

Stage 2: Brynmawr – Rhigos – Pen y Cymoedd – 84.6 km / 52.6 mile Road Race


Stage Headquarters	Brynmawr Foundation School	
Signing-On Opens	13:30	
Signing-On Closes	14:15	
Convoy Drivers / Officials' Meeting	14:15 (Race Officials room, HQ)	
Rider Briefing	14:35	
Briefing Location, Fine Weather	Assembly Area	
Briefing Location, Poor Weather	Main Hall, Race HQ	
Stage Rollout (neutral)	14:45	
Presentation of Jerseys	14:55 (at ceremonial start)	
Length of Neutralised Zone	12.4km / 6.90 miles	
Feed Zone	At 37.7km/23.5 miles at the large lay-by on A4215 between Libanus and Defynnog	

Photo: Nathan Draper wins on Llangynidr Mountain, ©2015 Huw Fairclough

The race will assemble in the HQ car park, with the peloton moving to Market Square in Brynmawr to stop briefly for the Ceremonial Start. The Mayor of Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Councillor Barrie Sutton, and 2014 and 2015's double Green Jersey winner, Joe Holt, will present the jerseys and officially start the race.

SAFETY NOTES:

- Due to roadworks (and a cycling ban) on the A465 and narrow roads on the neutralised section, the race will split into two as it leaves HQ: Team Service Vehicles will be escorted through the roadworks by a lead car to wait at a rendez-vous point in Crickhowell where they will rejoin as the peloton passes.
- After the ceremonial start, the peloton will stop and be split into groups of 15-20 riders and escorted through the narrower part of the neutral zone by NEG Moto. The riders will regroup into a single peloton in Gilwern and then proceed through the last kilometre of the neutral zone.
- The neutral zone is **VERY** narrow in places with the risk of parked or oncoming traffic, the odd pot hole and a **very narrow left turn** at one point. You are **NOT** racing and your speed will be controlled by your moto escort. Ride with your heads up, **NO MORE THAN TWO ABREAST**, help each other, and be prepared to stop at any moment.
- This stage includes two long, fast descents – into Defynnog (38km) and Glynneath (69km). **MAKE SURE** you stay on the left hand side of the road and race with your heads up.
- Take care at and beyond the finish (see Stage Finishes in Race Safety Notes on page 37).
- There is a 36km, approximate 20-25 minute **car journey** from the stage finish at the summit of the Rhigos back to Brynmawr. If you are staying in the HQ area it will **not** be practical to ride back from the stage finish. Please bear this in mind when planning accommodation and travel arrangements.

King of the Mountains and Sprint Competitions:

This stage includes **four** hill primes: 11.9km (7.4 miles), 50km (31.1 miles), 62.8km (39 miles) (all 2nd Category), and the stage finish (1st Category)

There are **three** hotspot sprints, at 19.4km/12.1 miles, 31km/19.3 miles and 55.5km/34.5 miles. All are 2nd Category

