

Anderton Boat Lift - 23rd September 2012

The 10 member **A Team**, including two new members, with **Roy** in charge, left the **Eureka café** on time at 9.30am. I know this because we, as members of the **B team**, car assisted, drove by as they were leaving.

We continued on to meet at **Whitegate Station**, an old disused railway, which would be our linking route to the **Weaver Way** and various tow paths and footpaths to **Anderton**.

Surprisingly, **21 riders** turned up; including new faces and old (some very old!), **Bicycle Belles** and **Tuesday Riders** - obviously a wide range of ability.

Assembling at Whitegate Way

Peter explained the route, and fortunately had some printed copies. Due to the high number, he suggested we split into two groups when we

reached the short on-road sections. I say, 'when', because over 60% of the day was off-road!

Peter disclosed that he had spent three days planning the route to make sure it was all 'cycle friendly'.



Weaver Way



We rode off down **Whitegate Way** onto **Route 5**, and after crossing the busy A556, joined the **Weaver River Route** into **Northwich**, where we had our first puncture - (rear wheel of course).



Route 5



Crossing the A556



Along the Weaver



Northwich Railway Viaduct



The inevitable puncture

That repaired, we eventually exited the **main road to Arley Hall Country Park** and so to **Marbury Country Park**, where we had our second puncture.



The Anderton Boat Lift

These delays meant that several of us did not get to the **Anderton Lift café** until nearly 1.30pm. So late in fact that I missed joining the **A riders**, who had arrived at 12.15pm, lunched at the pub, and I assumed, had left for their long ride home! They did it in two hours (a course record) meaning that they were back before the forecast rain arrived at 5.00pm. For the record, it then rained for twenty-four hours, giving over three inches of rain locally.



The **River Weaver**, the **many railways**, used and disused, the **several salt works**, huge **mountains of mined rock salt** (ready for the winter roads),



Anderton Boat Lift



Salt works

and the **Anderton Lift** itself, were wonderful examples of industrial history and continuing local investment.

A splendid day out; many thanks to **Roy** and **Peter** for their leadership.

Bob