

Ride Review:

Date: **November 1<sup>st</sup> 2015**

Written By: **Mark Bardsley**

After sending messages around to the members the feedback for today's club ride to Rivington wasn't looking to good and I was right, nobody turned up at the Arena so it was to be a solo ride.

I set off dead on 9.30am into a strong wind heading towards Radcliffe but luckily no rain and like earlier in the week it was warm. About 5 miles into the ride I realised I was over dressed for the weather conditions when the sweat started to drip off the front of my cap. I set a good pace considering the wind thou I could feel the effort in my legs especially after yesterday's 50 miler. I was on my winter bike which is a Carrea Virtuoso, Ali frame, Shimano Sora running gear and mudguards, not the cutting edge bike of today but so relaxing and comfy to ride.

It was a fairly uneventful ride until after my tea stop at Rivington when only a few minutes into the return ride I got soaked by a car going through what looked like a small puddle but no it wasn't, the only part I didn't get wet was my head. (Thanks to the bloke in the black Ford Focus, Cheers mate). Anyway it didn't really matter because the heavens opened shortly after and I was that wet it didn't make any difference.

The ride home was a little easier due to the wind pushing me along, it didn't make the hills any easier but I'm glad it wasn't a headwind. I made a slight mistake with my directions in Bolton town centre but I soon found my way, it's amazing how places look different the opposite way round. I've done this route for the part 2 years so I don't know how I messed up.

When I did this ride the other way round yesterday I was only slightly slower today so it just goes to show that the conditions don't make that much difference. Maybe next time other members will join me, that's what rain jackets, winter gloves and overshoes are for. So come on lads, man up and get your winter gear out and don't worry about your bikes you can wash them when you get home. (Or get the misses to do it)!

Cheers

Mark.