

Queens Head, Queen's Head - 30th July 2014

The first thing to say about today's ride is that it was at the eleventh hour that **Graham** who was to lead us had to pull out for personal reasons. The good news was that **Alan O.** Stepped up to the plate (or is that the G.P.S.) It must have been a difficult decision given **Graham's** knowledge of the area around **Ellesmere**. Despite that **Alan** charted a brilliant route. There were ten riders who couldn't sleep and were ready to start at 9:00am for the longest ride on our calendar to **Queens Head** near **Oswestry**.



Brian L. Led a car assist from **Overton** starting at 10:30am to meet us at the Pub.

The B group without the snapper

We set off under cloudy skies but not cold. We rode over familiar lanes to **Waverton**. Our next place was **Farndon** and a tea stop in **Hildegard's** cafe, then through last week's venue **Shocklach**. After a brief stop to fix a puncture, it was then the ride became really interesting. **Alan** must have done some serious homework on the route only consulting the map now and again. We went through **Ellesmere** and hit a few lumpy bits, I think they were **Spunhill** and **Tetchill** not as flat as **E.Port**. On arrival we had clocked 44 miles and were ready for lunch. The **Overton** crew had started on their lunch and we had a long delay before ours arrived but it was good when it did.

We all departed together. **Queens Head** has a pub and a canal, (even **Wikipedia** has never heard of it) I was hoping **Mary Queen of Scots**, or one of **Henry the 8th's** wives might have been born there or got the chop. There is a lane to **Tyford** soon after leaving and to me it was a cyclists' delight with ferns each side, slightly down hill and about two miles long. The only hic-up was **Mike M.** hit a stone and punctured, but even then some good came out of it as we all learnt a new word for describing the art of gathering the wheat, (but I have forgotten it already sorry). **Hildegard's** was again our tea stop. **Maly** said by the time he would get home (**South Warrington**) it would be well over 100miles. The group headed to **Christleton** and the **Greenway**. As myself and **Colin** went through **Guilden Sutton** and **Stoak** I had clocked 92 miles but my saddle area thought it was 192. I got to thinking about all those turns down unmarked lanes and besides **Graham** I think only **Alan** and **Ernest Shackleton** could pull it off. Thanks again **Al**, A ride of enjoyment is a ride for ever. Sorry no pic's as **John** is in the **I.O.M.**

Chris Byrne

The '**B**' **Group** met at **Overton** in the car park behind the church and headed straight for the '**Woodlands of Erbistock Cafe and Deli**' conveniently positioned just around the corner.

'Woodlands of Erbistock Cafe'

Brian had planned a great route full of lovely quiet lanes and only one steep hill (I can't remember where it was)

that several of us walked up. The penalty for having a great downhill!



We arrived at the **Queen's Head** with enough time to get our orders in before the **A group** arrived. Some of us went for two of the three-course deal on offer except for **Brian** who went for the whole deal. He had a bit of trouble getting through it all as it was quite late arriving. Very impressive though and excellent value.



**Richard (hiding) and Roy
after walking up the hill**

Brian's Prawn Starter



**Pie, Chips, Strawberry
& Cream**



Brian managed to get through most of the meal!



Roy and Dave



Glennys and Kate



Ruth and Julian

We decided on a straight route back to catch the cafe open. Great cakes!

Thanks Brian for an excellent ride.

Glennys Hammond

Photos by Glennys and Brian