, who will “triage” the call, as there may be more than one. You may find you have to wait a while so please be patient. Remember it’s not a taxi service you are responsible for getting yourself back to base. Where possible the sag wagon crew will try to get you going again.

You **MUST** inform a volunteer or Organiser if you decide to abandon and return home otherwise a lot of valuable time could be wasted looking for a rider who has actually gone home without letting anyone know.

Check your bike **THOROUGHLY** before the event, especially the brakes, tyres, wheels and transmission. You would be amazed at how many riders experience a problem because of a lack of basic maintenance. It’s your responsibility to ensure your bike is roadworthy! The Organisers cannot accept any responsibility for any injury or damage caused by a defective cycle or negligence.

If you are riding an e-bike, make **SURE** you have sufficient battery to get round or get to somewhere you can recharge it. Don’t forget, the hilly terrain on the route will significantly reduce your expected mileage and increase your battery consumption! Note:- Tri bars are not permitted.

In case of serious injury, riders should contact the emergency services themselves. A&E facilities are found at Wrexham and Glan Clywd Hospitals.

All finishers (both courses) will receive a specially commissioned Welsh slate plaque engraved with a feature of the course.

The Harold Kewish (Team) Trophy will be presented to the team providing the greatest number of riders who complete the **full (longer) course**. Please ensure you contact the organiser prior to the event if intending to register for the Team Trophy.

Enjoy your day, and return home safe!

Harry, Steve and Denis

Organisers

WWC 2023 Route Details

Sun 27th August

Start: Bala Rugby Club. **R** out of Club and **L** at T with B4391. At T with A494 go **R** and immed. **L** into A4212. Proceed and after approx. 0.6ml turn **L** SP Rhyd Uchaf.(1.4ml)

Follow through Rhyd Uchaf and after 1ml bear **R** at junc SP Arenig.

Continue and come to T junc with A4212(8.8ml) where go **L** and then **R** onto B4391

Continue along this road and pass Pont yr Afon Gam, (13.8ml), continue along B4391 towards Ffestiniog, and take a **L** turn down a narrow lane (15.6ml) . Descend with **great care** to T junc with A470, turn **L** and follow A470 for approx. 1.5ml to turn **R** into A487. After 400yds turn **L** SP Gellilydan and proceed through the village and **CONTROL** on **R** in Village Hall (19.1ml)

Go **R** from hall and long descent to Maentwrog, turn **R** at T on to A496 and then **L** onto A487.(20.8ml) Cross bridge and turn **R** into narrow lane. Continue for 2ml and come to a junction by an ancient bridge; cross bridge and at T turn sharp **R** (22.7 ml)and after 50 yds again a very sharp **L**, and proceed to climb to Llan Ffestiniog.

HAZARD! Be very careful at this junction as it involves a difficult manoeuvre

At top of climb, in Ffestiniog, continue straight ahead on A470. Proceed through the village and pass under a bridge, then immed turn **L** (24.1 ml) and continue along this road, B4391. Continue to Pont yr Afon Gam and turn **L** onto B4407(27.1ml)

NOTE! You will be passing riders on the opposite side of the road as you retrace part of the earlier route.

Continue and after 2ml turn **L** (Blue sign – No HGV) and descend,turn **R** at T onto B4406. Follow through Penmachno and after a further 2 ml approx. turn **L** at x rds (**very easy to miss!**) (35.7ml) Follow through a valley (Fairy Glen), bear **R** at junc and come to a T junc with A470, and turn **R**.(37ml)

After 0.4ml go **L** (* looks like straight ahead where the main road bends **R** *) Continue ,passing under a bridge, until T junc in Betws y Coed(38.4ml). Turn **L** and proceed then turn **R** across the bridge over the river(38.8ml)

Then turn immediately **L** SP Car park. Ride through the car park and continue along the road which leads out of it. Climb steeply at times, ignore all turnings and forestry tracks. To come to a T junc, where turn **R**.(40.9ml)

Start a long descent through forest, again ignore all turnings but follow signs to Llanwrst, and at junc at base of descent turn **L** and immed **L** again.(43.6ml)

Follow this road for approx. 1ml and to **CONTROL** AT Llanwrst Rugby Club on the **R** (44.4m)

Retrace from Control and keep to the **L** at junc to come into Llanwrst over a bridge. At T with lights turn **R** (**and after 100yds turn **L** and immed. **R** SP Nebo**) Follow this road (B5427) climbing all the while, to come to a T junc, (**Point A**)(49.4ml)

(Shorter route riders)

Turn **R** at Point A and follow this road (B5113) through Nebo and down to Pentrefoelas. Cross A5 and bear **L** at next junc, and after 1.5ml come to a T with A5, Cross and go **R** and proceed along A5 to Glasfryn, where turn **L** SP Cefn Brith. Continue through Cefn Brith to a T , where turn **R** and follow to Cerrigydrudion, and to **CONTROL** in the village school on the **L**. (59.9ml)

Go **L** from the school. Continue then bear **L** to merge into the A5, going **L**. After 0.5ml turn **R** onto B4501 SP Bala. Follow this road for 8.5ml to a **L** turn on a bend and follow it to come to a T junc with A494. Turn **R** and follow into Bala, at junc turn **L** onto B4391 and retrace to the Rugby Club and **FINISH** (71.3ml)

(Longer route riders)

At Point A, turn **L** and proceed along this road to Gwytherin, where bear **R** SP Llansannan, onto B5384.(54.6 ml) Continue, through X rds and take 1st **R**. After 0.5ml turn **R**(57.3ml) into a lane (**easy to miss!**) with 2 cattle grids & follow lane for 2.4 ml to T junc then turn **R** (59.7ml)

Continue passing two large reservoirs then turn **R** at T junc with A543(63.8 ml). Continue for 3.7 ml and turn **L** into a lane opposite a farm called "Fron Bella"(67.5 ml). Follow this lane through a gate and a ford, and Proceed to A5 and turn **L** onto A5, continue for 1.5ml and at Glasfryn turn **L** SP Cefn Brith (**you have now merged with the shorter route**). Continue through Cefn Brith to a T junc, turn **R** and follow to Cerrigydrudion and **CONTROL** at the school on the **L**. (73.5ml)

Go **L** from Control and 1st **L**, and after 0.3ml turn **R** down a lane and follow for 2ml. At Llanfihangel turn **R** before you come to a bridge, SP Bettws Gerfil Goch(76.7ml) and follow this lane to Bettws. At Bettws go **L** across bridge and then **R**. Ascend steep climb and follow to a T junc with A5 (83ml)

Go **R** on A5 then immediately **L** and then quickly **R** at staggered junc. Follow lane for approx. 6ml to a T junc with B4402 at Llanderfel.(90.2ml) Turn **L**, then **L** at next junc, cross bridge and go **R** by the Bryntirion Arms. Follow B4402 to T junc, turn **R** and continue into Bala. Cross bridge and take **L** and **L** again into Rugby Club and **FINISH (95.2M)**

Riders Log

Number:..... Name:.....

Club(If Any):.....

Control Points	Opens	Closes
Bala (Start)	8:00am	9:00am
Gellilydan Village Hall	9:00am	1:00pm
Llanrwst Rugby Club	10:00am	3:00pm
Cerrigydrudion School	11:30am	5:30pm
Bala (Finish)	2:00pm	8:00pm

Contact Phone Numbers:

Organisers:	Harry Fowler:	07887 623870
	Denis Holder	07884 253784
	Sag Wagon	07466 531656

Control Points

Gellilydan	07503 178369
Llanrwst	07802 823057
Cerrigydrudion	07480 972287
Bala	07887 623870