

Wednesday, January 7, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

---

### **Poddlers ride**

A gentle, post-Christmas ride was called for and this is what we got. About 20 miles (just like the Poddlers in the olden days), mostly out of the wind.

Of the 10 of us, about 8 were ride leaders since we chopped and changed a bit. Some of us had our best shoes on so we couldn't do the Harland Way. One was reminded of the maxim "a journey of a 1000 miles starts with the first step (but a woman's journey of a 1000 miles starts with deciding what to wear)". Liz said to put that in!

The big draw for this ride was a surprise café stop – at Barker & Stonehouse furniture shop at St James' Park. The main attraction was simply that it was a new venue.

To satisfy the curiosity of WE geographers, we went to Spofforth then circuitously through the North and Kirk Deightons, north up the cycle path and off to Little Ribston and Knaresborough. Paul B





### **(Short) Long ride**

The ride strategy was sound: head into the wind while we were still fresh; return with the wind at our backs. With this in mind we set off for Ilkley. Beyond Beckwithshaw the reality hit us on the lumps over Briscoerigg as gusty downhills followed tough uphill stretches. The intended diversion past the fish farm was called off owing to the amount of diesel spilt on the road. Heading for Pool rather than Otley signalled the first major challenge - Old Pool Bank. Fears of assault from the wind as well as the gradient proved unfounded. The climb was in the lee of the moor and there were more issues with traffic than anything else. How much busier are the lanes in Wharfedale compared to Nidderdale! More gusts followed on the descent from The Chevin but, as earlier, the lumpy climb up to Cow & Calf was mainly sheltered by the moor. While we gladly settled into Chtistchurch cafe for lunch Richard L headed up Wells Road as far the top car park for extra climbing practice. Talk of a return over Stump Cross proved to be just that and we turned eastwards for a return on the closed road to Askwith and some lovely smooth fresh tarmac, courtesy of the road gang. Some wind assistance helped us up to to top road back to Fewston, where David R left us to use his mountain bike on its intended terrain. At Wydra Peter R and Richard L headed for Little Almscliff and home, with Richard P and I taking the breeze along Penny Pot, to reach an eerily quiet Jennyfield estate. We were back early enough to catch the post-lunch lull before the school run. At 43 miles it was one our shorter rides, but the wind made the 3400 ft of ascent tell on the legs - good miles for January, however.

Terry Smith

### **Wednesday ride**

Nine of us agreed that a ride towards Boroughbridge and possibly Ripon was suitable for the conditions. It was, although the last hour was something of a challenge with the wind.

We split for coffee, some to Bowe and Co, excellent, and some to newish café which is in a former pub. Verdict, spacious and ok.

At Copgrove bridleway, three returned directly to Harrogate the rest adding in the Bishop Monkton and Markington route, enjoying the ride home along our old friend the Greenway. Nice to see that there is now a permanent plaque for the stone bike sculpture.

Good ride, great company, 36 miles few of us would have done without Wheel Easy. Gias Have you noticed the new bike shelters at Hornbeam?? Enough space for at least thirty bikes.



### **EG's ride**

It was a grey day with the forecast of rain later in the afternoon.

Despite that we had a good turnout of thirteen EG's full of New Year Resolutions and Christmas pud.

Happy New Year wishes were exchanged between the EG's and also with Wheel Easy Wednesday's.

Then away we went, destination Morrisons cafe in Boroughbridge.

At the men's downhill competition to Occaney, Dave Watson was the odds on favourite, riding a similar bike and same wheels as reigning champion Dave Siswick.

Norman also threw his hat in the ring, stating that he had put on two pounds in weight over Christmas, that's nothing, in fact probably only an extra helping of Christmas Pud.

Dave P thought he was in with a chance, with the extra ballast, however it was "a new kid on the block", Ian who took the trophy, closely followed by Bob with Dave Watson third.

There was a nice bit of wind assist to Boroughbridge and Morrison's.

After caffeine and calories (despite calorie loading over the last few weeks), it was in to the wind to Aldborough, and the Dunsforth's.

At Great Ouseburn the Fellowship of the Chainring was dissolved, and a super six group headed for Ferrensby and a magnificent seven for Aldwark bridge and Melmerby??, hearing not being that good it could have been Risplith? DW?.

A few drops of rain were felt in Knaresborough around 1-00pm (as forecast) but this came to nothing, though the wind did pick up.

No ice or fog, it's got to be good.

Max mileage amongst the super six around 38 miles for Bob S. Dave P.

Editor's note: great to see you're back out again. Dave S.



### **EG's supplementary report**

The "Magnificent Seven" headed off north, gingerly negotiating Aldwark Bridge, scene of Dave W's crash last Dec., aiming towards Melmerby. Upon reaching Braferton Helperby, Rob & Peter B announced they would be peeling off at Thornton Bridge (other pressing business) and went on their way whilst the rest of us were contemplating lunch. Just as we were about to continue on our way Eric spotted a sign leading us to refreshments in the local village ("Millennium") hall. Wonderful bowls of soup were on offer at bargain prices together with cheese & biscuits and tea/coffee. Refuelled we aimed north towards Rainton at a rather brisk pace, Eric gratefully pushing the wind, thank goodness, (thanks Eric, much appreciated), then cutting south and west to Ripon.

Diving under the "Hutton Bank" roundabout we took the shortest route throu' Ripon and headed off home to reach Knaresborough around 3.10pm, plenty of time before lighting up time.

Apart from an errant rider trying to cut up deputy Dave (W.) by overtaking on the inside and rapidly turning left across his bows, whilst the remainder of the group were waiting for approaching traffic at a T junction, the ride had turned out to be great with good company and the weather essentially behaving itself despite threatening clouds.

A total of about 55 miles completed which for an E.G's winter ride is excellent. Dave Watson.