

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers Ride**

Several people who were on the cusp of joining us this morning.....thought better of it. Diane was so near, I am sure Monica was quite near, and a number of regular Wednesday riders were making inquiries. So three Poddlers' poddled off up Leadhall Lane, where we discovered what happened to long riders when it rained or when they were out of sight of other riders. They hide behind trees and have a chat or a cigarette or a snack and then return home pretending to have cycled miles. We took a similar route to the group not heading straight to Sophie's but turned left every time they planned to turn right. We potted up Braçkenthwaite Lane, sped through North Rigton, and straight on to Kirby Overblow, and left to Burnbridge avoiding most of the Novembery air and moisture. We reached cafe Rossette for a lovely couple of cups of coffee and an array of biscuitery served by Sue's resident chef. I did speak too soon about shortage of milage, as on reaching base camp Graham I discovered my bikebag had been left at cafe Rossette and had to add a few extra miles to the route so I did not have to sit outside without money and communimcation with the world til ride 2 returned. A few miles and some downs and ups, lots of hot and cold air and moisture. CG

### **Wednesday Ride**

Well it started dry! The ambition of four of us to get to Sophie's via Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliffe Crag seemed a good idea. We were soon kitted up with full wet weather gear as dribs and drabs of rain came down, but hey — we were out there! Soon it became steady rain and we passed a group of walkers not far from the Sun Inn who shouted "You are all crackers", obviously including themselves in the statement. To keep out of the wind and rain we crossed the A59 at The Black Bull and carried on to Kettlesing, and as the rain increased we cheered ourselves with thoughts of hot drinks at Sophie's. The cafe was quiet and the three lasses on mountain bikes seemed to have moved in for the day, and you couldn't blame them. After Sophie's we split with two of us heading back through Hollybank Woods and the Greenway. As we approached the viaduct a really powerful squall of wind and rain hit us and then we even experienced sleet or perhaps it was slightly frozen rain as we crossed the viaduct. Arriving home I said to Yvonne that in all the years I have been cycling I have never been that wet before. It was true - I was pouring water out of my cycling shoes! Martin W.



### **Wednesday Wanderers Ride**

Today's ride had been planned taking due account of the weather forecast so there were plenty of escape routes for when the conditions deteriorated and for the wind to be behind us on our return leg.

Fourteen of us set out from Hornbeam, turned right into Hornbeam Park Avenue and wiggled and jiggled our way via minor roads, bike paths and Whinney Lane to Beckwithshaw. However one of us was already planning an early defection "on account o' rain ant cold". Wise man. All safely managed the hill to the "top of the world cross roads". Here we lost a further five riders suffering from winter illnesses and bruised and aching bodies from life's encounters. Wise, wise people. A lovely downhill section followed to North Rigton and thence Almscliff Crag, the last of the early escape points. Despite the foul weather being visible in the distance all remaining riders opted for the full monty. The rain caught up with us before Stainburn, most unpleasant but a taste of what was to come. A brief stop was made for sustenance and reordering of wet weather gear at Leathley. The river level, surprisingly low, was inspected on the way to Castley and the rain abated. Eggs were purchased, at a price that had Glyn squirming, near Weeton and Dunkeswick was soon reached. The route to Kirby Overblow lived up to the name and was somewhat eventful. A little used route via Kearby, Chapel Hill, and Clap Gate was to be utilised. The deviation caused consternation amongst several riders, (fear of the unknown I suspect!) Here the rain restarted, picked up in intensity and provided us with a taste of the season to come in the form of hailstones. To add insult to injury the wind became a tempestuous and only skilful bike handling prevented us from being dumped on the other side of the road. Reaching Kirby Overblow coffee was declined in favour of the temptation of warm houses, showers and baths. Several wet, cold bodies cheerfully greeted co-chair Paul who looked smug at being only metres from his house in Pannal. He appeared remarkably dry and his bike, was it a new one Paul?, looked remarkably clean. A brief climb out of Pannal saw us on the final leg home. Glyn informed me that there was 2100ft of descent, distance was about 28 miles. Thank you David for very efficient and caring back marking. We must be mad. Max Graham.



### **EG's Ride**

The weather forecast was not good, but then it has not been good for a while, rain is usually not a problem, however wind and rain, now that can be uncomfortable.

At Low Bridge there was no wind, and the rain fell straight down and we had eight riders, comprising a Bill and Bob, a full house of Dave`s, two P`s, one S and a W, a Peter B and a Terry W.

The weather could be perm any 8 from 10 so the consensus of opinion was to get to Boroughbridge and Morrisons Cafe, bikes under cover, down the caffeine and calories and await the "weather clerk`s" verdict.

At the Occaney downhill the two favourites, Dave "wonderwheels" and Bob took the first two places, followed by Dave W in a very creditable third position, which of course put him first in the lightweight division.

In the Cafe we had a table for eight, and the snappy repartee, tall tales, one liners and non PC items fell as fast as the rain outside.

On disembarking from the Cafe, it had been our intention to follow the stream to Roecliffe and continue to Bishop Monkton,. Would the road be open? or would it be a canal?, Dave S with his local knowledge would not put money on it, and sure enough on approaching the said stream crossing, a friendly lorry driver told us it was a "no go" area, so in to reverse and down the track to Copgrove, which considering the weather was in good condition, and the "puddle" in the dip was easily passable.

At Copgrove Bill headed for Occaney and home, but the remaining magnificent seven continued to Burton Leonard, a gusty gale and horizontal rain made the passage to Wormald Green somewhat difficult, but single file riding with gaps, reduced the risk of a pile up.

On to Markington and Ripley and back on the wind protected Greenway, where would we be without this track?.

The mileage would have been well over 30 miles, it seems strange how in bad conditions the humour increases, or is it just the onset of hysteria?.

A later comment from Peter B was that on our next ride he would take a snorkel, but looking at the size of his bike pannier, he probably has a full diving suit in there.

The reader will note there are no photo`s, in fact the only places suitable for photo`s were in the cafe, so you will just have to use your imagination, perhaps not though, especially if you are of a nervous disposition. Dave P

### **Long (Short) Ride.**

Laughing in the face of the weather forecast, four of us set out with Pateley Bridge in mind. The plan was Darley, Thornthwaite and down Yorke's folly. By the time we had reached the Army Apprentices College, Darley Mill was the target. The rain soon set in and we splashed into the café for welcome hot drinks and scones. Onward to Pateley or back by the quickest route? No contest; straight back to Birstwith where we parted with Dave, up to Clint and back along the Greenway. Lashing rain whipped by the wind accompanied us all the way back and by the time we reached Bilton Lane our shoes were full of water. Richard P turned for Harrogate and Richard S and I home to Knaresborough. 32 miles and 1740 ft of ascent. It was good to get out in spite of the weather. Lesley S