

VENETIAN MARINA - 11th APRIL 2010

What a splendid idea these car assisted rides are!

Yes, they do require more planning, organising and of course an additional leader, but we, Two Mills CTC, are fortunately strong in these areas.



Brian – A team Leader

So, Brian, 'A' Ride leader, set off from the Eureka Café at 9.30AM with 14 or so riders, whilst we, the car assisted, met at the Ice Cream Farm at 10.00AM, ready for 'the off'.



Car-assisted at the Ice Cream Farm

Well, that was the plan. Yes, we were all there well before 10.00, but the café did not open until 10.00, so the planned pre-ride drink seemed in doubt.



Shall we or shan't we – yes we shall!

But some marched off from the car park towards the café, thereby making our minds up for us. It's called 'people power'.





Having enjoyed a leisurely drink, we pressed on to our 'stand up 11's near Radmoor Green.



The 'A' team

wasn't far behind us and stopped for a quick ice cream.

The Venetian Marina café was reached at midday, where we were made very welcome - our arrival having been prearranged by phone.



We had nearly finished our lunch when the other team arrived looking a little hot, having covered at least double our mileage!



The 'A' and the 'B' team meet up at the Marina

The Canal at the Venetian Marina



Around a table outside, a curious bunch, mainly female, were obviously plotting something.



Collecting Sponsors for Pedal it Pink

It proved to be a collection for a sponsored ride in aid of Clatterbridge Cancer Research. Good luck with that one Janet and your Bicycle Belles next Saturday.



Leaving the 'A' team still eating, we pressed on homewards through the beautiful Cheshire lanes.



“OOOOH, he is so strong, that Andy!”

Regrettably, the tandem suffered a rear wheel puncture. A classic 'snake bite' caused by a large stone.

It's the first time I had seen a tandem upside down.



That, soon repaired, our arrival back at a very crowded Ice Cream Farm was only delayed by the farmer rounding up his cows and driving them across the road in front of us. But, I suppose they must make their delicious ice cream with something,



And it did allow us to enjoy a celebratory ice cream. Small for most, double-sized for some.

This, for us, completed a very enjoyable day in perfect weather.

As we were leaving, the 'A' team were sighted nearby, but they apparently decided to carry on to the Walk Mill for a late tea stop.

Thanks, 'A' team Brian and 'car-assisted John', for both excellent rides.

Bob Witton.

The 'A' Ride from Brian Joyce

"It was LONG....VERY, VERY LONG. I clocked 80 miles to and from Eureka and we lost our leader at one point (see photo of confused party waiting at a T-junction). I elected to take the back marker role to much ribald comment concerning my 'half-wheel' holder status from several riders,



to which I maintained a dignified silence. Later we lost our leader again and Janet, Sylvia and I made our own way to a late afternoon coffee stop at Walk Mill where the party was reunited.



I'd never previously witnessed Janet suffering major 'bonk' trauma till then but after a huge scone with jam her equilibrium was restored.

Sylvia was also feeling the effects but a large cappuccino had an equally positive effect and we all rode back to the Mills together. This was comfortably the longest ride in one day either of us has ever done.

The new rider, Dave from Greasby, had to be reassured several times that "not all our Sunday rides are this strenuous" ...hope we didn't put him off. All things considered, it was an enjoyable day out.

Thanks to **Brian Lowe** for opening up further areas of Cheshire to us.