

Wednesday, July 2, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride,

I would say an excited pre Tour crowd gathered at Hornbeam today so it was a good opportunity for a team photo. We welcomed a visitor from Hampshire and then we were off!

Our group of fourteen cycled along the Greenway to Ripley and on to Risplith where we stopped at GT's for excellent ice creams, coffee, tea and very generous portions of treacle tart. After a group photo in front of their polka dot wall, Martin and Colin led a group off towards Dallowgill whilst the rest of us with Safari supper duties and Andy Murray to watch, cycled back via Brimham and met up with Malcolm at Sophie's. Unusual to have two stops on a 34 mile ride but well worth it and nice to ride a route t'other way round. Gia





Poddlers Ride

Two poddling groups set off this morning, one with people who needed to get back to important things, and one for people who could do things very quickly or who did not have much to do. The short slow group was meant to observing four things round Harrogate and Knaresborough. We saw the dotty house and the mayor who has just been on the television and the Beryl Burton and the Brian Robinson window, and then we lost Lynda and discovered that the market place was too crowded to see anything. Geraldine and Joe realised that this morning's jaunt would be less than quick and as there was a lot of wine to be delivered and food to be prepared, so left us having viewed the High Street, Knaresborough.. A group of four continued to Lingerfield, and Scotton where Tim on a heavy mountain bike bid us farewell, and three ladies returned home via Nidd, Ripley and the Greenway without losing anyone or causing too much damage and avoiding the tempting church coffee stop. Have a lovely weekend with the tour and what an amazing set up the whole thing is. CG.

Spurred on by the forthcoming cycling festivities, the relentlessly changing face of Harrogate to welcome the World and the arrival of the T de F teams and their transport some 20 Poddlers set off, in glorious weather, for a relatively short 25 mile ride. This was due to many having to make preparations for the WE T de F safari supper. So it was a gentle ride to Farnham via Bogs Lane and the Beryl Burton (much in need of the hedges trimming back), a loop round to Burton Leonard and Wormald Green before crossing the A 58 to Markington (where Dennis overtook most of us on the hill). As we were on the hill down into Ripley some idiot driving an articulated lorry overtook us on the blind left hand bend. Had anything been coming the other way it would have been carnage. At Ripley many opted for the church café replacing the calories lost with scones, jam and lashings of cream. The return was made along the Greenway, the mood one of eager anticipation of the weekend's joys to come. Thanks for your company. Max



Le tour de France repas mouvant....02/07/2014

Wine was delivered, food was prepared, everyone knew where they were meant to be and at what time.

We had had several drop outs, but everything was seeming to be going seamlessly well....People turned up with the most amazing starters and puds (Glyn's pud looked as if he had brought it from Betty's as it was so perfectly formed.)....other people turned up...we ate a delicious starters, had a lot of rather pleasant wine (and this is from someone who can take wine or leave it). All too soon we had to pass on the next destination and people went. The table reset and more people arrived, but some did not, but were soon tracked down as having opted out for various reasons... Well enough food to feed a few families over the weekend was left, but that is good and saves some valuable tdf atmosphere breathing time. Again, off the main course people had to go, for their puds, and again the table was set made ready for the next wave, which duly arrived and settled in for pudding eating.....my goodness could I move. Well really we had to as the next destination was coffee, The whole moving meal surged in on the final destination of the evening, and frankly we all looked as if we could have moved in permanently, which must have been a worry for Gia and Malcolm.....It was good to catch up with people we had not seen all evening, and finally we made our ways home...thankfully down hill.. I had a lovely time and I hope everyone else did..2 miles cycled, 200 metres climbed, a lot of chocolate, wine, cream, potatoes, meat and salad and....oh yes and a rather lovely lot of walnut bread were consumed. Not bad for an evenings entertainment. CG





EG's Ride

It was a good day for cycling (aren't they all ?). We had thirteen riders at Low Bridge. However Eric was missing due to a family bereavement, so our condolences to Di at such a difficult time.

It goes without saying that the downhill to Occaney cup was retained by "wonderwheels" Dave Siswick.

