

Wednesday, September 22, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

Hornbeam meeting point was awash with wheel easy tops and their contents. Was it Sunday? Well it wasn't when I got up. It was a lovely morning and everyone thought it was a good day for a bike ride. I could tell from the start that the group was out of control. We set off with 14 riders and by Asda we had 5, as we reached town everyone had gone their own way!!! Amazingly we met up at Spruisty Bridge, along with hundreds of big boys and girls led by Jill's doppelganger Gia. The big boys and girls posed beautifully for photos whereas the primadonnas from the Poddlers were negotiating and arguing for performing and posing rights. They then zoomed off leaving their leader to reassemble her photographic equipment and catch up at speed. Grainbeck Lane was like a motorway due to diversions, but some semblance of order was finally grabbed as we untangled ourselves from the BBs and Gs, and managed an accident free descent of the hill into Hampsthwaite. This was short lived as Peter did a Paul B style dive into a ditch and was kindly escorted home by the soon to be beatified David Griffin, who manfully sped back to Harrogate to get his car and transport the shocked Pete and waiting Lynda home to Crimple. Thank you so much David.....one day you will get a ride when you don't have to escort someone home....I owe you

one or two. This diversion did give all the Poddlers a rest on the long climb out of Hampsthwaite to Birstwith Top and the Road to Menwith Hill. Everyone tackled the hill with the fitness and strength of a team of Olympic tri-athletes, very impressive, particularly from new comers Steve wearing red and Blue Sue wearing a very fetching pink today! How do they do it? We had a quick break for water and banana rations, and continued on towards Penny Pot Lane, where no one opted for the shorter loop. Even Trevor now tranquil after a mild panic about getting lost down the by ways and high ways of Kettlesing was lusting for more hills. Martin driving his little 2 wheeled tank felt we could reach Little Alms Cliff and be back in time for lunch, so continued to the photo call at the top of the last hill, before home at the Stainburn Forest Car Park. More posing and pouting, lipstick and eye liner application and we were ready to sail back home with a following wind and a hill down.....deeeep joy and well worth the uuuuuups. Bomber Butler (currently on the run from the Polish Police) sensed his enemies were closing in made an escape disguised as a cyclist

followed by his team, towards the Squinting Cat. Those who did not believe the leader could not get back to Harrogate without a hill followed her past Harlow Carr and through the Pinewoods to Harlow Moor Road and Cold Bath Road and town. 23miles by 11, 1 accident, 10 miles by 2, 20 miles x 1. Thank you for being led so beautifully. Caroline G.

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report
Caroline was right there was a very Sunday like feel to the gathering this morning, the sun was shining and conversations at full tilt. No one in a hurry to go anywhere. Ten riders followed the call of Brimham Rocks, which on this clear, warm sunny day was a treat. Kevin, now back in training, William on a work free day and Bridget let out from her hospital duties. The ride down to Warsill as glorious as ever. We passed a young couple from London who were cycling the Way of The Roses having read about it in The Guardian! We left them repairing a puncture to sit out in the sun at the Visitor Centre where I am sure the group would have stayed all day. The size of the cappuccinos were a definite attraction today.
Home via the Deer Park, Ripon, Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton.
41 miles for ten of us. Gia

EG's Ride Report
With the promise of great cycling weather DP headed towards Low Bridge, on the way meeting Gia. I bet you are going for an early coffee said Gia, heading for the car park, DP continuing straight on down Hookstone Road (I hope my secret is safe with you Gia). At Low Bridge we had nine riders and a difinative lecture from Colin on backing and veering and cyclones and anticyclones and how wind effects sailors and cyclists alike. The destination chosen was Easingwold. A coalition descision was taken at Farnham to take morning break at Boroughbridge, to ease cafe shock, five went to Morrisons and four to the top cafe.
After sustenance and assembly it was suggested we take the Aldwark Bridge route to Easingwold. At Aldwark Bridge same suggester, suggested going via Huby. Just passed Linton, a lane displaying the magic route 65 sign was seen, as it was heading north towards Huby and Easingwold DP aided by Eric and his handlebar technology thought it might be a goer.
The lane wound its way through the countryside, the lane becoming a track with the undergrowth closing in, expecting to see any minute a skeleton of a cyclist with a map of route 65 clutched in his hand.
There are no faint hearts (many other complaints though) in the EG`s so we pressed on ,the track widening out into a lane and eventually into Youlton, at Alne Colin left us to veer and back to Harrogate, for the remaing eight it was on to Easingwold and Restaurant 21 for a very nice lunch served by a very pleasant young lady. During the conversations and chit chat that followed the young lady said (I`m sure it was a slip of the tongue) "are you staying here", alarm bells rang ,were they going to let us out? As some of us were starting to nod off in the warm sunshine, it was decided to adjust the lycra and head back to Harrogate via Brafferton with a banana break and comfort stop in Broughbridge. It had been a great ride with superb cycling weather, no wind, warm but not hot and sunshine. Mileage again a rough estimate say 9 Riders x 59 mile = 531 miles. Dave P

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1234	YTD	114264
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