

It was back to basics today with a ride through the borough to Pennington Flash. 15 of the 21 members taking part in the ride backed up from the previous day's Southport Circular ride – a good effort. It was to be a different ride to the previous day with very little wind on a bright, sunny morning.

We had a hiccup at the start of the ride when, just before we were about to depart, Brian realised he had a puncture. Eric offered to stay behind and assist Brian and they agreed to catch up with the rest of the group.

Phil took the lead with the route taking us up the canal, across Lower Ince and onto Amberswood. Denis' chain came off as we entered Amberswood but, thankfully, it was nothing serious. We crossed Amberswood and, with Brian and Eric back in the group, made our way onto the Millers Lane estate in Platt Bridge. We then passed through Abram, skirting Kingsdown Flash, on the way to Crankwood. We then crossed the canal at Plank Lane and headed down Slag Lane to Byrom Lane. It was at this point that we realised that Elaine and Clive were missing. Elaine had suffered a puncture on Crankwood Road and Clive had provided assistance. After a quick phone call it was agreed that Elaine and Clive would meet us at the canal bridge on our return from Pennington Flash. **We really need to improve our arrangements for back marking.**

We reached the Flash where we enjoyed a few minutes chatting in the sunshine before commencing the return journey which would follow the canal back to base. Doreen led the group back. We were joined by Elaine and Clive at Plank Lane and then wound our way back to base in small groups as we became widely dispersed on the return journey. We clocked 17 miles and completed the relatively flat route in the standard two hours.