

**CYCLING UK MERSEYSIDE
ST HELENS & WARRINGTON CTC**

WILD WALES CHALLENGE

SUNDAY 29th AUGUST 2021

Welcome to the 36th Wild Wales Challenge!

This event is one of cycling's best kept secrets. You won't find it advertised because its attraction is passed on by word of mouth, rider to rider and club to club. Its unique character as a traditional challenge ride rather than as another mass entry sportive is the reason riders return to it again and again.

Another attraction is that every year is a different route, and we try to find new ways for you to explore. This year you will go out from Bala by way of Pale – Milltir Cerrig and Llanrhaedr-ym-Mochnant to the first Control Point at the lovely spot of Llanarmon DC village hall.

From Llanarmon you head out along the valley to Glyn Ceiriog and the demanding climb of Church Hill descending towards Vivod and onto the Old Horseshoe Pass, alongside the Ponderosa Café progressing to the second Control Point and Lunch Stop at Pwllglas village hall.

This is where the riders taking the longer route climb out of Pwllglas through the Cloecanog Forest and onto your final stop at Cerrigydrudion village hall. Returning to Bala via Cwm Main and Llanderfel finishing your 85 mile 3000 metre epic day back at the rugby Club.

For those who would prefer a shorter route, there is a 73 mile 2400 mts alternative which provides a more direct return to Bala from Pwllglas by way of Melin y Wig, Betws Gwerfil Goch and Llanderfel.

Please read the event Notes carefully they are there 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!

This event could not take place without the massive contribution made by the volunteers from both Cycling UK Merseyside and St Helens & Warrington CTC, so spare a thought for them, and maybe a wave as you go past!

Enjoy your day and return safely!

Harry Fowler and Denis Holder

(Organisers)

Wild Wales Challenge 29 Aug 2021

Course Directions

Start: Bala Rugby Club. From Club, go **R** at T juncs and follow B4391 for approx. 3m. **L** onto B4402, then very sharp **R** just before T junc by Bryntirion Inn, climb steeply up narrow lane to eventually turn **L** at T junc onto the Milltir Cerrig B4391.

Follow B4391 over summit and descend (extreme care!), approaching Llangynog turn **L** into lane (12.7m) (easy to miss) and follow lane to a T junc at Pen y Bont Fawr, and turn **L** (15.7m)

Hazard Ahead! Fast descent (17.6m) followed by a rough, twisting lane with poor visibility!

Follow to Llanrhaedr ym Mochnant and fork **L** in the village opposite the Wynnstay Arms. At x rds go sharp **L** SP Llanarmon DC, and follow this lane, climbing steeply, keeping to the **R** at turns, to a T junc, where go sharp **R**. Follow this road down to Llanarmon DC and **CONTROL** at Village Hall on the **R** (25m)

Hazard Ahead! Very steep climb followed by long steep descent!

Follow B4500 along the Ceiriog valley to X road in Glyn Ceiriog continue ahead past Spar shop, and at the end of High St continue ahead to climb Church Hill (very steep with rough surface). At summit, go **L** at x rds and then **R**. Follow lane down a steep descent with a sharp bend at the base and then fork **L** through Vivod (34.6m)

At T junc with A5 turn **R** (extreme care!) and then 2nd **L** B5103, passing under the railway and across the river, Turn **R** at T junc and again **R** at next T junc with A542. After 0.25m go **L** into narrow lane and then **L** at T junc, SP Minera and World's End, (Dinbren Rd).

Continue along lane, and after 2.5m turn **L** by a sign for Eglwyseg. Follow up to an oblique T junc (39.1m) where turn very sharp **R**. Continue ahead to climb the Old Horseshoe pass and emerge at T junc with A542 beside the Ponderosa cafe (41m)

Go **R** onto A542 for 2 miles to roundabout. Take 2nd exit stay on A542 at next junc turn **L** onto A525 to Llsfasi at mile 47 turn **R** at x rds onto B5429, SP Graig Fechan.

Follow through Graig Fechan and turn **L** SP Llanfair DC. At T junc with A525 go **R** and **L** SP Pwllglas. At T junc with A494 go **L** and follow into Pwllglas and **CONTROL** at Village hall on the R (51.5m) **Lunch Stop!**

From hall, go **R** and turn 2nd **R** SP Efenechtyd and continue to Llanfwrog, turn **L** at T junc with B5105 and then **R**. Follow this road, ignoring all turnings, through Bontuchel and into Cyfflyiog. Cross the river and continue ahead, passing an inn on the L. Follow this road, again ignoring all turnings, through the forest to eventually come to a T junc and turn **L**.(62.9m)

Pass Tal y Cafn farm and follow the road through several sharp bends, turn **L** (**64.9M**) at junc and then **R** at T junc (65.9m) and follow to B4501, go **L** and follow into Cerrigydrudion, and **CONTROL** at the school on the **L**.(68.5m)

Continue and go **L** at T junc and follow out of on the **B5105** Cerrigydrudion to turn **R** after 0.3m. Descend and climb steeply to turn **R** at Give Way sign (**70m**). Follow down to T junc with A5, cross and after approx **1m** turn **R**(**72m**) and then next **L**, and after **0.7m** turn **R** SP Cwm Main. After a further 0.4m again turn **R**, SP Cwm Main.

