

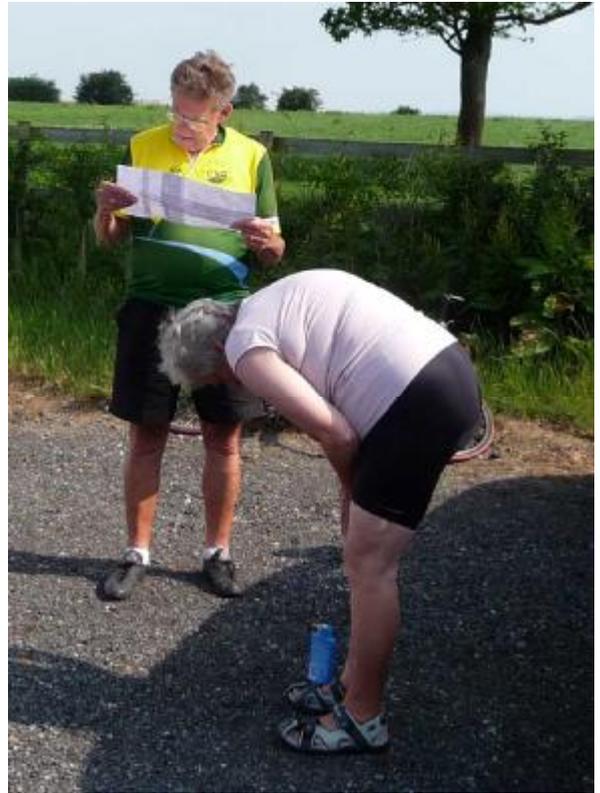
BHURTPORE INN, ASTON – 27th June 2010

a) Car-assisted Ride

Brian's early start ride from the Eureka is reported separately, but eight of us took 'the easy way' and met at The Ice Cream Farm to make a 'car-assisted' day of it.

So, after a cup of tea, carefully oiling up (a scorchio, scorchio day was forecast) and a quick look at the map route, thoughtfully supplied by Brian L, we headed out for our South Cheshire tour.

Clutton, Tilston and No Mans Heath were soon behind us, the Wrenbury canal bridge safely crossed,



John and Jill getting ready for the off



Regrouping



John and Annabel



The Canal at Wrenbury



The Dusty Miller on the Canal



before a short ride to Aston and to The Bhurtpore Inn for lunch (A CTC recommended establishment).



History note: the oldest part of the Inn is dated 1720 when it was The Queen's Head. In 1826 it was renamed to celebrate the siege and final defeat of The Iron Fort of Bhurtpore, Northern India, by the 1st Battalion, Bengal Artillery. So there you have it!



There was another sign up in the bar, which turned out to be very prophetic on the day. It was an invitation for patrons to watch the England/ Germany match on wide screen TV.

We declined.

The 'direct ride group' arrived only 15 minutes after us and even admitted trying to catch up with us all morning. No chance.



Some of the 'A' Team Janet, Brian and Bob



Scarecrow at Wrenbury

The village also had an interesting display of scarecrows decorating the local gardens. Chance for a photo stop for Glennys.



Leaving the Bhurtpore Inn



On the way to Beeston



Our mapped return route soon had us admiring the fine view of **Beeston Castle** before we

arrived back at **The Ice cream Farm** and an unusual display of empty cycle racks.



**Glennys
Looking for results!**

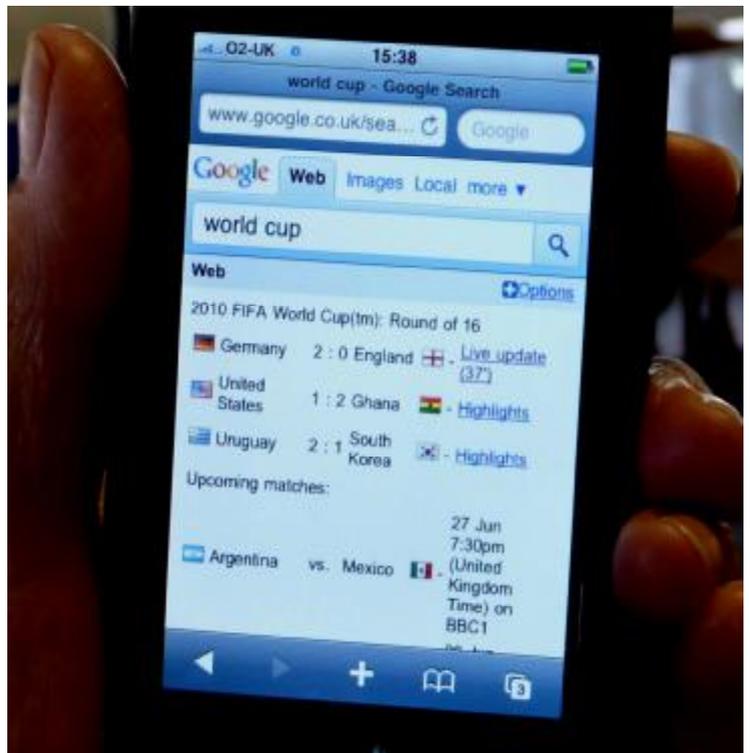


**Empty Bike Racks
– Wonder Why!**

Here Glennys was persuaded to use her iPhone 'thingy' to find out the score just before half time.

Regrettably – it was not good news. The score was already 2-0.

A 'Cointreau and Orange' flavoured ice-cream was consumed before a traffic free drive home.



Score on the iPhone



**A very good day.
Thanks Brian.**

Text by **Bob Witton** – Photos mostly by Bob and some by Glennys

b) 'A' Ride to the Bhurtpore Inn – 27th June 2010

Seven riders set out for the A ride to the Bhurtpore Arms led by Brian L. Bob Thompson's introductory ride with CTC Two Mills saw him appointed as 'banksman', a duty he performed throughout the ride with gusto. On reaching the cycleway via Saughall, Frank Kinlan affirmed his presence with a loud bang. (Team thought: - There goes our coffee stop).

A repair was soon effected with help from Bob (he is well experienced in fixing punctures) and we trundled on. Frank detoured to the bike factory to buy a new tube and we pushed on via the Jungle, Saughton and Bruera to the Ice Cream Farm. Frank was just finishing his coffee and then announced he was going home. Nothing to do with football but more to do with the impending arrival of a new grandchild. As we were leaving who else appeared but no other than Brian Saxby. He was out for a spin but was going home to watch that match. I put him in touch with Ted who had also opted to jump ship in favour of TV. (Never mind guys - there is always 2014.)

Six riders continued the ride via Harthill, Cholmondeley Castle, Wrenbury to Aston and the Bhurtpore Inn where we met the car-assisted team. I tried to get ahead on Harthill for a photo or two but only Brian, Bob and George slowed for the pose.



The Wrenbury highlight was an excellent display of scarecrows, "what a delight for Bob and his camera" was overheard from our secretary!

Brian



The Bhurtpore did us fine once again with good food and a beer festival with a vast array of real ales for the connoisseurs.

Return route for both teams was identical via Ravensmoor, Brindley and a few back lanes to Bunbury. We gave the car-assisted team fifteen minutes start, confident that we would catch them. We didn't. (Or was it 30 minutes?)

George managed a puncture shortly after Bunbury. The group was very impressed with the speed of repair with able assistance from Bob once again. Onward then to Walk Mill for well-earned refreshments with a final dash to the Eureka via Waverton, Christleton, Pipers Ash and Saughall. I had omitted to reset my computer at the start but Brian thought we had ridden about 72 miles.

Brian Lowe