

The New Inn, Dyserth

Right first things first - congratulations to everyone who did the **Bob Clift rides** - that was the enjoyable part, but an even bigger thanks go to **Alan O** and **his helpers** for the smooth organisation on the day. It sounded unanimous that it was a brilliant day. **John F** photos endorsed the happy scene. So while **Alan** still had his planning head on we thought it was a good idea to let him direct the proceedings today.



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I explained to **Chris D** why there was no blog covering his ride last week. The route was almost the same as the ride to **Great Budworth**. He didn't seem disappointed, but I never got a jelly baby off **Sue**. Still waking up, about fourteen of us we set off at 9:30am with **Marie** and **Peter** meeting us in

Northop; there was also a car assist ride led by **Peter W** from the **Cymru café** going through **Rhyl**, **Rhuddlan** and **St Asaph** - twenty-two miles. They used the railway track on the return, about eight miles.





After our warm up getting to **Northop**, we had to face the **Halkins** - some of our crew had not been over them before but **Alan** took us up the middle route so bypassing the **cat 1 s-bend**. At the summit we headed for **Babell**; if it had a tower it would have been easier to spot. The question was asked "are we going to *Pant* ?" -

all I knew was I already was. **Alan's route** took us along some outstanding lanes even if they were a bit lumpy, but none as steep as the 12% drop into **Dyserth**.

Thankfully it had become overcast with a breeze as it was forecast to be the hottest day of the year. A group of us had our lunch in view of the waterfall.



The drawback with that was we don't get to meet the car assist group in the **New Inn pub**.

When we knew the set off time, we walked up the 12% road and waited for the rest of the group. Keeping hydrated was essential as you had a constant sweat on - the route back went through **Llyn Helyg** to return to **Pant**, (climbing to **Helyg** caused it) - again some excellent lanes with a few lumps you could sense the anticipation of Coffee, Tea and Cakes waiting for us at the **Pet Cemetery**. It is always a treat to be served with decorative china.

Later I heard talk of an unsavoury tale. It appears **Elizabeth** and **Alan O** both ordered scones, when only one arrived the waitress explained they had no more. **Liz** was in conversation and when she looked at the table the plate was empty! **Alan** with crumbs around his mouth said "it's **SCONE**"; if this is confirmed you would have to say it knocks the gloss of **Alan's** perfect day.

There were two more climbs left to go - back up the easier side of the **Halkyn** and the other, a bit surprisingly, was when we had started to descend to **Flint** on our way to **Connah's Quay**.

Just a few footnotes - I read that when the **Domesday Book** was written, **Dyserth** was in **Cheshire** (and we want it back). I know now how the **Argies** feel about the **Malvinas**. We also share today's date with two very different events in **France**. In 1903 was the first T.O.F. - the second was the horrendous first battle of the **Somme 1916** where 19,000 **Brits** were killed and 40,000 were wounded. There must be something about this date as in the states they decided to have a battle at **Gettysburg**.



So during this heatwave don't forget your sun cream (see pic) be warned. I stayed up to give TV support for our gallant **England ladies football team** in the semi-final with **Japan** (the holders). It was **Canada Day** but sadly not **England's** .

Was that enough stats. Brian? **Rabbie Burns** was a Bard, **Chris Byrne** is not, but who is **Chris Bryne**? Jokes aside hope your recovery is going O.K. Brian.

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson

