

Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

What a bright sunny morning - perfect for a scenic ride to the Washburn Valley. A cheery group of Poddlers set off for Little Almscliffe, avoiding the notorious M&S work on Leeds Road. We all poddled along at our own pace, stopping now and again to catch up with each other. After a photo stop at Little Almscliffe we sped down towards the main road. On the way we disturbed a red kite about to swoop on some road kill breakfast. It was amazing to have such a close up view of a beautiful bird. Then the challenge began. A pleasant ride along Brat Lane with lovely views of Swinsty and onwards towards Jack Hill. I had forgotten just how steep it was! I think we all made a cautious descent! Some steep uphill followed before a welcome break as we turned onto the gated road. After a refreshment stop we ambled home via Stainburn Woods and Beckwithshaw. Not a long ride, but testing. Lovely to have Liz P back with her pot finally off. Welcome to Phil. It was a most enjoyable morning with the usual friendly atmosphere. Alison N





Wednesday Ride

A superb sunny morning greeted twenty riders setting off along the Greenway and by Ripley Yvonne had recruited two more riders making it 22. So it was welcome to new members Richard and Caroline who rode with us enjoying the day. After Hollybank Woods we climbed up to Brimham Rocks followed by the dive down to Fellbeck and the climb up the back roads onto the moors. Gia and James forsook the roads to tackle the track over the moors showing that off-road is no barrier to Wheel Easy. Soon we were whizzing through Grantley and down at Fountains Abbey for lunch. The return direction abandoned the planned route as Colin had tempted us all with seeing March Hares boxing near Markington. But there was no boxing and not a hare in sight - perhaps they had all knocked themselves out. Then it was homeward bound to Ripley and the Greenway - a total of 39 miles. Martin W



Long Ride

With an excellent forecast some canvassing had been done in advance by email to determine a route for the day. A re-run of Eric's Cote De Cray was planned.

Nine cyclists started out from Hornbeam, two Richards, Lesley, Dave, Terry, Phil, Marvin & Martin. With the pace relatively high and a route of over 80 miles planned Richard, Lesley and Terry graciously suggested the other five riders go on ahead, possibly meeting for coffee at Kettlewell or following a shorter loop back to Harrogate.

Progress up Duck Street was rapid with a helping southerly wind and after the run down the hills from Greenhow, Grassington was reached in two hours. This is where the "ride" really started with the lovely minor road up the valley to Kettlewell via Conistone. The sun was out and the countryside was simply stunning.

The first stop took place in Kettlewell, Dave suggesting that the run to Buckden would provide a "warm up" for the Tour climb. The climb was fantastic, waterfalls, the hills as a backdrop. We all imagined the helicopter shots that would accompany the TV coverage in July.

We quickly dropped down Bishopdale, speeds reaching 35 mph on occasions. We thought we were going well but were passed by many groups of "road" cyclists, chased by Phil and Dave more than once. Phil was going on his new carbon "KTM" as if it had come from the motorcycle division. Marvin was a little further back having stopped a call of nature. We enquired of a road group giving his description and were a little surprised that they said he was riding a little further back with a female companion. When they appeared round the bend there was much hilarity as Marvin and Dave R in his smart red jacket appeared!

On approaching Leyburn Richard suddenly shouted "right". There was a little dissent as we climbed around another 150metres but we were compensated by a lovely quiet route to East Witton. On to Masham for our second stop which was well earned. Rejuvenated we made quick progress to Ripon, through the deer park and onto Harrogate via Ripley.

90 Miles, 5600 Ft climbing, great weather, lovely countryside and good company. There can be no better day out in Yorkshire. Martin D

Detached Group

The Long Ride group, bound for Kidstones, soon began to split. By Beckwithshaw the gap was several minutes, indicating that the elastic was "taut" already. With 80 plus miles planned, I was beginning to worry that I hadn't brought my lights! Sense prevailed at Greenhow, reached by Lesley, Richard and me at about the time the main group was nearing Grassington. The elastic was cut and we opted for a stop at Parcevall Hall Tearooms. What an excellent spot – an early lunch was had in a perfect suntrap on the terrace and contrary to fears that it might be overcrowded, lunch was a nicely relaxed affair.

Turning for the homeward leg, we caught up with the heaving crowds at Cavendish Pavilion and moved swiftly on to the back road to Ilkley. Nearing the Langbar turn, there was a bout of "shall we, shan't we" over the challenge of the 1-in-5 up to the Beacon. The "shall" vote won the day and the slog began, accompanied by some words of encouragement from car windows near the summit. There should have been a triumphant summit photo but a kind walker didn't press the camera button hard enough. All we have is a shot of the road sign and the glory of Wharfedale, but we were on our bikes and we did do the 20% climb – honest!

After that the lure of Cockpit Farm Tearoom was irresistible. Beforehand we benefited from a road closure east of the iron bridge to Askwith. Very welcome patching was in progress and we had the luxury of the road to ourselves, apart from the patching gang and their gear. At Cockpit Farm the staff commented that the closure had put people off. Nevertheless, all the scones had gone! Tea and cakes consumed, again in the warmth of the garden, we headed direct for home via Pool, Weeton, Kirkby Overblow and the bypass, completing 60 plus very enjoyable miles in the sun. We'll do Kidstones another day. Terry Smith



EG's Ride

A promising start to the day, sunshine and a slight nip in the air, ideal cycling weather.

Destination somewhere around Easingwold, and play it by ear.

First cafe stop Angela`s, arriving in groups for our toasted teacakes.

Then on to Grafton and Boroughbridge.

At Thornton Bridge Colin hung a left and headed for Cundall, not to be outdone Bob (who has a Cundall aversion) and Theo turned right to Brafferton and Easingwold.

The remaining magnificent seven turned left to Pilmoor and the Sessay`s, Carlton Husthwaite with the short (bite you in the bum) hill to Coxwold.

On the long climb to Crake Castle, Terry developed a problem with his rear cassette, fortunately still rideable with care.

Then the easy run from Crake to Easingwold where Norman and Terry found an obliging bike shop (often rare), who fixed the problem for no charge.

If any of Wheel Easy are in the Easingwold area and have a problem this chap should be patronised.

The remaining five, Dave P, Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, John R, and Peter J, took a leisurely lunch alfresco, (whoever he is) in the sun.

When all seven had been fed it was on to Alne, Aldwark Bridge, banana break at Branton Green, Ferrensby and home.

A very good ride in excellent cycling condition with a maximum mileage of around 63/64 miles.

Dave P