

Wednesday, April 30, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Sixteen poddlers left Hornbeam in two groups along the now favoured bridleway route to cross the Leeds road and on to Beckwithshaw . The two groups then re-congregated at Stainburn Moor car park. Having seen the Cappuccino Club Ladies being photographed for a calendar on Countryfile, Caroline raised the question of appropriate attire for a poddlers calendar shoot. As the conversation steadily descended in tone so the poddlers set off to steadily descend to Norwood Top, past the Sun Inn and across the A59. There being no takers for the extended route to Mackenzies Smoke House and Cafe we took the gated bridlepath at Forest Moor and then the road past Menwith Hill. A meander around the back lanes included a sociable banana stop before carrying on to Clapham Green.

The road down to Hampsthwaite was blocked as workmen were digging a hole. We asked if we could walk past on the verge but the workmen insisted, despite our protestations, to move their truck to let us past. Several male poddlers could not resist the British tradition of standing and staring down a hole in the road before moving on.

The group split into two at Hampsthwaite with eleven taking Clint Bank to return to Harrogate via the Greenway. Thank you to Dennis for helping to keep us all together. Welcome to our new recruit, Sandra, who was still with us at the end and who we will hopefully see again soon. 27 miles. Dave G





Wednesday Ride

There were four choices of rides today and with a visit to Chevin Cycles and some hills on the way Paul and Richard in blue accompanied me on my quest.

Thirty miles of good climbs, doing a familiar ride but mostly "the other way round". We made no purchases, but it was warm enough to sit outside at Cockpit Farm and return up the hill from Askwith. I am sure there are good stats of our ride but am happy that it was hilly. Thanks to Richard and Paul for joining me! Gia M

After a brief discussion of current ailments a flat knee-saving ride was chosen. A new rider, Charlie, joined us on a brisk ride to Boroughbridge via Marton-cum-Grafton. A debate on the first cafe location was settled when Stuart claimed that severe hypothermia was setting in and denied any suggestions that a coffee fix was the real cause of the stop. But the Foundry was most welcome with hot mugs of coffee all round.

On to Ripon we split as three fit members of the group set off to tackle the hills to Galphay and Fountains Abbey. For the rest of us it was back home, ah, I forgot we had another cafe stop at Ripley, then we went home. Pretty typical Wheel Easy ride really - good company, ailment stories, and cafe every fifteen miles. Martin W



Long Ride

Just three takers for the long ride today – Richard P, David R and myself. - with Wharfedale getting the vote over How Stean. We followed the usual route out towards Wharfedale via Fewston, Snowden and Askwith, using the Low Snowden loop for a change of climb. The road from Askwith to Ilkley has benefitted greatly from the patching works which were in progress two weeks ago on our last visit. Along the climb up to Langbar we took in views of this year's bluebell crop, pausing for a photo stop near Middleton. Burnsall was identified as the lunch stop, but on the way we encountered the A59 with not a single vehicle on it, allowing us to saunter down to Bolton Bridge in a very unfamiliar fashion. Near the descent to Burnsall, a woodpecker was heard as was a cuckoo, announcing that it really is Spring. Lunch was taken at the car park kiosk, closely watched by bullfinches (or possibly redstarts). The chef's speciality seemed to be burnt toast and this may have kept the birds at bay. Afterwards, David headed home via Stump Cross, while the remaining pair set off on a loop to Grassington, leading to some steady (i.e. slow) climbs through Hebden, the dreaded Dibbles Bridge and Stump Cross to Greenhow. A call-in at Teacups, Pateley Bridge, was fair reward for the climbs since Burnsall. Recent reports of price rises at Teacups seemed to be ill-founded, at least as far as tea and cakes are concerned. Leaving Yorke's Folly for another day (again!) we took the valley road towards Ripley, diverting to Clint Bank to take advantage of the Hollybank Lane path. Here, the woods showed off a spectacular carpet of bluebells, the best for many years it seems. A gentle ride home along the Greenway was marred by two youths on a motorbike near Dene Park – let's hope it's one-off. In all, about 63 miles with 5100 ft of climbing.

Terry S



EGs' Ride

It was a Grey Day as the EG`s began to gather at Low Bridge. Two absentees were reported, namely Eric and Peter B, who were on a mission to the Cotes de Cray and the Col de Kidstones to set a new record time and put the frighteners on Cavendish and Froome. Welcome to three new riders, Roger, Nigel and Dave Peatfield, that means that we now have two Dave P`s, two Dave W`s and a Dave S.

A brief chat with Martin, his Merry Men, and Yvonne before they headed to Boroughbridge.

Dave Wilson was on a new state of the art bike, complete with state of the art shoes, which could lead to "snow blindness" if viewed for too long. The resulting colour scheme caused Dave S to ask if he was riding for "team Liquorish Allsort".

We soon had fourteen riders, the destination being Lotherton Hall, to build up mileage for the coming summer rides. Out to Cowthorpe, down Rudgate and on to Taddy, where Tykes Tearoom was now open, after being closed for a while. The temptation proved too much for Norman who succumbed, who was after some indecision was also joined by Bill.

Once a plan has been set, stick to it, so it was on to Towton (where the Yorkie lads done good) and comfort food in Lotherton Hall cafe. Here a SuperBike was the centre of attraction, which according to Marvin, must have cost around seven grand for bike and bits. Biggest surprise was trying to find the brakes, which were aerodynamically semi hidden.

The Peloton then headed for Sherburn (in the ancient Kingdom of Elmete) and on to Cawood, in good order, steady pace, but leaving traffic gaps. In to Ricall for a banana break on the village green, to give Bob time to look up an old cycling pal for a quick chat. Then up the cycle path to York and in to Tesco`s for tea (apologies to John R and Colin, we were in the window seats viewing our bikes, but unfortunately were not seen). Then back via Askham Richard with a comfort break at Marston Moor (sorry to much detail). On to Tockwith and Cowthorpe, after which the fellowship disbanded to make their own way home.

A long flat ride of around 72/73 miles maximum. However to the unfortunate ones who have to climb to Harlow Hill from the plain of York, flat seems an inappropriate word. Despite grey skies it was good cycling weather, and for the poetic amongst us "through fields of mellow yellow" but apologies to those who suffer from itchy eyes and runny noses. Dave P



