

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Malcolm and Gia accept the Voluntary Group of the Year Runner Up award from Lord Barclay on behalf of Wheel Easy at the CTCAGM Dinner in Loughborough. Saturday, 15th May

Poddlers

Ride

Report

Today's Poddlers' ride was led by a coalition of Prime Poddler Caroline and Deputy Prime Poddler Sue W. Having lost Max to a broken spoke, Caroline led the way to Wetherby via Knaresborough and Kirk Deighton. At the Harland Way, her deputy took the lead through clouds of greenflies to Thorp Arch, Boston Spa and back to Wetherby along the A1 cycle path, carelessly managing to lose Sue D., who took an impromptu trip to Morrison's. We were briefly re-united with Max, following his expensive wheel repair, when he and Caroline sped off on a catering mission. Linda, Sue D., Liz, Peter, John and Sue W. treated ourselves to a coffee stop in the Shambles, before again trying to lose Sue D. and Peter during a short cut to the Harland Way. However, they managed to outwit us and soon appeared ahead of us on the cycle track. Apart from Sue's chain falling off again, we made an uneventful journey back via Spofforth, Follyfoot and Rudding. About 27 miles, lovely weather and good company. Sue W.

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel

Easy

Ride

Report

After some initial discussion by Tall John as to which group to go with nine riders set forth from Hornbeam "Pateley bound", Malcolm, Gia, Paul T, Richard, Angela, Tall John, newcomer John (another John!), Kevin and Ben on his fixed wheel bike. On through Knox, Hampsthwaite, Birstwith, Darley ..the miles just seemed to roll by (well almost) and then onto Darley Head where a convenient stop was had to regroup and "powder one's noses" for those that needed to. Onward to Dacre and Summerbridge where the group did some window shopping at the STIF cycle shop whilst Malcolm and Gia perused some wardrobe furniture at a nearby outlet. A coffee shop foray was then undertaken by a small advance party to the Yorkshire Country Wines Café at Glasshouses which was found to be open and all gathered for a fine assortment of jam and scones and for others a generous sumptuous slab of Yorkshire fruit cake with a chunk of white

cheese. The wisdom of such an enjoyable gastronomic experience was shortly questioned by some as the steep climb up Yorke's Folly soon followed and the occasional rude word was heard to be muttered but all managed to reach the top without any "stomach events" of note!. (Angela, who'd seemed to make light work of her first attempt at this challenging hill mentioned, from a horizontal position on the grass verge at the summit, that she did think at one point she was about to enjoy her scone a second time round.) Mostly downhill from here for a while much to everybody's delight after the steep climb before Richard showed us a new section of the route though Thornthwaite and a Bridleway past the radio antennae and the automatic opening electric barrier (were they automatic or were we being watched by???...who knows) to emerge onto the main A59 . A short ride down this cyclists' "Coroners Corridor" before taking refuge along some friendly roads to Fewston, and then back onto Penny Pot Lane, where tall John and "newcomer John" surged on ahead as time was pressing a little for them and the rest of the group followed at a more leisurely pace.

37 miles or thereabouts, lots of hill climbing practice which I'm sure will benefit Angela with her "Coast to Coast" coming up in a few days time, and for the rest of us a very pleasant day out.
John W

Paul led the Nidd Valley way through Darley, Dacre and Glasshouses where we chose to be the first customers of the day at Glasshouses. In spite of some stuffed with cake and cheese Yorke Folly was successfully overcome, some for their first time, some for the first ridden ascent in 20 years and another reminiscing of time trials some 45 years ago. A great fast ride down and back to Dacre Top then due south and up Day Lane and the quality tarmac bridleway at Delves Ridge Signals and out through the automatic gates, across the A59 to Fewston Bents and home via newly resurfaced Penny Pot. 36 miles in 3 hrs saddle time and 2900 ft climbs. So a great ride. Richard

EG's Ride Report
Eight riders met at Low Bridge, including Roy Smith, good to see you back again Roy after a short absence. Soon we heard a cheery "Good Morning EG`s" as Caroline and the Poddlers (no not a pop group) swept round the corner into Abbey Road, after a brief pause and chat they were on their way to Wetherby. The EG`s destination was Easingwold, but one rider had to make a small purchase in BoroBridge, so it was a good excuse to stop for tea/coffee snacks etc (as if we needed an excuse!), one of our riders even succumbing to a bacon sandwich. Then on to Easingwold via Brafferton and Raskelf, the wind and weather being in our favour, then in to Restaurant 21 for lunch. Restaurant 21 was short staffed and the manageress apologised for the delay in some of us getting served, however this was made up for when Terry (feeling peckish?) ordered a bowl of chips, when it came it more like a bucket of chips, which all eight of us could not finish. The weather still good, cloudy but warm, it was on to Crayke, Sutton on the Forest and Newton on Ouse.

