

Wednesday, September 11, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

Here is the Poddlers' Ride Reports for 11th Septembera memorable day for more than one reason. For Wednesday riders it became notable due to our change of meeting venue from the top car park at Hornbeam to the middle (Sunday) car park at Hornbeam and for the new era of listening to where we are going and who is leading which ride in a polite and orderly fashion! Well.... we can hope. Having been instructed in the new system the Poddlers set off. The group of faster riders following Sir Gallahad Perry - Lamb rescuer supremo, on a nicely grouped gallop to Low Bridge, Copgrove, Roecliffe, Boroughbridge, and a variety of places east of Whixley. The Slower Poddlers followed a respectable few wheel lengths behind, and regrouped at Low Bridge, having greeted the EG's including Dave P looking unrecognisable but devastating as ever out of lycra in normal clothes. The faster group zoomed off and presumably returned without mishap or disasters, after 40 miles. The slower group continued, meeting Malcolm who had lost his bottle top, sending fast Rachel, who had just finished the End to End doing 110 miles per day and the Way of the Roses in two days, off on an extra loop, ending up meeting her at the perfect moment, in Boroughbridge, for a coffee break. We went to Suzanne's friend's café and saw some super pictures Suzanne had done. I still like Tasty Snack value, where we noted the EG's scoffing a pre lunch lunch. After the coffee things returned to normal..... we lost Rachel and Julie, as I did not turn the right way and my fellow cyclists insisted that they were just ahead, as did the horse riders riders I interrogated. The saintly two went the correct way, waited for the main group at the banana bench in Lower or Upper Dunforth (there is the clue to why we all got lost), and then returned to find us on the road from Boroughbridge, thus adding 6 plus miles to their odometers and finally deciding to return home having covered 40 miles. We were less thoughtful and decided Rachel knew the way and Julie could cope with anything, and we headed homeward. Sarah decided she needed strawberries so as she reached Knaresborough rushed towards the market, thus new Michelle, Suzanne the painter, Jane and I were left to scale the heights of Knaresborough in the pouring rain. So much for being back before the downpour. 34 almost autumnal, wind free miles. Caroline G



Wednesday Ride Report

Today saw the start of a new era of Wednesday starts from Hornbeam. Due to the ever increasing numbers we have "moved" to the Sunday morning car park, welcomed new members and announced the leaders and their routes. On some days there can be as many as four or five different rides. Today there were five rides at varying paces. Four of us noted the weather forecast

so a quick ride to Oliver's Pantry in Ripon was the choice, via Knaresborough and Lingerfield. We were able to park our bikes in the garden, sit outside until the pitter patter of rain began. It was not the downpour promised so at Burton Leonard, Gia and Malcolm left Paul and Darren who went directly back to Harrogate while we meandered through the Mountgarret Estate, chatted with a friendly local, explored Nidd and the Caravan Park where the owners have provided a safe route across a field for their customers to access Ripley and the Greenway. Then we stopped at the butcher in Ripley to buy tomorrow's dinner. Very helpful and friendly chaps in there. Home in the rain but a good ride. 32 miles. Gia M

Four of us set off at a decent pace via Knox, Hampsthwaite, Birstwith, Darley and Dacre. We then took a left for the long drag up past Heyshaw and on to Yorke's Folly where Chris peeled off back to Harrogate to attend to domestic duties. Great views at the top as usual before the lower cloud rolled in followed by the winding descent into Pateley and a welcome cup of tea at the Market Cafe. The promised rain started as we exited the Cafe so Dave suggested we head home down the valley on the main road. The rain never really got going so it was a return via Hampsthwaite where Dave and Andy departed as we went our separate ways. 35 miles, 2900ft of climbing at an average speed of 13 mph. Geoff H

EGs' Ride Report

The forecast was light rain, possibly heavy. Only six EGs gathered together with honorary EG, Dan, to venture into the unknown. A brief glimpse of our usual leader, in "civies" was spotted. Enquiries revealed that his wife, Celia, was in A&E following a fall. We wish them both all our best wishes and trust that Celia makes a swift recovery. First stop was to see Sonia at Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge and decide which direction to follow bearing in mind the impending rain. Bob, Norman & Roy abandoned us from this point and the remaining four carried on south, duly clad in waterproofs, through Dunsforth, Ouseburn etc. heading via Thorpe Arch to Wetherby. The weather slowly deteriorated and by the time we reached our late lunch break at 1.45pm in Wetherby, Morrison's of course, we were getting quite wet. Here Dan had the most enormous late "breakfast" including what looked like a icecream sundea, which he duly finished off first before the "full monty" arrived. (Oh for a picture!!). By the time we had finished, the rain still beating down, we had decided enough was enough, and headed home through Knaresborough. Despite the conditions we completed 43 miles, albeit Theo headed for an extra loop via Lingerfield etc. to increase his distance to the obligatory 50. Well done all the riders for sticking it out despite the conditions. Dave W.