

Wednesday, November 26, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Our leader Gordon was sent home sick, we send our best wishes and hope you get well soon. However last week Gordon had been forced to reveal his secret route and we were able to persuade Steve P to lead us as he knew the way so we were sorted and set off. By the time we reached Knaresborough we were 10 and we continued to Farnham, Copgrove, Staveley, muddy Aldborough and the Dunsforths in dry and windless weather though admittedly overcast. A banana break was had at Ouseburn and soon after new recruit Hazel left us to go to Cattal and catch the train. She had done really well but being on a mountain bike (and getting covered in mud!) she found it hard going. Hope to see you next week Hazel and I have heard you are bringing another bike! Our return was via Arkendale and Knaresborough and we had done 33 miles in good company and more or less dry despite the dire weather forecast! Many thanks to Steve for leading. The Poddlers send their best wishes to Dave P and hope you are OK. Liz P



Wednesday Ride

Usual suspects out for a ride today despite the forecast. Good 25 miles with a coffee stop at Sophie's via Stainburn, Sun Inn, Penny Pot Lane, Kettlesing, Birstwith Hall and Hampsthwaite. All in glorious grey! But as we approached Hollybank Woods there was enough brightness to admire the copper colour of the oak leaves still on the trees, a dead rat, sheep being moved and deer in the grounds of Ripley. A varied vista!

Welcome back to Kevin, his first ride after his catapult experience a few weeks ago. Gia



EGs Ride

Considering the forecast, a turn-out of eight was good and we set off in the Boroughbridge direction in better than expected conditions. Another freewheel competition for me to win, and the day showed great promise. Alas, this was all shattered in Staveley when I ran into Dave P and we both went down. It was fortuitous that we were outside the Staveley and Copgrove Village Hall wherein the flower arranging ladies were meeting. They rose to the occasion, administering first aid and tea and biscuits whilst Dave P2 went back for his truck to take Dave P home. We all send you our very best wishes for a speedy recovery Dave, and particularly my apologies for the tumble, not forgetting our gratitude to the aforementioned flower ladies.

The rest of the day, up to Spa Gardens and back was a subdued affair.

Dave S.

Latest news: Dave P has broken his left wrist but was in exceptionally good spirits when I saw him today.

Long Ride

If last weeks' long ride was nicely summed up by Richard P as "it pays to stay out", this weeks' ride showed that "you pay if you stay out". With Tadcaster and York on the agenda for the day, the outward leg to York was ridden in damp rather than wet conditions and generally induced a feeling that we were "getting away with it". Once again the scones at the Lemon Tree café (formerly Tykes) in Tadcaster were voted top notch by Lesley and on a grey damp day the fires in the grates were welcome. Although in new hands, the café is still very much a friend to cyclists even if the bike stands leave much to be desired – remember those old record racks for 45 rpm discs? The stands at Lemon Tree are about as much use. After a quick tour of Bolton Percy, to note that Doyle's Tearooms were open, flat-mile riding took us through Appleton Roebuck to Bishopthorpe, the Racecourse and finally to St Crux Parish Hall at The Shambles. Here volunteers serve simple lunches in a little oasis of calm in the lunch-time bustle of York. The return journey got damper and damper as we followed NCN65 to Beningbrough and Aldwark Bridge – the latter taken with great care across the slippery boards. By the time we said our farewells to Richard and Lesley at Half Penny Lane, the rain had stopped and at least Richard P and I didn't get any wetter up the hill into Starbeck. We consoled ourselves that 64 was a good mileage to clock up for the time of year and a fair test of our wet-weather gear.

Terry Smith

