

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Short Ride

Sunshine, bluebells, good company, coffee and cake outside- and some cycling. What a lovely morning! We did a loop that covered Hampsthwaite, Ripley and so on. Welcome to Sue and Alan. We all agreed a leisurely ride was just right for the day. Alison N

Poddlers' Ride

A bright sunny morning greeted the thirteen Poddlers for an undulating ride out to Great Almscliffe and Leathley.

We took the usual route out to the Squinting Cat Pub where we regrouped for a team photo. Going along Brackenthwaite Lane all the sights and sounds of Spring were in evidence. Syklarks were singing overhead, and there was the unmistakable sound of poddlers unzipping and shedding outer garments.

On through North Rigton and Great Almscliffe, where Max and Paul decided to take the shorter loop down to Huby and Weeton .

The rest of our band of eleven enjoyed the descent down to Leathley and the extensive views over lower Wharfedale. A welcome stop at Leathley Village Hall for a banana break. Then it was on our way again through Castley, Weeton and up to Kirby Overblow for what we hoped was a well deserved coffee stop. But no coffee was to be found in Kirby Overblow, so it was decided to head back to Hornbeam via Walton Head Lane, Burn Bridge and Rosset Green Lane.

Thank you Caroline for backmarking and taking photos. Hopefully all views made all the effort worthwhile. Approx 25 miles. Keith.



Wednesday Ride

What a brilliant sunny cycling day! Seven of us headed to Knaresborough, Goldsborough, across the A59 to Flaxby and on to Coneythorpe. At this point any semblance of the "obvious route" was abandoned as we took the by-road looping towards the A1M and back to Arkendale before we headed across to Marton. Mike who was a new rider to several of us provided us with the little known fact that the Post Office in Marton called Spellows serves excellent coffee and cake. How did we ever not know about this? Definitely a future stop. But for now it was on to Aldborough along the undulating road, and then through Boroughbridge, looking picturesque in the sunshine, to Lister's Farm Shop. It just seems to get better, so we took a long time over cakes and sandwiches, oh, and they now have a newly plumbed in pukka coffee machine. Well restored we set off briskly via Skelton-on-Ure to Ripon, and then up through the Deer Park to

the Visitor Centre and homeward on the hilly route via Ripley and the Greenway. A neat exact 40 mile ride. Perrrrfect!!



Short EGs' Ride

Good start to the day, sunshine, a slight chill in the air and no rain forecast. We had four riders at Low Bridge, eight had left earlier on their 100 miler. Chat with Martin, declining his kind offer for joining their ride, because two of the oldest riders (on the recovery road) wanted something flatter.

Norman was on his new 60 year old classic bike, named a "Flying Scot", steam powered?, some jokes about Alex Salmond and his photo with the "Flying Scotsman", and the deleted first letter. This is a proper EG`s ride said Bob, all talking about bikes and ailments.

On to Boroughbridge and Morrison's cafe, Bob won the Occaney downhill challenge, closely followed by Norman who came a good second. Must be his new bike, can`t be a weight factor (there is more fat on a chip than Norman).

After caffeine on to Aldwark bridge and Benningborough Home Farm Cafe for more caffeine, cake and an enormous scone. Then on to Whixley, Walshford, Little Ribston, Knaresborough and Harrogate.

Great cycling weather, bright but cool. Min mileage approx 50miles , max (Bob S) near to 60 miles. A nice build your miles up run, especially for Theo and Dave P. Dave P



Long Ride

Lovely weather drew only two takers for a long ride today.

Peter and Martin set off with Kettlewell their intended destination for a midday break. Progress was reasonably swift along Menwith Hill Rd and then Duck Street before the swoop down to Grassington, which was reached in two hours and rewarded some stunning views to the west. The quiet lane north was taken via Conistone to Kettlewell where the fare and welcome were predictably fine. Several other cyclist were there and the cafe now offers a "road" style bike rack.

The route home took us down Wharfedale via the road on the west of the valley. We sped down to Burnsall for a photo opportunity of our equipment and the lovely stone bridge. Artistic? The route back to Harrogate was familiar via Ilkley and then up the hill from Askwith and across the dam of Fewston reservoir.

Ride Stats : 72 miles, 1422 metres climbing and 13.3 MPH average speed.



EGs 100 Mile Ride

The expression of anticipation of the unknown was palpable on the faces of seven regular EGs chumping at the bit awaiting the start of the inaugural "Bluebell Bash" at 8.00am this morning at the regular meeting place, Low Bridge, Knaresborough.

Route maps were handed out, prepared by the ride leader, to ensure no one went astray and as it happened it turned out to be a wise move. (See later!). Luckily the forecast of sunshine and light northerly winds suited the planned route north through Thirsk & up towards the Silton villages where it was expected to enjoy vistas of bluebells.

On our exit down Boroughbridge road, in sunny but cool conditions immediately provided us with our first surprise of the day in spotting a female Red deer on the left amongst the growing crop, head raised with a look of curiosity as we "whooshed" by. Progress was brisk through Boroughbridge and Milby, such that the stronger members of the peloton gradually left their leader some distance behind as he set his own pace to suit the distance and terrain yet to come. Contact was re-established after the peloton realised they were one down, highlighting the importance of maintaining a regular backward glance when riding in a group to ensure no one has had a problem and may need assistance!

