

WBCCC – Ride Report

Date: 4 December 2016	Day: Sunday
Start time: 10.00am	Finish time: 2 50pm
Ride Name: Hill Challenge	
Distance: 32 Miles	Numbers attending: 9
Weather conditions: Cold, crisp, dry and sunny	
General Comments: <p>The ride description for Len's Hill Challenge seemed to have frightened off a few members as only six of us had signed up for the ride. However, we had three additions in Alan C, Anthony and Gary P who had made late decisions to take part so nine of us set out on the ride. We initially followed the canal and up the "devil's backbone" to Landgate. The early morning frost made ground conditions quite firm on this one section of the ride that was off-road. We headed on through Downall Green and Billinge then making our way to the first climb up Shaley Brow. All the boys made it up the climb and "mad" Enid gave it a good go before she had to take a break as she reached the steepest point of the climb. After a breather and a few minutes admiring the view at the top we sailed down the hill then continued onwards through Tontine and Upholland to Roby Mill.</p> <p>The next climb took us up Crow Lane to Dalton. The whole group completed this climb and then enjoyed the downhill run into Newburgh. We continued through country lanes to our drinks stop at the Ring o' Bells at Lathom. They do a fine cup of coffee here at a reasonable £1.60 a cup and Enid also enjoyed her spectacular looking hot chocolate. Most of us decided to take advantage of some warmth inside the pub but Anthony and Alan C chose to brave the cold and sit outside keeping an eye on the bikes. After the refreshments we proceeded on to tackle the final climb up Hunters Hill. This was undoubtedly much tougher than Crow Lane and it again proved too much for Enid but the lads were not to be beaten and completed the hat trick of climbs though there was a bit of heavy breathing as we reached the top.</p> <p>The return ride through Wrightington and Standish back into Wigan was a pleasant jaunt on what had been a great ride. It's a ride that many of our members would have enjoyed. Everyone may not have managed all the hills but the rest of the ride was just delightful. Thanks to Len for planning and leading the ride and well done to the brave souls who took part.</p>	