

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Short Ride

Three of us set off in slightly better weather than of late with forecast of light rain later. Route chosen was Wetherby via Showground, Rudding, Higgs Road and Spofforth. Then picked up the Harland Way into Wetherby and back via North Deighton Spofforth Follifoot and show ground. Nice steady ride, uneventful and rain stayed away about 17 miles and back before 12 o'clock. Steven P

Poddlers' Ride

Thank you to the 19 riders who opted to poddle today – as always a good Wednesday showing with a forecast of cloud but no wind or rain. Thank you to Liz Pugh who nobly agreed to lead those who wished to avoid the sedate pace favoured by me – she powered off with 14 speedy pedallers and the remaining five manoeuvred round those not for the fainthearted hairpin bends to Hookstone Road.

A warm welcome was extended to Alan who had completed a couple of Wednesday "shorts". I did explain the sedate pace and as we could still see Liz and the Powering Poddlers ahead deemed it wise and polite to suggest he join them but he nobly opted to stay and ride with four ladies! Thank you, Alan, for your faith that we would complete and indeed we did. Accompanied by birdsong, bleating and the odd "neigh" we hit the Stainburn Forest Carpark just in time to see our erstwhile contemporaries haring off to do the off-road track and away. On reaching the end of the forest path and the gated road, we sailed down the ensuing descent ready to turn right for the further downhill section before the B616. Assuming Lynda Mac had surged ahead, it was thought we would encounter her somewhere.

By Leathley Village Hall we had not and Caroline made an urgent call to her mobile to tell her where we were. Unfortunately, Lynda's mobile was switched off so we hurtled on as a foursome – gosh, yes, Alan this is Wheel Easy at its best – 1/5 lost! At Kirkby Overblow, the power group was spotted drinking coffee in the Star and Garter. Caroline entered and announced our intention to carry on home and Liz appeared to say they were going further before returning. All very jolly! Caroline and Alan continued via Kirkby Overblow to the bypass and points north and Di and I turned off up Walton Head Lane to our respective abodes and the planned afternoon fun! Thank you all poddling participants and especial gratitude to Liz. Sue D

NB A phone call to Lynda ascertained her eventual safe arrival home - she had taken the mountainous route and had a wonderful mystery tour only to find herself in Beckwithshaw. Phew!



The remaining twelve were welcomed into the pub at Kirkby Overblow where we had coffee (rather expensive) and a good chat. Here a plot was hatched by Andrew and Keith to return on a route which was new to many of us. We enjoyed the wonderful views of Wharfedale as we proceeded to Sicklinghall then at the end of the village turned left on a fairly good bridle path which took us through Stockeld Park. Then there was the downside of about half a mile on the main Wetherby Road but by splitting into groups all arrived safely in Spofforth and then followed the usual route back through Follifoot and the Showground. Here we were delighted to see that all the cycle gates have been removed. About 34 miles, Liz P



Wednesday Ride

Seven Wednesday Wheel Easys set off from Hornbeam, thinking the forecast was for glorious sun but only intending to ride to Sophie's at Hampsthwaite due to time constraints. Gia surprised us however by deviating from the usual route and taking us on a longer and hillier version via Bishop Monkton and Markington which we all enjoyed. It was decided at Sophie's that it was just about lunchtime so after refreshments all round those with the most pressing engagements headed straight home and the rest of us returned by way of Clapham Green and Penny Pot Lane as the temperature was colder than expected so we only wanted a slightly longer route. All told ,37 miles in good company Angela P



EGs' Ride

Heading for Dallowgill via Brimham Rocks, fourteen E.Gs took the opportunity to call in for tea & cakes supplied by the very friendly ladies at Ripley church.

Continuing on our way, Norman, Theo & Terry W. abandoned us at Water Road as we pushed on to Dallowgill. Our intended route through Grantley, however, was missed by the faster group, intent on getting ahead to find the next "Watering hole"

Local knowledge led the slower riders to arrive at the Sun Parlour, Spa Gardens just prior to the leading group, all quite puzzled by their early arrival. The usual good quality refreshments complete, Bob & Peter B. went straight off to Harrogate, whilst our leader persuaded the remaining riders to follow a tack via Sharow, on through the village to an off road section and thereon to Boroughbridge where realising the weather was about to turn for the worst we remaining nine riders quickly decided it was time to head for home. Unsure of the final mileage by reason of the aforementioned split in routes taken but approx. 60 miles . Dave W

Long Ride

At 9.30 am as we congregated at Hornbeam Park, the Lofthouse climb over to Masham didn't seem that bad an idea. Five of us set off on a convoluted route towards Pateley Bridge, first in the direction of Fewston then doubling back via a short but hairy section of the A59 before climbing every hill between Dacre and Beverley. We eventually dropped down the Yorks Folly climb (significantly quicker than we went up it last Wednesday) stopping for a bacon butty in preparation for the challenge to come.

We got a lick on up the valley pausing briefly in Lofthouse to ensure we all knew how to use the defibrillator, somewhat incongruously situated next to the toilet. We then toiled up and up, passing an HGV unsuccessfully attempting a three point before ascending the hill in reverse. At one point Leslie was offered a lift by a couple of fellas in a pickup. Strangely this offer was not extended to the four sweaty, wheezing blokes zigzagging their way to the summit.

We re-grouped in the supposed shelter of a wall (see photos). Then a long descent with a couple of climbs to keep us honest all the way to Masham for our second stop. Duly refuelled we climbed out of Masham heading broadly in the direction of Ripon before splitting up to head for home. Two departed for Knaresborough while the remaining three returned to Harrogate via Fountains Abbey and the Greenway. Approx 65 miles and 4500 ft of climbing (it felt like more).