Time Bonuses

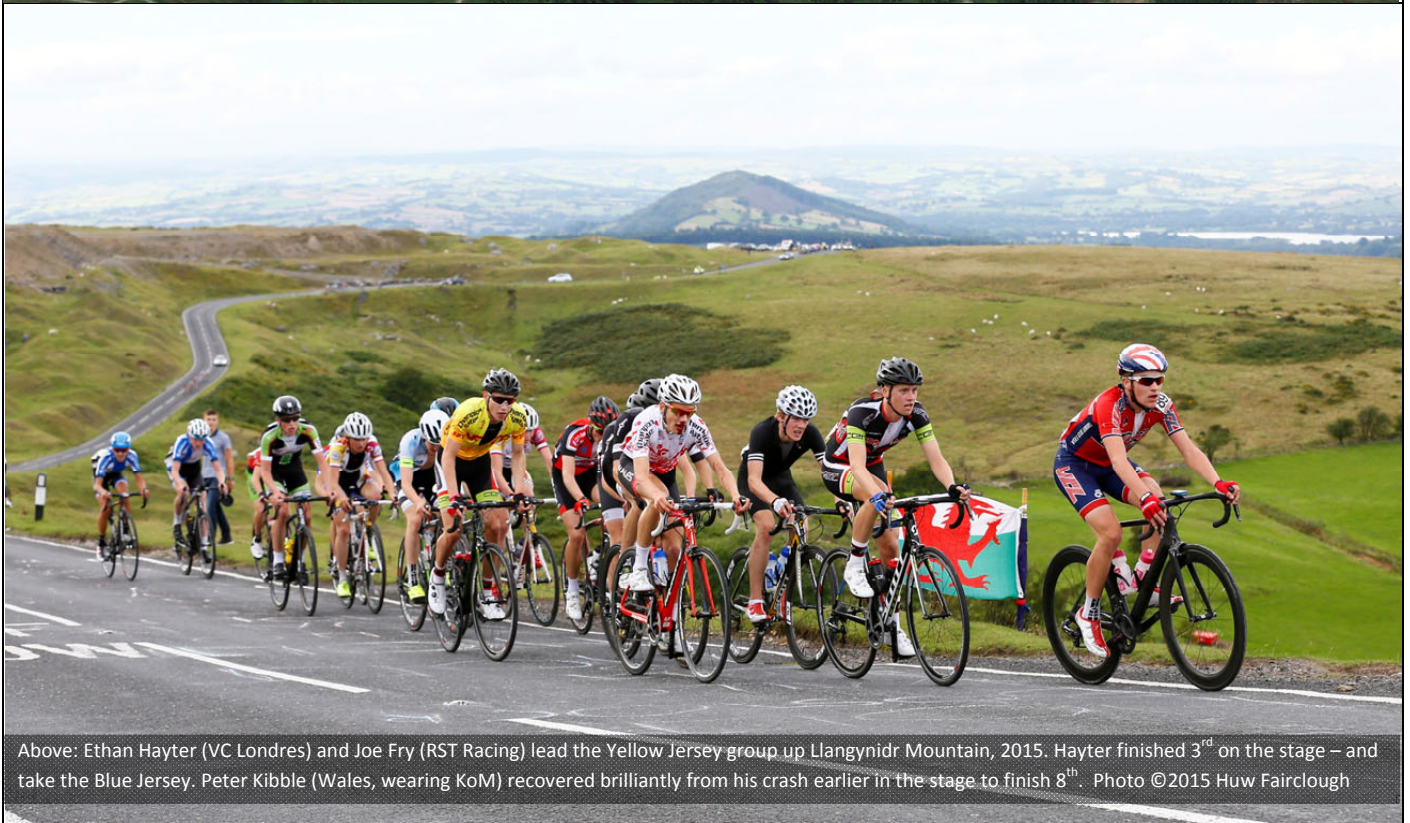
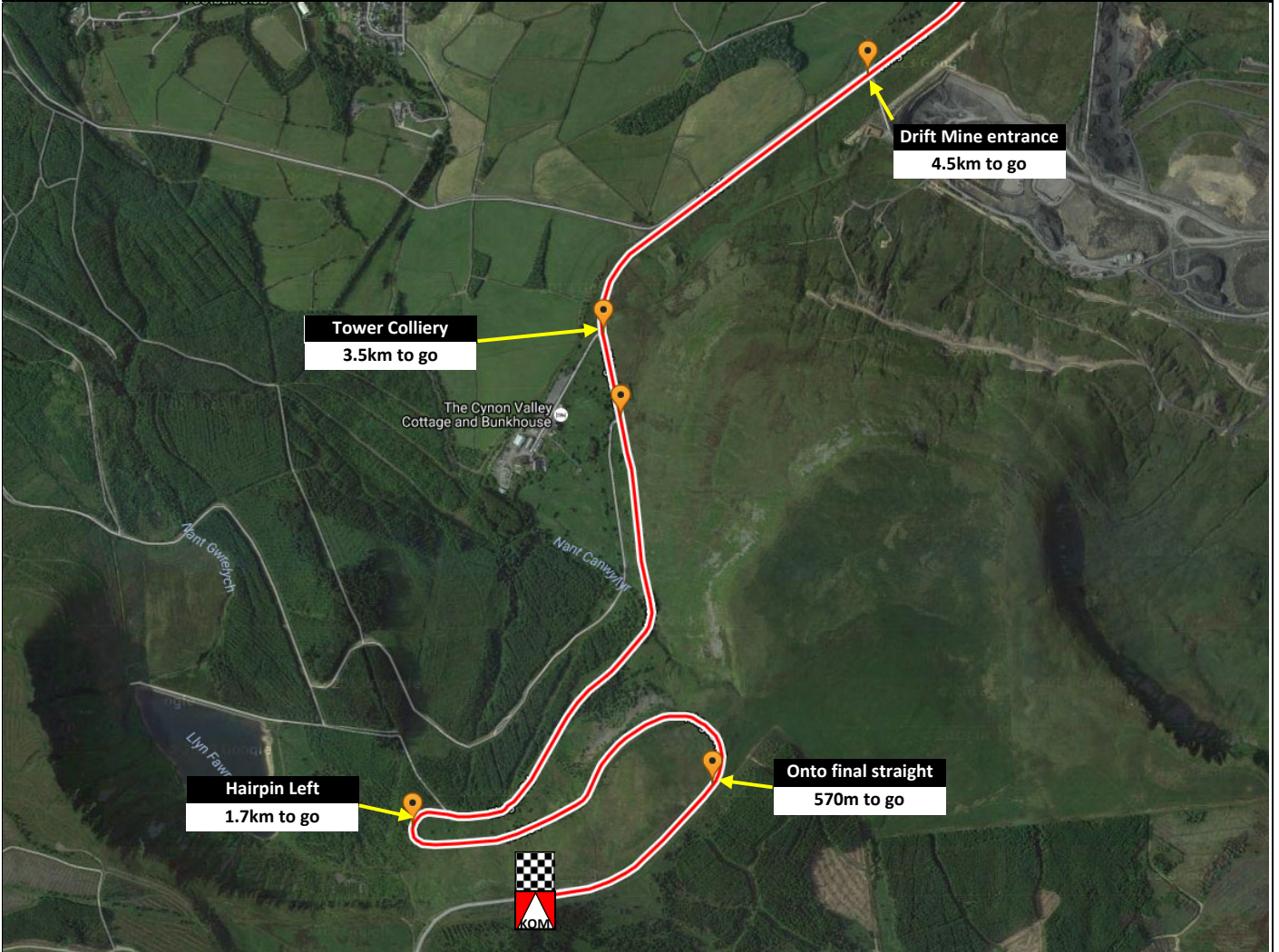
At the **first** hotspot sprint (Llanhamlach) 1st: 15 seconds. 2nd: 10 secs. 3rd: 5 seconds.

