

Bridge & Beyond

Another glorious Sunday morning beckoned as I headed out to the Bridge, really was perfect cycling weather, almost as good as France (almost). Two of the French contingent had let me know they were coming, so at least I knew I would have some company for the ride.

Got to Plank Lane to find our one armed bandit sat on the bench (out for an early stroll). Sat and chatted whilst awaiting the others, mainly about France as you might expect. Just happened to have my new bright yellow TDF jersey on, giving it a first outing. Ray & Joyce duly arrived but the chatting continued, one hell of a trip and so much to relate. Another of our previous guests arrived, but this time just on his way home, he'd been out since 6:00am, sounds like another Paul. Time to get cycling, Paul bid au revoir and with route agreed the three amigos plus guest for the first section set off over Plank Lane Rucks, yet again. Took a liking to them as if you hadn't guessed, conditions had improved slightly from last week, so not quite as much paddling required.

Bickershaw was the first port of call and the point at which we headed along the Cinder Trail to Howe Bridge, while our friend bid farewell and made his way home. Gin Pit was next up followed by a meander through a housing estate to Hough Lane then quite a long climb up Mort Lane as we headed towards Little Hulton (I had pre warned them). Mort Lane became Peel Lane, Armitage Lane and finally Cleggs Lane before we turned south with climb negotiated and picked up Route 55, heading for Worsley Old Station for our mid ride cuppa.

Further reminiscing's of France accompanied our morning coffees before it was time we got on-board again (pardon the pun). Continued on the 55 before picking up the canal towpath at Monton, followed it through Worsley to Boothstown exiting at Vickers Hall Lane Bridge. From here it was along farm tracks winding our way to the East Lanc's cycle path, crossing over to link up with Marsland Green Lane and the Bridgewater Canal towpath once again, for the final section back to Plank Lane.

Not quite as much drama as France, nobody getting lost or injured but still a very enjoyable ride, exploring a bit more new territory for Ray & Joyce. Au revoir from myself this time at Butts Bridge left Ray & Joyce to complete the last couple of miles on their own back to the Bridge, followed no doubt by some well deserved lunch, we'd all earned it!

Thanks for your company.