

Anderton Boat Lift - 26th September 2018

Alternatives Ride to Okells

From Chris L...

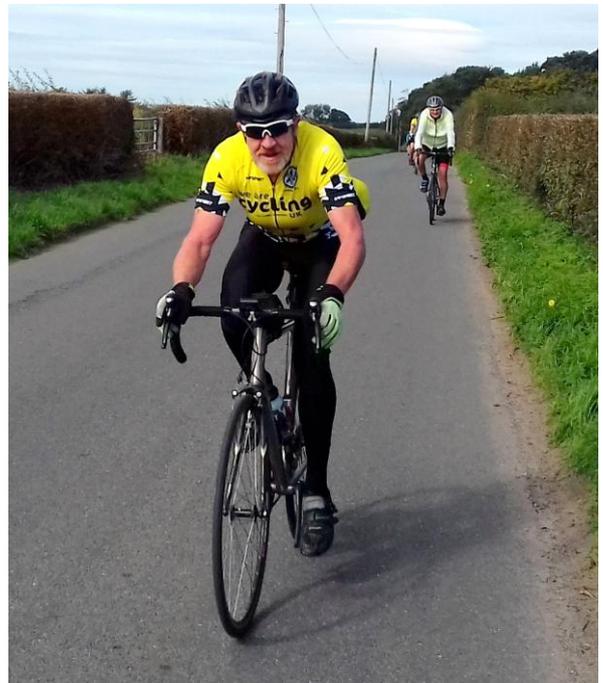
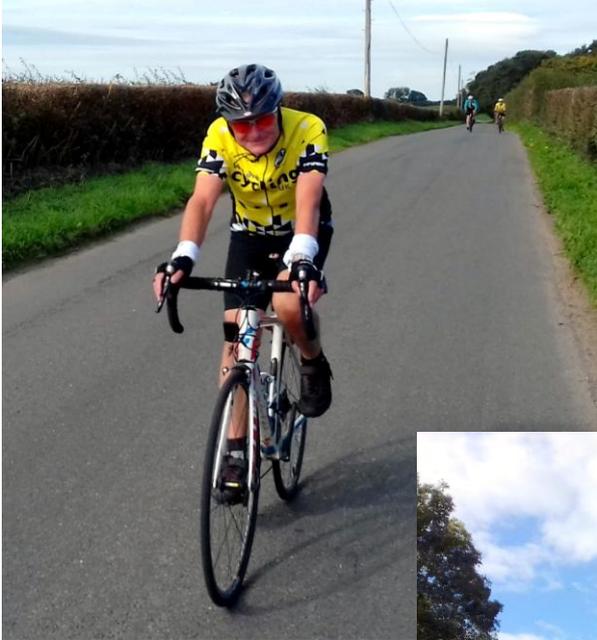
Wednesdays ride this week took us to the **Anderton Boat Lift** courtesy of **Chris** and **Sue**. Twenty-two assembled at **Two Mills** where **Chris** asked who was eating in, I don't think he got a clear answer! We split into three groups - I went with **Colin's** faster group and never really saw the others again!



We had a brief banana stop in **Mickle Trafford** where a local farmer must have objected to cyclists jumping over his gate to answer a call of nature and has now hand written a sign (no trespassers) and covered the top bar in barbed wire - **OUCH!**

One of our number came to grief on **Cob Hall Lane** when it was realised that you need forward motion whilst being clipped in! No damage to person or bike was inflicted. We then cycled on to the planned coffee stop at **Davenports (Acton Bridge)**. Service was a tad slow, but the cake was excellent. By this stage the sun was cracking the flags so we'd all stripped down to summer gear (cue music) to carry on as it was only five more miles to **Anderton**.

We assumed the others would show up- but not to be - so on we went. It turned out that **Bernie** had a puncture by the **Weaver** which set everyone's time back a bit.



The others had already arrived at **Anderton** by the time we arrived so six of us went straight over the bridge to the **Stanley Arms** for lunch, we ate outside with the sun beating down to catch what's left of this never ending summer.



Alistair joined us for the return (wanting to crack on a bit) - the others had left earlier but we soon passed them as they caught their breath on the hill out of **Northwich**. From there it



was a straightforward ride back with only a brief stop when we realised no one had thought to bring **jellybabies**!

Liz, Mari, Peter and I stopped for tea at the **Eureka** in time to see **Glennys, Brian and Peter** leaving.

They'd been to **Lockgates Café** (we thought) then **Chris** and **Sue** rolled up too. I can't add any further details regarding the other fifteen or so riders although I understand all had a great day.

Thanks **Chris** and **Sue** for an excellent (and testing) route of 54 miles.

Photos and text by Chris L

(Chris L said to me today it was strange to have seen so little of the other groups - you will see from [this Flyby recording](#) that they were never very far apart...Chris S).

"Alternatives" Ride

Regular "Alternative" riders **Peter W**, **Glennys**, **Brian L** and occasional rider **Alan O** and even less occasional Alternative riders **Ruth** and **Julian** to be later joined by **Tony S**, opted for the **Lock Gates Café** as an alternative venue to the scheduled group ride to the **Anderton Boat Lift**. We did not get away until 10.25 as **Glennys** had mislaid her specs and had to go back to the **Tudor Rose** to get them. Not all of the delay could be attributed to **Glennys** however as we waited for one more rider who we thought was riding with us and then it turned out that he wasn't.



Brian led off towards **Backford**. We picked up **Tony** in **Dunkirk Lane** who was tearing his hair out as he had been riding up and down for the previous half hour. (Just think of all those extra miles he got in.) We continued along the A41 thro' **Backford**, **Croughton**, to **Mickle Trafford** and a banana stop.

Tony left us here as he wanted to be home early and at the progress we were making it thought it was likely to be midnight. Onward to Long Green, through the **Barrowmore Estate** to **Tarvin Sands** aiming for **Oscroft** and **Willington Corner**. Having ridden about a mile along **Irons Lane** the group suddenly realised that the six was now four and that **Julian** and **Glennys** had gone astray. Telephone contact was made and agreement reached to meet up in **Oscroft**. As can happen on these occasions the lost pair thought that they were behind us when somehow they were ahead of us which of course leads to utter confusion. We eventually met up again but by now it was already 12.30pm and we still had another 8(ish) miles to go. Plan 1 was shelved when it was realised that **Okells** was just along the road and once again united, we headed thereto for some sustenance.. **Okells** did not disappoint with its usual high level of service and good food and adequately refreshed we set off home via **Hoofield**, **Huxley**, **Martin's Lane** to **Mickle Trafford** and the **Greenway**.



Some say (I know my mother did) that mishaps happen in threes and others think of a mishap towards the end of a ride as “a sting in the tail” but for **Glennys** it was perhaps a combination of both. Her third incident, (remember the mislaid glasses (1), getting left by the group(2) rather than a sting in the tail, it was a bee sting right between the eyes.(3) **Ouch!**. In the absence of **John Ferguson** we were devoid of any first aid treatment but **Glennys** self treated with a couple of **ibuprofen** tablets and then soldiered on to the **Eureka** with **Ruth** and **Julian** heading

directly for home via the **Greenway** and **Burton Marshes**.

I think we all enjoyed the day's activities, with possibly just one exception but remember **Glennys** that after a day like that it can only get better.

Text by Brian L

Photos by Glennys