

Wednesday, September 23, 2015

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

It looked like a pleasant day, so it was with a spring in the wheels, that I set off to Hornbeam. Kevin D organised us all beautifully and three Poddlers' set off from Hornbeam to somewhere. Suddenly there was a flash of red and Neeta joined us.....I did try to tell her that Poddler meant slow.....but she would not be dissuaded from joining us.....and how lovely it was to chat with her and catch up several years.....doesn't time fly when you are having fun. Both Sue D and I had to be back home by 12.30, so the original plan to do a few miles more than thirty was binned with the Littlethorpe canal bridge and backway into Boròughbridge, as the wind cooled and sky clouded over, in favour of Bishop Monkton and Roecliffe and straight back without a coffee stop...thank you Monica and Neeta for being so tolerant. One does not like to keep a plumber or for that matter an audiologist, waiting. Back home into a headwind is never ideal, but at least the forecast of rain showers was totally awry and Knaresborough hill had been flattened..... only slightly flattened. Thank you once again all who chose to go slow, it was a pleasant way to spend the morning.....32 miles, a bit of up and down, at 2 or so miles per hour. CG

### Wednesday Wanderers Ride

Early autumn and nearly the end of 'the season' at Ripley Church. What could be better than a ride to Brimham followed by coffee and home-baked cake? !3 of us set off from Hornbeam, heading for the Greenway. The tempo of the ride was established at the first set of lights. A large white Range Rover pulled up and the window ominously wound down. Joe was astounded when a lady courteously apologised for being in the cycle box. Then we noticed the Spanish badge! [Bien hecho, Espana- an example to some Brits] . So we cycled with consideration and care on the designated paths over the Stray , down to the Greenway, up to Clint Bank and Brimham, then whizzed down to Warsill and Ripley. Despite the 'breeze' and a preponderance of cloud, it was a lovely ride. As usual, there was much friendly conversation and discussion and, best of all, no real need for a leader!The 'usual suspects' left us at Ripley and the rest of us enjoyed the break at Ripley.Thanks to Colin and Joe for sharing the back marking. Alison N



### Wednesday Ride

Five Hornbeam starters joined three at Beckwithshaw and commenced the windward battle past Little Almscliffe, through Timble to Asquith. But the relatively sheltered valley route to Bolton Abbey Tea Rooms was soon spurned for the challenge of the Langbar loop.

An unsurprising reluctance to Bacon butties resulted in Baked Beans becoming the lunch of choice but we struggled in vain to find the "defeat device" in the Garmin software to control emissions within EEC standards.

A previously untravelled road in Wharfedale is a rarity for this group but after Burnsall we climbed Hartlington Raikes to the Grassington Road and achieved a first.

From there we cashed in our early labours and enjoyed a wind assisted passage up Dibbles Bridge hill to Stump Cross and the irresistible tea with scones and lively discussion of topical issues already referred to obliquely.

Against threatening rain, we donned rain jackets for the homeward dash but remained dry and warm at last. Peter R.

### **Another Report**

"My knees are on the cusp". This was the quote of the day from Richard, uttered while we took lunch at Bolton Bridge. It chimed well on the day of the Autumn Equinox and reminded us that it will be time for longer leg coverings in the month to come. The route to that quote had brought eight of us out through Beckwithshaw, where Martin and Peter joined us, past the reservoirs, up to Askwith Moor, down to Ilkley, up to Langbar and down again to Bolton Bridge café. Here, cheesy beans on toast proved popular with five of our number – not too taxing on the staff, we hoped. Richard P and David R left us early for afternoon appointments, heading out through the Bolton Abbey Estate and over Cavendish Bridge, bound for Stump Cross and Pateley. If I had wondered what the professionals mean by "heavy roads", the stretch from Bolton Abbey to Burnsall must be a good indicator – "lumpy" is the polite term. Fortunately, the wind today was not in our faces, as we'd done the hard work earlier on the way to the café. After a route conference at Burnsall bridge, we opted for the climb up Hartlington Raikes, a first visit for several of us. On reaching B6265, we reached one of the day's goals – cusped knees notwithstanding- when we could turn our backs into the strengthened westerly wind and get some help over the switchback from Dibbles Bridge to Stump Cross. The café's scones proved irresistible: four of six succumbed, as we took a leisurely stop discussing the engineering principles underpinning lenticular wheels, while the wind howled and battered at the windows behind us. As rain seemed imminent, jackets went on but proved to be merely a precaution. Cross winds presented a moderate challenge on the descent from Greenhow to Menwith, but all reached the cross roads without mishap. Here the group split into two threes, Richard L, Peter and Martin heading for Penny Pot, while Richard and Lesley S and I took the direct route to Bilton Lane car park via Hampsthwaite and Knox. It had been a fine day in many senses of the word but we all knew it was, indeed, one of those days on the cusp – for weather and knees! Stats: c60 miles and cc4600 ft ascent. Terry Smith





### Medium Ride

Once the Poodlers, Wanderers and Long Riders had exited Hornbeam Park there were just 5 of us left ( the Wednesday Stragglers?) and we were still discussing a ride route. Once again James came to the rescue and we set off to Low Bridge en route to Ripon.

We made our way through Knaresborough via the new estate and the back road and then on to Farnham and the regular route via Bishop Monkton to Ripon.

From there we ignored the route past the Cathedral and weaved our way through the scenic Trading Estate( classy or what) and we shunned the ford as Colin wasn't with us and then, ignoring the call for coffee, we headed out towards the by pass and on to Sharow.

The route then headed out to Rainton, Asenby and then turning towards Kirby Hill we made a descent to Listers Farm shop for refreshments. We had done over 30 miles before we stopped and despite the small numbers there were mutterings in the ranks! .However it had been a fast pace so we refuelled and then set off back to Harrogate into a strong headwind via Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton and Markington.

James left us at Bishop Monkton to head home ( his job well done again with an interesting route and knowing even we could not get lost from there)

From Markington it was the last short climb up to the Drovers before a swift descent to Ripley and back via the Greenway.

Although it was a grey day with the rain threatening we made it back without getting wet and satisfied with a good ride of 53 miles which, due to the headwind, had made us all work hard. Thanks to Jeannie, Angela and Charlie for the company and James for having a map and being decisive! Kevin

### EG's Ride

Four Daves, three Van Nicks, a sunny Wednesday; you know it's going to be another memorable day out. We were not disappointed. Briskly down to Angram, via a circuitous route, and where they tried to lose me when I had to stop and answer my phone. But no luck lads; you'll have to try harder than that.

Little Acorns in Copmanthorpe maintained its excellent reputation for hospitality, quality and price.

Back through Tadcaster and Wetherby where the main bunch peeled off for more refreshment, leaving just two of us for the final burst back. Blimey Terry, I thought you must have been on some kind of promise, the speed you were going!!

Welcome to James, from down South (Dave's mate). Hope to see you out with us again; contrary to popular myth, it was quite easy to understand what you were saying.

Thanks to all, especially for the expert leadership of Dave W. A splendid excursion. Dave S

