

The Plough, Christleton - 4th March 2015

A decent weather forecast resulted in another large turnout - there were about twenty-four on the start line. We had two rides to choose from - **Mike K** the time trial ride, or the more leisurely ride with **Brian L**. The destination was **The Plough in Christleton**.



It's one of the Club's oldest and favourite venues, although I don't believe that **Jethro Tull** ever rode a bike, I'm not sure who planted that seed.

The A team set off first and almost immediately hit a mechanical problem, was it **Karl Marx** who said "you are only as strong as your weakest link", and he knew nothing about bikes. It was **Brian** and **Sylvia** with a chain malfunction. **Mike** waited for them in **Capenhurst Lane**, and when they didn't show up he set off without them - they had headed down **Woodbank** - this chain of events had led to a split in the 'groupset'.



Brian L had passed **Mike** in **Capenhurst**, but **Mike** accelerated past us doing at least 18mph and they were going to have a cat 1



climb when they reached the **YELD!**.

Our pace in **Brian's** group seemed quite quick but there was a strong tail wind helping us to **Mickle Trafford**, **Plimstall**, and **Little Barrow**. It was so enjoyable to just chat with whoever you rode beside.

I thought I might get some flak after last week's rather chauvinistic blog regarding my opinion of women being rubbish at running the country - maybe nobody read it -



most women agree with me, or the **Bicycle Belles** don't care who runs the country as long as **Sustrans** is well funded.

Our group was the first to arrive at the pub and it was great to welcome back **Bob Williams** who made his own way on his bike, also **Noel and Hazel** by car.



After we had ordered our food it

came to light that **Mike C** had pre-ordered sandwiches and soup, The manager's brow became furrowed but he dealt with the situation like a star. Or should that be seven stars. Some of **Mike K's** group were looking a bit shattered, saying "I think I chose the wrong group - It was like a training run for the **T.D.F**" - talking of which - reading **Chris Froome's** book he tells of his routine before a time trial. Just before he sets off he spends twenty minutes on a turbo where he puts cotton wool soaked in Olbas oil up each nostril. On this occasion he finished third. He said he struggled to breathe on the last mile then realised he hadn't removed the cotton wool. Could he have won it? Who 'Nose'?



As we were leaving, **Mike's** group were still ordering their food, those that had not fallen asleep, I can't comment on the ride home as **Brian S** was going to watch **L.F.C.** beat **Man City** and we

had to have a pre match pint, so I can only hope everybody got home safely If a little stiff after their efforts, well done **Mike** and **Brian**.



Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson