

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Wonderful sunshine but a bitterly cold start. Keith had volunteered to help so a party of six went with him to Low Bridge, nine following with me. It seems to me that every Wednesday the traffic increases in number during our attempts to leave Harrogate and today was not a day to leave on the Showground path.

At Low Bridge there was a slight reorganisation when it was realised many needed to leave early. By the time we reached Farnham I was completely confused with numbers as we got mixed up with three other groups, I thought we had lost Hazel but she had been replaced by Glyn. Fortunately she had left intentionally. Joe and Geraldine left at Farnham to babysit, Monica at Ferrensby and Alison and Dennis at Arkendale.

At Arkendale was the wonderful news that they were serving tea/coffee and a slice of cake for £1 and everyone left was delighted to partake! No-one was disappointed and I gather it is on the 1st Wednesday of the month until 11.30. Keith had to leave us here for an appointment with the gasman but thank you very much for your help.

We were now a party of ten and proceeded to Grafton, Ouseburn, Thorp Underwood and Whixley. Over the busy A59 and along the quiet lane that has a pedestrian crossing over the railway. On to Walshford and back via Spofforth and the Showground so we could practise on a few hills! 34 miles. Thank you all for your company and Steve for leading much of the time. Liz P





Wednesday Ride

Seven of us set out to Ripon for an excellent coffee stop and to carry out financial duties with regard to the Wednesday Xmas lunch.

We tracked the Poddlers down to Low Bridge where the EG's were huddled, not entirely leaderless but missing their leader!

On to Ripon in glorious sunshine careful of any threatening wet/icy patches. We took over a corner in Olivers Pantry before emerging once more in to the afternoon sunshine. We cycled back via the deer park and Fountains, spotting a great deal of road kill on our way.

Great ride in winter sunshine, much merriment as befits the time of year and home in good time.
Gia M

EGs' Ride

Leaderless at Low Bridge

With both our leader and our deputy leader on the bench, no-one wanted to take up the decision making role, so having admired the abilities of the Hornbeam starters to attract members of the fairer sex to their outings, we shambled off in the general Tadcaster direction, without being too sure of our destination.

A warning message was forwarded to D'Oyly's Tea Rooms so that's where we went. Although there was some interest in a fast pace, this soon petered out as guidance responsibilities towards those slower riders who were unsure of the route were remembered, and a steady pace ensued.

The weather was superb and the riding as good as it gets, once the suspicion of frost had passed. Discussion, as usual, was wide ranging. Can a top floor apartment occupier claim the use of the loftspace above? The value, and cost, of public liability insurance. How attractive the waitress was. Other similarly intellectual topics were broached, and dismissed, in the usual fast moving fashion.

The ride continued via Bilborough and Long Marston, Peter B having diverted to York, and no homage to the civil war casualties today due to fear of riders' legs seizing up once they were stopped.

Rob bailed out at the A168, unable to counter the attraction of Wetherby Morrison's, Marvin turned for Harrogate, having been rudely denied his lunch, whilst the rest finished in

Knarborough. Thanks to all, including Dave P(2), Dave W(2), Bob, Colin, Peter J, Michael, as well as the aforementioned. We all hope our leaderless situation will not last too long; best wishes boys for your continued progress. Dave S



Colin and Terry's Breakout Ride

I wouldn't suggest going to Greenhow top on any old winter's day, but to-day was special.....bright, still, and clear. Just the two of us, then....

Stray paths, Greenway, Hollybank lane, Birstwith and the "toll" road past the old mill, (Heron fishing in the millpond) then the Pateley road just until we could turn off for Glasshouses.

Then before Beverley, we were up Peat Lane....it's steep through the woods, so we walked for a bit. Then out of the woods into the sunshine to Toft Gate Barn Café, which turned out to be a bit of a find. The sun was streaming in the windows, which gave a 180 degree view over Pateley, and I had to hide from the heat coming out of the log burner. Good coffee and scones, too.

After coffee, we walked up to the Coldstones Cut, just to get the full 360 degree view....you could see the factories on Teeside pushing out smoke.

Then it was Duck Street, Menwith Hill, Clapham Green, Hampsthwaite, Hollybank Woods and the Greenway to be back home for 3.30 as the sun and the temperature were dropping. Colin T



Long Ride

Just four takers for the long ride today - our first truly winter outing with prospects of a clear bright cold day with long views from the tops. Stump Cross was the proposed destination. We opted for the valley route towards Bolton Abbey and noticed how much warmer it seemed to be on the top at Briscoerigg compared with the bottom near Leathley. As we came south along B6161 a frosty haze could be seen in Wharfedale, which brought about a call for an early coffee stop and

thaw-out at Ilkley. Christ Church once again accommodated our needs, after an abortive call at Ilkley Cycles' cafe which was closed. Suitably thawed, Lesley and Richard S headed for home, while Richard P and I made for Bolton Abbey and some higher ground. The temptation to climb over Langbar was resisted today on the grounds that the steep descent would be down the north-facing slope, possibly with sheltered icy patches. At A59, which had only light traffic, we diverted up the hill to turn for Storiths, gaining some warmth and being rewarded with clear panoramic views across to Great Whernside. Reaching Stump Cross at 1.30, it was time for light lunch and a bask in the lounge, heated by sun and fire. With less than 2 hours of daylight left there was little room for debate about the way back - Duck Street and Menwith. The sun kept the chill away as we descended, taking in views of the Aire valley power stations to add to the day's visual memories. Diversions through Padside and Thornthwaite led to some shaded and increasingly chilly lanes to Hampsthwaite, with the final miles taking us through Jennyfield to the Hydro and back to town with just enough sunlight to spare. An excellent day's winter riding: 56 miles and 4160 ft climbed.

One bit of information that needs sharing: Stump Cross caverns and cafe will open at weekends only between 5 Jan and 6th Feb 2015. Not available on Weds, therefore. Terry S