

Red Lion, Little Budworth - April 30th 2014

As I arrived at the **Eureka**, **Mike Knox** was turning his bike over. We couldn't be blamed for thinking "he's got a flat before we even start"! It turned out he had a lump in his rear wheel, so letting it down and re-inflating it seemed to put it right phew!

We are off to the **Red Lion** in **Little Budworth** near **Oulton Park**. We split into two groups, one led by **Brian Joyce**, the other by **Brian Lowe**. **Brian J** had 14 riders although this was reduced to 13 after 200 yards when **John Roberts** braked so hard to avoid a collision with the peloton, fell off his bike and cut his nose and lip. Poor bloke! His ride was over as he returned bloodied to the **Eureka**. We didn't realise that this incident was to become the theme of our day i.e. things falling off bikes.

Brian L was already out of sight with 7 in his group doing the same distance but not quite so hilly. As we were going past **Chester Zoo**, I found an amusing sign by the road. It said '**Badgers Walk**' - is that for when they go out for the day? What about a sign saying '**Hedge Hogs get a move on**'.

When we were passing the **Wind-surfing Centre** another shout went out that someone's computer had fallen off.

Our first climb was up the very steep **Sugar Lane**, around its hairpin bend and on to skirt **Delamere** to the next hill '**The Yeld**'.





Our cameraman **John F** went ahead to capture the grimaces and pain on our faces as we struggled to the summit. I think it was coming down over a rough surface that brought someone's rear light off.

The weather was perfect, warm and no wind and as we passed **Oulton Park** the sound of birdsong was amazing.

But it didn't last. It was drowned out by Triumph Thunderbirds or **Nissan Bluebirds** as they roared around the circuit.

Going up The Yeld

Everyone was in agreement the pub's food was good and prices were reasonable. **St, Peter's Church** opposite the pub was rebuilt in 1800 with some donations from the **Egerton family** who had lived in the area for generation. They had twin boys but sadly they were both killed in WW1. They are remembered in a stained glass window in the church. Chatting to one of the locals in the pub I asked him what it was like living in **Little Budworth** and he said it wasn't Great (know what I mean?!)

Would you Adam and Eve it; going through **Utkinton** up went another shout. **Chris Sharpe's** chain had come off; also a bit earlier **Colin Bell** had taken his plastic jacket off and tied it around his waist. As we were descending at some speed the sleeve jammed in his rear wheel and only some marvellous balancing kept him upright, although his rear tyre lost most of it's rubber on the road. **Colin** had managed to stay on but only to forget to un-cleat at a T junction in **Saughall**, so getting an unwanted close -up of the tarmac. This was to be the final falling off; we had a bell, a computer, a rear light, a phone, a jacket, and two riders. If our ride was a day later it would have been 'May Day! May Day!'

Wasn't it **Isaac Newton** who once said " If It isn't ty-rapped on it will fall off" (except for apples). That's a man who understood the gravity of the dangers facing cyclists. Thinking about **Gravity**, the film - it won all the **Oscars** this year and poor old **Isaac** got no credit at all, but that's **Hollywood** for you.



Horseshoes at Hoofield

Finally... **Brian Saxby** is out of the isolation room and in a respiratory ward and awaiting the result of tests trying to cure his persistent cough; he asked me to pass on his thanks for all your best wishes and comments on his card.

Our thanks again to the two **Brians**, for despite all the gremlins we had a very enjoyable day's ride, and - would you believe it - I have just fallen off my p.....(no prizes for guessing)

Chris Byrne