

Wednesday, July 3, 2013

## Wednesday Rides

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### **Poddlers Ride Report**

8 Poddlers left the top car park at Hornbeam on Wednesday and immediately became nine as Mike joined on the back just in time. A cloudy and slightly breezy start but not cold and as the morning wore on, out came the sun (to shine on the righteous – not sure how much influence David had) and up went the temperature. The worst of Hookstone Chase was avoided by going through the Show ground where preparations are well in hand for next week including a large Ferris Wheel, passed Sainsburys, down the Stonefall cycle path and over Forest Moor to regroup at Low Bridge and exchange greetings with EGs. We progressed at a steady pace round Knaresborough and across to Farnham, Occaney and Copgrove, where the Bridleway was followed to join the Broughbridge/Bishop Monkton road and thence into Bishop Monkton. We then headed for Markington across the Harrogate/Ripon road and declined coffee at Cascade, taking instead a short banana stop. Half way between Markington and the Drovers cross roads disaster struck David, whose pedal came off, having sheared the retaining nut leaving little to re-attach it with. However with expertise of John a running repair was made and we moved on with David trying his best to cycle on his one good pedal! After one further stop to re-attach the pedal we made it to Ripley, where we split up and the main group headed home via the Greenway and Mike, David and I went for a coffee, soon to be joined by Jane and Kevin, who were out for a short spin on their own. A pleasant half was spent with them in the sun before we three likewise headed home along the Greenway. Distance approx. 28 miles and Average speed approx. 11.50 mph. Sorry no photo this week as I forget the camera and my mobile is so old it only just does calls, never mind photos!. Thanks to all who came for good company and an enjoyable ride. James G.

### **Wednesday Ride Report**

Kevin and Gia who had been to the Bivouac Centre on New Year's Eve were determined to cycle there on a nice summer's day. So today was the designated day, a fine day and a pretty good idea how to get there. Martin W gave us his Masham route via Kirby Malzeard and all was well until we got to the signs for Ilton. Our instinct told us to turn left but the almost hidden sign said right. As good citizens we followed the signs. This took us right round the Swinton estate, up and down dale, over a ford and we felt we were going round in circles. Angela did the fairy tale bit and went to see the Druids Temple, the rest of us headed for the cafe which looked ominously quiet. This was a long way not to get lunch. Kevin and I were relieved to learn that we could have soup and bread which was delicious. Malcolm arrived on a slightly more direct route which helped us decide our journey back. This meant a 1 in 4 climb but with the sun shining and about 2 miles less to cycle this was a good choice. We sped home via Grewelthorpe. Enjoyed the excellent sheep festival mentioned by Terry last week, well done to our new member Martin, it was a great ride including a stop at Fountains where Paul returned home, meeting Malcolm on his return journey. 55 miles. A great ride, hilly, demanding and fabulous views. Gia







### **Wednesday Ride Report 2**

The light westerly winds referred to in this morning's weather forecast proved to be a considerable understatement for the five who ventured towards Bolton Abbey today. To me it seemed that there were some good kite flying conditions out there, which split us into two groups for much of the ride. After Fewston, Timble, a photo stop and Askwith, William and John headed up over Langbar to face some really stiff air coming back down to Beamsley. Meanwhile David, Lesley and Terry opted for the valley road, meeting William and John on the stroke of lunchtime at Bolton Abbey Tea rooms. With the clock ticking down on John's house-viewing appointment, it was a latte lunch for him and William, who then left us for a blast homeward over Stump Cross (subject to confirmation). David, Lesley and Terry then followed a similar route after an unhurried lunch and opting for a trip through the Abbey grounds before heading for the hills up to Stump Cross with the help of a friendly tail wind. Wind assistance and the appearance of the sun made the descent from Greenhow seem like fair compensation for the struggles of the morning. Returning to town via Knox, we said our farewells and peeled off to our finishing points, with Lesley and David planning to visit Otley for the races this evening. Stats: 56 miles (to Hornbeam); 2870 ft climbed (Bikeroutetoaster).



### **EG's Ride Report**

The day started cloudy but the forecast promised better things, so we had thirteen riders at Low Bridge (we are trusting souls when it comes to the Met Office). That must apply to Wheel Easy Wednesdayers also as they were there in force at Low Bridge. Half the riders had to get back for an early bath, so Ripon was chosen as the first coffee stop, to allow some to return and some head north to the land of brigands and bandits. For the mens downhill to Occaney we had our reigning champion Dave S ( S standing for swift) back with us, but the gauntlet was thrown down by Peter R on his Synapse with similar wheels to Dave S. However the number one seed prevailed, closely followed by Colin and Peter R (who is now sending his wheels back). On the way to Ripon a text was received from Eric, from alongside the not so blue Danube telling us it was 27 degrees (and thats Celsius) and thinking of cold wet Yorkshire. However as usual things only got better and soon we were all sat in the sun at the Spa Gardens Cafe feeling sorry for Eric having to drink beir und wein (pun intended) and eat apfel strudel and thus getting fat. The "A" team consisting of Colin, Dan, two Daves, two Peters and a JR (with an extended pass out) headed north (hope you make it back chaps). The "B" team consisting of Bill, Bob, Dave P, Norman, Roy and Terry, returned via Studley Park and Ripley, where we met Kevin and Jane. Then back via the greenway in beautiful conditions (sunshine & shade), but no ice cream cart. But ice cream could have been obtained in Ripley. Demerits being awarded to the ride leader. Good riding conditions with max mileage done by Bob of around 38miles. Dave P

Relaxing outside the "Sun Palour Cafe" in the Spa Gardens after enjoying a morning scone before continuing our regular Wednesday ride I (Dave W. ) was approached by Dave S enquiring where I was next heading. Seemingly our leader was abandoning the peloton to navigate their very own route. Always happy to take up the challenge Dave W suggested that, insomuch the weather was forecast to remain good and indeed perhaps improve ,it was decided to head for the ride around "Greygarth" on Dallowgill moors. The "A" team comprising seven riders including Team Van Nicholas (John R, Dave S & Dave W.) followed the "B" team up Pateley Rd out of Ripon, peeling off towards Galphey contiuing into Winksley. A short loop was added down through Low Grantley and then we headed for Greygarth. Here we passed an unlikely looking runner who reportedly was covering the ground at a rapid 7 mph and indeed caught us up, much to our surprise at our short break at the signposted junction before desending down to Kirkby Malzard,a rapid, if not slightly scarey ride through narrow lanes strewn with loose grave & potholes. A small diversion around the back of Kirkby was made and we headed for Masham for baked beans on toast reaching our goal for lunch by 1.30pm.Here John R was assisted by some kind lady (he has all the luck) to gratefully clean out his eyes with special eye drops she seem to carry around with her. Johns eyesight restored and energy reserve replenished we headed out of Masham turning right across the bridge and after the long climb along the B6267 headed for Well down a narrow road leading through "Holly Hill". A mystery tour then ensued meadering around West Tanfield and

Thornborough where the pace quickened as we continued to Wath and Ripon. Peter R. had to break away from the group to return home early as the remaining six carried on to Sharow, Marton-Le-Moor and Boroughbridge. After a short pause we returned on our way home and a more leisurly pace reaching Knaresborough about [4.30.pm](#) having been abandoned by Colin at the top of Sandy Lane as he returned to Ripley. The weather had remained unusually good, the ad-hoc ride turned out to be varied interesting and at times exciting. Everyone seemed to have a great time. It was good compony and no doubt we'll do it all again despite the pain. 66 miles.  
Dave W.



