

The New Inn, Dyserth - 7th June 2017

The A ride

Wednesday was very windy (from the NW) with showers forecast so I was not surprised when only six of us gathered at the Eureka for this week's A ride. We set off with some trepidation having agreed to go to Northop (to meet **Tony**, our leader for the day) via **Shotton Lane**.



Richard led the way and soon we were riding up **Golfyn Lane** (how did that happen?). I was astonished to find no less than a further eight people waiting for us at Northop and soon we were following **Tony** up **The Green**.

Tony



Most of the morning was spent riding into the wind going up or down hill and I think we were all pleased to arrive at **Dyserth**. Here we met with the group **Brian** had led from **Talacre**. He had with him a few people we haven't seen for a while such as **Peter Williams** and **Alan Oldfield** which was nice - We also were also pleased to see **Roy Spilsbury** over lunch.

We then set off back with some wind assistance but more steep climbs. The initial direction was westerly which seemed odd but this was, I think, in order to include yet another hill that we might have missed.



We met a group of young cows coming the other way, under the command of two female cyclists carrying lengths of blue water pipe - but they (the cows that is) were too nervous of us to continue. They stopped and then tried to go into a field but since there was no gap in the hedge this failed and we had a standoff for a while. One of the women leading them tried making cooing (kind of) noises to encourage them to pass us which was both unorthodox and unsuccessful! The cows just appeared to ignore it, but between us all they eventually scurried past.



Soon we were passing **Rhualt** and heading up a road marked with a 'no through road' sign. At the top of the very steep climb I could see ahead of me a flight of steps and wondered if **Tony** expected us to ride up, but it turned out to have some very sharp zigzags between the steps for cyclists with excellent bike handling skills, I am not sure how many managed to negotiate these without putting a foot down!

Unfortunately we had lost our back marker, **John F** and **Tony's son Jonathon** at the bottom of this hill. **Tony** spoke to them by phone and we (the rest of us) decided to head to the café in **Caerws** whilst **Tony** waited for them on the hill. Then **John A** punctured and we left him in expert hands whilst we continued to the café. **John** and **Jonathon** were somehow already there when

we arrived and the others were not far behind. After some confusion over the coffee cake we were back on our way again all together.

When we reached **Pentre Halkyn** those of us heading for **England** decided to leave the group and head downhill along **Cornist Lane** to **Flint** whilst the others returned to **Northop**. Reaching **Connah's Quay Power Station** I decided I would save a few miles by riding over the **Flintshire Bridge**. I have done this before, as had **Liz**, but it was a new, (and they said never to be repeated) experience for the others in our group, akin to riding on a motorway in places. Such a shame because the bridge itself has a segregated path which makes a great cycle lane. Many thanks to Tony for leading the ride from Northop.



Chris Smith

The C ride

Three of us met at **Talacre** where we had parked - **Brian L**, **Alan O** and **Glennys**. We battled our way in challenging winds to the **Nova Centre at Prestatyn** where **Peter Williams** was waiting for us.

The sand dunes at Talacre were featured on Springwatch on the 7th (the evening before the ride), where the protected Natterjack Toads have a habitat.



After a very welcome coffee and a photo call we set off again in the same wind to **Rhyl** along the prom where we had



Roy Spilsbury. Thereafter we had a very good more sheltered and sunny ride inland through **Rhuddlan**, **St Asaph** and **Dyserth** where we met up with the other group at the **New Inn**. Service and food was definitely to our liking. **Roy Spilsbury**, who we had missed at **Rhyl**, arrived soon after. The ride back was very short and pleasant being all downhill on the cycle path to **Prestatyn** where we had a final coffee before parting company with **Peter**. We're pleased to say that the wind practically blew the three of us back to **Talacre**. Many thanks to **Brian** for leading the ride.

Glennys Hammond