

Wednesday, March 5, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Unofficial WE Ride Report.

Today we celebrated with Sue C back on her bike after a three month break. In order to ease her in gently, Malcolm, Gia and Paul took her on a tour of the new cycle paths built during the time of her enforced break. We met the very happy group of Poddlers winging their way through Hollybank Woods and exchanged good cheer. Gia

### Poddlers Ride Report

14 Poddlers set off on the 'Appleyard ride the cycleways route'! Through the streets of Harrogate and down to the Asda cycle path we swept, eventually arriving at Knox bridge. After negotiating the main road, we swooped into Hampsthwaite (too early for Sophie's and anyway James wasn't with us) and up Clint Bank, leaving John and Gordon helping Dennis mend a puncture. We turned into the new cycleway back to Ripley, passing other 'Wheeasyers' going in the opposite direction. Next cyclepath was the Greenway, with John departing at the end of it to do a spot of taxiing. On to Beryl Burton and along the river through Knaresborough, losing Dennis to his lunch appointment. The final part of the ride was through Little Ribston, Spofforth and Follifoot, saying 'Goodbye' to Steve at this point. At Crimple Beck, Sue and Alison sped through the amber traffic lights, whilst Caroline and I adhered to the rules and stopped!!! Riders then went their merry ways home, with Alison and Geraldine sampling the last bit of cycle path back to Hornbeam with Glyn and I. 28 miles on a lovely Spring day. Jen



### Medium Ride Report

Having made the schoolboy error of being absent the week before I arrived and found I had become the nominated Ride Leader for the week! With a short discussion with James and other a route out to Boroughbridge then looping round to Wetherby was decided. So 15 (!) riders set off, including Liz who had decided to give the medium ride a go this week from the Poddlers. We made our way to Low Bridge and our usual banter with the EG'S before striking out for Boroughbridge via Farnham and Staveley. At Boroughbridge an early coffee break was spurned (some would later say this was a mistake) and we set off to the Dunsforth's before gathering at Great Ouseburn for

the customary group photo. We then made for Thorpe Underwood, past Whixley, where we decided not to call into Chris's house as we thought it might be a shock to his wife when a group of cyclists turned up looking for coffee and cake! We made our way to Cattal and then on the Thorpe Arch and a coffee stop at the 'Garden Centre' café which was able to accommodate such a large number ( having used my leader veto on Morrison's). I was roundly reminded that 30 miles was a long way to coffee but this was preparation for the longer summer rides (that was my excuse!). After a good break we set off on the cycle path to Wetherby and then made our way back on the hilly route via Sicklinghall, Kirby Overblow and then through Showground and back to Hornbeam via the new cycle path which was declared a great surface but hillier than the previous road route. This was, too most riders, there longest ride of the year at 46 miles and everyone helped out in making sure we all made it back! Thanks to James for back marking most of the route and to all those who did not complain bitterly when coffee was so far away. Without doubt the rider of the week was Liz who completed her first ride with the group with a big smile and who tackled the hills at the end without complaint which was more than some did. Great company and a good ride in good weather and not too much wind. Thanks to everyone for putting up with the instant route planning on the day. It will be better next week after I got Angela to take on the Ride Leader role next week – a great result at the end of an enjoyable day. Kevin.



### **EGs Ride Report**

Another spring day, cloudy but dry, and the rising sap and the promise of good weather brought eighteen riders to Low Bridge all eager for a good one. Welcome back to Peter B who has had a bit of a lay off (good time for bike cleaning ?) anyway your dry sense of humour was missed, and also Theo back from a long holiday in exotic parts. Also a welcome to Jill of the hills who came to add a bit of class to the pelaton. First stop of the day Angela`s cafe arriving in two groups to avoid queuing and cafe shock. After emptying the cafe of toasted teacakes it was on to Grafton, Lower Dunsforth, Boroughbridge, Brafferton and finally Easingwold where now seventeen riders wedged themselves in to the Bakery Cafe. This certainly was cafe shock. After lunch Nine riders headed back for home via Aldwark Bridge, the remaining eight (now thats maths for you) headed southish for Huby, Stockton-on-the-Forest, Wiggington, Shipton and Benningborough, where the Tete le

Course (Eric and Peter B) suddenly made a left and entered the home farm cafe for afternoon tea. Three cafe stops ! this is unusual even for the EG`s. It is here that apologies must be made to Jill. Minscule hills, three cafe stops, and cafe conversation. If we had been YG`s, the conversation would have been about girl friends and good nights out, however being EG`s it was all about ailments and medicaion (so sorry Jill). Anyway here`s a nice photo of Jill with three Peter`s to her left, and three Dave`s to her right. Returning via Aldwark Bridge and Branton Green, (on this route a banana break is usually taken at Branton Green, who would dare suggest it ?). On to Farnham and home in good spring weather, despite the wind being a bit naughty, but the pelaton looked after the EEG, for whom the 67/68 mileage was the highest of the year. Dave P.

### **(Very) Long Ride Report**

I knew that Hawnby would be picturesque in any spring sunshine that was on offer, that it would have a welcoming cafe, that it would mean some fearsome climbs and that it would be a long ride. There were no disappointments on any of these!

With Richard P at the helm, flat riding took the Sacres and Terry S through Boroughbridge, Asenby/ Topcliffe, Dalton, Bagby, A172 and on to Sutton-under-Whitestonecliffe. Residents of this village probably need a rubber stamp when filling in forms by hand! En route we paused to admire a 1965 Ford Zephyr 4 in excellent condition, now used for weddings it seems. But for our generation it will always be associated with Z Cars and that jaunty tune!

The lanes through Thirlby and on to Boltby gave us a mild introduction to going uphill after 30 miles of flat riding and then it was on to the big one - Sneck Yate Lane. At this point in the season, none of us made it all the way without some pushing and walking, but we all made it up the last incline to pause at a Tesco van at the top, where the driver was having a break. Without mentioning the walking, we all accepted the driver's congratulations.

The top of Murton Bank provided the expected picture postcard view of Hawnby in spring sunshine, lifting the spirits - as did the prospect of a downhill run to the village shop and tearoom (or troom as the sign said). Four hungry cyclists must have seemed like good trade, for village shop conversation ceased and orders were taken. Although chilly in the tearoom - not enough trade yet to light the fire - the beef burgers were succulent and delicious.

The return up Murton Bank was inauspicious as Lesley suffered a rear-wheel puncture. Although the source was a mystery, Richard S soon had the job done. As we grunted up Murton Bank a very considerate driver waited at the top and offered cheery words as we passed. Thank you, Sir. Sutton Bank visitor centre offered the chance of a track pump for Lesley's rear tyre, but to no avail as the bike shop was shut. From there we took the A172 down Sutton Bank - a rather scary few minutes followed until we were back on lanes to Bagby.

The rest of the homeward leg retraced the morning route, with the exception of an unintentional loop from Dalton. But the cost was not great. An unhelpful and increasingly chilly head wind made the ride a slog, with no opportunity for a cafe stop as the late afternoon wore on. The group split at Staveley, when a recovery break became essential, while Richard P and Terry pressed on to meet domestic deadlines.

We all finished after 6.00 pm, a little late perhaps, but with the satisfaction that we'd got 75 to 80 miles in the legs so early in the season, Our thanks to Richard P for a good challenging day. Terry S

