

Wednesday, September 16, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Hills, hills, hills. Precipice after precipice, and not much related to going down these things. Not many miles and a lot of ups. A small ride and not too perfectly formed. Anyway we filled the purpose of the whole exercise...we cycled, we admired the stunning views, we basked in the glorious warm sunshine, we were given coffee and biscuits at Cafe Blackham of Pannarl and I at least enjoyed the very pleasant company. Beckwithshaw, hills to North Rigton, hills to Big Almscliffe, a hill down to Hubby and Weeton, hills to Kirby Overblow, hills to Cafe Blackham, hills from Pannal to home. Thank you Paul and Monica for your support.. 50,000 metres climbed and about 10 kilometres covered at a gorgeously slow speed. CG

Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Hornbeam looked quiet deserted this morning with, one assumes, many opting for the away-day ride. There were a few faster, fitter, longer distance people with hours to fill going to somewhere that would take them over the edge of the plate of the known lands. At 9.30 exactly Caroline announced that anyone who wasn't a bone fide Poddler should have already set off so we did in bright, uplifting sunshine but finger tingling cold air.

Thirteen riders headed for the Greenway to Old Bilton and along the much potholed route to the Beryl Burton. Knaresbrough, Ferrensby and Arkendale were soon conquered. The route from Arkendale to Coneythorpe, an old early WE (long ride) was much potholed and puddled (come on, mud does wash off). On the return to Arkendale via the main road, four riders with deadlines decided that perhaps they had just enough time to complete the route if they "pushed on". (hope you made it). At Arkendale we lost another three riders with even tighter deadlines. The remaining six headed off to Staveley, Burton Leonard, Wormald Green and Markington. At the Drover's Inn cross road there were no takers for the ride extension everyone preferring to partake of tea/coffee and cakes at the Ripley Church Graveyard café. How nice it was to be able to sit in the sunshine and make merry banter. As a consequence of much indulging the return home via the Greenway was taken at a steadier pace. MG

EG's Ride.

The EG's long flat one.

Twelve riders at Low Bridge and the weather looking better than forecast, so head north young man, sorry "elderly man" first stop Spa Gardens on the way Dave S recouped his downhill title on his Dolan (with more wonderwheels?).

After sitting in the sun, enjoying our caffeine and calories, JR returned home (good to see you out with us John), the remainder headed for Bedale.

At Bedale Bill, Nick, Norman, Rob and Terry W choose to stay for sustenance, but Dave P, Dave S, Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, Peter J and Terry C headed for Leeming Bar, the upgrade to the A1 and some minor road closures made route finding a little difficult but soon we were on our way towards Scruton, turning then to Great Fencote and Kirkby Fleetham, and looping round to return to Leeming Bar.

DP had been on this route a few times before but memory is now no longer his strong point.

Afternoon tea and sandwiches were taken in the dining car cafe at the Leeming to Hawes Preserved Railway.

Then it was south to Leeming Village hoping to cross the A1 to Exelby and south to Ripon, however the upgrade of the A1 to Motorway status meant that we were travelling south on an A road parallel with the A1(M).

This was worthwhile knowing as the road was fast with very little traffic, so if there was ever a need for cyclists to travel north or south quickly this route could be used.

Here Dave S remembering his time trial days led us out at a fast pace.

The group then turned off to Burneston and the minor road to Kirklington and Ripon.

Near Littlethorpe Norman was seen returning to pick up a lost glove.

Near Burton Leonard Terry W was seen waiting for Norman to return from picking up his glove DP was very kindly given a lift by Dave S from Knaresborough to Harlow Hill where Bill was spied heading for Pannal Ash.

So all the old originals accounted for.

A brilliant days cycling, sunshine, not too hot or cold, a little head wind that behaved itself and helped us on our return journey.

