

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

A fine morning greeted us at Hornbeam but forecasting cloudy and rain by late afternoon. A large number of Poddlers were keen to set off so split into smaller groups while riding through town to pick up the greenway, regrouping in Ripley and a quick count indicated 18 Poddlers. On we went up hill towards Fountains but turning off to Markington for a welcome downhill stretch, over the A61 to Bishop Monkton where we doglegged through the village to enjoy the daffodils. At Boroughbridge we regrouped in the car park after puncture repair and split into two groups, those wishing to have a coffee stop and a few others to be lead straight back by me. We returned home via Marton, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Knaresborough 33miles in total in very pleasant weather. Thanks to James for his assistance picking up the rear. Steven Perry



Wednesday Ride

Paul, Sue, John and Stuart were pleased to welcome Kevin back on his bike after an enforced lay off. Ripon via Bishop Monkton was the destination with Costa being the cafe of choice toasted tea-cakes the new discovery . After an interesting discussion about the Tour, with Kevin sharing some excellent inside information the group split up for the return home. Paul and John were up for a hilly ride through Fountains the rest opted for the steady flatter option. We caught up with the Poddlers who had worked much harder than us and with the wind behind finished a pleasant and sunny ride of about 34 miles. Sue C





EG's Ride

A short report and a short (for some) ride. We had nine riders and a funny sort of weather forecast (will it, or wo`nt it ?). Consultations with our sailors on the wind direction and its consistency.

Angela`s or Morrisons ? was the question, Morrisons said Bill, without defining which Morrisons, causing some to head for Wetherby, but Boroughbridge it was.

The downhill championship (in the absence of Dave Wonderwheels Siswick) was open. Today it

went to Bob S, with a very good performance by Norman (in spite of bar bag), cunningly slipstreaming the faster guys.

Morrison's was on form again with the toasted teacakes arriving before we had taken our seats. After caffeine and calories Bob S and Dave P headed for Roecliffe, Copgrove and home.

Remaining magnificent seven were left to decide between Easingwold and Ripon. For the two on a short leave pass, no rain, moderate wind dry roads and some sun.

Brilliant.

Best wishes from the EG`s to Dave Watson recovering from a chest infection, hope to see you soon Dave. Good luck to Eric on holiday in the lakes, where if it rains the driest place to be is in a lake.

Dave P.

Long Ride

In contrast to last week's sunbathing at Ripon Spa Gardens café, the chilly E/NE wind reminded us of last year's "beast from the east" which afflicted us for most of March. Similarly, there is little sign of this month going out like a lamb. The theory was for the four of us to head east to White Horse with fresh legs (our legs that is) and enjoy being pushed back home.

The chilly start called for a comfort stop at Boroughbridge where we met a party from Open Country for whom Richard P does some tandem volunteering. On through the Sessays and to Kilburn, we approached the big climb to White Horse in good heart. The next half mile tested not only heart, but lung and leg as well. All made it safely to the Gliding Club for our first stop after just 3hrs 20 mins. Lunch was very welcome in the unusually deserted club café, where a freshly-baked bakewell tart met with full approval from the Sacres and myself. For the first time in several visits, there were clear views from the club house westwards towards the snow-capped Pennines and southwards to York Minster and the power stations.

On the return journey it took a long time for the anticipated tail wind to show itself and it proved to be a capricious friend for much of the way home. Byland Abbey was honoured in our photo stop, courtesy of Lesley's phone, but we resisted the offer from the local publican to come in and rest awhile! Easingwold provided the afternoon comfort break, after which the wind did show itself to be on our team after all. Brisk progress followed - over Aldwark Bridge and on through Great Ouseburn, Marton, Ferrensby and Knaresborough, where Lesley and Richard S peeled off for home, leaving Richard P and Terry to reach Harrogate just before the rain.

Fellow cyclists would be well advised to avoid leaving their bikes too long in Great Ouseburn. We spotted three that had been given a full yellow paint job to promote Le Tour, we assume. At Aldwark Bridge we were counted, which we hope is not a feasibility study into charging cyclists a toll.

All in all, it was an enjoyable day out, covering 66 miles and 3000ft of the up stuff, past some eerily quiet strike-hit village primary schools. Terry Smith

