

Hare and Hounds, Crowton - 9th July 2014

A ride of two halves!

The day started quite dull for the nineteen riders who rolled up at the **Eureka Café** for the 10 o'clock start - some were in short sleeves with a majority opting for long sleeves and/or rainproof coats! We split in to two groups - **Roy** leading the first group of ten followed by **Brian L** leading the other nine.



The ride to the pub was fairly uneventful via **Capenhurst**, **Backford**, through **Delamere** (always chilly under those trees) and **Norley** with **Brian** finding a similar but slightly shorter route to the pub although **Roy's** group did arrive first to meet up with two or three riders who used the car assist method of getting there (first served before the rabble arrive!)

By this time the sun had come out so the short sleeves won the day although they did have to put up with some shivering for the first hour or so; coats came off at various stages of the morning!



The **Hare and Hounds** turned out to be a very pleasant venue with both good beer and a good selection of food on the menu. There was a mild panic among the staff (there were only three of them) although the steady arrival of cyclists managed to filter us in, also their insistence on asking for a name to go with each order gave rise for some confusion – there were several **Chrises** and I think they lost count with the **Brians**!



The journey back was highlighted by a couple of events; **John Ferguson** went ahead to take some photos of us following **Roy's** instructions – "left then first left" – he was never seen again that day! Meanwhile **Roy** led the whole group (one or two had left early) left out of the pub and first left and then straight on (not **Norley**). **John** took left to mean 'out of the pub' and then two left turns whereas **Roy's** first left was

leaving the pub.....this is confusing isn't it!



At this stage **Roy** led us up and up and up – I think it is **Cooks Hill** followed by **Waterloo Lane** and we all felt a bit 'overcooked' by the time we'd done it. A bunch of us waited for a long time at a corner to get our breath back, **Roy** took a while to

arrive. We'd heard that **Alan Oldfield's** chain had come off, then that it had broken – **Roy** told us **Brian Lowe** was giving him some TLC and would stay with him (??). Turns out that a link had come adrift but **Brian** had a replacement in his box of tricks.

Lunch

When we eventually set off we managed to lose another couple of riders.

We went via **Mickle Trafford** and stopped at the beginning of the **Greenway** when questions about – "what happened to **John F?**" and "aren't there a few missing?"



Nine of us eventually arrived at the **Eureka** via **Saughall** in time to have some cooling down milkshakes, we also saw two of our 'lost' cyclists pass straight to the car park (obviously not speaking to us) – a pleasant day out and all accounted for.

Chris Lamb

(Photos by Chris Lamb and John Ferguson)

