

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride

Despite the awful forecast or perhaps because of it there were 7 riders who assembled under the nearest tree this morning, although the drips from the tree were just as wetting as the direct rain by this time. After a photo call, courtesy of Paul T, six of us, Dave having opted out, decided it was not a day for the hills and so set off for the low country around Knaresborough and beyond, with Boroughbridge and coffee as the prime objective. We exchanged greetings with two EGs, Dave P and Peter B, sheltering in the doorway of the Half Moon at Low Bridge and by way of a change took the route to Goldsborough and through Flaxby to Arkendale and then on to Marton cum Grafton, Aldborough and into Boroughbridge. Although the weather improved marginally enough for me to tempt fate and take my rain jacket off, it was soon back on again and by the time we arrived in Boroughbridge it was pouring down and so we abandoned Listers Farm Shop cafe in favour of the Bean Cafe, formerly a pub, on the left coming into the town. We were warmly welcomed and enjoyed excellent coffee and cakes whilst we quietly steamed and dried off a bit. Back into the rain made the decision on the route home a "No Brainer" and the quickest through Staveley and Knaresborough was the unanimous choice. Although not the best of days it was not cold and we enjoyed 27 miles or so of fresh air in good company. Thanks to Sue C, Liz P, Paul T, Steve P and Andrew. James G.



EGs' Ride

The weather forecast was bad and accurate. The BBC version was clouds with two or three raindrops on the hour and every hour.

At Low Bridge a solitary Dave P wondered if any photos taken today would be "selfies" taken in a cafe. However six Wheel-Easy Wednesdayer`s including Sue C, Paul T and James arrived and headed for Boroughbridge. Then Peter B arrived followed by Terry Smith meant the EG`s had retained some honour. (What harm can rain do to you? it can only wash the dye out of your hair, that is if there is enough hair left to dye).

Peter B was on his trusty Thorn Tourer, on a suitable day for washing off all the French muck he had accrued on it, though this was a near run thing as whilst his Thorn was left in France (some might say abandoned), (however kinder souls might say justified to time sat on porcelain) he nearly succumbed the siren calls of a Genesis Cross Bike, but then at the last minute like a true Englishman (A Scarlet Pimpernel ?) he sped across the channel to rescue his trusty Thorn. ho knows them Froggies might have recycled it to make hundreds of garlic press`s Ugh!.

At the Occaney downhill course, there was much speculation on how Terry`s cape would affect his chances (see photo). However he just pipped Peter by inches, and for once DP came first.

The morning caffeine break was taken at Morrison`s Boroughbridge (where else, bikes under cover) luckily during a tremendous downpour. It was here during a memory lapse that two riders thought their Toasted Teacake Tally`s represented their ages (see photo). Then on to Helperby Village Hall for the soup lunch, three soups on offer, Chicken Noodle, Tomato, and mixed veg, very nice to, plus bread, butter and cheese and also tea/coffee and biscuits, all for the sum of £2.50 or for them keeping the country £3.00. The chicken soup had more chicken than noodles (see photo), and also bikes under cover, perfect. (See photo). The Lunch was well supported by the villager`s, and good conversations were had with them, also a group of three cyclists from Malton, but non from York. Then back via Alne, Ferrensby and Knaresborough. Very wet, but quite warm, so no risk of hypothermia?? A hot bath for the riders and WD40 bath for the bikes. Mileage approx. 45 miles. Dave P







Mallorca Tour: Tuesday 29 September to Monday 5 October 2015

7 Wheel Easy members have just returned after spending 6 nights at the Club Pollentia Resort, near Alcudia, Mallorca, which has been used by previous groups from Wheel Easy and Ripon Cycling Club. Here's a brief summary of our itinerary:

Tuesday. Flew from Leeds Bradford to Palma, transferred to hotel. Collected bikes from hire shop on site at 4pm, and went out on a short (13 mile) familiarisation ride through Alcudia.

Wednesday. Thunder and lightning kept us indoors until after lunchtime. As the rain began easing off, we set off on an afternoon ride to the lighthouse at the Cap de Fermentor. After 30 minutes we were able to remove our rain jackets, but heavy clouds hung over the island and torrential rain resumed just as we arrived back at 6pm. 32 miles, 2,900' ascent.

Thursday. Rain had stopped overnight and from now on the weather was excellent. We went on the iconic route to Sa Colabra - one of the most amazing roads on the planet - see some of

the photographs! Mark Sinton describes the road as 'like a worm on a hot plate'. It descends from 2,250' to sea level in 8 miles of hairpin bends. After a short break for refreshments, we repeated the experience in the opposite -more strenuous -direction. 69 miles, 6,600' ascent.

Friday. With tired muscles from yesterday, we opted for a shorter, flatter, recovery ride around the agricultural hinterland behind the coastal plain, finishing with a very long stop at a café in Alcudia. 43 miles, 1400' ascent.

Saturday. We hired a minibus and trailer to take us and our bikes to Bunyola, for a ride back to the hotel across 2 mountain passes. At the start of the first climb, we discovered the second pass would close at 1pm for a motor sport event, so we had to complete both climbs at speed without any refreshment stops - psychologically damaging for this EG! 52 miles, 4,800' ascent.

Sunday. A less strenuous day was required, so we repeated the spectacular route to the lighthouse. If anybody has experienced the hens at Cockpit Farm trying to steal food from your plate, beware of the wild mountain goat here, which tried to take a whole pizza from a plate whilst the customer was still carrying it to her table! We also took a detour to the coastal village of Cala Sant Vincenc. 43 miles, 3,400' ascent.

Monday. Time for 6 of us (Peter R, Richard L, John H, Neil P, Terry S, Eric W) to pack our bags and return home, leaving Richard P - alone - will Mallorca ever be the same?

This was my first trip to Mallorca and it lived up to its reputation as a great cycling destination. The road surfaces are wonderful, traffic is light, scenery is spectacular, and there are some amazing climbs if you want hills! I see why the pro-teams base themselves here for their pre-season training. Eric W











