

Ride review

Date: **21st February 2016**

Destination: **Easy Rider to Bolton**

Written by: **Dave Charlesworth**

After checking the forecast the previous evening, it looked as though heavy rain and strong wind was the recipe for the second Easy Rider run of 2016. However, although it was cloudy and grey and a bit breezy at times, the rain hadn't yet arrived, as Dave W, Rod, Tom, Tony and myself met at Middleton Arena at 10.00am. It was also surprisingly warm for February which was certainly a bonus. Unfortunately, it seemed that many had been put off by the forecast and the new riders for whom the ride was planned, had seemingly stayed away! Despite there being no new riders, we decided to keep to the originally planned shorter route, as several of us needed to be back early.

The ride was an easy 26 mile run out towards Bolton, via Whitefield, returning back to the Arena through Bury and Heywood. Setting off around 10.15am we headed out towards Whitefield keeping up a steady pace of around 15mph. Riding past Moses Gate Park, it was up the only real hill on the route at Stoneclough Road. With the weather still dry, all was going really well until we turned into a right hand bend in Farnworth. Rod noticed a wobble on his front wheel and after stopping to check what was wrong, he noticed a broken spoke was the culprit. The bike was still OK to ride, albeit with a distinct buckle, so we all rode with Rod to Radcliffe at a much reduced pace. He wanted to get nearer to home and had phone numbers for family members at the ready, should a lift be needed. Rod insisted on making his own way back at a very leisurely pace, so the rest of us could complete the rest of the ride.

The ride continued through Bury and over to Heywood where Dave W left us to make his way home. The remaining three of us went on and at the top of Long Street, decided to have a few extra miles rather than go straight home. With the clouds beginning to look much darker, we decided a quick ride over to Royton should be about right, but it seemed we pushed our luck a bit too much and down came the heavy rain! Fortunately it was only a 15 min shower and by the time we split up to go home, we were beginning to dry out.

A good ride out enjoyed by all and a quick check on Strava later showed Rod got nearer to home, then decided on a bit of a potter round before going back! You can't keep him down – well done Rod!