First cafe stop at Morrison`s in Boroughbridge, after which Bob S, Norman and John R (who is still building up his mileage) left to take a shorter route home. The rest headed north to Cundall (Bob was really sorry he missed out here) and Skipton-on-Swale, where a short break was taken. Then on to Pickhill crossing the old railway bridge (which is looking rather old) fortunately t` other side was bone dry, no mud, which Dave P`s name would have been if said mud had still been there, but most importantly

Dave Wilson`s shoes retained their pristine shade of white.

At Maunby the group split, Bill, Marvin and Terry W headed for Thirsk, Colin, Dan, Dave P (probably last chance for a long un this year), Dave S, Dave Wilson, Peter J and Rob (all tanned or wearing leg makeup) headed for Northallerton. Due to time constraints lunch was taken al fresco (these Italians get everywhere) by the market cross. Seeing as it is Wimbledon week (not a word about Murray) Colin bought a punnet of strawberries, which he generously passed around. The road to Knayton said closed, this usually is no problem as any road works are bypassed on foot on the grass verge, on approaching the said road works, the boys from the black stuff said it`s very sticky, if you get it on your shoes do`nt walk on the lounge carpet. Once the area had been entered there was no going back for Dave P and Dave S who pressed on into the heat, the sensible ones retreated to Northallerton with Dave Wilson`s shoes still retaining their pristine whiteness, heading for Thirsk via Busby Stoop.

The climb from Knayton to Upsall seemed much longer than Dave P remembered from his last visit, but memory is not his strong point these days, The swoop down to Thirsk felt all that much better after the climb. Coming into Thirsk a phone call from Colin, told the two Daves that they were already in the Market Square, consuming drinks etc, in Dan`s case the emphasis was on consuming, what the lad consumed today (well he is young) would not have fitted in a saddle bag. It seems that Dave Wilson in our absence was big on the chat up scene in the Market Place, while we were there he was at it again in the cafe ?, was it his charm or his white shoes ?. After a quick tea it was on to Sowerby, Dalton, Topcliffe, Cundall again, Norton-le-Clay, Boroughbridge, and for Dave S home to Rocliffe.

A mention in dispatches for Colin who pushed the wind all the way to Farnham, which helped us arrive in Harrogate just before 6-00pm, with a maximum of around 80 mile in our wheels. Dave P







Long(ish) Ride

Today's long ride featured one of our shortest routes and, without doubt, our earliest ever coffee stop. Our early targets were Harewood, to see the extent of preparations for the Festival, and Pool to Otley to check on the quality of bunting. On our way to Kirkby Overblow, Richard P yelled that he'd seen a sign for "community coffee". Despite denials by a local resident, community coffee was duly found in All Saints church. The debate as to whether it was too early was quickly ended by declaring the visit to be "research". The coffee and tea were excellent, as was the ginger

fruit cake, and the welcome was warm and fulsome. A thoroughly worthwhile piece of "research" concluded with warm farewells and a note in the diary that the event repeats on the first Weds of each month. The visit to Harewood Park met with little joy from the site security staff, who turned us back by the cricket ground. With 24 hours to opening there still looked to be plenty to set up. Another joyless encounter with security at Home Farm saw us heading along the bridleways (also to be closed on 4th & 5th July – be warned) to A659 and a slog along the valley road to Pool and Otley. Along the way, private grass was clearly labelled "private". Everything seemed to be ready, but I thought we might have come across more continental Europeans by this stage. When are the Dutch arriving in their camper vans? Or, are they already in Wharfedale and Swaledale? Lunch at Cockpit Farm under a sunshade was very agreeable, apart from Richard S having to remind staff about his panini which got lost on the way from the kitchen. Needing to justify all those calories we chose Askwith Bank to do our penance and from there meandered past Menwith, Birstwith, Clint and Ripley. Here the church tea and cake service proved as unmissable as Kirkby O, justified by the extra loop around the village to see the fable of the three little pigs, brought up to the moment.

The final leg of our bunting survey took us to Knaresborough Castle to see the T-shirt art display by local schools. From the quirky to the professional-looking, they were well worth the visit. Stats: 49 miles; 3250 ft ascent – bit of a surprise. Terry Smith