Follow this road through Cwm Main to T junc with A494, cross over and continue to T junc, turn **R** into Llanderfel. At next T junc, go **L**, cross the bridge and then turn **R** by the Bryntyrion Inn. Continue and go **R** at T junc with B4391, and retrace the morning route into Bala to **FINISH** at the Rugby Club. (85.3m and over 3000 metres of climbing). **Well done!**

Alternative shorter route:

Follow the main route to the lunch stop at Pwllglas (51.5m) Take 2nd **R** and after 0.25m turn **L**. Climb and follow road for 1.5m to T junc with B5105. Go **L** and follow to Clawdd Newydd, where turn 3rd **L**, SP Melin y Wig. Follow road down steep descent marked 20%, cross the bridge and follow to a T junc and go **R** SP Betws GG.

Follow to Betws Gwerfil Goch and continue on this road through Maerdy to a T junc with A5. Cross and follow lane for approx 4m to T junc with A494 at Bethel. Cross over and continue on B4402, to Llanderfel. Go through the village and go **L** at T junc, cross the bridge, and turn **R** by the Bryntyrion Inn. Follow and turn **R** at junc with B4391 and retrace the morning route back to Bala and **FINISH** (72.5m) **Well done!**

Escape route:

Follow main route to the junc with A542 by the Ponderosa, turn **R** follow the road for 2 miles to roundabout take 1st exit onto A5104 and follow this road back to Bala, following road signs. (approx distance 63m)

Event Notes – Please read carefully!

This 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 round, 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 on offer.

Make sure you are familiar with the course beforehand, because of the length of the course at 84 miles and 3000 mts of ascent it is tough. There is an alternative route which at 73 miles and 2400 mts of ascent is also tough but cuts out the last Control Point in Cerrigydrudion. Riders who know their limitations, and those who do not, are **strongly advised to consider taking the shorter route.**

In any case, **all riders must notify the marshals at Pwllglas which route they intend to take.** The course is not way-marked but a number of signs marked WWC will be put in at points where the road junctions may not be difficult to see.

OS Landranger maps nos: 116,117,125,126, cover the course. A GPX file will be made available to all riders.

You will be issued with an electronic tag and a rider number, and you will need to present the tag at all the intermediate Control Points as well as the start and finish. Entries and rider numbers are **not transferable. No rider may ride under another rider's ID.**

Start time is 7.00 am until 8.30 am. 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 a lunch will be provided at the hall in Pwllglas. Riders are kindly requested to declare on their entry form any special dietary requirements. Riders are strongly advised to carry emergency “bonk” rations and plenty of water.

The course often follows 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 are unpredictable, and you should be equipped for all 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 the organisers in the first instance. Riders should be aware that they may have to wait a considerable time before the sag wagon gets to them. It is **Not** a taxi service, the support provided will try to enable the rider continues to the finish in Bala.

You **MUST** inform a marshal or one of the organisers if you decide to abandon the event, otherwise valuable time will be lost looking for a rider who has gone home without letting anyone know.

Check your bike **Thoroughly Before** the event:- Especially 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.

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

It is hoped that there will again be an event photographer, but at the time of writing arrangements have not yet been confirmed. Details will be available at a later stage.

All riders will receive a Welsh slate plaque, specially engraved with a design featuring an aspect of the course. The Harold Kewish Trophy will be awarded to the club providing the greatest number of finishers (long course only will qualify).

Rider's log

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

Club (If any).....

<u>Control Points:</u>	<u>Opens</u>	<u>Closes</u>
Bala (start)	7.00	8.30
Llanarmon DC	8.30	13.00
Pwllglas	10.30	15.00
Cerrigydrudion	12.30	18.30
Bala (finish)	14.30	20.30

Contact phone numbers:

Organisers: Harry Fowler:- 07887 623780

Denis Holder:- 07884 253784

Sag wagon 07884 253784

Llanarmon DC 07963 432568

Pwllglas 07421 090369

Cerrigydrudion 07553 407151

Bala 07887 623780