

## Stamford Bridge Inn - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

It may have been a combination of two things that led to a big drop in the turn out today, the reported strong winds with rain in the afternoon, or **Brian Lowe's** invitation to join him on the previous day to ride what sounded like 'Wild Wales'.



As **Brian S** and I were on our way to the **Eureka** we spotted **Julian** and **Ruth** making their own way; a little further on **Dave** was also riding solo. On arrival at the **Eureka** we heard of a close call for **Peter** and **Mari** as they were travelling to the **Eureka** on the A55 with their bikes on the car rack. The bad news is that **Mari's bike** fell off and was flattened by other vehicles; the good news was that no-one was hurt.

I know we are told that when you fall off your bike you should get back on - in that spirit **Mari** returned home to get another bike - so well done **Mari**.

**Brian L** had given **Chris Lamb** a suggested route to the pub. **Roy** and **Glennys** went right out of the **Eureka** as we went left, leaving us with about ten in our group. We set off to the **marshes** - which seemed a bad idea as the very strong wind would be in our faces - but it wasn't as bad as we thought.





It was an easier ride once we got onto the **Greenway** and at the end **Chris** thought we deserved a banana stop. Here we said goodbye to a recovering **Alan O** as he did a short hop back to **Northop**.

The route took us to **Morley Bridge** and turning into **Barrow** we spotted an old smithy's and he was heating up some horseshoes - it was good to see a '**Furness in Barrow!!!**'.

On arrival at the pub we had a light shower of rain - **Brian S** and I had to be back early so after our sandwiches we went into the pub to say thanks to **Chris** for the ride.

**Brian L** had booked a table for the group but the pub wanted to wait until everyone arrived before taking food orders. This was crazy as **Glennys**, **Roy**, **Mari** and **David** had arrived earlier and were still waiting for their orders to be taken. The table was booked for cyclists but **George** and **Ada** were told they could not sit with us as they were not on their bikes (crazy) - although **Noel** and **Hazel** were on the booked table. **Glennys** and **Roy** were not happy with the long wait for grub and so, after speaking to the **Manager**, their orders were taken. Despite this annoying start, the food was very good.

Most of us agreed that we should reconsider going to this pub in future. It's always a '**Battle at Stamford Bridge!!!**' I'm not keen on **Chelsea** either.

The groups split again for the return trip back to the **Eureka**. **Mari**, **Peter** and **David**, who had parked up at **Sealand Road Park and Ride**, rode as far as **Mickle Trafford Greenway** with **Glennys** and **Roy**, who then went back without incident via **Stoak** and the **A5117 cyclepath**.

The ride home for us (**Brian S and me**) was literally a breeze as we were blown all the way, and the forecasted rain never appeared thankfully, so - thanks again **Chris** for a good half a ride.

**Chris Byrne**

**Photos by John Ferguson**