It was decided to take a banana break at Linton Locks, where a grumpy jobsworth told us this was a private road and we should not be there! (despite a sign at the road advertising a cafe ?). Whilst accepting the road is private, all my maps show a public right of way from the road to the locks. After taking a break it was back to Harrogate via Aldwark Bridge, Arkendale and Farnham. Weather and wind being favourable and also on Yorkshire flatlands we were able to maintain a steady pace in good order. The max distance was around 60 to 62 miles. Dave P

Evening Ride Reports
There were four 'non off-roaders' who ventured out to Fewston reservoir tonight. Richard showed us how it's done with Geraldine and Joe, and wheezing Simon bringing up the rear. The route was Burn Bridge, Beckwithshaw, Fewston then Penny Pot Lane to the Army College and back to Harrogate. 22.5 miles door to door from Knaresborough Road. Simon H

The Inaugural Wheel Easy Off-road Evening Ride.

I was not sure what the response would be to this new venture. With the constraints of time, any ride must be kept short and close to Harrogate, and therefore fairly easy, largely using bridle paths - i.e. no mountains! I was delighted with the response: 14 members turned up at Hornbeam Park - including Paul on his clean, shiny, new mountain bike. He has used it before, but he tells me he had to carry it over any dirty bits to make sure it remained - well - clean and shiny and still looking new! I hope Paul never takes up horseriding! Our route took us along the bridle path from Hookstone Road towards Almsford Avenue, turn left across the railway bridge and on the bridle path into Crimple Valley, through Hookstone Wood and the Great Yorkshire Showground. We crossed Wetherby Road and followed the path to the bottom of Hookstone Chase. A road section followed along Forest Moor Road, and up Thistle Hill before going off-road through the woods to Lido Caravan Park by St James Retail Park. In the woods, the leader lost his ensuing 13 riders for 10 minutes - quite an achievement for our first ride! Two riders with time constraints then returned to Harrogate, whilst the remaining 12 continued on the bridle path across the River Nidd to Goldsborough, with a stop for a photocall. As we returned to Harrogate along the Beryl Burton Cycleway. 6 riders adjourned at the Gardener's Arms for liquid refreshments, the remainder pedalled home for more substantial refreshments. A very pleasant evening ride. The consensus was that it was a great success and evening off-road rides should become a regular feature of our summer ride calendar. Leaders and routes required! Note for the Captain's Log: 17 mile round trip for 12 riders, plus 13 miles for 2: total 230 miles. Eric.

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1349	YTD	46887
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Wheel Easy on Tour. Ride Report from France. First of all, congratulations to all the writers of so many fantastic ride reports appearing recently. I feel a bit wary of writing anything that may not reach the new standards of poetry and prose, but just for a change I thought you might like to read about some different cycling. We are in the green hills and forests of Limousin, central France, and at last, like the UK the weather is sunny and delightfully warm. After a shortish ride yesterday along the valley of the Dordogne River we extended our route today to find something a bit more challenging. Starting from our campsite near Argentat and climbing up the D33 we came to La Chapelle St Geraud. This really set the tone for the day because after a 8k climb we came to a café at the top of the hill - "La Vache Qui Fume". A lovely cup of coffee then set us up for a ride on top of the hills along the D41 before we turned right on the D81, descending to the bottom of the Gorges de la Cere. The total descent was about 350m, and, yes, we then had to climb back out of the gorge to approximately the same height to get to the top of the plateau. Cycling along the tops through lush green meadows with Limousin golden-brown cattle munching in the fields was a delight. For those of you nerdy enough to follow this on a map, we went through the villages of Lamativie, Calviac, Comiac, before descending again on a vertiginous drop to the River Cere at Laval. Then, sure enough, we had to climb again before descending again Port de Gagnac and Biars. Then it was heading home up the D940, thankfully flat, and we turned right at Altillac to follow the D116 gently climbing all the way back up to our campsite near Argentat, and a beer at the local bar. The scenery is probably best described as a lush green version of the Wye Valley but with gorges about three times as deep - and they go on for miles and miles and miles. A word about the traffic - there is hardly any! On one section of road we did about 12 miles and saw one car. Coming near the campsite we were a bit shocked because three vehicles passed us in the space of 5 minutes - a veritable traffic jam in this part of the world. As long as the sun is shining, and most of all, you like long steady hill climbs, Limousin is a paradise for cycling. Statistics for the day: 52 miles covered (85k), total ascent (and of course subsequent descent) approximately 1100 metres (3600 ft). Deux personnes tres fatigues (i.e. knackered!). Martin and Yvonne

