

Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

El Butler, having just returned from a training camp in the Balearic islands, willingly stood in for Dave G who was suffering from a mystery illness and thus unable to lead the Poddlers' anywhere. We lost David A who was enticed away to Masham by Richard P.....did he know what he had let himself in for...yes and I can report he returned home in one piece after a jolly 70 miles and two coffee stops. The more serious Poddlers' however had no flippant thoughts of rest and recuperation mid ride and were raring to go. About 10 riders followed once more in the speedy wheels of El Butler as he took us out of Harrogate via Hag's Lane to Spofforth, where, en route, Max and El Butler removed a large branch off the road, much to the surprise of the oblivious car drivers. We surged on to North Rigton, Cowthorpe, (possibly it did begin with C) after flying over the A1 without incident. It was lovely to see old new rider Sue D. back in the saddle, with us, after her latest successful tour of Suffolk. The sun shone and the speed was gentle and the speedy people treated the less speedy with care and consideration....The route was known but the names of the places were not necessarily remembered by the ride reporter. Cattal, Thorpe Underwood and Marton Cum Grafton seem to have figured in the route in some order and we passed a turn off to Aldwalk Bridge. After a photo call and modelling practice, Sur John swept off and Alison and Gordon picked up the pace as it was nearing midday and El Butler risked his lunch with a manly shrug of his broad shoulders and continued leading us. At last we sped through Knaresborough and up the Hill, finally leaving two people to cross the stray towards home after an extremely pleasant tour of an old route another way round and from another direction. Thank you El Butler for such an excellent ride and to an array of lovely back markers (Mike the Pink Bike, James on his Mountain bike and Max in training for snorkling down the Danube) who patiently cajoled several slower cyclists along the route. Caroline G

Wednesday Ride Report

Rain due for lunch from the west, so lets bash on there before. So with new crew Leslie, "average 12 mph" (a bit modest) and David (turns out not done more than 40 miles before) its off on a none too direct route, via Ripon Spa strawberry scone judging, then in the opposite direction to two escapees from EGs near Mickley. Terry easily persuades Dave R that an other climb into the wind over Lofthouse after Masham lunch is a good idea. The other four settle on a flat even longer return via West Tanfield and Burton Leonard bridle paths. 71m - well done especially David and chesty Ian. Richard P

A small group of us decided to go for a longer ride as we were enjoying some pleasant weather and the long daylight of June days. After an early start we rode north stopping first of all at Ripon for the compulsory coffee and cake and then worked our way through lanes and arrived at Catterick village for a picnic lunch on the picturesque green. We continued a short way on past the racecourse to see how the bridge and cyclepath built over the River Swale was looking nine months after the official opening. As you can see from the photos that Portrait Bench has a distinctly military flavour to reflect the history of the locality. Then it was homeward bound south with a tail wind, and some weary legs after 85 miles. Martin W.

En route to Masham, Richard's group passed through Grewelthorpe, where the village were having a sheepfest - sheep in mobcaps, sheep in aprons, lots of puns on "ewe" and a sheep on a bike. Our photo stop shows a creative combination of sheep, pun and promotion of "Le Tour". Well done to its creator - and to Dave and Neil who'd not long before climbed Mickley Bank (1 in 6). Our next stop was Masham for lunch, where the party divided. David R and Terry did the climb over Lofthouse Moor, recuperated with tea and a slab in Teacups and dashed down the valley road to Ripley. After this, the Greenway was peace itself, allowing a quiet end to 71 miles and 3300 ft of climbing.

Terry Smith





EGs' Ride Report

On the way down to Low Bridge I was overtaken by Richard P (well you would get overtaken) and had a brief chat, at Low Bridge the nine riders were briefly joined by Eric for a chat, then away he went for a ride with Di. Fitness is often defined as the speed of your recovery rate, with RP and EW, Wheel Easy must have some of the best. All nine were looking for something shorter this ride, some probably had hot dates, and it takes time to get your flowered shirt (open to the waist), medallion and half a pint of Brut on. On to Angelas Cafe for the first caffeine and toasted teacakes break of the day. Then on to Boroughbridge, Brafferton and Raskelf, where it took great effort to ignore the siren call of Easingwold, but the highly disciplined ?? peloton headed south to Tollerton, and still south, at the speed we were going we could have finished up in the Humber, however a sharp right turn saved us from this fate and we arrived at Benningborough Home Farm Cafe for more caffeine in the sun, soon to be joined by Eric and Di, who after their caffeine were heading for York Railway Station and home. The route back was via Aldwark Bridge with a banana break taken at Branton Green, then home via Arkendale and Farnham. It had been a good and quite fast ride, according to the high tech on Marvin`s handlebars (one of the highest average speeds we had done for a while). Max mileage around 56/57 miles. Dave P.

