

Wednesday, December 2, 2015

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Was it going to be too windy, was it going to be raining, was it going to be too cold.....who knew...certainly not me before setting out to Hornbeam.....so prepared for any November condition, the west face of the Stray was conquered and Hornbeam reached. Paul sorted himself and everyone else out and groups set out to all places flat and avoiding head on winds.....except I think my plan had a flaw in it.....Wetherby, our destination, seemed to have changed position, so rather than being in constant side winds and using our bodies in a nautically skilled manner, we appeared to be in head winds for most of the time, with no skill of any sort. However, undaunted two stalwart poddlers' ploughed round the route passing through Knaresborough, possibly North Rigton, the old A1 cycle path, the outskirts of Wetherby, Kirk Deighton, Spofforth, Folifoot, Rudding, the showground hill and the Park for coffee. We met Bridgette and enticed her to join us for a chat rather than rushing home to do housework, after her sensible morning swimming. Thank you to my front marker, back marker and support team. Home in time for lunch and an afternoon of feeling virtuous. CG.

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

On the best morning of the week so far it was great to be out on our bikes. The plan was to head to Boroughbridge, Skelton-on-Ure, Littlethorpe, Knaresborough and home. We soon arrived at Boroughbridge helped along by the wind. Here we had a brief discussion as to a café stop. Six Wanderers chose to complete the ride without a stop. The remaining 7 were gently cajoled into finding out more about the Farm Shop at Langthorpe. It turned out to be a very convivial stop. We swapped Brussel sprout recipes and 'cracker' jokes while enjoying bacon sandwiches or scones. The return trip was slightly marred by the wind. All in all a lovely morning with the usual good company, sunshine, and very little mud or surface water. Thanks to Max for back- marking. 33 miles. Alison N



Wednesday Ride

The welcome sunshine with mild temperatures made an appearance, but as it was accompanied by strong gusty winds we decided to look for a fairly low route keeping off the moors. Exiting Harrogate via Burnbridge nine of us headed out to Buttersyke Bar roundabout and then to the quiet Walton Head Lane and on to Kirkby Overblow. Then we took the "low" route along the Wharfe Valley to Netherby, Sicklinghall and Linton to Wetherby where we all piled into Costa. From there a route via the old A1, Little Ribston and Spofforth kept us out of the wind except for a bit of buffeting over the hills, and we were soon heading up through Follifoot and the Showground

and homeward bound. Highlights - Colin riding the prototype Spa Audax with lovely disc brakes, and (thanks to Paul's preference) a delicious Costa Coffee. Best of all getting back before any rain arrived. Only 29 miles but good quality miles! Martin W.



Wednesday Long Ride

No report only a picture of a tree, that had been blocking the Greenway, after it was cut down.



EGs' Ride

It was a sunny start to the day and we had fourteen riders at Low Bridge including five Dave's, two P's, two W's and an S. Unfortunately Dave P (the younger) arrived with a puncture, but this was no problem as many hands make light work and away we went.

The original idea was to head to Boroughbridge and the North, however just before Farnham, Eric stated that the Monthly Wednesday soup festival would be stirring at Helperby, and would be worth a visit.

Nine riders choose to visit Helperby via Aldwark and Myton. Away went the nine at a fast pace led by Dave Watson and Peter J, fortunately for some of the riders this was very much wind assisted. A group of five choose to head for Boroughbridge. A photo stop was taken outside Myton Hall the residence of Morrison`s Magnate Sir Ken, however despite all the cash the EGs spend in his cafes we did not get invited in for a cuppa. In the left of the photo can be seen the gardener/gamekeeper who we had a chat with, did he have an assignation with a certain Lady C ?

Then it was on to Helperby Village Hall, almost falling in with the doors, the good people of the village excelling themselves with four types of soup on offer. After we had settled down with our choice of soups in came the group of five who came via Boroughbridge and Thornton Bridge. After soup and rolls, cheese and biscuits and tea/coffee and sweet biscuits (wow) the nine departed, after removing the five bikes the Boroughbridge Bounders had placed on two of our riders` bikes. At Thornton Bridge, Bob and Dave P (the elder) turned for Boroughbridge the remaining magnificent seven heading for Cundall, Melmerby, Wath and Ripon, considering the returning headwind a bit much for the other two. Bob headed for Knaresborough , and Dave P for Rocliffe and Bishop Monkton, the road for which was clear and dry, however he did find himself in the middle of the York and Ainsty hunt, and thanked his lucky stars that he did not have ginger hair or a bushy tail. Once past he sprinted (or what passed for a sprint) dreading hearing the shout "view halloo" in his ears.

Made it to Markington and Ripley, returning to Harrogate via the sheltered Greenway.

Look forward to hearing how the Magnificent Seven went on.

Dave P (the elder).

