

Vale Royal Abbey Arms, Delamere - 13th May 2015

What a difference a good weather forecast can make, after last week's disappointment. It was great to see twenty-two cyclists lining up to be led by **Andy B** to the **Abbey Arms** in **Delamere**. We split into two groups of eleven with **John F** heading the second team, but keeping **Andy** in his sights.

Woodbank led us to **Saughall** then turning left we went to **Backford** dip and crossed the **A41** going to **Wervin**. It was here that unfortunately, **Mike M** had a very loud puncture, so we stood around debating where the next lot of **Tory** cuts will be, while **Mike** had inflation to deal with. We got going but after about a mile poor **Mike** had another tyre malfunction. **John F** said he would stay with **Mike** and catch us up. **Ruth**, who had earlier remarked how she was enjoying the pace of the ride was to miss **John** at the front, and **Mike K**, without realising the pace had increased. **Ruth** stayed with us then turned off at **Morley Bridge** as we headed to **Dunham-on-the-Hill**.

Because of the delays we dropped a hill by **Dunham** and did our first climb in **Helsby** going past the golf course up **Primrose Lane** which leads to some excellent lanes. **Andy's** knowledge of this area was helping to make this a really enjoyable ride, especially when we came across a delightful mere and had a banana stop. **Norley** was next; it was here that **Bob W** said he was turning for home, then it was past **Hatchmere** arriving at the pub at about 1:15pm. **George and Ada** had been and gone, but there were no car-assists today.

About eight of us had our lunch in the huge beer garden; **VE Day** was mentioned - my granddaughter **Sian** who is 6 said her teacher asked them the meaning of **VE Day**. One boy said "*it's to celebrate L.F.C. winning the European cup 5 times*" another said "*it's not it's because Bradley Wiggins won the Tour De France*"

Jokes aside - all wars are disasters and I find it difficult to use the word 'victory'. Anyway now that things have settled down it looks like **Hildegard** is returning to the Fatherland to retire and probably make Battenburgs - thanks for the memories **Hildegard** and enjoy your retirement.

We left the pub as one group and within a mile **Andy** took us up **Heaths Lane**, a long and quite steep lane but with some great views on the summit; this led to a scary downhill coming to rest after the fruit farm.

It was after **Oscroft** nearing **Waverton** that unfortunately **Peter** got a puncture - this time **Andy** said to carry on as he would stay with him. We went through **Christleton** to the **Greenway** - while **Mike**, **Tony** and **I** headed for **Stoak**.

So well done Andy - a great ride despite the punctures.

No pics this time as **John** was keeping an eye on **Mike M**, but I have included one taken in **Chester** on **May Day** when **Jane and I** were on an awareness mission for our “Big Ride” for the children in **Gaza** starting on Aug 1st from **Edinburgh to London**.

Chris Byrne



Chris and Jane