

## WBCCC Ride Report

Date: 30 August 2016

Day: Tuesday

Start time: 7.00pm

Finish time: Approx 9:30pm

Ride Name: Ride the Lights

Distance: 16 miles

Numbers attending: 17

Weather conditions: Dry and mild with very light breeze

Busy day for WBCCC this. Ride the Lights was the third ride of the day for the club and the second for many of the 17 riders assembling at the Marsh Mill Tavern in Thornton Cleveleys. Most of us took the opportunity to grab something to eat but resisted the very tempting puddings after a warning from Phil B about the size of them. Phil was speaking from experience!

Just after seven we pointed the bikes Blackpool way and set off. Given the anticipated number of riders we agreed to assemble at Starr Gate at one end of the lights and again at the Norbreck Castle at the end of the return trip. When we arrived at Bispham, the start of the traffic-free section, we were immediately surrounded by an unbelievable number of bikes and riders of all ages, from youngsters riding with stabilisers to the more mature (like us!). We passed on the free tea and coffee at the start and proceeded at a stately pace southwards.

Those of us making our debut riding the lights were amazed at the number of participants though there were differences of opinion about how it compared to last year. Doreen thought there were fewer whilst Steve guessed at half as many again! Mixed in with the thousands of standard bikes and tandems were a few unicycles and a couple of penny farthings. Many parents were towing children on bike trailers or with bike tow bars. Probably the oddest sight was a number of converted dodgem cars driven by people in fancy dress.

Because of the numbers it was a fairly sedate pace to the south end of the ride at Starr Gate where we had a quick loo stop and team photo opportunity (not at the same time!). The trip back through the lights was more of the same and uneventful except that we arrived at the Norbreck Castle minus John. Just as Phil and Tony set off back to find him he rolled up from the opposite direction after a short detour around the backstreets of Blackpool. After a short ride back in the dark we pitched up back at the pub to find that Phil had left his keys in the car. The honest folk of Thornton Cleveleys had not pinched it and some kind soul had even handed the keys in.

Just 16 sedate but enjoyable miles with the extra distance to Thornton Cleveleys though with most of us having done 20 or so miles earlier in the day that was perhaps a good thing. Thanks to Phil for leading and checking out the route (and pub!) beforehand.