

The Griffin, Trevalyn - 17th October 2018

Chris L is back on his bike after a few weeks off and has this to say about last week's ride.

Nine of us assembled at the bus stop whilst **Brian L** instructed us on some adjustments to his route - just carry on down **Woodbank** to join the **Greenway** and cross **Hawarden Bridge**. Two more joined the group here before going up **Shotton Lane** with a brief regroup at the top, carrying on in an upward direction to **Northop Hall**.

I realised my front wheel wasn't running as smoothly as expected! You tend not to notice on a steep incline when all your weight is on the back - the dreaded puncture - well I suppose it was my turn!

Richard started taking photos whilst **Chris** looked on giving advice where appropriate;



Brian realised it may take a few minutes so suggested a banana stop too (**Liz** missed this instruction and her banana accompanied her for the rest of the day!). I found the dreaded thorn, (we had just passed some hedge-cutting) and also found someone with tweezers. Unfortunately, as **Tony** pumped up the tyre he noticed nothing was happening - the valve had broken! I started again with a second tube (I only carry two!).

At this point **Brian** decided to press on to pick up two more cyclists at the **Green** while **Tony, Richard and I** would see them later (we had the route). The second tube went on easier and **Richard** managed to get the tyre back on again - **Tony** had a track pump so all ended well.



As we got in to **Northop Tony** suggested a shortcut (no problem on his e-bike) that cut about a mile from the route catching up with the rest of the group near **Saughton** (we were now thirteen).

The route passed **Buckley** heading towards **Higher Kinnerton** where we caught the tail end of the **Wirral Cycling Group** as we went the opposite way towards **Shordley** and **Rossett** to the pub. There were five others already there having taken a shorter (less arduous) route, already tucking into their sandwiches and chips; **Brian** had suggested they couldn't serve until he arrived but more came as requested! **The Griffin** don't normally do food on a Wednesday but they did these specially for us and at £3 a head they were excellent (as was the beer).

We all left at roughly the same time but everyone who'd joined us took a separate route home leaving the original nine to return - via **Gresford**, **Rossett** (again), **Kinnerton** and over **Saltney Ferry** bridge where we normally have jelly-babies from **Sue**; however as she was

in **Mallorca Liz** stepped up and produced a packet (thought ahead here!). **Richard** missed these as he'd already peeled off. From here we gradually became fewer until only **Brian**, **Colin** and **me** arrived at **Saughall**. **Colin** and **I** headed for home (I'd not been out got three weeks and it was beginning to tell), so **Brian** completed the course on his own.



Thanks **Brian** for excellent leadership (we expect no less), also **Richard** and **Tony** for help with the flat tyre and of course **Liz** for the jelly-babies.



Text and photos Chris L