

Wednesday, January 30, 2013

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride

The weather forecasters were hedging their bets today and predicting everything from gusting winds and rain to hail and even thunder storms. Undeterred a large group assembled at Hornbeam to take on the elements. As gusting side winds, bicycles and traffic are not a happy combination we headed into the wind for the quieter roads to the west of Harrogate. The downside to this plan was a gruelling grind into the face of the wind up to Little Alms Cliff. 20 cyclists having gathered at the car park we split into 2 groups. At the end of Watson Lane we passed the sad sight of the smouldering remains of Batheaston's oak furniture workshop with the fire engine still in attendance. At the junction with Penny Pot Lane the 7 of us in the first group stopped to consider the various route options available. Should we head towards Fewston and then Forest Moor or a shorter route across to Menwith Hill? As if to pre-empt this decision, an icy blast of hail then swept across Fewston blowing 6 of us down the even shorter route of Penny Pot Lane towards Harrogate. Glyn stayed behind to inform the group behind being led by Liz (many thanks Liz) of either: A) Our sensible decision in the face of increasingly adverse weather or B) That we had bottled out. Only 19 miles but I was certainly ready for that cup of tea at the end. Dave G



Wheel Easy Ride

We arrived this morning armed with excuses. We had to be back for a meeting about the Legacy for the Tour de France. We set out with the group who said they were heading for Brimham, as with Angela we turned off at Clapham Green back to Hampsthwaite via Birstwith Hall. Surprisingly we then realised that with the wind behind us we had time for a coffee at Sophie's. Sophie was so busy we had to write up our own orders for her! We left Angela who managed to squeeze in more tea as the Brimham group arrived as we were leaving. We had a hailstorm adventure on the way home but a good ride and home in good time for the meeting. Gia

After leaving Malcolm, Gia and Angela we decided it was too windy to head towards Brimham so we continued towards Darley and up the steep Stump Lane to Menwith Hill Road and then onto 'Sophie's'. Paul



Four of us set off for Pateley Bridge in exciting weather hoping to enjoy some amazing views from the high points. We went via Hampsthwaite, Darley Mill, Dike Lane, down Yorkes Folly to Pateley Bridge for a well earned coffee stop. We waited for the hail storm to pass before setting off to Harrogate. The result of the heavy rain was a flooded back road to Glasshouses. This was the deepest I have cycle through this year. Thanks to Richard, Ric and Steve for joining me on the ride. Dave R



EG's Ride

A brightish morning though a weather forecast said heavy rain around 2-0pm (and they were wrong again, and how). On the way down to Low Bridge met with Gia and Sue D as other W.E.Wers could be seen heading for Hornbeam. At Low Bridge we had twelve riders, a good turnout, probably all glad to get out and ride without snow. The wind was easterly and quite strong, and consultation with two of our riders who have served before the mast, confirmed it would be a north/south direction for our ride. The first stop of the day was at Angela's cafe on the A168, after which on to Grafton, at the turn off for Lower Dunsforth a great black cloud could be seen hanging over Boroughbridge (our intended destination). This caused a number of riders to put on waterproof trousers, however to one of our riders this caused some difficulty requiring to call for his valet to help him dress (see photos). At Lower Dunsforth it was decided to head for Upper Dunsforth away from the dirty black cloud at Boroughbridge however our passage was blocked by the flooded road just outside Lower Dunsforth, so about turn and back to Lower Dunsforth. The black cloud must have decided it liked us and came to meet us at 30mph, causing PJ (a fit cyclist) to come to an abrupt halt. The twelve then sheltered behind a hedge whilst horizontal hail shot over the hedge above our heads. After waiting ten minutes for the storm to blow itself out, Eric, PR and JR headed home via Marton, the remaining nine heading for Boroughbridge in wind but no hail. Here the option of returning home was offered, but Dave W in confident mood said on to Ripon and the work house for tea. At Skelton on Ure in wind and rain we wondered if DW had gone a bridge too far. Soon we were in Tiffins in the warmth tucking in to beans on toast and sticky toffee pud with custard watching the rain outside change from horizontal to vertical stair rods. By the time we left the rain had ceased, however the wind was a bit indecisive some time hitting you in the face then giving you a little shove. Just outside Knaresborough the weather gods though we had got off lightly and gave us another session of wind and rain. At the road works a stupid motorist missed PB by an inch as he squeezed past and the cycle path was full of hedge trimmings, fortunately nobody puctured. Bob Shears is going in hospital for something electrical fitting (may be able to run his rear light off it?), he should be on his turbo trainer in three weeks and back on his bike in six. So very best wishes and a speedy recovery to Bob from the EG's and the rest of Wheel Easy. Max mileage around 45 miles to Ripon but a few detours.. Roll on summer the rain is warmer then. Dave P



