

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

On a bright, clear skyed morning fifteen set off for Bishop Monkton via Low Bridge, and Farnham. As the retreating roadside daffodils made way for the first carpets of bluebells it was a beautiful day to be cycling in Yorkshire and approaching cyclists greeted us with smiles of two-wheeled satisfaction. John took a faster group ahead. On the Markington gradients an impressive chase led by the lone rider Caroline, ably supported by Dynamo Dennis, brought the trailing group back into contention for the return journey via Ripley. Wherein the re-opened parish church coffee and cake stop provided the usual excellent refreshments.



Wednesday Ride

Only six riders set off with the best weather of the year so far leading us to hope for a great ride. Our route took us onto the Greenway, Markington, Fountains Abbey and a delightful café stop at Spa Gardens and the sunshine.

Our destination was Masham and we took the route up to Grewelthorpe and all the way up towards Ilton. Brilliant swoop down towards Masham, on the way we saw a peacock in a tall tree. A bird big enough for even the least competent twitcher to spot. Lunch at Johnny Baghdads again al fresco most enjoyable.

The return route was via Snape and Ripon, stopping only to purchase some French atlases as you do! Home via Markington and the Greenway again.

A really brilliant ride superb views and great company, thanks to Angela, Sarah R, Colin, James and Scottish John for a great day - 64 miles Sue C



Long Ride

On such a beautiful day one might have expected a large turnout but in the event there were three of us – Martin, Peter and John. We all got our excuses in early as we set off towards The Squinting Cat. Jet lag, hip problems and hernia op recuperation were all trotted out but as we climbed away from Fewston via Martin's dubious shortcut everyone seemed on reasonable form. We made our way through Askwith and opted for the smooth run along the river rather than the leg testing slog over Langbar. We passed Bolton Abbey via the dogleg on the A59 then meandered towards Burnsall. We were overtaken by a small girl somewhere around Barden with the inevitable response from three blokes – we passed her on the next climb thinking it was the last before Burnsall. However, we had miscalculated and another ascent presented itself. With gritted teeth we held on and pulled in at the café. As we dismounted, the girl flew passed, clearly impressed.

As we sat out in the glorious sunshine (average temperature for the ride - 19 degrees) , the deficit, the general election and the benefits of Glucosamine were chewed over along with beans on toast and Welsh rarebit.

Following our pitstop we headed through Appletreewick and began the climb out of the valley only to meet a tractor on the first hairpin. We gave way on the basis that he wasn't going to. We then dragged ourselves up the initial climb and reconvened on the bench halfway up (see photos). Martin waxed lyrical about the pros and cons of electronic gears only to find his chain had come off. After some nifty gear shifting we were ready to go.

We climbed up and up, passing Stump Cross heading towards Duck Street. The legs were feeling weary as we crossed the A59 near Menwith and Peter headed towards home as Martin and John turned up Penny Pot Lane. Then we endured the final challenge as we dragged ourselves up to Otley Road. Fantastic weather, wonderful scenery and good banter. An excellent ride.

Total mileage – 55 miles. Elevation gain – 1,247 metres. John S.



EG's Ride

A warm sunny day begoned this morning but arriving later than usual, albeit @ 10.00am on the dot, I was amused to note that already Eric, who had managed to arrive unusually early, was on the the phone seeking news of my whereabouts. He was also able to advise of Chris's problem puncture on the Beryl Burton Cycleway, and suggested going to meet Chris so they could liason on the outskirts of Knaresborough so off he went.

Joined by Sandy who had cycled from Skelton-on-Ure, and had left her husband to fend for himself (temporarily for the day I should add) we made our way heading for Raskelf via Aldwark Bridge & The Purple Cafe @ the farm shop.

Progress was steady but even then we managed to mislay Norman and the 2 Terrys and notwithstanding back tracking our route no sign was found until they turned up just as we were about to resume our way, to report wrong-slotting towards Beningborough.

No sign of Eric & Chris though until we arrived @ Raskelf where they were seen to be sitting outside, enjoying the sun and already tucking in to their (second?) breakfast.

Everyone finaly refueled we headed off on a circular route around Easingwold, leaving Chris, Norman & Mick to make their way home early. Noting the bluebells now appearing in the hedgerows, after a little navigational constination (small scale maps!!) we found ourselves in lovely Crayke where we took the opportunity to enjoy a "banana" break. Spotting an unusual truncated tower Eric made enquiries of a local resident to identify a long unused well which had been sealed up following an unfortunate incidence when someone fell through the unguarded entrance.

Duly rested we continued towards Huby where regretfully a misheard directive meant that half the group took the wrong road. However after the use of the magic of modern communication devices (mobile phones) we managed to regroup and thereafter continued home via Tollerton, returning once again over Aldwark Bridge and then following a brief pause to say farewell to Sandy, (heading home via the Dunsforths & Boroughbridge) at Branston Green we reached Knaresborough without any further mishaps completing approx 60 warm and enjoyable miles. A nice steady and enjoyable ride! Dave Watson.



