

Ride Review

Date: 24th Jan 2016

Destination: **Hollingworth** plus extra loop via **Rawtenstall**

Written by: **Mark Bardsley**



It was a great turnout at the Arena (that's Middleton Arena Brendan! I won't mention it again) with 15 riders for the monthly easy club ride including Chris Horton on his first ride of the year after having his bike repaired by Matt at Palla bikes.

Dave planned 2 routes, the first to the café at Hollingworth Lake and back and the second via Burnley and Bury then back. It was decided that there would be 2 groups, the first group being led by Dave Charlesworth and the second by Steve Foley.

Welcome to Tony on his first club ride, hope you join the club mate the more the merrier. Just a quick question here to Grant, was that a truck you were riding? Definitely built for comfort and not speed!

Our first hiccup came at the lake when the first group of 7 riders waited at the café for almost 20 minutes for the second group to arrive

Until someone noticed the second group were sat at the other café 100 yards up the road! After a short break 5 of us set off on the longer route until Steve turned off at Littleborough to head home with his hangover. The remaining 4 headed towards Todmorden and up onto Burnley, plenty of inclines rather than hills kept the pace down but we still had a steady pace going. We then stopped for a brew near Townley Park only to find that the café was so busy that we couldn't even get inside. This is when my Garmin and phone both decided that they would pack up so only half my ride was recorded. (That's what happens when you take a picture of 3 ugly blokes, me not included). Less than 50 yards from the café we stopped at a set of lights and this is when Tom decided to take a dive, luckily there was a grass verge waiting for him and not a concrete pavement you can't blame that on the sore throat mate, we've all done it Tom so you're not the first and you won't be the last to get your foot stuck in your Cleat. (Wouldn't happen to Rod in his trainers).

Then we started to climb around the outskirts of Burnley and Tom had a coughing fit which almost brought him to a standstill but he soon sorted himself out and off we went again upto the hardest

climb of the day. This is a long steepish climb so much so that there's an escape road on the other side coming down the hill, well done here lads this is a hell of a climb and all did really well. Then it was down into Rawtenstall and back up Steve Bradshaw hill towards Rammy but this time we didn't stop at our usual café as time was getting on.

As we approached Bury Dave Charlesworths gear cable decided to give up the ghost leaving him we just 2 of his highest gears for the climb up fairfield road, hats off to you mate that was excellent climbing with only 2 gears and at the end of a 50 mile ride.

The next couple of miles into Heywood went smoothly with no problems, we left Dave at the top of Coronation Ave and we continued back to Middleton. One final stop at the top of Langley lane and then we went our separate ways.

Once again it was a good ride in great company just what a club ride is all about, we just need to get more people out on the rides especially more women so Pam isn't the only female we have with us. Just one last note, as Steve said at the café stop can you all get your kit orders to Chris ASAP so he can get some idea of the numbers we need. Don't forget the more we order the cheaper it will be!