

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Wednesday Rides



EG's Ride

Cold, but dry start to the day though the forecast was for some bad weather in mid afternoon. The dry roads and blue sky implied spring was on its way or so it seemed to the thirteen riders who gathered at Low Bridge. Last week it had been North and Spa Gardens Cafe so this week it was South and Taddy and Tykes Tearooms, and then assess the weather prospects before deciding on the next part of the route. Bob led us out at a fair old pace, leading to questions of can anybody get a pacemaker. At the bottom of Rudgate Bob left us to return home, so it was twelve for tea in Taddy. As we left our places were taken by another dozen or so riders, proving as usual that cyclists are good for business. Then on to Bramham and the cycle path to Wetherby where some of the riders had forgotten to switch off their bikes autopilots and we found ourselves in Morrisons Cafe. On the climb up to the Sicklinghall ridge , dark clouds could be seen in the distance, but the best they could do was a few half hearted attempts to hail. But we were back for around 3-00pm before anything serious weather wise could happen. Mileage around 41 miles (all dry roads) Dave P



Poddlers Ride

13/03/13 is an extremely exciting date in the Poddling and Cycling Calendar, not only is it a delightfully nearly palendromic number, it is cyclist supremo Sue W.'s biggish birthday. To celebrate the day Sue had provided us with sunny weather and no snow or rain. The planned ride for the morning catered for snow and ice and frost and arctic conditions, it was short in length and long on quality, incorporating many of the hills required by the Poddling fraternity. En route via Kirby Ovberblow to Dunkeswick, we(the sedate group) encountered a gaggle of Wednesday Wheel Easyers, searching for their first coffee stop, and a virtually empty Leeds Road which was pleasant. We sped (what am I sayingstruggled more like) up the hills from Huby towards North Rigton, passing the spectacular views of Great Almscliffe to the left and the Wharfe Valley to the right. As we headed up towards Heart Attack Hill, we caught up with the less sedate Poddlers' mending John's clogged up coggy chain problem. We had timed exactly the opening of the Black Swan and by 11.30 we were sitting having a warming coffee and pondering on what would be a good warming type of lunch. It was lovely to see Alison with her dislocations and Pete

fresh from Hospital with his personal chauffeur Lynda....who all made it to celebrate Sue's quite big birthday with a pod of Poddlers'. Thank you all a jolly morning. 22 miles. Caroline G



Wheel Easy Ride

In Poddlers style it was my turn to select a route today and in the interest of variety chose to go to Roundhay. Two left us at Kirkby Overblow to ride to Wetherby and the rest of us joined with the Poddlers who were off somewhere and then heading to a pub to celebrate a special birthday. Colin too had to be back in Harrogateso he left us at Harewood. Meanwhile Dave R and Terry had pedalled off to Ilkley. Angela found us a slightly less fearful route to the top of Weardley Bank which was quiet and pleasant and we had a great run in the sunshine to the excellent café in Roundhay Park. Armed with local knowledge Angela then steered us towards East Keswick, avoiding the fast and narrow Slaid Hill road. Arriving at Linton we thought it time that we reinstated the two café stop ritual of our rides and had lunch at North Street Deli. We saw one of the EG's who had left the rest of them at Morrisons and we tailed some of them back after leaving

Follifoot. Excellent ride, about 40 miles, good company as always and welcome back to Jon who hadn't ridden with us for a while. Gia



Arriving just as the Poddlers were setting out, I heard Roundhay mentioned as was Wetherby. Nice place Roundhay - but as I live there I hope the choice of a "splinter group" ride towards Ilkley with David R didn't offend. With David fresh from New Zealand and with his Morocco trip just up the road, some hill work was called for. A well-worn route past Stainburn Forest and Little Almscliff led to Fewston, Timble and High Snowden before the drop into Weston and Otley. Here it was Cafe/Cafe for coffee(!) and back to Harrogate as time pressed. Crossing the Wharf bridge we came across Bob, a Rough Stuff pal of David's from way back. He joined us and on the way let out that he is preparing to cycle across the US and was testing out his bike and equipment. A very chatty time followed as we headed for more climbs past the trout farm up to Bliscoeridge, thence to Burn Bridge and our various destinations in Harrogate and Knaresborough. Watching the snow from indoors later in the afternoon rounded off a good ride - 32 miles & 1970 ft of ascent, if www.Bikeroutetoaster.com can be believed.

Terry Smith