

Wednesday, March 12, 2014

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers' Ride Report

After two spring like days Wednesday started dull and cold, but hopes were up for an improvement as the day went on and the day started well with photographs for the Ackrill Press. Unfortunately it then went downhill immediately for me after a slight brush with Dave P left me with a jammed rear wheel, but with mechanics Dave, Glynn and Jo on hand I was soon roadworthy again – many thanks to them. With a somewhat delayed start the bulk of the Poddlers set off after John, Steve, Dave and the fast lead group, but with no hope of catching them! I hope they enjoyed a good ride. The main party progressed through Harrogate, along the Greenway, through Hollybank Wood (wow what a great difference!) and then tackled some hilly bits through Clint, Shaw Mills, Bishop Thornton and into Markington. Caroline's desire to turn right in Markington which would have brought us into Wormald Green, was resisted and we went left to Cascade Garden Centre and Bishop Monkton, where Dennis, John, Jen and the two Alisons departed for a more direct return to Knaresborough and home. This left me with six lovely ladies to escort through Roecliffe to Boroughbridge and a welcome cafe stop. The remaining seven of us, hopefully pictured in Boroughbridge if this report marries up with the photo coming courtesy of Gillian and Caroline, then returned home in lovely sunshine via Minskip, Staveley, and Knaresborough. Thanks to all who came and particularly to Sue for doing a great "sweeper" job and my apologies to all for the late start. James G

Wednesday Ride Report

Eight riders set out heading for Pateley in the mist this morning. However the mist was quick to clear and we were bathed in spring sunshine as we rode up through Thruscross to Greenhow Hill. Before heading down the hill into Pateley we lost Gia, Paul and Sue who headed back for afternoon commitments and probably a quick stop at Hampsthwaite. The remainder of us continued down for refreshments and chatter in Pateley where we were soon left by Martin who had a plane to catch to Australia but hadn't yet packed and felt it prudent to hasten back. Suitably refreshed

Sarah, Colin, Chris and myself headed back the " flat way " via Glasshouses, Dacre, Burnt Yates to return into Harrogate on the Greenway. 41 miles in glorious sunshine. Angela

Paul, Sue and Gia turned back from Angela's magnificent ride out along Duck Street to Greenhow where we returned in glorious sunshine to Hampsthwaite. We passed the EG's who were heading out towards Greenhow and settled in at Sophie's after her three week holiday. Home after a 40 mile great ride. Thanks Angela, sorry we missed Pateley! Gia



EGs Ride Report

The weather forecast said it would be very sunny, however at 9-00am in Harrogate it was cold, damp and misty. But despite that we had sixteen riders ready to go at Low Bridge. Another part of the forecast said be careful on the roads in the York area , because of poor visibility, but a report from Colin P told us that the sun was shining in Darley. So to head in a westerly direction seemed a good idea, so why not Stump Cross Caverns Cafe for coffee ?. This decision was finalised by a bit of enthusiastic effort on Bill W` s seat post bolt which caused it to shear. So Bill would head for Spa Cycles, directly, the rest via a longer route on the cycle path, just in case there was a problem and it took some time to fix. Bill was sorted, then it was on to Knox (where the sun was shining) and Hampsthwaite. The word on the street said Sophie`s was closed, but Roy and Theo had already decided to take a break at Darley. On past Menwith and the climb to Greenhow in perfect cycling weather (blue sky and a slight chill) with the magnificent scenery looking its best. The cafe was open despite some doubts that it might not be, (the lemon cake being especially delicious). After caffeine and calories, Eric and a fit group headed down into Wharfedale, which is a great ride made even better by such a day. Norman took a small group to look at a big hole in the ground. The remainder headed back to Harrogate at a cracking pace, on the ridge, perfect cycling conditions, and a big wow factor, and it still looked misty over towards the plain of York. The straight returners arriving in Harrogate sometime before 3-00pm with something like 46/48 miles in their wheels. You don't get many days with weather like today, but here`s hoping. Dave P.



Supplementary Ride Report

After lunch at Stump Cross Caverns, Peter R, Dan and I decided that we should make the best possible use of the good weather and return via wonderful Wharfedale. We descended from Stump Cross to Appletreewick, then Bolton Abbey, Beamsley, Ilkley, Askwith Bank, Fewston, and Beckwithshaw. Wharfedale is beautiful even in the poor weather conditions, but today it was truly outstanding, enhanced by a mystical quality in the light conditions with blue skies, sunshine and a little bit of haze. We were continuously commenting about just how good it was that we ran out

of superlatives. We arrived home at 5pm after 62 amazing miles. This was undoubtedly my best ride since climbing Mont Ventoux last September. Eric

The Timblers – a story of cycling folk

The second Wednesday of the month means only one thing to some members of Wheel Easy: the Timble cake fest. Six riders set off through chilling mist, wondering if and when the sun would break through. There had been tales from the east of day-long mists which meant that the best options would be to head west and to climb. Mercifully, the rise to Little Almscliff was sufficient to see off the mist and promise a perfect day. The volunteers at Timble coffee mornings are always generous in their welcome and attentive in service and today was no exception, with two refills of cakes and drinks, as well as confessions that the sausage rolls hadn't turned out as hoped! We were asked some challenging questions by one of the volunteers who seemed to have been the victim of inconsiderate behaviour by cyclists. The debate began with bells – are they compulsory these days? Why don't cyclists use them? An underlying factor seemed to be a resentment at cyclists "making me jump" when approaching from behind. It was clear that a small incident had coloured a broad view of all cyclists, which reminded us of the twin duties of care and consideration that all road users are required to exercise. Once outside the hall, we engaged in an act of affirmation, with all of us sounding our bells!

After Timble the group split with four opting for a direct return home and things to do in the afternoon. Stuart and Terry set off to enjoy the sun and scenery over Low Snowden, then to Askwith and Otley. Resurfacing works had closed Farnley Lane to traffic near the bridge, but allowed us the rare treat of cycling two abreast towards Farnley on an empty road. For one day only, I suspect. Castley Lane, Weeton and Dunkeswick took us to the A61 for the Kirkby Overblow turn, where we met a Range Rover driver with the twin qualities mentioned earlier, who kindly and visibly slowed, allowing us to make the right turn. At the Netherby turn Stuart headed home while Terry set off for a gentle ride to Boston Spa for lunch and an afternoon spent watching the sun lighting the countryside in a gentle glow, picking out the stone buildings in a heat haze (well, nearly).

Returning via the Showground and the new link to the improved bridleway to Hornbeam, lifted the spirits immeasurably – many thanks to those who have campaigned for the link and the upgrading. However, the sign at the top of the climb past the cattle grid seems to point straight ahead, whereas the path is to the left. The Sheffield stands are impressive, if lonely at this stage of the plan.

Thanks to Richard P, Lesley and Richard S, Stuart and Keith for their contributions to a memorable spring day. Terry Smith