

We Three Loggerheads - 27th March 2019

From Chris S...

I was surprised by how few people were at the **Eureka** on Wednesday morning - not only **Wednesday Riders**, but there were few **Port Sunlight** and **Birkenhead North End** riders more than usual. The numbers gradually increased but it was clear that many of these people intended riding with **Brian L** rather than with the advertised ride with **Peter L**. That was another issue because **Peter** was amongst those not



present. Eventually six of us decided that we were the only ones intending to do the ride and so we decided to set off along the course. As we made our way across the car park, **Harry F** arrived ready for the 10:30am **Merseyside CTC** ride. **Harry** told us that **Peter** had posted on a **WhatsApp** group that he (and **Mari**) would be meeting us at **Hawarden Bridge**. We were pleased to get a bit more understanding, but still puzzled since the route did not cross **Hawarden Bridge**!

Unknown to us **Tony Sw** had also decided to follow the route independently so as not to hold up the group and was making his way. **Peter** was at **Queensferry Bridge** waiting for us - **Mari** was, we learned later, away on sunnier shores.

Tony reached **Peter**, but neither expected to see the other and so they passed unknown to either. The rest of us reached **Peter** a few minutes later and we continued our way together, seven now with **Tony** ahead of us.

When we rode up **Bennetts Lane** I noticed the **Garmin** wanted to turn left up a little path. "No," said **Peter**, "*it's this way*", continuing onwards. Of course **Tony** had not had this advice so went along the path, over a football ground before rejoining the route - but now behind the rest of us. We climbed up through **Nercwys**, passing **Peter's** house and up to **Maeshafn**. We were staring to understand why so few had turned out.

As we cycled along we decided that since the pub had been unwelcoming we would go to the **Caffi Florence** at **Loggerheads** instead and we found it relatively empty and



welcoming. **Tony** arrived ten minutes later and went to the pub, where they told him the chef had not come in that day so there was no food.

He had a drink and made the most of it, not knowing we were enjoying our lunch only 100yds away!

After lunch I popped out for a minute and returned a few minutes later. I moved my chair back so I could get into the small space and turned around to sit down. At this point, a waiter came through the door behind me and the chair was in his way, but he couldn't see me. He moved it away just as I sat down with a crash on the floor! As someone said it was like a sketch from "*Only Fools and Horses*."

Putting this behind us we set off again - a sudden right turn took us steeply down a rough track to a deep ford (fortunately with footbridge) and then up a very steep and long climb on the other side - some of us walked. On we went until a very long hill where someone told me **Peter** had "had enough and gone home"! Eventually we reached **Hawarden Bridge** and the suffering was over!

I have, of course not mentioned the wonderful scenery, beautiful lanes, great company, fabulous spring weather, excellent lunch or the "craic" that make us keep coming back for more!

There were, I think nine people with **Brian L** for his ride - I think the first time there have been more on the "**Alternates**" ride than the advertised one. My source on the inside revealed that they went to **The Crown at Llay**.

Thanks **Peter** for an excellent day out.

Chris S

