

Railway Inn, Meols - 14th February 2018

Three riders set off from the [Eureka](#) for the [Railway Inn, Meols](#). There are two reports this week from [Chris Lamb](#) and [Chris Smith](#) and a further report from Glennys about the [Café of the Year 2017](#) presentation to [Café Fresh, Dunham](#).

Report 1, Chris L

Although a few assembled at the [Eureka](#) amid a light hailstorm only three of us set out with the wind behind us in the direction of [north Wirral](#) (the others went heads down in to the wind to see the presentation at [Café Fresh](#)).



Once we started the weather behaved itself and the breeze only affected us when we occasionally turned into it when criss-crossing the [Wirral](#). We stopped on [Benty Heath Lane](#) for [Harry](#) to change his gloves at the entrance to a house whose sale board intimated ten bathrooms (but only eight bedrooms!) - cleanliness is next to godliness they say!

We passed [Raby Mere](#) which had a surface skimming of ice, up in to [Thornton Hough](#) to [Barnston Dip](#), down to [Caldy](#) and [West Kirby](#) before a gentle run along the front at [Hoylake](#) (not nearly as breezy as feared) to the pub.

[Bob and Jill](#) had driven and [Bob Williams](#), [Brian](#) and [Sylvia](#) had just arrived. We all enjoyed a pleasant lunch served in good time in pleasant surroundings. On the return we left with [Brian](#) and [Sylvia](#) to ride home by as direct a route as we could find! The wind was obviously against us so there was no chatting and some very wobbly bikes; the traffic had little respect for our lack of control and we were desperate for some sort of protection (where have all the hedgerows gone!). After [Barnston dip](#), since [Chris S](#) was going to peel off for [Neston](#) and [Harry Fowler](#) was off to [Spital](#), I didn't fancy riding a further five miles on my own to [Two Mills](#) so I rode home with [Brian and Sylvia](#) and persuaded my wife to drive me to get my car later.

A good day!

Report 2, Chris S

When I looked out of the bedroom window on Wednesday morning I expect to see my icebound car, but no, the car was there, but instead of ice, just water. No trace of the ice that had been there just a few hours earlier when I retired for the night. I set off in good spirits, but these quickly disappeared when I felt the biting wind. I struggled on, towards the **Eureka** thinking longingly of sunny still days.

When I got there I was not surprised to see very few bikes outside, but, once I had entered, I was surprised as ten of us gathered - for the ride, I thought. I had momentarily forgotten that our **Chairman, President of C&NW CTC** had arranged also that day for there to be a presentation of the **Café of the Year 2017** award at **Café Fresh** in **Dunham on the Hill**. So it was that most of the assembled group declared they were going to the presentation. **Paul** announced he needed to go home (although I have since learned from him that he went on from there to **Café Fresh**). That just left **Chris L, Harry** and **me** for the week's ride.

The ride to **The Railway** was a series of zig-zags across the **Wirral**. This was partly **Chris's route**, and partly the effect of the gusty and cold wind. Conversation was limited by the noise of the wind! We duly arrived in **Hoylake** and **Chris** asked if we wanted to ride along the front? "*Bring it on*" we cried and headed that way. The wind being from the South it was actually the calmest part of the day. Once we arrived at the **Railway Inn** we were surprised to find five other riders already there. Even more so when we realised three of these has ridden there, and two of those (**Brian and Sylvia**) would join us for the ride back. The staff were very cheerful and obliging, with the food seeming to arrive at your table before you had time to get back from the bar yourself.

We left expecting the wind to have dropped as forecast. It had other ideas though and we wondered if we could get our bikes unlocked before the adjacent scaffolding fell on them. The ride back into a very strong and gusty headwind was very difficult. It seemed that some of the passing motorists recognised us as expert cyclists who could maintain a perfect line in these conditions, allowing them to pass within inches of us without danger (to them at least). We reached **Barnston** without incident and the other four turned left to head home. I headed on and home to **Neston**, where my daughter greeted me with "*Have you had a good ride?*", "*Hmm, ask me again in a few days time*".

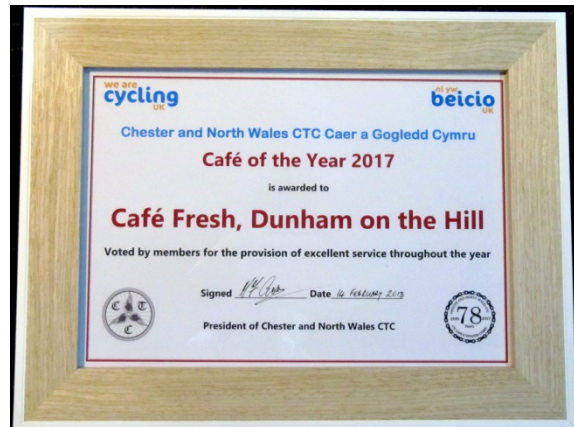
For those who like statistics I think this was the ride with the lowest proportion of people riding the route of those who attended on the cafe/pubs. I make it 3/15 or 20%.

Report 3, Glennys

Café Fresh, Dunham Café of the Year 2017 Presentation - 14th February

In bitterly cold weather and some icy bits on the lanes, six hardy riders set off from the Eureka for Café Fresh, Dunham, for the presentation of a commemorative certificate to the Proprietor and Manager of the Café. The café was recently voted 'Café of the Year 2017' by Club members in recognition of their friendly and efficient service to our cyclists.

Four of the group arrived late because of a p... The presentation was a little late getting underway as the café was busier than usual. As always, the food was excellent, especially the three poached eggs ordered by Alan and Glennys



The photo (above) is of Mike Cross, President of Chester and North Wales CTC presenting the framed certificate to Manager, Angela Savage.



Thank you to Mike Cross for arranging the presentation, Glennys for the certificate and photos - and to the stalwarts who turned up on the day.