

Wednesday, July 16, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

There were 17 Poddlers at Hornbeam today on a lovely warm sunny morning and having decided we couldn't split in to two groups of eight and a half some nine or ten set off with me and the remaining members joined John at a slightly more leisurely pace and as we subsequently discovered on a shortened route! The official route took us to Little Armscliffe at a brisk pace – sorry about that – and then on passed the Sun Inn and first turn left towards Fewston. Avoiding dropping down into Fewston we worked our way across to and along a short section of the A 59 and right passed Fewston cemetery and along the gated road through the former RN Forest Moor site. Having forgotten yet again to equip myself with a camera John Russell came to the rescue and took the photo at the barrier which I hope will have found its way onto the Website in the vicinity of this report and we avoided being arrested and progressed on round the back of Menwith Hill and down towards Birstwith where we were suddenly absorbed by John's Group who headed through Birstwith and into Ripley via Holly Bank, whilst we set off to Hamsthwaite to catch those who were ahead. Max, Gordon and Dave had time constraints so they headed straight home whilst the rest of us headed up Clint Bank and through Holly Bank to join John and his group for a welcome break with coffee/tea and cakes courtesy of the Church Ladies which was very relaxing and enjoyable. Steve and I left to return to Knaresborough along the Greenway leaving the rest to return in their own time. About 25 miles in good company with great views and weather. Thanks you all and particularly to John for the photos.

James G.





Wednesday Ride

On a fine morning but with the prospect of rain and an evening gathering in prospect (more later) it was decided to do a 'circuitous' route to Ripon and then make our way back to Harrogate via Cote de Abbaye de Fountains and the Harrogate Voie Verte (we were all still in Tour de France mode!)

A group of 11 set off to Low Bridge and on to Goldsborough, on to the A59 (which was certainly not closed for cyclists to cross) and then via Marton cum Grafton to Boroughbridge where, despite a comfort break stop, we managed to persuade Martin to ride on to Ripon for coffee.

Cafe Nero was the chosen venue (Olivers Pantry being full of non-cyclists - how dare they clog up a good cafe on a Wednesday!) where there was much discussion about the Cabinet reshuffle (tokenism) and how long should the yellow bikes stay up (all summer was the cry).

From Ripon we set off up to Cote de Abbaye de Fountains via the Deer Park and then after another steep climb we made our way to Ripley and the Harrogate Voie Vert back into Harrogate.

A very pleasant ride in good company which seemed to fly by and didn't feel like the 42 miles it was.

Kevin

P.S. Promise everyone no more Franglais in the ride reports!

Bus, Bhajis and Beryl (a Wheel Easy night out)

After a good ride during the day about 15 Wheel Easy and partners met up again in the evening on the Route 36 (the bus not the cycle route on the website) to make our way to Leeds to see Beryl at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

First, as with all Wheel Easy trips, food and drink was required and we made our way to the Aagrah restaurant close by for an Indian meal (and a beer of course) before making our way to the Theatre for a really fantastic evening.

Beryl's story is really amazing and it was told by 4 actors with humour, respect and genuine admiration for her achievements (and Charlie's too)

Some of the statistics of her record were staggering and it also introduced a new line of encouragement when those hills get tough 'Mind over Matter' which you might hear a few times in the next few weeks on hilly rides!

If you haven't seen it yet try to get to see it before it finishes its run - well worth it.

We made our way back home on the 36 - some of us thinking that Beryl would have just hopped on her bike to get home - but we didn't feel too guilty about it!

Thanks to James Grimshaw for organising it and also to everyone who came along for an enjoyable night out.

Kevin





EG's Ride

There was a definite air of reluctance to set off from Low Bridge this morning, due, I suspect, to the indisposition of our leader. **Get back with us as soon as poss Dave.**

Our deputy leader did eventually manage to coerce the sixteen strong group away, if only with a vague notion of our route and destination. Lunch at Crockey Hill was promised and great progress was made. The usual subjects of politics, last night's telly and naturally the TdF were all given an airing when, passing through Copmanthorpe the cry went out for food, and there was no stopping the stampede for a new cafe next door to the Royal Oak. The usual scones and teacakes were consumed, but the record must go to our youngest member who had TWO substantial lunches. We were all full of admiration, particularly as he is as thin as a rail. Onward and upward with the run, when the bombshell was dropped; we were not now calling at said Crockey Hill after all, so those who didn't get their calories at Copmanthorpe had "had it chum". Never mind, energy bars out.

Next stop turned out to be Elvington, where yesterday's baked beans were negotiated to 20p a portion (it was really only a half portion), but the calories were there so make the best of a bad job, as we say in God's Own County. Our youngest by this time partaking of a further lunch, a very handy looking meat pie/cobbler sort of thing.

Photo call with the aircraft, and on again. Next pause Beningborough where it was almost unanimously decided not stop on account of the rain forecast which was looking likely. Didn't deter our youngest, however, who managed to nip into the cafe on the pretext of "filling my water bottle". Ha Ha. Looked like remains of a bacon butty or some such delicacy around his chops.

The group was down to ten having lost six to various duty calls en-route. Thanks to Dave W for his leadership skills; where would we be without you? Well, actually, we don't really know where we are when we're with you, half of the time. Thanks also to Barrie, Norman, Peter B, Chris, Nick,

Bill, Marvin, Dave Peat, Dave Wilson, Bob, Dan (our youngest, of course), Michael, and Peter J. Another splendid day out in splendid company. Dave S.

