

Wednesday, October 29, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Short Ride

Well if confirmation was needed today's slow, slow quick quick , slow ride showed beyond any doubt that today's leader should not be leading anything. Everything was perfect, the stolen ride route from the recently returned from a very long holiday Appleyards...(lovely to see them about again), Nurse Sue Oliver in attendance, the long arm of the law Surjon, Deacon Dave in the team as was Sensible Dave from near Knaresborough, a perfect golden autumn morning.

Greenway, Ripley, Nidd, a stroll through Mount G's Garden, and back home more or less the same way, for 11.30. Sixteen miles done and dusted. I had not realised Jane was competing with Monica S for the Strictly Non-Celebrity Come Dancing Cyclist of the year. Jane's dismount did amazingly put Monica's last week's remarkable swivel, glide and bounce to shame as she executed a glorious Over the Handlebar Dive and Roll. Onlookers were astounded and rushed to their emergency positions quickly and efficiently. Only one small problem which may be worth noting, there does not seem to be any phone communication, between Mount Garrett's garden and Killinghall. So poor Jane pluckily walked and rode back home to a hot bath and cup of tea. The emergency team continued onwards and finished the route.

The leader awaits further investigation into the spate of accidents occurring during her ride leading, and expects to be hung drawn and quartered at a later date. Oysters and Mussels call, thank you all for an interesting ride. Caroline G



### **Poddlers Ride**

The autumn day started with a bright blue sky, slightly chilly fifteen set off with Gordon leading and a sharpish ride out in the sunshine, the long way round to Knaresborough via Pannal, Follifoot, Spofforth and Little Ribston. After a brief stop at Scriven we headed down to Scotton past Nidd and onto Ripley. Eight departed for home and seven went to Ripley castle for a coffee and tea break. Then home along the Ripley/Bilton Greenway 25 miles approx.. A young man Saulius Ruzinkas, from Lithuania joined us to gather information on the British way of cycling. Saulius is Director of Baltic Bike Travel and if anyone is interested in Route 13 a long distance cycleway running from Germany up the Baltic coastline to Scandinavia then please check out his website [www.Baltikum-Radreisen.eu](http://www.Baltikum-Radreisen.eu) for details. Gordon

### **Wednesday Ride**

Planning is not the forte of our group. However Sue had an idea, Paul was on a mission and Terry had a map. We therefore cycled to Ripon via Knaresborough, Burton Leonard, Wormald Green, Markington, Fountains and the Deer Park.

We tried to help a group of three women, cycling The Way of The Roses as one of them had no saddle! The bolt had broken! Now who carries a spare seat post bolt on a bike tour? Sue and Monica guided them in to the visitor centre in search of the "handy man"

Our café stop was at Booth's (and Costa) work that one out! The day got better and better, clear views of the cathedral from Wormald Green, we all enjoyed the warmth of the sun and cycled back via various routes, picking up two of the EG's who needed guidance through the Mountgarret estate. Sue, Terry and Gia added a loop from Ripley through Hollybank Woods, up Rowden Lane to Penny Pot then down in to Jennyfields via the Killinghall Country Park. Harrogate's hidden gem. A great autumn ride, 40+ miles. Gia M (Thank you to everyone on the ride they know why!





### **EGs' Ride**

The weather forecast was good and the day looked as if it was going to be better than the forecast, and it was. We had fourteen riders at Low Bridge, soon to be joined by Wheel-Easy Wednesdayers, who were heading for Spa Gardens Cafe in Ripon. This was also our destination, but by a more circuitous route.

The first mistake of the day was Dave P forgetting his Mob phone, meaning he was not contactable during the ride (sorry Eric). The men's downhill challenge was again won by Dave (wonderwheel's) Siswick but only by a wheel from Bob, who looked like he might be our new champion. Before this Norman said he was going ahead to take some photos and we never saw him again. Lets hope he went to Ripon via Bishop Monkton, or it might be alien abduction?.

