

'Missing Link' ride, The Three Pigeons, Craigfechan 2nd July 2014

This blog is just to fill in the ride gap due to the **Tour de France** in good old **Yorkshire** Ba Tat. The ride led by **Brian** was to the **Three Pigeons in Craigfechan**. **Brian** did his best to avoid some of the hills but we still had a 'category three' up to **Gwernymynydd** - the climb up to the 'shelf' was not as bad as anticipated. The pub has gained the top spot for the cheapest pint of lime and soda at 60p and the food is also very good. The trip back was easy going with one climb over the **Halkyn** that was not too bad but only eight riders made the trip; perhaps the riders who did long rides on Sunday were having a rest day. There was also a car assisted ride from **Prestatyn** to **Dyserth** led by **Peter Williams**.

This ride is the other missing link! It was led by **Roy** to the **Hare & Hounds in Crowton**. This ride is the missing link as poor maintenance by **Alan O** ended in his chain snapping; it's all very well building bikes but you have to look after them. I believe **Brian** came to his rescue with a non-missing link.

Nag's Head, Haughton Moss - 16th July 2014



We are off today to the **Nag's Head** in **Haughton** and despite warnings of heavy rain in the afternoon sixteen riders turned up to be led by **Chris B**.



The name **Haughton** is derived from a French family name, the family were given this area for their support of **William** at the **Battle of Hastings**.

Our route took us along the **Greenway** to **Chester** which has the oldest and shortest racecourse in **England** - it's 1 mile 1 furlong with no straight section. The course was once the site of a **Roman** harbour but silting up prevented



any navigation. A mound in the centre once had a cross on it known as a rood. **Roodee** is a corruption of **rood-eye** meaning the 'island of the cross'. There is a fascinating legend regarding the cross and well worth looking up in Wikipedia - type 'history' then '**Roodee**'.



John F. our team cameraman has taken some really good pics - one photo has **Beeston Castle** in the background which was built in 1220 by **Ranulf de Blondville** 1170-1232 on his return from the **Crusades**. In 1237 **Henry 3rd** took ownership and it was pressed into service during the civil war of 1643 where it's rumoured **Richard 3rd** buried treasure.



Since the **Nag's Head** was designated it has undergone a major refurbishment. A glance at the menu on the **Internet** led to only six having lunch and there was a long wait for our sandwiches (**Mike K** paid £3.30p for a pint of lime and soda so I don't think the Nag's Head will be on next year's list). As someone remarked it wasn't a very cordial welcome. I had the misfortune to have a rear wheel malfunction near the **Ice Cream Farm** but even with light showers on our return we still had an enjoyable ride.

Chris Byrne

Photos by John Ferguson