

Wednesday, April 28, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

A sigh of dismay seeped from the Poddlers this morning as they heard their ride was not being led by one of the star studded array of leaders they had become used to over the past few weeks. No matinee idol and head of the El Butler Dynasty, no Chief Super Inspector Sur John head of MI 5, no thinking woman's Alan Titchymarsh John Smallwood of Harlow Carr, no head of the National Health Service Matron Sue W, no jazz saxophonist and professional house boy Maximillion Van Gee, but sadly back to same old same old. However 13 riders left Hornbeam Park to Poddle towards Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliff, it was windy and looking like rain. At Beckwithshaw the leader leading from the back decided to go through the park, and was gamely followed by Peter, Paul, and Mary..no Liz actually. The rest of the pack went their own way up towards Little Almscliff, and finally met up with their leader in the Stainburn Forest Car Park, where we had a photo call for those not skiving work and admired the Martian view towards Menwith and Penny Pot. The wind still in our faces we pedalled through the wood meeting only eight liver coloured dogs with gorgeous ears taking their owner for a walk. On the glorious down Sur John had a puncture and the rest of the group surged on and waited for the experts to watch John mend his puncture and rejoin the group on the benches at Leathley. The sun now out, bananas eaten, gossip and chat at its peak, the G7 problems solved and the election won, it was hard for the ladies in the group to move onwards and downwards, past Pool Bridge and on to Castley and Weeton along the river. We all negotiated the dangerous Leeds Road crossing, and sped (well some people sped) along to Kirkby Overblow. Richard's abandoned other half Liz, keeping well towards the front, despite it being her first Wheel Easy ride and Jenny back from a cycle tour of Britain or Lincolnshire with sportsman of the year Glen, was on top form. Mike back from a winter break ate up the miles with ease. Lunch was calling, so El Butler and Sur John surged off to get home as we stood in the sun admiring the red kites of Kirkby and trying to decide who would lead a ride next week. Thankfully Sue D took the bike by the handle bars, bit the pedal and said she would. Ace. The Ridding Park option was the chosen route home and we swooped down Ridding Lane in hot sun with the wind finally behind us. Five chose to go and admire the Wheel Easy hardcore and new path and home.

13 people did 27 miles in a very gentle fashion in quite a long time, and according to my calorie counter ...which is wrong and being sent back, used 164 calories each. Caroline G. (Average heart rate 98 and that needs to be sent back too.)

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report

A long steady flat ride to York was the proposal so a good bunch of us set off for Knaresborough, Farnham, Ferrensby, and Arkendale to reconvene on the village green at Great Ouseburn. We agreed our first stop was to be at the Home Farm Shop in the grounds of Beningborough Hall. This is a lovely stop on a nice day and sure enough it was mild and balmy so we sat outside and enjoyed some good snacks and excellent coffee. At the same time a lamb had just been born in the adjacent field and the vet was attending the mum sheep who needed some medical help (I will save you the gory details). There was a collection of goats and ponies all gathering around also apparently supervising the medical work, but also kicking the poor little lamb out of the way when it got under their feet. All was sorted and mum sheep with lamb was soon put in the hospital field to recover.

Meanwhile nosey Martin asked what breed the brown and white sheep were in the field and was told by the farmer they were all Jacob's Sheep. They come in all colours hence the name for them derives from "Jacob's Coat of Many Colours". Even more fascinating is that all the lambs are born black and white but change later on. Now how many years have you been wondering about that! So to York, the first puncture, and a sandwich lunch at the Millennium Bridge. After that we followed the cycleways south of York to Askham Richard, and home via the villages, stopping at Tockwith for water. The day had heated up and it was nice to be thirsty instead of frozen. Bridget managed the distance well and also another puncture in Follifoot - were we glad of the rest so repairing it was a delight!

About 13 riders did 61 miles. Martin W

EG's Ride Report

I arrived at Low Bridge, Knaresborough, at 9.55. The numbers were swelled as the Wednesday riders from Hornbeam had paused there on their way to York. A few minutes later they were on their way.

Expecting the usual confusion that has been an entertaining feature of EG's rides whilst DP is surveying the massage parlours of the Orient, I hardly dare ask the dreaded question: "So where are we going to today then?"

"York" was the unusually decisive reply from a couple of EGs.

"OK, let's go then" I said jumping on my trusty steed

"Where to?" another EG enquired.

"York" I replied

"But I want to go to Masham!" yet another EG announced.

So after all, we started the usual weekly debate, and 5 minutes later 8 EGs set offfor Masham!

After Copgrove, Norman and Terry took the slow, low route to Masham (their words not mine), Dave W led the other 6 along the alternative presumably faster & hillier route via Burton Leonard, Markington, Fountains, Sawley (where we basked on the village green whilst Bill fixed a puncture), Grantley (where Dave W was born and bred, & where he stuffed a telephone directory down his trousers as he cycled past the village school), High Skelding, Dallow Moor, Laverton, Kirby Malzeard, and Grewelthorpe. A great scenic route taking us along many new lanes. John R had returned to Harrogate, so 7 of us enjoyed lunch in the square at Masham. Then we split into 3 routes for the return home. Terry and Norman headed south for Grewelthorpe. Dave, Bill and Dennis went east via Well, Wath and Hutton Conyers. Peter R and Eric went west to Healey, Leighton Reservoir, photostop at the summit above Lofthouse, and Pateley Bridge, where more tea and cheesecake were required before tackling Yorke's Folly! Arriving home we'd clocked up 67 miles and climbed 10 chevrons. A great ride on the hottest day of the year so far.

Note for the captains log: mileage: 2*67, 2*56, 3*61, 1*38 = 467. Eric

Wheel Easy on Tour
Keith and Helen Tate are currently on a cycling holiday looking at the North East's Industrial Heritage. They kindly sent a photo of themselves in Sunderland.

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1611 YTD 36864

