

## WBCCC Ride Report

Date: 21 August 2016

Day: Sunday

Start time: 10.00am

Finish time: Approx 2.30pm

Ride Name: Heading West

Distance: 31 miles

Numbers attending: 19

Weather conditions: Cloudy with fairly strong winds from the coast. Brighter in the afternoon.

General comments: Another eventful ride. We were joined by new member, Chris J, who made an immediate impact by falling off his bike on arrival. Sorry Chris, you weren't going to get away with that not being entered in the report!

The ride got off to a serene start as we cycled out of Burscough and into the countryside. The serenity didn't last long. The group had gathered together on Martin Lane on the approach to the Martin Inn. We set off again and turned left at the inn into Merscar Lane. We didn't realise that Thelma, Steve and Len (our cameraman) had not set off as Thelma's rear mudguard had come off. We travelled the length of Merscar Lane before discovering that the trio was missing. They had missed the turn and were now several miles away. After several frantic mobile phone calls – the one rider holding walkie talkies had forgotten to bring them – we agreed to continue in our separate groups to our lunch stop at The Hayloft in Lydiate. The main group headed into the wind and, apart from a short stop to mend Clive's loose pannier, had an incident free ride onwards to the lunch stop.

The main group reached the café stop about 25 minutes before the trio as Len had suffered a puncture which had further delayed them. Denis put some air in Tracy's nearly flat tyres during the break which explained why she had struggled to keep contact with the main group. Thelma, Len and Steve arrived and shared their adventures with us before enjoying their lunch break.

On the return journey to Burscough, Jim H invited us to stop at St James church in Westhead where he showed us the unusual gents toilet to the rear of the building. The final leg of the ride was also not without incident as both Joyce and Ritchie fell off their bikes in separate incidents but thankfully they both emerged unscathed. It had been another enjoyable and eventful ride. We had lost our cameraman for the first time but Len still managed to get some great footage - when he was with the main group that is! At the end of the ride 14 members of the group dropped in at the Ring o'Bells pub to enjoy a drink in the sunshine before heading home.