

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

Welcome to Mike. Twenty keen Poddlers departed the Beam and rode to Forest Moor via the magnificently cleared (Dennis) cycle path from Sainsbury's crossing to Morrison's ditto. The pace was exhilarating – and everyone was kind enough to follow despite any gradient not being my thing!! A quick photo at the magnificent gates in Follifoot was carefully choreographed by Gordon and a host of red and yellow riders fluttered and danced before my lens. Alas, it's back to "Hamateur Photographer" for me as the result was unprintable. The pace was resumed and we glided through Spofforth and on past Caroline's anticipated slow crop. We all gathered outside the Meeting House in Knaresborough where Purveyor of Fine Fayre, David, produced a packet of Fig Rolls to keep us going. These were seized upon with relish and thanks. What a star! Thus fortified, we waved Geraldine off to her babysitting duty and continued through Knaresborough and on to the rural byways of Scriven, Lingerfield and Scotton and thence to Brearton, Nidd and Ripley. It was a glorious, if rather windy, ride and rather aromatic in places, As Gordon said, "Good stuff but not as an aftershave"! By the time, we hit Ripley, there were signs of darkening skies and with the exception of Liz and Michael, who were last seen sipping coffee outside the general store, the rest of us headed to our various journeys' end. I encountered a very perky Malcolm on St George's Road – Brompton basket filled with goodies and a lovely purring sound coming from his mean machine. He very nobly reduced his speed to my level and we glided to our respective homes.

Thank you all for a very pleasant ride and apologies for the lack of picture. Sue D

### **Wednesday Ride**

A 'baker's dozen' plus one lined up for the medium ride. There was a little hesitation for nomination of route leader and a suggestion of Myton-on-Swale got John R the temporary job. Quite quick progress was made in the chilly sunshine and fairly soon the group bounced across Aldwark Bridge, with James leaving us, as he had to get home early. The bridge keeper seemed surprised at the number of riders over the 3 groups. With a strengthening wind behind us, the route took us through Aldwark, on newly laid smooth tarmac, then onto the long downhill into Myton, where the Scots slaughtered the English army of monks and labourers!

We took the back lane into delightful Helperby, passing the chocolate box Queen Anne style mansion, now owned by the Morrison family. With no invitation to stop for tea we went on to the farm café just outside Boroughbridge. We were now reduced to 12 riders as John (not the route leader!) headed home. With 30 miles completed before the tea stop!!! (A record)??? ...and rain promised for 2pm we sped home via Minskip to meet up with the EG's just outside Knaresborough, whom we had met at Low Bridge in the morning. After a chat we all zoomed home in spitting rain and reached Harrogate before the main downpour.

Good views and great company, missing most of the rain. What more can you ask for?

Overall 45 miles at least, at an average of 11.5mph. John R



### **EGs' Ride**

The weather forecast seemed dire for later in the day and our maritime consultant confirmed rain was expected @ 1400hrs. Our deputy leader anticipated an early return to base so a circular route, as only he seems to create, took us, all twelve, to the Sun Parlour in Ripon via Burton Leonard, Markington, Drovers X-roads, Watergate lane, returning to Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe and thus into Ripon via "Fisher Green" ford and Palace Road. (Don't mention the unexpected one-way street; 30 years since I'd travelled that road).

The sun had followed us so far but we knew black clouds would follow. Sure enough following our late morning break, where Dan topped up with his usual three course feast of food, upon exiting the cafe, raindrops were felt to confirm our fears of impending wet weather.

A number of members needed to be home early anyway so a show of hands suggested that a direct route home would be preferred by all. The intent of our deputy leader had always been to extend the earlier mileage in the company of the morning sunshine and @ 25 miles to Ripon we had achieved this aim.

The faster group thus on our return, gradually pulled away, keen to avoid getting wet, the remainder sticking close together, giving moral support to Terry W. who was feeling the earlier pace. (Maybe more than a scone as refreshment had been called for!) On reaching Sandy Bank we were surprised to see that our fast group, waiting to continue on our way together, had, puzzlingly swollen in size. It suddenly dawned that the Wheeeasy group from Hornbeam Park had coincidentally met up with the E.Gs at this point.

Splitting up into our respective "pelotons" we headed off towards home but despite the "early bath", so to speak we still managed to complete in excess of 40 miles.

I am pleased to report, following a brief telephone call and text that our Leader, Dave Preston, seems to be making good progress following his "op" on Monday. I'm sure we all wish him a speedy recovery and an early return to the Wednesday rides. David W

### **Notes from Spain, 10th March**

Today's route; Pego, Oliva, Dénia. On one of my earlier rides to Pego I had seen a wooden sign with a bike logo saying 15kms circular route. The sign was pointing to a wetland/ nature reserve, so I thought I would go exploring. The tracks were a mixture of gravel, packed earth, concrete and tarmac running alongside water channels controlled by sluice gates. At one point I counted ten Herons circling around looking for lunch, I did see other birds which I didn't recognise -- one of the drawbacks of cycling on your own with no Keith or Colin to identify the wildlife for you. The nature reserve was very peaceful and serene with lovely views looking back to the

mountains I was so immersed in my surroundings that I became lost, but not hopelessly! The tracks were running east to west and north to south. I wanted to head south; unfortunately the track I wanted was on the other side of a water channel so I had the option of crossing via a rickety wooden bridge (see pics) or making a long detour on the track. I crossed the bridge very carefully!!

Eventually I made my way down to the coast road and headed to Oliva. I thought I might call into the Tourist Information Office and pick up a map of the nature reserve!! On the way I passed Oliva Nova Golf Club where a big equestrian event is being held. It lasts for a fortnight and the events include show jumping, dressage etc. also they are free to watch. This is the second year that it has been held at Oliva Nova --brings a whole different meaning to the saying 'horses for courses'! When I got to Oliva the Tourist Information Office was closed so no map. I got a photograph taken of me and the bike on the beach as it was such a nice day -- this is what it will be like on the 'Brid' run this year -- trust me, book a place. On my way back into Dénia along the coast road I passed a little side road leading to the beach I literally had to do a double take because there were at least twenty classic cars lined up they must have been worth several millions of pounds. There were at least five Rolls Royces, a Bentley, Mercedes, Chevrolet, Lancia, Citroen and I think an Oldsmobile it was quite surreal because apart from the owners there were barely ten people there. I still have no idea why they were parked where they were but they had gone by the following morning.

I managed to do 102 kms today bringing my total so far to just over 1200kms. I have just a couple of 'tanning rides' left to do before flying back to England on -- would you believe Friday 13th! I am looking forward to cycling with a group again, in good company and being able to have a bit of 'banter at a canter', I may even be fit enough to join the faster group and have a 'gossip at a gallop' I wonder if they talk about racier subjects? I know that my Notes from Spain have been nothing like your usual ride reports -- which are always entertaining, informative and well written, some are even worthy of a Booker Prize nomination -- I tried my best and having had a go at this report writing lark, I take my hat off to those people who write the ride reports week after week.

Hasta la próxima vez. Terry C



