

Bob Clift Cheshire Cycleway Memorial Rides

100, 50 and 25 mile rides

23rd June 2013

For the first time this year we had a policy of no riders starting on the line, and contrary to expectations we had no-one insisting on doing so! This may have been due to the rather inclement weather and extremely strong westerly winds resulting in a fast ride out and a very slow ride home. As one of the 100-mile riders succinctly put it at the end "It was fine except for the last 40 miles".

Our new lunch stop for the 100-mile at the Bollington Community Centre proved very popular with bacon and egg butties on offer, and traditional caterers at other points on the ride did us proud yet again.

Thirty-seven riders turned up and completed the 100-mile ride. Eighty-four of the 85 riders who turned up for the 50-mile completed the ride and 12 completed the 25-mile.

The Jim Skelding Trophy awarded to the youngest rider to complete the 100-mile ride was again won by Nosheen Daley (nee Farooq) of the Chester Section. Well done, Nosheen. Nosheen is now a year older and married since last time and we did notice that one or two younger riders who were entered for the 50-mile ride expressed interest in attempting the 100 next year. So look out, Nosheen!

This was the last time that Dorothy Clift and myself would organise the event though we may be seen around in future in different guises. Fortunately we have managed to recruit Brian Lowe and Alan Oldfield to take the reins next year. I am sure everyone will be as helpful and encouraging to them as they have been to us.

I would like to mention some of the people who have made it possible for us to run the Bob Clift Memorial Rides over the years. They include David Ackerley, Peter Barnes, Stephen Clift, Mike Cross, Martin Gooch, Eunice and John Mawson, Dave McWilliam, Jean and Arthur Miller, Margaret Pendlebury, Tommy Rogers, Bob Turnbull and Bryan Wade. Our grateful thanks go to all of them and anyone I have forgotten.

It has been a wonderful experience for Dorothy and me to run these rides, not only because it keeps the name of Bob Clift associated with the Cheshire Cycleway, as it has been since the 1980s, but because we meet so many cyclists and they are almost always very appreciative and full of humour, even in the most trying circumstances. So thank you all those who have ridden over the years and please come along and support Brian and Alan next year and, who knows, for years to come.

Hazel MacDougall and Dorothy Clift (Organisers)