Distance somewhere in the mid sixties, but as we were on the flatlands of Yorkshire it was not that relevant.

ps Also best wishes to Peter Bradley recovering from a stomach bug (a foreign one !)
Peter, frogs legs and snail butties are no good for us English, stick with the delicate English cuisine like Black Pudding and Tripe. Dave P







Long Ride

Isn't it nice when a plan goes wrong! Met Office forecasts about strong winds, gathering clouds and heavy downpours were at odds with the evidence from our own eyes. Throughout the day we were wondering when the weather would turn, but it didn't and we had one of the best cycling days of the year (I think). A couple of our regulars opted for the tour of Swaledale, leaving five to set out for Masham. The early pace set by Richard P and David R was ultra brisk, revealing their intentions to be finished for the day by early afternoon. Panting in their wake, Richard, Lesley and I assumed the "autobus" role for day. Early miles were lumpy, out through Hampsthwaite, Bishop Thornton and blackberry picking to Sawley and Kirkby M, by when it was time for refreshment. The early finishers felt that a bypass of Masham was needed to keep on schedule, which sparked off a search of Kirkby for any sign of tea or coffee, but without success. Cakes from the village store, bananas and a pasty from the butcher sufficed – what a golden opportunity missed by the village store to make easy money by selling take-out

teas! The Masham bypass was the switchback via Ilton to Healey, past some tantalising signs to Lofthouse which pointed to tracks across Grewelthorpe Moor. The weather was perfect for a trek across the top, but frames, wheels and tyres were wrong, consigning the thought to another day. With lunch postponed until Howstean, we climbed in lovely sunshine up to Jordan Moss, wondering if we should have put sun cream on today. On our way to the first cattle grid, herding ewes (some obviously lame) allowed the autobus to catch up with one of the front runners. At the summit, the full glory of the day was revealed – purple moors, a sky with mere wisps of cloud and distant views beyond Teesside and into Durham. When the autobus rolled into Howstean cafe the leaders weren't there, having made their way directly to Pateley and Teacups, to keep on schedule. Three bacon sandwiches later, the three set off down the valley for Ripley and either ice cream or possibly the church tea stall. Pausing at the loos at Glasshouses, Lesley broke the news that the convenience is subject to a consultation on its closure – time for a media campaign? Arriving at Ripley at 4.00 pm we feared the tea stall may have shut, but angels were present and we became their last and grateful customers of the day. A grand day out, with c65 miles covered and just short of 5000 ft climbed. Terry Smith

Wednesday Wanderings from Reeth

Another early drive out of Harrogate as the Awayday riders set off for Reeth and a 9.30am start. However, after the early week poor weather forecasts it promised to be a beautiful day for the ride. And so it turned out to be....

Reeth is at the meeting point of Swaledale and Arkengarthdale and the plan was to ride up Swaledale, climb to Tan Hill and then ride down Arkengarthdale. So 12 riders met on the village green and set off uphill (very much the word of the day) to Muker and then taking a coffee break at Thwaite (thanks to the cafe owner opening half an hour early!) sat outside in glorious sunshine.

We then set off to climb towards Kirkby Stephen and amid glorious views we entered Cumbria and then enjoyed a swift descent into Kirkby Stephen and a well earned lunch stop.

We had all enjoyed the magnificent vistas but we now tackled the long climb up to Tan Hill.

There was some compensation for the hard climb in the further great views due to the crystal clear blue sky although there was not a lot of chatter as the group made their way up to the top at their own pace.

Once at the top it was a short break (but no refreshments!) before we set off back 'down' Arkengarthdale to Reeth. Although there was some long rides down there were further climbs which seemed to get harder the closer we got to Reeth!

We made it back to Reeth and there was lots of happy faces at the achievement of climbing the 11 miles to Tan Hill, the fantastic route and the superlative views- this was certainly the right day for this great route!

Thanks again to all who turned up- Paul doing the ride on his little wheels, Malcolm completing the ride on two batteries (and his own power, of course), and everyone for the great company and well done to all the first timers up Tan Hill (me included!).

Colin once again came up with a great route and I can certainly say this must be one of the Wheelieasy rides of the year for those that took part. Cycling at its absolute best! Kevin









