

Another excellent turnout (26) for what turned out to be a pleasant morning's ride, fortunately the rain just about holding off though the storm clouds did gather at one point. A nice mix of quiet roads and off road trails with a distinct lack of undulations - question - what is the difference between a hill and an undulation? Answers on a postcard please, addressed to Jim! We actually climbed 305 feet today.

Sixteen and a half miles starting off along the canal to Lily Lane at Bryn Gates and then along to Stubshaw Cross, upon entering Golborne our ride leaders Garmin threw a moody AGAIN and Clives local knowledge was put to the test, thankfully as we were leaving Golborne the Garmin decided to play again, though Phil was heard muttering something about needing an upgrade. Through the back streets of Golborne to Slag Lane and then Plank Lane Swing Bridge, along Crankwood Rd and then cross-country again to Bickershaw and Platt Bridge, it was on this section of off road that Undulation Jim suffered the only puncture of the trip. We then crossed Amberswood and over Ince Green Lane to get back onto the canal for the final leg of the journey, into the Community Cafe for the obligatory coffee and scone. The recent upturn in temperatures saw the inevitable increase of naked flesh among the riders, shorts and t-shirts definitely the dress of choice, perhaps preparing for the Manchester Naked Bike Ride!

There was some anxiety amongst the peloton at one point, word spread that Thelma had a leaking bladder, all kinds of help and support were offered and an ambulance almost called for before we realised that the leaking bladder was actually the bladder of Thelma's hydration backpack-phew.

As ever the ride leaders did a fantastic job beginning with a comprehensive ride brief before starting and timely reminders of potential risks along the way, by the way who is writing the next ride report?