

Wednesday, October 3, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Monday Ride Report

On Monday 7 riders - Paul, Rob, Dave S, Colin, Peter J , Graham and John R went by car to Gargrave and then did a 58 mile undulating ride round Forest of Bowland area. The sun was seen on occasions! The group toured round a loop covering Bolton by Bowland, Waddington, Whitewell , Dunsop Bridge and then a hilly return to Tosside and Gargrave. The rain which could be seen during the ride over Pendle Hill caught the group with 10 miles to go. All received a Lancashire drowning! At one of the café stops in Bolton by Bowland the shop/café owner said that he had seen only 10 groups of cyclists all year as the weather had been so bad.- too much rain. He opened up the cafe just for us and plied us with extra toast and route advice. A Recommended stop. Apart from the map reader missing the first turning and arriving surprised at the A59 , the others did not complain about the 4 extra unplanned miles! The rest of the route provided superb views of Forest of Bowland and the Dales on the way home. A real tonic from overfamiliar local sights. John R

Poddlers Ride Report

Rain was pouring down at Hornbeam but 14 poddlers including first timer Jeremy were assembled ready for the off. As the rain continued to descend we crossed the Showground and proceeded to Spofforth and Little Ribston. At the latter the option of a direct return to Knaresborough was offered and taken up by the majority. 5 were left to continue up to Walshford, Whixley, Thorpe Underwood, Ouseburn and Arkendale. Almost immediately the weather improved and patches of blue sky were seen. Phil removed his cape three times and shortly after the first two events it rained so he had to replace it! We were reluctant to let him undress on the 3rd occasion near Grafton but fortunately the rain held off until we reached Knaresborough. Thank you to Steve for keeping me on the right path and Jeremy hope we haven't frightened you off! About 32 miles. Liz

Ramblings of a wimp.

Peer through curtains ...darkness, wind, rain. Ride, stay indoors, cosy, hot? Breakfasted, washed, wet gear on. Mount up, peddle off, querying one's mind. Chain leaps from cogs, foul thoughts, I'll be late. Hornbeam, Liz leading ride, hellos said. Rain more persistent, bad decision, fate. Dreaming, fires, warmth, bed, too late. We're off, into wind, into rain, into spray. Twos, threes, in yellow, red, chattering, amiable, small talk, banter. Soaking up moisture, poddlers, puddling along. Pleasure waning, damp skin, drenched clothing, nose dripping. Enjoyment lost, decision made, not bold, going home, wimp. Goodbyes to Liz, to the few; stalwarts all, following plan. Join majority, Harrogate bound, colder now, in need of a bath. Brief vision, blue sky, rain stopped? Didn't last, vindication, rain started again. Nearly there, routes chosen, au revours made. Tub, hot water, relief, easing pain. Refreshingly bathed, in "civies" once more, oh no, unexpected, shadows galore. Cup of tea later, peer through curtains again, déjà vu ...darkness, wind, rain. Max

Wheel Easy Ride Report

As I sit here writing our report of our brief ride today, the sun is shining, with no hint of this morning's miserable conditions. A day of two halves! The Poddlers as usual set off with great resolve, Richard and Co talked of escorting someone back to Wetherby and Sue C had a vision of Brimham and Darley. As she was the only one to come up with a plan we set off in reasonably heavy rain. The restored crossing at Knox is looking impressive, even in the rain and we trailed on towards Hampsthwaite. Here the inevitable refrain began about having a coffee stop at Sophie's but as there was a break in the rain we carried on. By Clapham Green the swirling wind and rain and vistas ahead did not look encouraging so reluctantly we returned to Sophie's.

Here we thought things might improve, as they did with excellent hot drinks, but as we left the rain came down again. However not to appear completely wimpish we returned home via Birstwith Hall, Kettlesing and across to Pennypot. Just over 22 miles but a good run out and a gentle return to the bike for Kevin who had slogged across Scotland on a two week walk with all but three days in torrential rain. Now we really must stop complaining! Gia

EG's Ride Report

Just for a change Wednesday morning began with rain. Comparisons have been made with the EG`s and characters in Last of the Summer Wine, however we would like to see Last of the Summer Rain, which has carried on in to Autumn and might extend to Winter. Going with the flow, i.e. the stream down to Low Bridge, it was a quick chat with Paul T, a wave from Liz P and a wave from Caroline of the Poddlers aka Puddlers or Paddlers, well it was last Sunday when Darren dangled his bottom bracket in the water. Nine waterproofed riders (if thats possible) gathered at Low Bridge. Best wishes to Terry W for a speedy recovery from a chest infection (don't forget to rub it with goose grease and WD40). The nine then headed for Wetherby and Morrisons (what else could we do we had no sailors to advise us on the weather). On the way Marvins`s saddle assumed an impossible angle, in the rain a temporary adjustment was made and finalised under cover at Morrisons. Fortunately the quick fix worked otherwise surgical removal would have been required and we do`nt have the tools for that. After we had got our toasted teacakes in we were joined by over 30 riders from York Section`s Wednesday Wheelers, some of their riders then enlivened the morning by locking their bikes to some EG`s bikes. There then followed the cyclists equivalent of the "will the owner of car registration number...." round the cafe. The culprits were found and removed their cycles including one who apologised profusely, removed his bike then immediately locked it to another EG bike.

John R then left us with a grin on his face, was it his Trough of Bowland success or something else ?? Then the sun came out, and it was brilliant cycling weather all the way to Taddy, Colton and Copmanthorpe. After Askham Richard it was decided to head for Rufforth and the Old Schoolhouse Cafe where the food is good, but today eight cyclists and five civilians caused cafe shock and it was over 30mins before we were served. Then back to Tockwith and Cowthorpe, a headwind but everybody kept the pace and nobody dropped. At Little Ribston the pelaton split, some heading for the heights of Harrogate others for Knaresborough. and hopefully all home before the rain started again. A good ride despite the damp start with a max mileage around 53/54 miles. Dave P



