

WBCCC – Ride Report

Date: 23 rd January 2017	Day: Monday
Start time: 10.00am	Finish time: 3.00pm
A Ride of Two Halves	
Distance 33 miles	Numbers attending: 19
Weather conditions: Cold but dry and misty all day with some rain in the afternoon.	
<p>A really good turnout for a cold January morning. After a safety briefing by our leader Pete we set off along the canal bank to Bamfurlong where we joined the road making our way to Golborne, Newton and then to Wargrave. Here we turned left to ride past a large new housing development that used to be the site of the Vulcan Locomotive Works. From here it was a short distance into Vulcan Village where our leader gave an explanation of how the village and works came about. From the village we made our way to the Sankey Valley trail. The first half of the trail was on a really good surface but when we crossed Common Road to re-join the trail we were met with tracks from a very large digger machine that had torn up the surface and made it very rough, muddy and difficult to ride. The workmen told us they were installing drains to prevent water holding on the trail. We made it through the mud although Thelma lost her momentum at one point and got slightly stuck in a particularly muddy bit. After the mud we were again riding on a good surface till we reached our lunch stop at the Toby Waterside pub at Carr Mill. Some of our riders had taken packed lunches but others went inside and proceeded to order larger meals than they expected (Phil's baguette came with a Yorkshire pud, 3 roast spuds, stuffing and gravy).</p> <p>After lunch our leader managed to round everybody up and we set off on the second half of our ride through Garswood, Billinge and Kings Moss to Pimbo. Riders had been warned that the second half of the ride was tougher than the first and everyone soon found out as we began the climb up to Billinge. The next long uphill stretch from Billinge to Pimbo stretched the group out and when we reached Pimbo Road Denis, on his road bike, set off on his own (not for the first time) never to be seen again that day, (probably not the last either) The rest of us made our way to Up Holland, Orrell and Challenge Way (where it started to rain) and back to our starting point at Trencherfield Mill. It had been a really enjoyable ride and the Sankey Valley Trail will be well worth another visit once the drainage work has been completed and that section of the trail has been resurfaced.</p>	