

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Short Ride

The two Paul's from Pannal set off on a short ride with the objective to be home for 11.30 as Paul B had commitments. I chose my favourite short route - Burnbridge, Brackenthwaite Lane, Almscliff Crag, Huby, Weeton, Kirkby Overblow. We arrived back in Pannal at 11.20 having cycled 17 miles. Paul's final words to me were "Remind me never to go on a short ride with Paul T ever again as there were too many hills". Paul T

Poddlers Ride

Our ride leader's special envoy Richard rushed up at the 11th hour with secret details of today's ride as Liz had contracted a stinking cold which would have prevented perfect leading. Anyway she had planned a jolly jaunt to Little Almscliffe, through Stainburn Forest, onto Menwith, Darley, Birstwith, Clint Bank and Ripley. Very clear and straight forward. Several groups developed and several routes materialised from goodness knows what....not one following the actual route, but all lovely and involving meeting up with different groups at different stages of the ride. Eventually most people met up in the grave yard at Ripley Church downing a large amount of cake and coffee and planning a bizarre version of a team time trial, which included all the Poddlers' and the bike tracks of Harrogate. Hum. A variety of miles, at a variety of speeds all done in glorious sunshine and pleasant countryside. Thank you Liz, for the route; Glyn, Alan, Steve and anyone else who felt they lead a group. Goodness nearly a normal Poddle. CG





EG's Ride

The day looked good (and it was) however we only had six riders at Low Bridge, some being on family duties, others sent notes from their Mum`s saying please excuse Johnny from PT & Cross country.

Dave Watson took the title of the best dressed rider, complete with a Sky Gilet (a Chris Froome tribute).

Then it was away to Boroughbridge, at the Occaney downhill championship`s Bob took the title, Dave P only managing second despite having a pair of ex DS Wonderwheels.

Is there a waistline factor in bike speed ?.

The intention was to have made Easingwold the first coffee stop in order to get the miles in on such a beautiful day, but in Boroughbridge Morrison`s called and coffee was taken early.

After which Bob, who was not feeling to good left us to return home , the remaining five on to Easingwold via Raskelf.

Passing through Easingwold (a through train) on to Crake, Brandsby, Stillington and Sheriff Hutton.

At Strensall the caffeine and calorie craving became acute so late lunch was taken at Wiggington village store.

This was no problem for a group of five, sat in the sun, eating big sandwiches (made to order) and homemade cake and best of all for Yorkshire men, half the price of Benningborough Farm Shop.

A banana break was taken at Branton Green, then on to Knaresborough and Harrogate in the still perfect cycling weather.

The mileage for all riders would have been between 66 to 72 miles. Dave P



Long Ride

It was the classic day cyclists's dilemma. The terrace at Studley was bathed in warm sunshine, the conversation was convivial, there were swans and geese on the lake, trees were dressed for early summer, raven-like birds were interested in every spare crumb. Stuart summed it up well - "shall we stay and have lunch as well?"

But, it was 11.40 and it was to be done properly! Heading towards Ripon and home, John and Stuart bade farewell while Richard P and Terry S turned for Galphay with Thirsk as the intended lunch venue. Down Mickley's very bumpy bank, we took a brief tour of West Tanfield to see whether the cafe in the stone barn on the Masham road was still there - it wasn't, maybe a casualty of the post-TdeF lull.

Thirsk came via a couple of well-trafficked roads, complete with considerate Hymas drivers who gave us a comfortably wide berth when passing. The Arts Centre cafe adjoining the old Courthouse was our lunch stop, with very reasonable prices and friendly service, plus a gallery to explore for another visit. With 40 miles on the clock, it was time for the autopilot - Richard's, of course - and head for home. There aren't many different ways back from Thirsk, so Sowerby, Dalton, Cundall and Milby followed in succession, leading to a diversion towards Newby and Ripon Marina. Pausing in Burton Leonard for banana and other refreshment plus a gaze at a very busy wagtail, the desire to avoid the A59 climb to Starbeck lured us towards Limekiln Lane, the ford and Mountgarret's tracks to the Ripley road. A dismount and a short but pleasant walk along the footpath led to the Greenway - a very acceptable alternative to the Ripley roundabout, involving the beneficial use of other leg muscles after a long ride. Thence along the Greenway and after a brief, but unwelcomed, conversation with the owner/ occupier of the apparently abandoned black car in Bilton Lane car park, it was time for home. Statistically, the mileage topped out at c 78 m, with a suitably modest 2600 ft ascent, given the warmth of the day and the leisurely spirit in which we had begun. Later dispatches received from David R, our companion as far as Fountains, indicated that he'd hit Masham and legged it over to Lofthouse. Yorke's Folly wasn't mentioned, but I'm sure he would have given it a go if time allowed.