

Ride Report

Bob Clift Memorial Rides

Cheshire Cycleway Sunday 18 May 2025

Created by Bob Clift, the 150 mile Cheshire Cycleway was originally established in 1986. This event celebrates Bob's memory, with two shorter rides better suited to current town and road conditions.

The rides give the opportunity to cycle either 50 miles through West Cheshire or 80 miles through the Eastern side.

The start/finish is at Duddon Village Hall near Tarporley.

Both rides have a common start to Whitegate Station Cafe at 20 miles.

The 50 mile western route then passes Oulton Park to have lunch in Bunbury. Then onward to Cholmondeley, west of Nantwich, and return past historic Beeston Castle.

The 80 mile eastern route visits Davenham and Swettenham before heading to Astbury near Congleton for lunch. The return leg is via Hassall Green, Church Minshull and Alraham to an optional break at Bunbury; followed by Beeston castle to pick up the same return route as the West ride.

This event is established for small groups of self-led riders; it is not a race or a sportive.

This is the first time we have run the Eastern leg with organiser Rob Wardle of Watson's Wanderers providing major input, with help from Dave Robertson.

Entry was via entrycentral.com which gave an initial challenge as the rides had to be entered as two elements of a festival.

Following a last-minute date change due to avoiding the annual Bunbury village festival we set up the rides for 18 May.

Entries for the 50m were oversubscribed---eventually 52 riders+3 withdrawals. (latter 3 riders have been promised free entry next year---I have their names). 42 riders started and all finished safely.

31 riders entered the 80m with 26 starters, all of whom finished safely in the glorious weather.

Looking ahead---I have offered to be overall Organiser of the festival next year with Rob organising the 80m. The 50m course needs no further changes following updates from 2024.

The 80m course needs reviewing for 2026. Also the quality of food on offer at Glebe Farm needs uprating---or we could move elsewhere.

Overall a very successful event helped by the glorious weather.

Many thanks to Rob Wardle, Allan & Lynne Samuel, Dave Robertson, Andy Whitgreave and Margaret Matthews for their support of the event in various capacities.

Tentative date for next year is Sunday 31 May---to fit nicely between Tour of the Berwyns and Vet's 100. (Oulton Touring cars 6-7 Jun; BSB not known---but probably early as Easter is 3-5 April).

David M May 2025