

Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

Last week it was the thinking woman's Alan Titchymarsh, John Smallwood who led the ride, this week the legendary El Butler would be leading the ride, no wonder I could not persuade the lost Big boys and girls to make up their own ride or go with the EGs.

Knowing El Butler had to be back for lunch at 1 (he had an extension pass today), 12 of us set off at a fair pace to Low Bridge, Knaresborough where we assured Ben that he would get a fast ride and the EGs would get there after their first and probably second coffees of the day. Kevin, Alec, Sur John and Max (who had mentally prepared to go on the Big boys ride) could not be persuaded to leave the El Butler followers and we all surged on towards Farnham and the hill out towards Occaney. As far as the ride report writer was concerned, this was all a bit fast and furious, and thankfully the whole group, (with Alison, Bridget and the two Sues seemingly on steroids), waited kindly at Bishop Monkton just as I thought I had taken a wrong turning, and would be returning home alone.

Onwards and alongwards we sped through Littlethorpe marvelling at the thought of making pots from garden clay when the children were young, just like they do at Littlethorpe pottery. In Littlethorpe village we took a right turn and ended up by the canal in Ripon. At which point we took a breath and water and the odd banana, and Alison remembered that she needed to get back by 12.30, so left us to return home the quickest way. Following our leader over a pleasant canal bridge and past the race course, the rest of the group headed for Newby Hall, and onwards down the most fantastic piece of country roadery, towards Boroughbridge and a nose powdering stop. Max, Kevin, Trevor, John, Alec, Dennis and Sur John were radiant after reapplying their makeup, and we sat in the sun for seven minutes to put the world to rights again, then set off on our homeward journey, back to Farnham initially via Aldborough, and cleverly onto Minskip, and Staveley. Steroid and banana-fuelled the group waited patiently at the top of Sandy Lane for me to finish my call to the Tour de France drug council and catch them up. Whilst preparing for a photo shoot modelling session, a couple of German reclining bike people joined us and told us of

their trip round Britain in their bike hammocks. Having posed for photos with us and taken photos of us they sped off towards York, Hull and the boat to Rotterdam. Likewise we sped on to Knaresborough and went our separate ways to all points up the main Knaresborough Road (now becoming a firm favourite) and Bogs Lane, and home. 34.64 miles for 11 people, 38.46 miles for Kevin who cycled in from Killinghall and wants the extra 4 miles recording! A quite exhausting but absolutely fabulous different 34 mile, 11 miles an hour average ride following in the wheel tracks of El Butler. CG

EG's Ride Report
 Prior to meeting at Low Bridge, four riders were to found to be sitting in the sunshine and drinking coffee on Waterside, wonderful after Tuesday rain. It was even suggested that they should stay there and DP should write a report from his imagination (quite near the truth actually). Eventually nine riders set off from Low Bridge to head north to Ripon, at Farnham we were caught up with by JR who with a flash of inspiration assumed we would be heading North, however he left us at Bishop Monkton to attend to some "business". One of these days we are going to follow him to see what he actually gets up to. Tea, coffee and toasted teacakes were taken at the cafe opposite the Cathedral after which eight riders headed north to Bedale, with Norman returning to Harrogate via Boroughbridge. At Bedale the cafes were very busy, so to save time and take in the sunshine sandwiches were bought and eaten on the public benches. Then southwards to Kiklington, Ainderby Quernhow and Topcliffe. Approaching Boroughbridge Ben was given leave of absence to shoot off with a sonic boom and a cloud of dust soon to be followed by Colin. In Boroughbridge a comfort stop was taken, I know that's too much detail, but we are the EG's. Amongst the remaining riders a need for caffeine developed and four decided to stop for tea, however one of us let the side down and succumbed to a large piece of gooey cake, but PB shall remain anonymous. A great cycling day, sunshine, not too hot and as Cilla Black would say "a lorra laffs". Mileage door to door around 67 to 69 mile maximum. DP

Evening Ride
 Nine riders from the majority of the different ride groups assembled at Wheel Easy HQ with the promise of a few more hours riding in glorious sunshine. After a quick conflag, I volunteered my services (with Phil's delegation!!) to lead an all encompassing gentile ride that would suit all. From Hornbeam we set off toward the Squinting Cat (unfortunately no diversion for a quick play in the ball pit!) and onwards to Otley road and Beckwithshaw, at a steady pace toward Little Alms Cliff. At the summit we had a quick review to make sure all were ok and decided to let 3 of the keener roadies speed off for a quick dog leg around Timble. Their timing was perfect and we all met up again at the beginning of Pennypot Lane. Thankfully all were keen to head off to the left and divert over the A59 and a superb descent down to Kettlesing Bottom, through Tang and past Birstwith Hall. From here we were a man down, but not for long as we soon met up again climbing the hill toward Swincliffe. We all once again mustered whilst admiring an early evening hedgehog taking a stroll!! Through Hampsthwaite we went, and one more slight climb and back on to Otley road, round the back of Killinghall and over towards Knox bridge and up Knox Lane, where we all departed on our separate ways. A fantastic ride on a beautiful evening with barely a breeze and 9 riders completed approx 20miles each. Thanks to all, Paul.

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1135	YTD	56480
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