

## **Burscough Wharf 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014**

Fantastic turnout for our promotional ride in conjunction with Active Living, 25 riders set out from Robin Park and we picked another up at Appley Bridge on the way. Not the best of weather, a bit blustery and rain clouds looming but that wasn't going to stop us.

Our Chairman Mr Taylor gathered the group together in order to outline the ride for everyone, raise awareness of the hazards that could be expected along the way and more importantly how to avoid them. Safety briefing over one of the Active Living riders wanted confirmation that the ride would be run at a leisurely pace as described on the promotional leaflet, one or two others seemed to echo this sentiment, so who was going to lead us out then? It needed to be someone that could maintain a steady pace but also adjust that pace accordingly to suit the group, Denis perhaps? On second thoughts that probably wasn't the best of ideas, so the task fell upon Gordon & Louise who quite happily led the group out via the DW to the canal towpath, Burscough bound. Quite a sight the snaking column of bikes, any walkers we came across were in for a surprise, along with any bike intolerant dogs as well.

Steady progress was made along the towpath, wasn't in too bad a condition at all, one or two muddy sections but that was it really. Any walkers we came across were very accommodating and stepped to one side to allow us to pass, quite taken aback by the sheer numbers it appeared. Hadn't got very far before the mechanical gremlins struck, the rim on Gordon's rear wheel had split and was snagging the brakes, temporary fix saw us on our way again, making it almost to Burscough before they stuck again. Just wasn't Gordon's day, puncture this time, maybe a thorn or quite possibly the split rim. The group carried on to get the coffees in leaving Gordon and yours truly to affect a repair, tube replaced how much pressure could we put in the tyre, not enough and a pinch puncture was on the cards, too much and the rim would disintegrate, bit of a Goldilocks too hot, too cold scenario, patched up again (pardon the pun) we finally made it to Burscough, would we make it back though?

The forward group had sorted themselves into various factions, some had disappeared into the restaurant out of the cold, the hardier ones dining in the courtyard on home made provisions, Alan it seems was doing a splendid job of eating any surplus that happened to be on offer at the time, weight watching certainly out of the window Alan. With time passing by and rain clouds looming it was time to head back to Wigan, as some were more eager than others to get underway the return journey became a series of splinter groups, each riding at their own pace. Would Gordon's bike make the distance? And who would be first back? Yes and don't be silly the answer to those two questions. By the time the last group arrived back everyone had gone their separate ways so no chance to thank them for taking part, will do it now instead. Weather kindly stayed dry for us and we all made it back well almost, Elaine got lost with a hundred yards to go, stopped to answer her phone and couldn't find the DW, she was at the side of it when she stopped! (Have a word Martin)

Thank you all for taking part, hope you enjoyed it and look forward to seeing you again, on one of our future rides perhaps. Always on the lookout for new members!

Could you forward the link to any non-WBCCC members that took part if you happen to have their contact details please?