(Note: all prime/feed distances are quoted are from the de-neutralisation point, NOT the stage start)

Course Description – Stage 2

km	miles	Description	Comment
0.0	0.0	Assembly Point: Rear Car Park of Race HQ - Brynmawr Foundation School	ROLL OUT
0.2	0.1	Race turns RIGHT at T-junc onto Intermediate road	RACE NEUTRALISED
0.3	0.2	Race turns RIGHT at T-junc onto Intermediate road	
1.0	0.6	Race turns LEFT at T-junc onto King Street	
1.3	0.8	Race turns RIGHT onto Alma Street	
1.6	1.0	Convoy halts for Cermonial Start: Brynmawr Market Square	CEREMONIAL START
1.9	1.2	Race turns LEFT (1 st exit) at rbt onto B4248 – Blaenavon Road	
2.2	1.4	Race turns LEFT (1 st exit) at rbt onto A467 – direction Abergavenny / Merthyr Tydfil	
2.9	1.8	Race turns LEFT (1 st exit) at rbt onto A4047 (King Street) – direction Beaufort	
3.4	2.1	Race turns RIGHT onto Intermediate Road	
5.0	3.1	Race STOPS for peloton to be split into groups and commence TRANSFER	RACE STOPS
6.6	4.1	Enter Clydach – CARE – parked cars and narrow roads for the next 4km	
7.9	4.9	Groups turn LEFT – CARE – onto minor road – direction Maesygartha	NARROW JUNCTION
9.0	5.6	Enter Maesygartha	
9.8	6.1	Race turns RIGHT at T-junc onto a minor road (Church Road)	
10.0	6.2	Grouped riders stop to re-form into complete peloton	RACE STOPS – REGROUP
11.8	7.3	Enter Glangwryney	
12.1	7.5	Race turns LEFT onto westbound A40, direction Brecon	
12.4	7.7	Race deneutralises at National Speed Limit signs – on exit of Glangwryney	
0.0	0.1	Start of racing	RACING BEGINS
2.2	1.4	Enter Crickhowell – CARE – traffic lights, roundabout, pelican crossings	
2.3	1.4	Rendez-vous point : Team Service Vehicles rejoin convoy	
11.5	7.1	Enter Bwlch	START PRIME CLIMB
11.9	7.4	KoM Prime point at summit of climb, adjacent to junction with Buckland Hill	KoM PRIME
19.4	12.1	Sprint prime at entrance to Old Ford Inn	SPRINT PRIME
19.6	12.2	Enter Llanhamlach	
22.6	14.0	Race turns LEFT (1 st Exit) at roundabout onto A40 dir Llandovery/Merthyr	
26.6	16.5	Race turns LEFT (1 st Exit) at roundabout onto A470 dir Cardiff	
31.0	19.3	Sprint prime opposite entrance to Tai'r Bull Inn, Libanus	SPRINT PRIME
32.6	20.3	Race turns RIGHT onto A4215 direction Defynnog	
37.8	23.5	Feed zone in layby at summit of climb	FEED ZONE
38.3	23.8	CARE – fast descent into Defynnog (1km long)	
40.3	25.0	Enter Defynnog	
40.6	25.2	Race turns LEFT at T-Junction onto A4067 direction Swansea	
43.8	27.2	CARE – Cattle Grid & Traffic Lights	
45.1	28.0	Enter Crai	
50.0	31.1	KoM Prime at layby on left, summit of climb out of Crai	KoM PRIME
54.2	33.7	Enter Glyntawe	
55.3	34.4	CARE – Horse Riding	
55.5	34.5	Sprint prime at entrance to Dan yr Ogor Caves	SPRINT PRIME
56.2	34.9	Enter Craig y Nos	
56.6	35.2	CARE – Horse Riding	
58.0	36.0	Enter Penycae	
59.2	36.8	Enter Ynyswen	
59.4	36.9	CARE – Pelican Crossing	
61.1	38.0	Race turns LEFT onto A4221, direction Onllwyn, Neath	
62.8	39.0	KoM Prime adjacent to junction signposted Coelbren 1½	KoM PRIME
64.5	40.1	Enter Neath Port Talbot	
65.5	40.7	Race continues STRAIGHT ON at junction – road becomes A4109	
69.3	43.1	CARE – Very fast, 3km descent into Glynneath	
72.3	44.9	CARE – Race turns LEFT at crossroads/traffic lights onto B4242 dir Rhigos	
72.6	45.1	Race continues STRAIGHT ON at junction – road becomes minor road	
72.9	45.3	Enter Pont Walby	
75.8	47.1	Enter Cefn Rhigos	SEE NEXT PAGE

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Above: Ethan Hayter (VC Londres) and Joe Fry (RST Racing) lead the Yellow Jersey group up Llangynidr Mountain, 2015. Hayter finished 3rd on the stage – and take the Blue Jersey. Peter Kibble (Wales, wearing KoM) recovered brilliantly from his crash earlier in the stage to finish 8th. Photo ©2015 Huw Fairclough