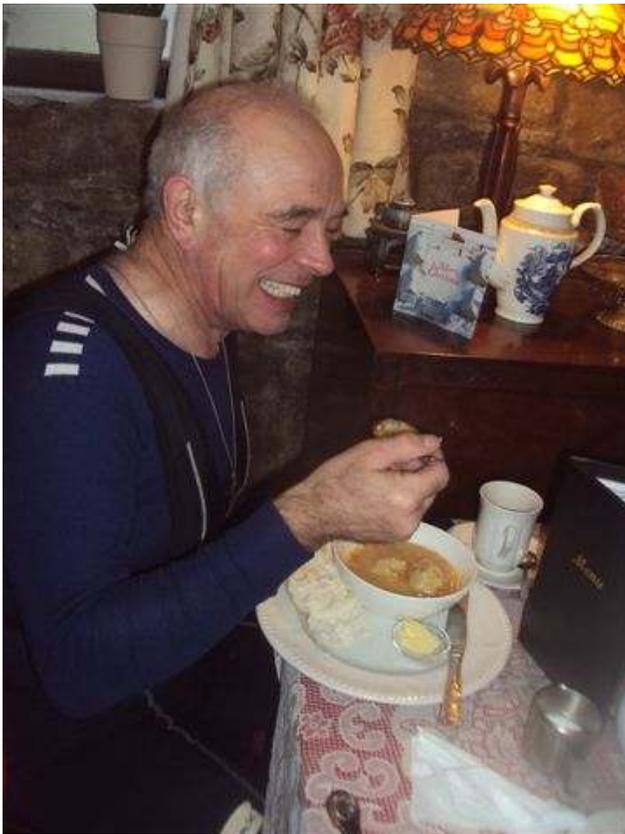


Mountain Bike Meet 29th November 2009

Graham was most concerned to be absolutely sure that the café would be open. I told him to bring back-up butties just in case, which he did. However, the café at Wycoller is open all the year round. It had a most welcoming open fire in an old range. We arrived drenched to the skin and filthy (that is in the literal sense – we were most polite). We dripped all over the stone floor and draped out wet ones on the backs of the chairs. This was the high point of the day. Pie and peas, with raw onion and red cabbage; or scotch broth with dumplings. Heaven!





We were the aforesaid Graham Welch our ex-treasurer; John Toon the new treasurer (and I saw not a penny from either of them); Jason Whiteley (who puts these things onto meets lists and them grumbles about the weather); and Ian and Claire McClellan (the LMC's proper bikers). And me – I led from the back, all the way.



Oh yes, we did get on our bikes and battled our way through rain and over the moors from Gorple Road on the new bridleway the other side of Burnley – I wrote about this in the Club newsletter earlier in the year. We had a few puddles of indeterminate depth to ride through (or, in the case of Jason, to fall into). I did two nose plants. The first was just a small practice really, finishing skidding on all fours into the soft bog. The second was more spectacular as the front wheel stopped dead in some un-seeable soft sand whilst I flew onwards.



There are some fun bits on the way but the downhill seemed to be only a fraction of the uphill sections. We opted for the “easy” way back along the country lanes, as the weather and short day mitigated against coming home via Widdop. Even the road route has a couple of fords. The deeper one was a raging torrent so we opted for the stepping stones. A good decision!



And back to the cars for dry clothes and the heater. An excellent 27 mile round trip.

Richard Toon

