

Wednesday, August 28, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report.

16 Poddlers set off up Hookstone Rd and were divided into 2 groups at the traffic lights. Turning up the cycle path past Rossett School the group began forming again as one. Lady lane, Beckwithshaw and Norwood lane found us gathering at Little Alms Cliff car park where Caroline brought a message forward that Sue had sadly and unluckily abandoned with a double puncture, fortunately though, close to home. We then set off down Broad Dubb lane and Watson's lane and past the Sun Inn. Turning left after the Penny Pot turning the group weaved up to the A59 where we braved the short distance in the traffic in order to cross over to Meagill Lane. Geraldine observed that providing a short stretch of cycle lane along the A59 here would be a small but worthwhile project. What a good idea! We used the bridleway past Forest Moor Station where we were identified as "friendly" and the gates obligingly opened. Most turned right after Menwith to meander along the back lanes but some carried on the more direct route towards Hampsthwaite. After a banana stop and 'photo call our narrow lane meandering was brought to a halt by a truck blocking the lane, hedge to hedge. Behind the truck the occupants were filling pot holes using noisy machinery. Having consulted Geraldine's clever navigation app a couple of us set off with determination on a diversion route only to be called back by a more observant Max who had spotted the truck coming towards us. Back on "plan A" to Clapham Green and down to Hampsthwaite where most succumbed to the delights of Sophies' Cafe. Dennis, Liz, Steven, Keith (Welcome, hope to see you again Keith) and I chose the dubious delights of Clint Bank and the rough bridlepath to Ripley before returning home along the greenway. 27 sociable miles. Dave G



Wednesday Ride Report

This was a Bananagram day (ask Sue), with various groups peeling off in various directions once we left the farm shop at Benningborough. With some returning via Boroughbridge (to attend a Council meeting for improved cycling in our area), others with commitments at home for the afternoon, and the remainder (me included) on to Easingwold. Another peel off at Easingwold where the group photo was taken. This was by a colourful monolith in polished granite, on which was aptly written "A sweet refuge for the weary wayfarer in his sweating toil". This certainly did not relate to me, it could have related to the others, but it also refers to olden days, when there was a lot of activity in Easingwold from the coaching trade, being the first staging post on the thrice-weekly service between York and Newcastle. Thanks to Dave and Howard for leading a quick return via Boroughbrough where I stopped for refreshment, and they carried on. Another lovely cycling day. Yvonne Skelton.

Medium Ride Report-The Final Leg

After arriving at Easingwold as part of the 'Banana Ride' (see Yvonne's ride report) and realizing it was going to remain fine in the afternoon and still having some mile in our legs Sue Colin and Kevin decided to extend the ride to Coxwold.. We set off and made good progress towards our destination with great views of the White Horse (but we couldn't see Richards group!) and when we got to Coxwold the tearoom was shut so a decision was made to make for Boroughbridge for our next stop. A head wind was now blowing and this, along with the flat terrain, set Colin off on a charge and we made Borough bridge in good time to get our tea and fruit toast at the Old Foundry. From there we made for Roecliffe, along the bridleway to Copgrove and then Knaresborough and back to Starbeck with the last climb of the day. A great route, 65 enjoyable miles and well done Sue who had done the 100 miler at the weekend! Kevin



Another Ride Report

At first there were 8 who set off for the White Horse, but one succumbed to the lure of a different ride at Low Bridge - he probably joined the Beningbrough group. Pugh's Crew, therefore, comprised Lesley, husband Richard, Geoff, Neil, Marvin, Terry S and RP himself. The terrain was flat and the pace was brisk outward through Boroughbridge, over Thornton Bridge and on to Byland Abbey via Carlton Husthwaite and Coxwold. Once over A19 the pace slowed as lumps appeared in the profile. Through Oldstead to the foot of the wall, the party split into groups who could match each other's pace, with all except Geoff opting for a gasp and a gulp at the White Horse's fetlock car park. There being no ice cream van to detain us, the group made steady progress up the last ramp to the Gliding Club and our first cafe stop at 37 miles. This was lunch time! A good variety of cycling cafe food came and went: the chilli looked good and was noted for next time; the scones passed the test; the beans flowed nicely. Sadly, the mist meant there was no activity on the airfield and no views for the specatators, but the cafe was encouragingly busy. The return began with what would have been spectacular views from the ridge road to Sneck Yate Bank - but the mist kept them to itself for another day. Off the ridge, the descent to Boltby was precipitous, calling for careful breaking and a keen eye for those piles of grit on the bends. In Thirsk, Richard took us on an innovative route through the arch of the Golden Fleece coaching inn and out to Sowerby using a handy cycle path. Nice one! Interestingly, the Golden Fleece sports a CTC plaque on its front wall - but there's nothing on CTC's website, sadly. Sowerby showed some fine elegant properties fronting on to the long green and was noted as another place to return to for a look round. Once into the vale, the tempo picked up again through Dalton, Topcliffe, Cundall and Norton-le-Clay. Sub-groups formed with Terry and Neil providing mutual support at

the back of the bus. Richard broke a spoke somewhere en route to Boroughbridge which allowed a re-grouping. His wobbly wheel had been rubbing the rear brake for a good many miles, so he could have been even quicker. Tea was taken at Morrison's in Boroughbridge, where three EGs were doing likewise. After tea, it was back to Knaresborough via the usual route, with farewells to Lesley and Richard and a gradual dwindling of numbers to leave Terry and Neil completing a full and interesting day at Rossett and Panal respectively. Milages will have been in the range 75-80 miles, with average speeds of at least 13.5 mph. Ideas for next week's Pugh's cruise are needed on an electronic postcard, please. Terry S.

EG's Ride Report

Due to our leader being away on a Saga Coach tour, our deputy leader took on the role. An excellent turnout, considerably brightened up by Eric, who had brought along his daughter Michelle, the promise of good weather, and a route which was a secret most of the day, all boded well for our day out. A splendid route out, taking in Scriven, Brearton, Bedlam, and other places we had never visited, brought us to Risplith ice cream parlour for a spot of refreshment. (I know I said I would remember where we'd been, but it's a bit hazy now). Further pleasant lanes and hills, not seen by most of us before, brought us to West Tanfield, for a warm and enthusiastic reception at the "open all hours" shop, where we enjoyed a cup of tea and a bun. We'd covered the Syria crisis, the HS2 fiasco, the general level of incompetence of our government, (who exactly was it who authorised the purchase of those duff probes for checking the undersides of vehicles?). Cost £10000.00 each those. We'd mulled over Rob's forthcoming epics across America, and round New Zealand; we'd fixed loose saddles and slow punctures, speculated on the sources of creaks and clicks on each other's bikes, and generally solved most of the World's current problems. Rode home via Melmerby, Boroughbridge and Minskip. A great day out. Thanks for excellent company from those mentioned above, and also John R, Theo, Nick (I knew that beard would be gone soon), Scottish John, Norman & Terry, Peter J, and Rob. I cannot think there is a better way of spending a Wednesday. Dave S.