

Wednesday, September 25, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

7 poddlers made up the advance party with the remainder being led by Liz (Thanks Liz). We left Harrogate via Whinney lane and Lady lane. Through Beckwithshaw then the steady climb to Little Almscliffe. The compact group of riders swept down the hill and along Watsons lane. Right to pass the Sun Inn and Penny Pot lane then left down and up Bedlam lane. Across the A59 and along Meagill lane and the Forest Moor bridlepath where the electric gates were not able to match our pace, opening after we had passed them. Past Menwith Hill turning right to trickle around the back lanes to Clapham Green where we dropped down to Hampsthwaite and waved Alison off on her return via Knox Bridge. James and Mike were keen to return via Ripley for a last sample of tea and cakes at the church for the final opening of the year. With this incentive we set off up Clint Bank and headed for Shaw Mills where we turned right along Law lane and then dropped down Whitley Bank shortly arriving in Ripley. No sign yet of Liz's group who were also believed to be heading for the cakes at Ripley. A pleasant, uneventful 30 miles. Dave G



Retro Poddlers Ride Report

After an extremely orderly start, the poddlers' left a mixed group of riders deciding what to do, and went to another bit of car park where leader Dave G. gave our out routes before setting out with a group of faster ersatz poddlers', and Liz, exhausted by a weekend following Richard up Tan Hill and the Buttertubs, led a determinedly retro rider and five others up to Rossett and onwards towards Beckwithshaw.....where we met George D en route for Greenhow Hill , who let slip Sue was still in bed asleep and certainly not cycling. We continued at a very demure gentle pace, chatting happily up to Little Almscliff, singing towards the Sun Inn and prattling onto Penny Pot Lane. Two invalids (well that's what they said they were) left for home with Nurse Keogan, and four carefree ladies cavorted down to near Fewson and right to the A59 and the RAF place which is also some sort of school. The barrier of which, was, as ever, used as a training rail for our ballet moves....essential for any cyclist obviously. After Menwith Hill Liz turned right and took us on a magnificent magical mystery tour devised by Dave G. It seemingly went down hill for several miles and then mysteriously ended up (without ups) at the top of Clapham Green ready for another down hill to Hampsthwaite. We were rewarded by the excellent climb at our own paces up Clint Bank to Holly Bank Lane and despite a bumpy ride to Ripley an extremely pleasant meeting in church with a charming group of lycra boys (James, Steve, Mike the Bike) devouring coffee and cake along with the ladies of Ripley. Geraldine and Joe then joined us and despite the retro nature of the group (poddlers' don't stop for coffee) we found it hard to drag ourselves away, after an

hour of gossip and chat in the cocoon of loud organ music and evocative church smells. However the Greenway made the final part of the tour a continued joy, all arriving home late having had a very pleasant gentle retro ride. Thank you for your company and forbearance. 30 miles ish. CG



Pugh Crew Ride Report

Richard piloted seven riders away from Hornbeam with How Stean in their sights. With no takers for the track over the moor from Laverton to Ramsgill, the group followed a route through Ripley to Warsill, Brimham and the moors road to Wath. The descent to Wath included steep gradients, gravel patches and drainage trenches with granite setts, all of which were a trial for brakes, wrists and wheels. After Wath, flat roads took us up Nidderdale to How Stean cafe for the now customary early lunch at about 11.45. The menu at the cafe is limited but consistent, especially if you're into chips. Ask Richard to tell you about "everlasting" coffee. Our photo captures the eager anticipation of the tea prelude. Apparently, the group sat behind us with charts and laptops were planning their holiday in the area next year. We were approached by one of the group asking where he could hire 50 bikes! The best we could come up with was "start at Stiff Cycles and ask directions from there". Let's hope it works out. With the meal over, the world put right again and all teapots drained, it emerged that Yorke's Folly was on the agenda for the return journey, causing some trepidation for Lesley and Terry but we'd have to tackle it sometime and the weather was benign, if rather muggy. Richard left us at the Heathfield turn before Pateley, heading off to his WEA course on industrial archaeology and sending us on our way with a cheery "enjoy Yorke's Folly". Or was it "enjoy Your Folly"?! On past Teacups in Pateley - how odd not to call in - the Folly began. For Lesley and Terry (at least) it was their debut climb, achieved slowly but with great satisfaction at the end. The advice is right, the Folly does give you a recovery spell before next the kick up of the gradient. After the climb it had to be cake! This split the group at Padside, where Andy, Jeff and Martin made back to Harrogate via Meagill Lane, Cobby Syke Road, Bedlam Lane and Pennypot Lane. Lesley, Marvin and Terry headed for Ripley to sample the last cakes of the season as part of a MacMillan Coffee Morning. Tea drunk and cakes eaten, a brief chat with the staff confirmed that the stall would not be opening again until the spring. Back to Harrogate along the Greenway, we bade our farewells after 50 miles and 2450 ft ascent. Excellent stuff. Terry S



EG's Ride Report

We had sixteen riders at Low Bridge including Eric and Peter B fresh from their jolly japes in the Pair O` Knees where they OD`ed on sun bloc and a guest appearance from Di just to make sure Eric returned home and did not head for the nearest port and Euroland. Quite a few riders needed short rides or easy rides so the first coffee stop was Spa Gardens cafe and then take it from there. After calories and caffeine, Chris and Stuart headed for Studley Park, another group led by ?? the two Daves headed (watch this space) and a leisurely group consisting of Dave P, Di, Eric, Michael, Norman, Peter B, Roy and Theo headed south for Skelton-on-Ure and Boroughbridge where Di, Eric and PB hit Morrisons cafe. The remainder heading for home and an early bath. Best wishes to Theo, who has had " a bit of a turn" as EG`s are prone to do, do take things steady and remember you are not going for the clubs 25 mile TT record. A very pleasant relaxing ride as is needed every now and again. Dave P





EG's A Team Ride Report

Of the sixteen riders partaking of elevenses at the "Sun Parlour", Spa Gardens, following Dave P's announcement of an "early bath" (retuning to base early), seven stalwart E.G's glanced in Dave W. direction seeking guidance as to where to head next. "Lets appoint Dave W. as leader" was shouted by someone!!!! Without a do we were pointed north towards Hutton Conyers & Wath. Here we were coaxed onto a new route via Gallow Hill House and onward to Sutton Howgrave. a village not before visited. After some head scratching & ref to a rather small scale map we managed to navigate our way through the maze of roads around the village green to lead us onward to Kirklington and Carthorpe. A brisk pace was adopted to Well via the Camp Hill Plantation whereupon the pace slowed considerably to follow the mile long climb up Holly Hill. Lunch was taken in Masham where Dan topped up his energy reserves with a two course brunch comprising fried egg & sausage sandwich followed by a cheese & tomato paninni. Most of us were aghast as to how he was able to consume so many calories and still remain slime, notwithstanding the extensive cycling mileage he covers. Retracing our route up hill we pushed on to West Tanfield &

then towards Mickley on the A 6108 where Dave S left us to scamper off home alone with a prior engagement. The remaining six, Peter J. Phil, Glynn, Colin, Dan & Dave W. continued towards Mickley, turning off 2nd left intending to take in Kirkby Malzard. However @ Azerley Park Dave W. admitted he'd "hit the wall" and regretfully was forced to abandon plans for the remainder of the afternoon and head off home the easier road through Ripon. Five members were encourage to continue but the general consensus seemed to take a direct course back to Harrogate the shortest route via Winksley and Fountains Abbey. All in all the ride in dry cool and windless conditions went well and all appear to have enjoyed themselves with the usual 'banter' and 'mickey taking'. Estimated mileage completed by the 'A' Team would be around the mid 60s. :- Dave W.