

Wednesday, October 8, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Well it was not raining, there was no wind, there was strange silver mist covering the Stray and surrounding area. So not quite how my computer had described the day's weather. Hornbeam was full of cyclists raring to make use of truly the last good day of summer. After several seconds of organisation we all knew where we were going, which group we were going with, had a rough idea of when we would be home. (The wonders of modern technology). An array of Poddlers' old and new, followed our Leader Steve out of Harrogate towards Low Bridge, and onto Copgrove and Boroughbridge. Our meeting point was the Car Park toilets off the Market Square.....where we were serenaded by a charming young man in a car that seemed to have something wrong with its noisy engine, and some sound problems with exterior sound system. Alison even wistfully wondered who he was trying to pick up. However one gentleman decided the super surround sound lent itself to a perfect opportunity to dance...and he did. We'd have stayed longer had the thought of impending rain not spurred us onwards and surprisingly upwards to Marton, Arkendale, through Knaresborough with its joyously satisfying hill, having only had a minimal soaking and finally arriving home with enough time to lunch at a civilised hour, and spend an afternoon sorting out Christmas presents or designing a utility room, or completing many finicky jobs that may have been ignored all week. Thank you so much Steve for a lovely morning and a very pleasant ride lead in a calm gentlemanly manner. CG



Short Ride

There was a good selection of rides today and the first of our shorter rider routes for a Wednesday. Seven of us cycled out to Stainburn Woods, assuring Stuart that his bike would come to no harm on the improved track and along the gated road. Far worse was the wet cow muck by one of the farms but safely through and up to Almscliffe Crag, North Rigton, Burn Bridge and excellent refreshments at the new Leeds Road garden centre café. 20 miles, home for lunch. Just what it said on the tin! Gia



EG's Ride

It was a thick Autumn mist on Harlow Hill but the sun was shining at Low Bridge.

We had twelve riders raring to go, well sort of.

Watches were also checked as Eric appeared at 9-45am?.

We also had five members of the Clan Dave ie P, R, Wat, Wil and S.

The EG`s would also like to take the opportunity to send their best wishes to Theo, who has been missing from the line up due to illness.

He is making steady progress, but unfortunately he is still under a bike ban.

He is however playing some leisurely??? golf.

Golf as we know, is a four letter word, and probably causes more bad language and aggro than multi punctures in your rear wheel.

Hope to see you soon Theo even if it is only for a coffee.

The destination was Morrison`s cafe at Wetherby (surprise surprise) via Thistle Hill and Follifoot and fortunately we made it in to the cafe before twenty plus riders from York CTC arrived.

After which it was capes on (only slight rain) and down the cycle path to Bramham and Collingham, just before Collingham we had a schism, and four riders headed for Thorner? and seven for Sicklinghall, with the intention? to lengthen the ride if the weather stayed good.

At the Kearby viewpoint it could have been down the hill to Weeton, a couple of riders were up for it, but it looked like the clag was down in Wharfedale, so warm fires and hot drinks beckoned and we all wimped back home.

Not a long ride, but extra effort was made on the hills to make us feel like we had got the miles in. Dave P



Wednesday Ride

Despite the forecast it was a relatively warm and sunny Autumnal morning and seven of us set off on the usual route out to Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliffe, avoiding puncture alley at the side of Rossett playing fields by going straight on and joining Pannal Ash Road up to the roundabout, which proved to be quite a good route anyway and worth repeating. The usual suspects were joined by Vanessa who took photos at Little Almscliffe which I hope will find their way on to the end of this Report and we then took the dog

leg side road to the right and at the end turned right again for Menwith rather than left for Timble. After Sue had a close shave with a careless white van driver who came face to face with two cars coming the other way as he whizzed past and cut in front of her we turned left and then first right to the A 59, resisting the temptation of an early coffee stop at the new Farm Shop. We managed the short section of the A 59 without any vehicles passing us (a record?) and turned right passing Fewston cemetery and the gated road to join and progress along the lower part of Duck Street. The original intention to turn right to Thornthwaite at the Stone House Inn was abandoned, having made good time to this point and in view of the continued good weather, and instead a further mile or so on we turned right and then right again to drop down into and through Padside and Thornthwaite. After crossing the Menwith to Darley Road we went left at the T junction and climbed steadily to Menwith Hill and the zoomed along the ridge to Clapham Green, Hampsthwaite and into Sophie's. After an excellent coffee and refreshment stop we set off up the hill towards A 59 intending to cross the A 59 and join Penny Pot Lane and return into Harrogate. However three became separated, including yours truly and so I can only report that after the A 59 we went along Burley Bank Road and joined Penny Pot Lane where we separated again and Sarah and Terry went straight on into Harrogate whilst I turned in the Ethelburgers housing development and worked my way down to the Hydro and through the back of Harrogate into Knaresborough and home. Hopefully the front four of Angela, Vanessa, Sue C. and Colin found their respective ways home safely. A good ride of between 30 and 35 miles in good company and home before the rain. Thanks to all who came. James



Long Ride

Sunny skies in Leeds gave way to less promising conditions across the Wharfe today. As a result, the start of our trek across the Vale to White Horse Bank was a chilly "nose-drop" affair, despite the hot tempers resulting from Richard P's brush with a left-turning car at the Oatlands Drive junction. Composure regained, Richard led Lesley, John S, Peter R and myself out through Knaresborough, Boroughbridge and a Sessay or two to the foot of the Bank, where we made our ways at various paces to the top. On the way, past Thornton Bridge, there was the curious sight of 6 or more police cars parked on the verge with officers in conflagration. It didn't look like "routine inquiries". We passed and pondered on a suitable collective noun – a "fuzz" of police cars, perhaps? Shortly after, a helicopter flew over: perhaps it was looking for 6 police cars? Lunch was

taken at the Gliding Club's café, where Rocky Road proved a popular choice for starter and dessert. Not for the first time clear views were not to be had, as a sea-fret-like layer spread across the moor. Opting for a careful descent down the occasionally slippery Bank, we were chased back into the Vale by rain showers, calling for rain tops and lights (see picture). These gave way to brighter conditions for most of the return via Oulston's library-cum-telephone box, Easingwold and Aldwark Bridge. Back into Harrogate in time to mix with school traffic, and to admire the new layout at Hornbeam cycle stands, we beat the rain by an hour – nice one Richard. Stats: 63 miles back to Hornbeam with c2700ft of climbing. Terry Smith

