

Upton Golf Club, Chester - 3rd December 2014

Sue and Chris are today's joint leaders taking us to Upton Golf Club near Chester. The name Upton is Welsh, in English it means 'Up-wave' and is a reference to Welsh people coming across the border to find work in Chester - did they work for lower wages? Mr Farage could tell us - I heard a rumour that he wanted to restore the Chester Walls and strengthen Offa's Dyke. The Romans wouldn't even let our neighbours join the original C.T.C. (Chariots Touring Club); now we welcome Taffys - they're part of our Clubs name. I disagreed with Anne Robinson when she said two people talking in Welsh sounded like they were clearing their throats.

There's been a village hall in Upton since the 1700s and locals have always enjoyed musical evenings. Amongst the visiting entertainers was band leader Syd Lawrence.

Despite waking up to a very frosty morning there was again a large turn out with twenty-four riders at the start - we split into two groups as usual, with an added warning of remaining that way for safety. I was in the second bunch with Brian L as sweeper. At the Greenway we realised that John F and Dave were not with us. Brian said to carry on and he would investigate and catch up at Christleton pond. It transpired that John was not feeling good and had returned home with Dave. Inevitably we were now going to remain in two separate groups for the ride.

The sun was melting away the frost and it was great to be out on such a fine day. Somewhere near the Crocky Trail we heard that dreaded shout "puncture"! It was Bob's rear wheel going down slowly; he tried first putting some air in. We went about a mile then realised he would have to change the tube. Brian said he would stay, so gave his GPS to Colin to lead the way to the Golf Club. We were now running late with a 'Fairway' to go, (I had to Putt that in).

The route went through Tarvin and Guilden Sutton then on to the Zoo, It was here I had to leave as I had to take my son Paul to hospital for treatment. Sue and Chris informed me that they arrived about 12 (ish) and our lot arrived nearer 1:00pm. Bob, Jill and Mike C were already on the 18th, I believe the Toad in the hole in one was good, with or without Greens but when they ordered Tee It came in a Caddie.(a little birdy told me).

On the way home It was past Bache station on a cycle path, then on to the Greenway coming off using the marshes to Burton and Puddington then Eureka! We were back safe and sound. I hope Sue has saved me a Jelly Baby for next time.

Thanks Sue and Chris another good round on the course.

Chris Byrne

Sorry - no photos for this one!