

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Seventeen cyclists opted for today's poddle. Steve very kindly led the faster nine and were last seen heading to Boston Spa – rumour has it that a coffee stop happened somewhere! Meanwhile Sue's W and D led/backmarked the remaining eight. Thirty glorious miles ensued as excellent progress was made via Follifoot to the Spofforth cycle track and thence to Thorpe Arch where the delights of the Café were consumed with relish and gusto. Today's discussion inevitably referred to the delicious scoans/scons but before long it had moved on to that amazing garment of the fifties – the liberty bodice. Paul B wondered whether it was a female garment – the precursor to the brassiere. The Sue's said not and drew on their own experiences of this strange grey/fawn vestlike creation (with rubber buttons) to be worn over the Chilprufe proper vest. These were unwillingly sported throughout primary school after which Sue W refused to be seen in secondary school clothed in such a hideous contraption! Sue D felt she might have been allowed to drop the thing during the last year of primary school. The burning question was, "Did boys wear them?" – none of the chaps seemed aware of their existence, or so they said...

Thus refreshed, we pedalled on through Boston Spa, did a quick loop through Clifford and back to the cycle path from Wetherby to Spofforth. Just before the gate leading off the path, a discovery was made – Red House Farm Café, open every day except Monday 10 till 4. Having eaten lots of aforementioned, it didn't feel necessary to stop but might well become a "fave" as it is just the right distance from Harrogate when the bonk strikes. A further exploration took place when we went through the tunnel underneath the ringroad at Follifoot. Devoid of its usual equine deposits, we were able to pose, pout and hurtle through exiting close to the stables. Paul turned left to see what lunchtime delights "er indoors" had on offer and the rest continued via the Showground paths back to Hornbeam. A glorious day, thank you all. Sue D





Medium Ride

With quite a few regulars away for various reasons and the prospect of a scorching afternoon the group of nine opted for a trip to Cockpit Farm via Timble.

It was a lively pace as we made good time to Little Almscliff and then on to the Reservoir Car Park where a short stop was taken for the benefit of the older riders.

There followed a climb to Timble and on to the main road where most of the group climbed the steep hill with Colin and Kevin opting for the quieter and more scenic Low Snowden alternative (also more climbing!). There was a fast ride down the hill and then on to cockpit farm where we received our usual warm welcome.

So far we had ridden well as a group but this couldn't last as Young John and Stuart looked ready to be let off the leash and Martin had discovered a squeak (fortunately not in his knee but his chain)

Leaving the pit stop we set off to Otley where Martin turned off to head for Chevin Cycles and running repairs and a solo ride home. The rest continued through the estate and then hit the hill out of Otley. We enjoyed a fast ride down but not fast enough for young John and Stuart who sped off and were never seen again (hopefully only till next Wednesday we hope!).

The six survivors crossed the main road and headed for Castley and then climbed to Weeton as the temperature continued to rise. On to Dunkeswick and across the A61 and on to Kirkby Overblow and then up to the by pass where senior John sped off and James headed off to Knaresborough and home.

The remainder crossed the Showground and used the new Showground Greenway to arrive back at hornbeam in good time after a steady 37 miles and time for either more chores or enjoying the sun.

Everyone sends there best wishes to Paul for a speedy recovery from his operation and hope to hear of his improvements over the coming weeks. Kevin



Wednesday Long Ride

For once the vague plan seemed to work, with refinements along the way. Climb white horse bank in the shade, for coffee, the fresh quiche smell from the oven meant lunch, return with the cooling breeze, and no climbs. Pudding, rather than main, at Ampleforth, a descent slowed by melting tar, better than the presumed puncture, and a diversion to Blackwall Mill (planing tar) and the road sign warning of a hill that we did not need to do, then seemingly an effortless breeze home with Alne strawberries and a second banana stop. An easy 75 mile ride. Richard P



EG's Ride

The forecast said wall to wall sunshine (later).

But the cloudy start to the day seemed to last that bit too long.

We had eleven riders at Low Bridge as the sun started to break through.

Last Wednesday had been to Elvington, so somewhere in the opposite direction seemed appropriate. How about Stump Cross said Dave Preston, "flippin' hummer" said Norman, only he didn't say "flippin'".

How about Easingwold, the back way said Dave Watson, the day was going to be hot and the hills were less over there, and it seemed to meet with approval, including DP.

So two groups to Angela's for the first coffee stop.

At the Marton turn off we were met by the advance party, with tears in their eyes, "Angela's is closed for good" came the plaintive cry.

Eyes were directed towards the ground, it's not good to see grown men cry, so try again, two groups to Benningborough home farm to prevent cafe shock, for the first caffeine of the day.

Refreshment was taken in the open under a clear blue sky in glorious sunshine.

Nice chat with an EG type couple from the West Midlands on some seriously expensive bikes.

Eric's faster group headed for Easingwold via Crake followed by Dave Watson's slower group to Tollerton and Huby.

Before the Crake turnoff DW suggested missing out Crake for an extended lunch stop in Easingwold, this was met with approval, especially from Roy.

A nice lunch was had (inside, yes it was cooler) at the Queer, sorry Curious Table Cafe.

Here Roy had a stuffed baked potato (stuffed with chilli and beans may also have contained TNT).

On the way out of Easingwold we were again reunited with Eric's faster group.

The route back to Boroughbridge was somewhat fast and furious.

From Benningborough to Easingwold, Roy had been a bit off the pace at the back, but from Easingwold to Boroughbridge we were desperately trying to hang on to his rear wheel, his baked potato could have probably propelled rockets.

For a few afternoon tea was taken at Morrisons cafe.

It's quite a way from the bike park to the cafe, Eric ever helpful, inquired if Dave Preston needed any assistance to walk there (DP not good at walk the walk) problem solved (see photo).

Fantastic weather and a great days cycling, over sixty miles in (as forecast) wall to wall sunshine.

Nearly had a full set of Daves, Peatfield, Preston, Watson and Wilson just missing a Siswick.

Dave P



