

Wednesday, April 1, 2015

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers Ride**

Given the forecast predicted for today on Monday we were very lucky being blessed with reduced wind speed, little rain and even some sunshine. Eleven of us set off for Boroughbridge via Minskip. Here three riders with work, dinner and repaired wheel to pick up appointments left us. In recognition of the weekend celebrations two riders had an impromptu competition to find the cheapest eggs. Alison deviated just after Farnham to seek hers, returning to report a price of £1 for six. After Boroughbridge Glyn deviated to Milby, fuelled by his true Yorkshire tradition, returning with the winning purchase of 12 eggs "big uns", for £1.50 (you do the math). Back to the ride. Coffee was not taken because no one wanted to face restarting in the cold. We progressed to Littlethorpe by way of Skelton on Ure thence to Bishop Monkton. Just for the hell of it we turned into the wind to face le cote de Markington. After that it was downhill all the way to our individual chez nouses. On the iron bridge/ Asda path we came across one of the original starters with a newly repaired wheel strapped to his back. Its such a small world! A satisfying ride of 35 miles in good company. Max G.

### **Purple Ride**

We're still in Lent, so purple is the colour to follow. In the case of Lesley and Richard S, Jill F, John S and me this translated to the Purple Partridge at Raskelf, recently reviewed in a Sunday ride report. As we know April 1<sup>st</sup> has its elephant traps taking the form of, for example, Tesco stores installing trampolines for customers to reach the top shelves! Equally unbelievable was the layer of hail/snow covering everything in Leeds at 08.30. Luckily, Harrogate seemed to have escaped the wintry stuff but numbers were well down, some even resorting to refuge in Mallorca. Small numbers, dodgy weather and no firm plan usually mean one thing – let's see what the EGs are doing. At Low Bridge EGs were out in force, as was another group of cyclists not known to WEs or EGs. Concern at the size of the combined WE/EG group resulted in our choice of Raskelf for a breakaway. Bowled along by the strong NW wind, our outward journey through K'boro and Farnham to Boroughbridge was a convivial affair, with lots of conversation and few challenges on the road. The obligatory comfort break in B'bridge followed after which John S, on a post-op recovery ride, headed back home with some gentle miles in his legs.

Thornton Bridge is quite a sight – a white marble tunnel, built from scaffolding and plastic sheeting. Assuming the guise of pedestrians we were allowed through without hindrance and noted the possibilities of the tunnel as a shelter, should any April fool weather return. At Raskelf the Purple Partridge proved an excellent venue, with cinnamon teacakes, scones and bacon butties proving popular – and, the teapot was by Le Creuset, a touch of class. Like the décor, with its stuffed budgie (not on the menu!) and inverted umbrellas, the service was friendly if a little quirky. But, given the café desert that Easingwold can be at times, this venue is one that is well worth a repeat visit. Thank you, Jill, for alerting us to this great stop.

There's not a lot to report about the slog of the return leg. The strong head wind kept us mainly in single file, with conversation down to the essentials. Any plans to deviate from the shortest route back were quickly ditched. Overall, the 47 miles had many rewards. We admired the daffodils at Arkendale and made a mental note to visit the re-opened Blue Bell Inn. And, thanks to an Audax enthusiast we met at Raskelf, we all learned the difference between an Audax ride and a Sportif – it's usually about £35! Terry Smith

### **Wednesday Ride**

On a blustery and showery morning our small group was attracted by an early stop at Sophie's in Hampsthwaite. But the route there became not so much an issue as something to be expanded upon. Truth be known once we were out and getting on with it we actually quite enjoyed ourselves. So the route of 25 miles included Burn Bridge, Brackenthwaite Lane, Beckwithshaw, Sun Inn, Black Bull on the A59, Kettlesing, and Hampsthwaite. Nothing punctured or broke and we all smiled a lot. Now if it would just get 5 degrees warmer .... Martin W



### **EGs Ride**

Unfortunately the wet & windy forecast was not an April fools joke. Earlier plans had to be amended to accommodate the expected showers & strong westerlys, but despite a few regulars abandoning the usual Wednesday ride the ride leader was surprised to see 16 potential riders awaiting his arrival. Luckily, several riders decided to go off on their own route, led by Phil Stell, heading, it is believed to the farmshop @ Raskelf.

Soon rumour had it that Eric W. would be late by reason of a broken chain on his way to Low Bridge. Dave S. advised him of our intended route and so we set off, all remaining twelve of us. With the wind behind us we made good progress towards our first cafe stop @ "The Little Acorn" (Copmanthorpe), despite the difficulties negotiating the significant roadworks along Ox Close Lane, (resurfacing both edges) and not before time!

Chris & Bob left us early, so 10 arrived to sample the Goats Cheese Scones etc. which were declared very tasty. Now for the return leg facing into the wind! Rain in our faces we battled on, albeit, at least they were only showers. (Capes on Capes off as they say) The intent was to continue to "Tasty Snacks" (now called "The Lemon Tree") in Tadcaster via Bolton Percy. Passing through Colton our route to the left was "Closed". Ah!, which way now? Swinging in the opposite direction we found our way via Bilborough, Catterton and the cycle path onto "Taddy".

Low and behold Mr. Waters, new chain fitted, was there awaiting our arrival, having sat himself down just 15 minutes earlier, coffee cup still warm.

The weather on our return journey thereafter didn't improve, although a little drier, the wind bore down on the peloton but with the help of Eric's fresh legs we drove on to Bramham. Terry & Norman (on his recently refurbished "Flying Scotsman" cycle, very nice!) had to leave us at this point to return early.

Despite the continuing strong winds, there remained plenty of enthusiasm to press on so we pushed forward, grateful for Eric's assistance, (there's no "i" in team!) to Bardsey, East Keswick & Linton. A brief pause saw the Harrogate members head off from Linton via Sicklinhall and Kirkby Overblow, whilst the remaining four left for Knaresborough, Dave S. now courageously taking up the "slack" and pushing the wind onwards and home, bravely refusing help from Ian!

Surprisingly, 50+ miles completed. Well done everybody for showing up despite the dreadful forecast.

(Reports from various sources suggest that our leader, Dave P., continues to make good progress, despite a rumour he's now in bed with "Flue". At least he's now getting out and about. All the very best Dave from the E.G's) Dave W.

