

The Tap, Eastham Ferry - 4th January 2017

Mainly due to a frost free morning we had a turnout of twenty-four riders to be led by yours truly to **The Tap in Eastham**. I thanked **Brian L** for the honour of taking the last ride of his distinguished career as Rides Secretary. He has handed the reins or (handelbars) over to **Chris S**. At our Christmas lunch he was thanked for a brilliant contribution over many years.



Before we set off **John F** gave us an update on **Glennys** after she had a TIA on Christmas Eve. The news was positive - she could even be back in the saddle in three weeks. All our best wishes **Glennys**. **John's** report was given by the **Eureka** gates and we unfortunately blocked the entrance. There was a complaint and we have apologised - it won't happen again.

We headed off to **Puddington** and **Burton** to reach the **marshes**.



It was cold but very bright, and great just to be starting the year in good weather. **John F** proved his fitness by speeding off up the road to take a pic of us passing by as we

neared **Neston**.



It was in **Neston** that **Chris S** had arranged to meet his wife **Margaret**. It went to plan and **Margaret** had only been waiting for ten minutes.



At **Thornton Hough** **Brian L** chose to ride a different route. Earlier, **Andy** who is still recovering from a bad cold, said he might fall off the back, and he did. I was still recovering from over indulgence and kept falling off the front.



After leaving **Raby Mere** **Peter** had a puncture. We rode to a safe area leaving him with **John F**. After a lengthy wait **Richard** went back for a progress report only to find they had gone by a different route.

Our ride took us down **St. Andrews Road** in **Bebington** where **Tony Mc** lives and on cue, there he was walking his dog. He is getting used to a new knee and we hope to see him back soon.



After rounding the **Gladstone Theatre** we rode on to the disused railway track to **Bromborough** but alas, half way along we were diverted onto the cycle path just after our second puncture on to the **A41**. A left turn took us down to **Eastham woods** and after a short stretch along the river we arrived at the pub at 12:30pm. It had been a steady pace to **The Tap** - no one tried to FAWCET.

The pub's speciality was a large bowl of beef stew for just over £6. Everyone who had it said it was great - a mug of tea was only 80p, all very reasonable. We eventually walked out as you can't leave **The Tap** running.



Outside, a young lady asked **John F** if he would like her to take a photo of the group so watch out for a pic with our camera man in it!

All beefed up we headed for **Eastham Rake** then down to **Benty Heath Lane** and **Willesden**, along **Hadlow Road**, crossing the **Chester / Hoylake** road going to **Burton** for the second time. As we turned left to **Puddington** we were down to seven going to the **Eureka**.

On this Date

1853 Sold into slavery Solomon Northop regained his freedom and his memoir "Twelve years a Slave" becomes a best seller.

1958 Sputnik 1 falls to earth from orbit

Born

1935 Floyd Patterson



Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson