

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride Report

One group of Poddlers' was going to be too large, therefore, our leader Paul B. sorted out two groups then set off at the speed of light towards the Mount Garret estate. Four ladies who were more interested in chat rather than chains and churning out the miles were left with the rest of the Wheel Easy Wednesday people...WEWPS, and new to Wednesdays Tim, and our on tour mechanic, to finally set off several seconds after the others. By the time Marish had had her chain breakage Paul's group had reached Ripley; by the time we reached the confused Sustrans surveyors on the Greenway, they were 30 minutes ahead; by the time we met Jane, enticed out by our passing through Killinghall, they had probably reached Copgrove; and by the time Jane left us and we had been reunited with the weak bladder brigade mainly our tour mechanic and his helper, they were probably home. Sadly for Tim there were no coffee stops due to lack of cafes en route, and as we powered up Knaresborough hill, the speedy Poddlers' would have finished their jobs in Knaresborough and have completed making lunch for any passing cyclists that may pop in. With an afternoon of things to do, Tim headed off towards Oatlands, Monica to accompany a daughter to a hospital x-ray, the on tour mechanic and his new daughter Jen to go to see the Lego film at the cinema and Caroline to muck out the house after a family invasion. Thank you to all for playing so nicely and in particular our on tour mechanic. About twenty sedate miles (did we miss a bit out), in pleasant conditions. Caroline G

Ten blokes, no birds, set off for Ripley via the Greenway only to be held up by a Sustrans survey which will no doubt confirm the wonderfulness of it all.

Big John left us at Ripley for the wonders of Fountains, leaving the rest to go through a rougher-than-expected Mountgarret estate to Burton Leonard. Thence to Staveley, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Farnham to Knaresborough. When the leader turned into Bar Lane there was mutiny, or at least several feeble excuses not to go that way (some of the poor dears probably didn't want to get their bikes dirty!). About 25 miles on a pleasantly mild February day. Paul B

Wednesday Ride Report

I guess there must have been between forty and fifty Wheel Easy riders out today enjoying the good weather forecast for the day.

Nice to welcome new members to the Wednesday ride and a very special guest from London!

Thirteen of us rode to Ripon with a short stop to mingle with the EG's at Low Bridge.

We split in to two cafes in Ripon to spread the load and met afterwards to return via the splendid Deer Park. Our leader Martin then shepherded us along Hollybank Woods which is almost complete and is a treat.

About 37 miles, a great ride in spring like weather, we saw lots of snowdrops, our first sight of daffodils and lots of winter aconites. Gia M



EGs' Ride Report

A good forecast and not a bad day to start with meant it was a good turn-out for Wheel-Easy. A large number of riders could be seen in Hornbeam and lots of cheery waves on the road down to Low Bridge indicated that all riders were looking forwards to a good days cycling. We had a good turn out of fifteen EG`s at Low Bridge, soon to be joined by a solitary Martin W, however he was only a precursor to a large number of W-E Wednesdayers. So time for a club photo. Then away went the W-E Wednesdayers on Waterside, followed by the EG`s heading for Spa

Gardens Cafe in Ripon. The fifteen riders split in to faster and slower groups at Farnham just to stop us all arriving at the same time and making the queue for caffeine and calories reach outside the door.

After sustenance, a group comprising Bob S, Dave Watson, John R and Roy (nice to see you back after along lay off Roy, hope you enjoyed the day). headed for home. The remainder headed North to Wath where the EG Superstars comprising Colin P, Dave Wilson, Eric, Marvin, Peter J and Peter R continued North towards Kirklington. The EG`s Elder Statesmen comprising Bill, Dave P, Michael, Norman and Terry W, hung a right and headed for Melmerby, Baldersby St James, Asenby and Cundall (sorry you missed this Bob). On to Norton-Le-Clay and Boroughbridge, where Norman succumbed to the siren calls from Tasty Snacks and took us to see the fair Sonia. for afternoon tea. After which it was back to Harrogate via Staveley and Farnham. A nice steady flattish ride in good conditions, though sometimes the roads, not wet but could be somewhat clattered up from the fields Mileage between 48 - 50 miles. Dave P





A promising weather forecast brought out many more cyclists than last week's blank sheet and the role call of rides was back to normal. Six of us set off for the Wharfedale circuit led by David R. Drizzle and an unhelpful breeze accompanied us through Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliff to Swinsty and Fewston. Then came the start of the day's climbing with a tester to Timble and High Snowden. Regrouping at Askwith, David put out feelers for the Langbar loop, but could only get one taker at first (Phil). Firm cajoling brought Martin into the frame for his first go at the loop. Meanwhile Lesley, Richard S and Terry opted to stay low along the bottom road to Bolton Abbey Tearooms, where the party regrouped for an early lunch - well, it would have been early, but today the service proved unusually slow. An effect of half term maybe? Conversations were once again wide-ranging covering the placebo effect of cornflour capsules for performance cyclists, appropriate management styles in South Yorkshire and the pleasures, personal and social, of having a mini JCB. We did have to wait a while for lunch to arrive! After lunch the group split naturally into two halves to reflect the pace desired. David, Phil and Martin pushed on after Bolton Abbey and I trust they arrived home safely. Richard, Lesley and Terry set their sights firmly on Stump Cross tearoom as reward for the climbs. Duly rewarded, it was with a helpful breeze but still rather threatening skies that we made the long descent from Greenhow to Menwith and thence to Hampsthwaite, Knox and Bilton. After so many wet rides since 1st Jan, it was a joy to spend most of the day in the dry, to see the signs of spring and to hear of summer cycling plans and preparatory training rides. Mileages will have been in the mid 50s for most of the group, but Lesley and Richard will have topped out with 60 plus by the time they got back to K'boro. Well done to them on their first Weds ride of the year - quite a stiff test after a two-month break. Terry S