Then on to Boroughbridge, then North to Dishforth Airfield, just before which an option was given, left turn to Marton-le-Moor and Ripon or right turn to Norton-le-Clay. So it was four to the left, and a shorter ride, and nine to the right and a longer ride.

The right turners continuing on to Cundall (missed it again Bob), Asenby, Rainton and Melmerby. Just before Melmerby the Tete le Course, turned into the industrial estate (perhaps drawn by the aroma from the brewery). Good call, the food was good, the menu substantial, and reasonably priced, and eaten outside in the sunshine. Marvin (which is now seen as rhyming slang for starvin) took delivery of a large bacon and egg sandwich, of truly Dan and Eric proportions.

After which Dave Watson took us on a nice little detour North towards Middleton Quernhow on narrow lanes, then in to Ripon via Wath. At the Spa Gardens the option was given for a second cafe stop, here Dave S returned to Roecliffe to do a chauffeuring mission, with Marvin taking the cafe option to do some serious dealing on his mob phone.

The rest headed for home via Studley Park, in the sun, with blue sky, autumn colours and Deer (beautiful).

On the way back we misplaced Michael, but he turned up again, just before the swoop down into Ripley (just a little deviation on his part). Rob had been looking forward to an ice cream in Ripley, but was persuaded to continue (only so much enjoyment is allowed, and you have had your ration). Then on the Greenway in to Harrogate, still in the sun with blue sky and autumn colours, arriving in Harrogate centre just before 3.00pm.

The cycling conditions must have been as near perfect as possible, sun, blue sky, little or no wind, and lowish temperatures, to stop getting a boil on, you do not get many days like this in a year,

so get the miles in. We had done a bit over 50 miles max, not bad for a 10.00am start in late autumn. Dave P



### **Long Ride**

Six riders set off with Masham in mind. Like all the best generals, I was leading from the rear by shouting "left" or "right" and hoping for the best. First, we headed over the Stray to check out the controversial crossing on Wetherby Road, then a very chilly ride along the Greenway to Ripley. A

quick pit stop here allowed the short riders, who had set off later, to catch us up so pride and frozen hands and feet required a zoom up the hill towards Drovers crossroads. From there to Brimham and Dallowgill Moor where we enjoyed stunning views in the bright sunshine, Kirkby Malzeard and Grewelthorpe before a swoop down to Masham and a welcome refuelling visit to Bordar House Teas plus some pre-Christmas window shopping for Dave and John. At this point the choice was Lofthouse and Pateley (hard) or Snape and Ripon (easy). Surprisingly, we all opted for Snape and Ripon making the day 60 miles and c2700 feet of ascent. Lesley S

### **Off-Road Ride**

Four of us at Grassington at 9.30am....we decided to take advantage of a lovely morning and head for the hills. By road to Litton, then Halton Gill (where we got a most unexpected cup of tea) and Foxup, where the tarmac ends. Then it was time to take a layer off for the extended push up onto Foxup moor, with plenty of stops to admire the view. The Foxup Moor track is high, and in places steep, boggy, and rough, although there is now a good stretch approaching Hull Pot which has been made up with tons of rubble in recent years. On this occasion it was clear, sunny, and warm, with excellent views of Pen-y-Ghent, Ingleborough, Wharfedale in the distance, and even Pendle Hill in the haze.

At Hull Pot we stopped in the sunshine for a sandwich, then dropped down into Horton in Ribblesdale on a wide, stony track. Sitting outside the Three Peaks Café in the sunshine, we decided as it took around four hours to get there, we should take an easier route back! So it was south on the B road to Helwith Bridge, then left on the track to pick up the road to Malham Tarn, Mastiles Lane forking right to pick up the glorious tarmac descent to Threshfield, and lights on for the final bit of road to Grassington. Back to the cars at about 4.30pm, in reasonable daylight.

Photo at a beck crossing the Foxup Moor track.....more photos here, both mine and Eric's.....<https://www.flickr.com/photos/52358536@N06/sets/72157649031878691/>

