

Wednesday, February 27, 2013

Wednesday Rides



EG's Ride

For once the weather turned out better than the forecast but the promise of good weather was there at LowBridge for the nine riders. Here Normandemonstrated Neolithic bike technology by opening a Sram split link with a rock, real Flintstone Yaba Daba Do stuff. EG regular Bill was missing due to Janice`s illness, best wishes to Janice for a speedy recovery from the EG`s. Bob Shears is progressing well (now up to 45 mins on the turbo trainer) and hopes to join us for a chat in 2 weeks time. Richard Pugh recovering from being hit by a car, had some reading matter delivered, all on cycling. The Playboy mags will be delivered later in a brown envelope when Liz is out. Again best wishes to the above. Blue sky, sun on our backs, away to Boroughbridge, in to Tasty Snacks, in to the arms of Sonia (now theres a thought) for tea and toasted teacakes. Then in great cycling weather, sun, blue sky, hardly any wind, just cold enough to stop boil in the bag effect, on to Cundall (you missed out Bob), Rainton, Melmerby and Ripon and Spa Gardens Cafe. The sun had an effect on one EG who suggested repast should be taken on the terrace in the sun. This was ignored as the ramblings of one who had been in the sun to long. At our table for nine Terry was in good form, this had an effect on Peter B, a sort of glazed look which he retained even as he left us at Killinghall, eager for next weeks episode of Terry`s Tales. Then it was back via Studley Park, and Ripley where some of us had a comfort break. To much detail. No, all subjects had already been discussed only Bladders remained. Superb riding conditions with the promise of spring, which suppressed the G.O.M syndrome. Around 49 miles, everybody completed the full course, they had to, not having any notes from their Mum`s. Dave P



Wheel Easy Ride

Nine riders set off towards Hampsthwaite in brilliant sunshine looking forward to a sunny ride for a change. Up the steep hills of Clint Bank and Shaw Mills and on to Warsill. Bridget and Sarah left the group here to adjourn to Sophie's. The remaining 7 continued on to Risplith and then a pleasant detour through Aldfield on a road less travelled by Wheel Easy rides. A pleasant swoop through the deer park for all except Paul T who succumbed to a thorn induced puncture. The group met up for tea and cakes at Ripon Spa Gardens sitting in the pleasant sunshine it could have been summer. Cycling home we were over heating in our winter clothing, the gloves came off, still mustn't complain it was a superb ride of 41 miles. Sue C



Poddlers Ride

The Stats: -

Route: Hornbeam – Harlow Hill – military college – Hampsthwaite – Swincliffe – Clapham Green – Birstwith – Burnt Yeats – Markington (via cut throat) – Bishop Monkton (or Leonard) – Farnham – Knaresborough – Hornbeam

Distance: 28 miles (Bishop Monkton); 27 miles (Burton Leonard)

Ascent: 2,200 ft

It was a lot of climbing all in the first 10 miles of the route and all to try and fit in half a mile of new territory, namely 'Hirst Lane' between Swincliffe and Clapham Green and worth every joint jarring foot of ascent to get there. Admittedly we were blessed with one of the, if not THE best day of the year so far. Blue sky, sunshine, no wind and reasonably warm.

I have scoured the map around Harrogate to find a single bit of road within the kind of radius which the poddler group rides, that hasn't been ridden, and it's not easy. Short of going along bridleways (mountain bikes only) I think we have ridden every one, (except Hirst Lane). I found this piece of tarmac whilst doing a reconnaissance for a walk for my local U3A and thought 'I want to ride this' and yesterday's ride was to only way I could see of including it and having a good Poddler ride at the same time.

A large group of riders was out attracted no doubt by the fine weather (what am I implying) and so we split into two groups. This normally works well when the route is one we do regularly, when most people can turn on autopilot and the bike does the rest. Unfortunately I was the only one who knew the route and if you were to go by the leadership skills exhibited in the first 3 miles, even I didn't know it not that well. One group went down a bit of a blind alley at Harlow Hill and was helped out by some local knowledge, which took us through a small wooden section of mud and leaves into a private car park and then finally back onto planned route. Luckily it was the only mistake. The first 10 miles were a little 'fraught' trying to keep two groups on the unknown part of the route with only one leader, however once at Birstwith we were all back more or less onto autopilot and riding tried and tested roads (albeit the reverse way round to which we would normally ride them). We were all back by 1.30pm.

On the way round we lost a few people. Some needed to get back for other reasons and could take one of the many short-cuts back to Harrogate, and there were a few who found the hills a little too demanding coming one after the other in that first 10 miles. To them I offer my sincere apologies. I have to say that a total ascent 2,200 feet is the height of a decent sized Lakeland fell and it seemed that virtually all of the Poddlers rode up those hills without feeling the need to step off and push, which makes me wonder if we can still really be classed as 'Poddlers', however that demonstration of climbing power has also allowed me to indulge myself in planning another route covering as yet 'non poddlerised' country and reminiscent of a mountain stage of the 'Tour de France' and ultimately, dependent on my ever being asked to lead again. Thanks for staying the course, I really enjoyed the ride. Glyn

