

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride (1)

The Poddlers' set off enthusiastically up towards Leadhall Lane, with 6 riders. A small group perfectly formed. El Butler as our main chaperone, Jen and Monica as chief supports, and two first timers who knew exactly what they were doing and a wayward leader. We wheeled up to Little Alms Cliff, where we were abandoned by the gentlemen, who needed to get back, and 4 ladies continued to Penny Pot Lane, where Julie felt she had had enough and we set her on her way home via Ethelburger's estate, as 3 ladies turned off to discover a new coffee stop opposite Rowden Lane corner. Having spent far too long coffeeing, 2 rushed home to enable Jen to leave the country once more (has she got a tax haven somewhere) and Monica to possibly do a little extra went towards Ripley. So 2 ladies sped? up? Knox Lane...has it been tilted to make it flatter since the Greenway became the popular route home. Hopefully everyone got back in one piece, and a brilliant well done to the nice new man and Julie (and first time on her bike for a year), on their first outing with Wheel Easy...goodness she must be fit. Thank you for such a pleasant ride to all and now an afternoon winning a sprint stage in the Tour of G.B. 23 miles slowly done. (Sorry, no photo...my phone does not seem to attach its self to my computer) Caroline G

Poddlers' Ride (2)

Showground, Rudding, Follifoot, Spofforth Little Ribston, Walshford, Hunsingore, Cattle over the bridge heading south past Tockwith and into Walton, skirt round Thorpe Arch trading estate, picking up cycle track back to Wetherby (possible coffee stop), Spofforth, Follifoot and Harrogate. About 30 miles.

Notes:-

Fine overcast day, 14 riders including 2 new young ladies, uneventful journey until the bridge at Cattle, where a large articulated lorry decided he could not get over the bridge and started reversing back up towards Tockwith. This was a good time to have a banana and drink stop due to the danger of trying to pass, only to catch him up still reversing, however the road was slightly wider at this point and he stopped to let us pass. Arriving in Wetherby 6 of us went for coffee while the rest continued straight back. Thanks to Dave G for back marking and then leading the none-coffee group back.

Sorry no photo's. Steven P

Wednesday Ride

Terry Cushley led the mystery ride today which led us on some new routes and some "the other way round" which is always refreshing. He didn't warn us that there was a monster of a hill which was very steep, had a sharp bend then carried on going up! This he told us was an intermediate sprint stage of the Tour de Yorkshire. Well we definitely did not sprint up it but we made it, I think it is called Black Hill Lane. From there we joined a track in to Golden Acre Park, crossed the Adel Dam and on to the cafe where we had a good coffee break. Very generous coffee cup sizes, which meant that James did not have to order two coffees today, which has become his trademark. It is a beautiful park and well worth a visit.

We then joined a bridleway which was nice and dry, cycled past Paul's Pond, and out to Cookridge Lane, passed Angela's house and to Bramham where we dropped down Creskeld Lane. Home via Leathley, Stainburn and Almscliffe Crag and North Rigton, home for 2.00. A great ride, wonderful views, thanks Terry. Gia



Wednesday Long Ride

As a destination, Timble was quickly dismissed on account of the tea not being up to scratch, leaving us with Christ Church Ilkley as the only option on the table today. Despite a minor wobble in the leader's mental satnav, duly rectified by more local members, five riders headed at good pace for Ilkley via Brackenthwaite Lane. Here we caught the mystery ride en route to Golden Acre Park – a secret revealed by Gia in hushed tones as we passed. As I understand it, the mystery must have turned to shock when Gia's group hit Arthington Bank!

Our ride deferred any similar climbs until after our coffee break in Ilkley. On our way through Otley we noted the inviting sign for Cockpit Farm but knew it was an illusion. As we passed the cafe, there was the confirmation writ large – open all year, but not on a Weds. Not a reason for rejoicing, we concluded. The tea and scones at Ilkley were of high quality, as always, as was the fruited tea loaf – the last piece being shared by Stewart and Terry. By the time we set out for Cow and Calf the earlier annoying drizzle had cleared and we could actually see the top, in contrast to the earlier view of the moor being in the clouds. Well done to Stewart, whose first ascent of the C&C this had been. Down through Menston, the knotty question arose again: why is there no obvious cafe in the village? Heads were instinctively ducked as a 737 came in to land over us as we climbed to the Royalty Inn on the Chevin, after which we continued on the West Yorkshire Cycleway to Eccup. Diverting down Weardley Bank we took the back road into Harewood Park, opting for the dry/bumpy bridleway rather than risking a rebuff on the private estate road. Another short stiffish climb took us to Muddy Boots in Harewood Village Hall for a leisurely lunch.

Stewart opted for a return home from Harewood, leaving four of us to endure a non-too-pleasant trek along A659 to the East Keswick turn, pausing briefly at the Harewood Hill Climb course to see if we could sneak in a quick circuit. Not available today! Rigton Bank was avoided by using two lesser climbs to take us to the top of Jewitt Lane, from where the autopilot took over. Soon Harland Way was behind us as we paused in Spofforth to bid farewell to Richard and Lesley, heading for Knaresborough. At the new rugby club, the remaining two parted – Richard L for Pannal and Terry for Sainsbury.

In all, despite the lack of sun, it was good to be out cycling today. Parts of the route were for the first time for some of us, which is always nice to achieve and the stats are impressive for a route that's close to home: c57-60 miles and a surprisingly lumpy 3900 ft ascent. Terry S

EGs' Ride

No report for the first part of the ride.

EGs' Ride Part 2

Having waved goodbye to Dave P's group the five remaining riders set off for Otley. In the spirit of EGs we completed the free-wheeling competition, which was won by Dan H, was this something to do with the Full English Breakfast including black pudding and several rounds of toast recently consumed. We decided to go to Cockpit Farm Tea Rooms, but "the best laid plans of mice and men often go awry" the tea room was closed. Bill W decided to call it a day and

return home, the rest of us retreated to Otley for refreshments. Now that time was against us we decided to return home. We started off heading towards Norwood Edge and half way up the climb took a left turn to Norwood Bottom, then on to Jack Hill Lane and back to the main road. At Bland Hill Peter J left the group to head off towards the A59 and home, I trust the remaining riders had a safe journey home. Peter J



