

The Bhurtpore at Aston - 4th September 2019

From Chris L...

Brian L's ride to **The Bhurtpore at Aston** had tones that even **Boris** would be proud of - original plan had been to go to the **Cotton Arms in Wrenbury** but protracted negotiations ended in **No Deal!** Since no **Withdrawal Agreement** had been signed the **Bhurtpore** stepped in with a sandwich and chips deal that allowed us to keep our trading rights intact - better tell **Brian** to be on standby for **Brussels!**

Politics aside, we were all keeping an eye on the forecast for rain and wind - thirteen turned up at **Eureka** where the sun fooled us by shining (even though it had been raining when I left **Bebington**) - jacket off and dark glasses (silly me!) - as we headed out towards **Woodbank**, **Chris S** decided to turn in to Chapel Lane; most of us only realised he was missing on **Lodge Lane** where we stopped to contact him. I took this opportunity to don my jacket & replace dark with brighter specs. When **Chris** rejoined us we split in to two groups as **Brian** had sent two routes, the longer 'A' ride with an extra four miles - otherwise similar routes.

Fortunately this included a much needed coffee stop in **Holt**, (17 miles) **Cleopatra's** being aware of our imminent arrival, there was a sign outside asking people to 'give a cyclist a hug' - this nearly came to pass as a rain shower found me sitting at a table just outside the umbrella cover and **Chris** just under this - let's just say we are good friends and leave it there! I think **Cleopatra's** were expecting the 'B' group but as we passed the new coffee shop in **Farndon** (**Lewis's?**) I noticed some bikes outside.....

After several crossings of the A41 between **Tilston** and **No Mans Heath**, the route took us up to **Bickerton** (gasp), across the A49 to **Bickley Moss** (stopped to remove coat) and a smooth run in to **Wrenbury** (passed the **Cotton Arms** - although there was no Hard border). We passed the 'B' group here and on to **Aston** and the **Bhurtpore** (38 miles, av. 14.1mph 302 mtr). Sandwiches were ready, chips had to wait as they were freshly prepared - also those partaking were faced with a multitudinous choice of beers - they obviously have a free trade agreement with several breweries - not wasting any time with customs union here! The '**C**' groups arrived not too long after us (ably led by **Dave W** and had come from the **Ice Cream Farm** (some suspect there may be a





commission deal here) had similar numbers (I counted twenty-six in all at the pub, but can be corrected)

We were first to leave although we'd only gone a couple of miles when **Peter L** had a flat so we all watched apart from **Paul M** who helped and **Richard** who'd done his usual disappearing act; after plenty of advice regarding quality of tubes, myself hearing the hiss of escaping air from the culprit and Mari finding the hole (eventually), all was fixed. **Brian** had passed us but we saw no sign of anyone else!

On we went skirting **Nantwich** - fairly flat until we hit the hills past **Eaton** and **Utkinton**, the wind was starting to pick up and we just got in to **Okells** for a tea and cake stop

when the heavens opened briefly (it was all sunshine by the time we sat down - 61 miles) Here **Tony S**, **Brian** etc came in too for a very welcome cuppa!

Over too soon, as we left **Richard** he decided he needed a raincoat whilst the others shot off, the lights over the **Gow** scrubbing out the distance we'd regained - it was **Waverton** before we caught up! **Paul M** carried on when we turned for **Christleton** and **Richard** left us on the **Greenway**. If I'd known the wind was going to be so strong I would have gone to the **ICF** with the others, got a lift back and driven down there to collect my bike later! I found the last ten miles quite gruelling and only put this down to the number of rides I've missed this summer (rained off or otherwise).





Thanks for the ride **Brian**, 77 miles for me (**Chris** did just over 100) with 2400 ft - I had severe cramp on **Wednesday evening** (I only had 1 pint - honest guv!) - with **Richard B** and four others at **The Bhurtpore Inn**.

Text Chris L

Photos Chris L