First break at "Arabica" cafe in Thirsk and then for the cup-de gras, the meandering roads through Felixkirk, Kirby Knowle, Kewick & Nether Silton. Regretably the swathes of bluebells, although visible in small areas, had yet to fully bloom, but the views across the vale, in exceptional clear conditions were to be behold!

A short break adjacent to a smallholding in Kewick prompted Dave S. to remark on the appearance of large lumps of what appeared to be manure, enquiring as to where the Elephants were only to later realise they were but turnips, or perhaps beet. (Animal feed).

Progressing south to attempt to cross the A19 at a safe point the leader took his eye off the ball in following instead of leading and in doing so Dave S. was summarily lost ahead and the leading riders, following the "flow" of the road drifted from our intended route.

Finding ourselves crossing the A19 north of the intended point, literally dodging the traffic to reach safety, we attempted to re-establish links with Dave S. but could only leave a brief message, but confident that, having a map, he would rejoin us at the planned lunch halt at East Rounton, we headed off.

Diverting around Ellerbeck's unsurfaced road, which our leader had reasoned would be impassible, a short uncomfortable stint up the A19 delivered us back to our northerly route to the farm shop which was to our next respite. A couple of miles before arriving Dave S. managed to make contact, (yes the marvels of the mobile) informing us that he had just arrived at "Roots Farm Shop".

Querying Dave S's whereabouts during his solo ride towards lunch he revealed he'd taken a short cut up Ellerbeck, thinking he may have been behind the group, but found the route obstructed by a five metre wide uncrossable ford. Using well known cyclocross techniques he hauled his bike onto his shoulder and set off across the adjacent fields to find a small bridge to enable progress northward to be re-established.

The remaining groups progress had been good, despite the minor problems so far, and we arrived for lunch after approx 60 odd miles at 1.30pm. As the weather had remained sunny, although at times cold, we were able to assemble outside for lunch. Service was crisp albeit it

later transpired quality in some regard suspect. Dave S's bacon sandwich didn't live up to expectation and he felt compelled to point this out at the check-out, thus reducing his outlay. Assembling at the exit prior to departure, Eric was promoted to return to pay his bill, absent mindedly forgetting due to busy conversations. Insomuch both Dave S. & Eric were the only two members in club strip the clubs reputation was at risk of establishing a suspect reputation as far as this cafe stop was concerned.

Heading on the long journey south the pace, helped by the northerly breeze continued to be brisk reaching Northallerton ahead of schedule. Negotiating our way carefully through the traffic of our northern and regional capitol we aimed down Crosby road and onwards towards Borrowby.

This was the plan but fate dealt us a blow by delivering a puncture to Peter J. & at the time two errant riders were off the front failed initially to spot the problem. Assembling on the roadside some difficulties ensued in replacing the errant tube but after 25 minutes we were back on our way. The unplanned pause meant any intent to briefly stop in Thirsk was shelved.

The vagaries of the junctions across the A19 forced us onto a meandering route through Upsall where our leader, feeling the effects of unpractised mileage suffered perhaps not unexpected cramp whilst climbing the hills approaching Upsall. Encouragement from Peter J. (Thanks again) helped to scale the ascent and gradually, with the help of the following descents the problem eased.

We swept through Thirsk via a previously unknown diversion, thanks to Terry's magic box of tricks, his garmin, crossing the Paris Roubaix like cobbles of the market square for the cycle route to Sowerby.

Continuing home, still at a good pace, on reaching Boroughbridge, Eric announced his need to take on more fuel in the form of perhaps coffee and cakes at Morrisons. Five of the group joined him leaving Dave S. and the leader to continue on their way back to Knaresborough, grateful for not having to ride up to Harrogate.

Thanks from our leader to Eric, Colin, Marvin, Peter, Terry C., Dave S. & Dave Wilson, for sharing the enthusiasm and trust for the (very) long ride totalling 106, or perhaps, for thoughts from Harrogate, slightly more miles. Perhaps this ride may become an annual event? Dave W







Off-road Ride

Five of us set off from Hornbeam Park in the sunshine led by Colin. We headed towards Fulwith Mill Lane and turned down the hill to cross Crimple Beck, pausing to watch the buzzards wheeling above us and the carpet of bluebells by the bridge. We continued off-road through Moor Wood, crossed Pannal Road and continued until reaching the ring road. After a brief interlude on the tarmac which took us through Kirkby Overblow and round to Sicklinghall we cut right down excellent tracks crossing the River Wharfe via the bridge currently under repair before climbing up to East Keswick. After another short stint on the road which took us to the bridleways leading us past Wyke we arrived at the Harewood Estate. We stopped to repair the only puncture of the ride and looped round to the cafe at Harewood Village where we ate lunch while watching the Red Kites swoop down to take meat thrown by a local. After lunch we headed back into the Estate before cutting down to cross the Harewood Bridge turning immediately right along the river. After a short but fearsome climb and another repeat of the dash to Sicklinghall

on the road we cut left to go bouncing down the tracks to Spofforth. From there we doglegged back towards Follifoot and finished with the clamber up to the Showground. 31 miles and an excellent ride. John S

