

Tafarn Newydd (New Inn), Dyserth - 4th May 2016

It looked to be a bright sunny day as we met at the **Eureka** for a 9.30am start. There were only nine of us at the bus stop including **Roger**, an experienced rider who had not been out with us previously. However, **Alan O.** was very upbeat about the day's proceedings.



It seemed all plain sailing over **Hawarden Bridge** to **Flint** and **Alan** took us through some interesting places (that only he would know), past **Flint Mountain** to get us to **Northop**, where we met up with five other riders including a fit again **John F.** with his trusty camera.



We carried on to **Halkyn** - always up - then down towards **Babell** for a brief respite from our climbing - with not a few stops and some amazing views of the **Wirral** and beyond; after this we had more climbing before a steep and fast run down in to **Tremeirchion** and **Rhuallt**. As the pre-ride notes had told us it was a roller-coaster ride through **Cwm** to **Dyserth**.

There were no particular incidents to report, although I understand one rider did lose his balance - we were stationary at the time - we've all been there.....! Again there were some wonderful views of **Snowdonia** - snow-capped mountains, the **Great Orme** and the sea.



Lunch at The New Inn



The **New Inn or Tafarn Newydd** as the sign told us (I nearly went past until I saw the bikes), was where we were joined by **Brian L's** group of seven riders who had taken the car-assist ride from **Talacre** or **Prestatyn**, lovely sunny spot and very busy too.

They had a table ready for this second group although most decided to eat outdoors with only four of us making use of this facility - wanting to keep out of the sun for a while. The food was good, reasonably priced and served with a smile too.

Alan had warned us about the "short grind" out of **Dyserth** but having just stopped and had lunch it was a real show stopper with some riders getting off and walking - **John F.** had taken some photos but they don't do the gradient justice at all.

There followed a steady ride to **Rhuallt** where we followed the old A55 route parallel to the new road up a long slog (25m to 200m) - this was also a little daunting for some of us. It was also at



this point that both myself and **Brian J** realised that we were nearly out of water not expecting to use so much at this time of year! **Sylvia** saved **Brian's** thirst and I had enough to see me through to the tea stop.

At **Babell**, we had followed some of the outward route, but here we veered off down '**Racecourse Lane**' - whoever heard of a racecourse up here? It seems that there had been a **Holywell Hunt** meeting in the early 1800s where the **Holywell Mostyn Mile** had been run with races such as the **Taffy Stakes**, **Halkyn Stakes** and the like. I saw no sign of any equine activity but then again it was a long time ago!

Meanwhile back to the cycling -



The Pet Cemetery and Cafe

I'd like to say we ran down to **Brynford** but we were still climbing - then the final drop into **The Pet Cemetery** for tea and bara brith.

As on previous occasions there was only one scone left to be fought over. **Alan** had told them we'd be there after 3pm but as it was 3.45pm they assumed we weren't coming - nice surprise for them! Lots of renovations/extensions going on there as well as the biggest **Victoria Sponge** anyone had seen - must be good for business this pet burying!

We eventually resumed and another hill straight out of the gates, along the **Halkyns**, past the quarry and dropped down to **Northop** where we said goodbye to that group. **Alan** must have been feeling a little miffed as we passed his house but he continued leading us through **Northop Hall** and an interesting little route through **Connah's Quay** that took us under the main coast road on to the quay itself. At one point we turned right several times and nearly back to where we'd just come from - however **Alan** knew what he was doing and delivered us back to **Two Mills** well after the **Eureka** had closed.

Thanks for that **Alan** - my legs should have recovered in time for next week!

Chris Lamb

At the Nova Centre Prestatyn



The 'B' riders left **Talacre** at 10am led by **Brian L**. We couldn't have our usual starting coffee as the café was closed for refurbishment. That meant that the car park was free - this was a bonus as we had all expected to have to pay to park which usually costs £4.50. The ride to the **Nova Centre** at **Prestatyn** was into a head wind all the way but the sun was out and it was warm - so no complaints from anyone.

By popular demand, we had a coffee at the newly refurbished centre before setting off again. **Mike C** joined us too late to have refreshments with us but in time for a group photo. We set off on a roundabout route via **St Asaph** and **Rhuddlan** (another photo opportunity) and eventually arrived at a very busy **New Inn** for lunch. **Mike** had already arriving having taken a shorter route.



Rhuddlan Castle



After lunch we had to climb immediately up **Carreg Heilin Lane** (most walked) to join the old railway path, with magnificent views to the sea - and coasted all the way to Prestatyn.

Carreg Heilin Lane

Mike stopped for tea at the **Nova Centre** but the rest of us decided to go on to **Talacre**.



Railway path

Many thanks to **Brian L** for leading us on such a good ride.

Glennys Hammond

Thanks to all the contributing photographers on these rides: **Chris Lamb, John Ferguson, Brian Lowe and Glennys Hammond**