

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

It seemed sunny and calm at Hornbeam.... a few more miles might be sampled today...how long could that last? Not for too long and at the first spit of rain we'd had a route shortening and a Plan B to head for Fodders. Two minutes later it was spring again and Plan B was dropped. We meandered round the bike paths of northern Harrogate and eventually reached Knaresborough ready to put Plan C into action. Many apologies for route repetition to the two Poddlers who had followed me, but Lingerfield, Scotton, Brearton, Nidd and Ripley, then home via the Greenway seemed to avoid the head wind...with good valued coffee, a pleasant welcome and cakes that looked rather lovely in Ripley church. So, a few miles completed and a good chat, despite a far from ideal day. Thank you front back and side markers for your company and tolerance over route alterations and repetition. Not many miles, not many floors and an amazing amount of paces, considering. CG

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

With weather apps forecasting heavy rain and gale force winds, it was a surprise to see so many gathering at Hornbeam in sunshine. Eleven of us left via the Showground to Low Bridge where the EGs were all showing their best profiles as the photographer was snapping away! Our route was Farnham, Copgrove along the bridle path (which wasn't too bad) towards Roecliffe but going to Bishop Monkton. This was to admire the daffodils which still looked good along the roadsides. Glyn had disappeared at Farnham to go on an egg hunt but due to the absence of his co-hunter to care for him he had raced along the rough track and by the time he appeared at Fountains the 6 eggs had been reduced to 4! Five riders concerned about the forecast or needing to get home headed back via Markington and the Drovers from Bishop Monkton. The other 5 proceeded through Ripon and up through the deer park, fighting against the wind, while Glyn apparently did a mixture of both. It was a relief to get to the Visitor Centre and enjoy hot drinks and fruit cake. The route back was Watergate Lane, past the Drovers into Ripley and then the Greenway. We were battered with strong gusts but all took care, reaching Harrogate safely and though we had a few small showers still dry! About 34 miles. Liz P



Wednesday Ride

Our intentions were good, to be well organised even to the point that two weeks in a row we had the route for the day posted on the website. But the weather prevailed and plans to ride up to Toft Gate Farm were abandoned with forecasts of 40+ mile winds. Paul's alternative route to Costa in Tadcaster was subsumed by Colin's proposal to take shelter and go to Brimham Rocks!!! Common sense then took over and after Birstwith we cycled along to Darley and worked our way up the lanes, trying to keep upright with the westerly wind at our sides and made it in one piece to Menwith and enjoyed the wind on our backs to Sophie's. We returned home via the Greenway hoping that the remaining trees near the viaduct stayed upright as we cycled past.

A good ride, good company, the sun shone almost until the end, we had great views over Nidderdale, a fabulous rainbow and I think we all got home without a soaking. Gia





Wednesday Long (Short) Ride

The short long ride seems to have taken over recently! Although Hornbeam was lovely and sunny first thing, the awful weather forecast meant that there was little enthusiasm for a proper long ride. Six riders set out for Fountains, where we would have coffee and then decide what to do. The fluid plans have also been a feature lately. We caught a light soaking on the Greenway but by the time we reached Fountains we were all dry again. However, black clouds were gathering so we sat out the shower, with a discussion ranging from an explanation of transfer pricing from Martin (no me neither), how much more efficient German tax inspectors are than their British counterparts and the latest Restoration Man programme about the water tower in Pannal. We then

headed for Ripon, Skelton & Boroughbridge. The photo was taken in the Deer park; there are 4 riders (Dave was hiding) and Richard P has a halo of small deer.

Bacon sandwiches were mentioned as we pedalled through Boroughbridge. Impossible to resist, so we had another rest away from the weather and found out all about learning to sail a yacht. Ideas of looping down to Wetherby were abandoned as soon as we got back outside and tackled the strong winds on the roads back to Knaresborough. Just when we thought we'd made it unscathed, the icy rain caught up with us for a soaking at the finish. 38 miles and 1468 feet of ascent. A good calorific day out. Lesley S



Delayed Long Ride Report for 30th March

Eight set off for a long ride today, aiming for Scar House and Angram, with a possible lunch stop at How Stean. The plan fell apart when, after a lengthy re-grouping at Darley Mill forecourt, the climb to Heyshaw proved too much for Lesley's chain. A team effort involving Richard S with the chain tool and dirty hands, Richard L who supplied the 10-speed power link, myself who laid on the right-sized Allen key and not least Lesley who handed out the wipes. Job time was about 15 minutes but before any self-congratulation could set in a wintry squall appeared, sending us scuttling into the toilets at Dacre to discuss options. Sophie's got the vote over Darley Mill – I'm not sure how or why, as we were all chilled and damp by the time we passed the Mill's cafe. Phone calls were exchanged with the four (Richard P, John S, David R and another Dave) who made it to Pateley and Teacups, effectively splitting the eight starters into 2 groups of 4. After Sophie's excellent teacakes and a few words with four Wanderers who drifted in, we called it a day and headed back via Knox Mill and Bilton. Any thoughts of remorse over the curtailed long ride were soon banished when we heard that the advanced group had called off the Angram leg at Pateley, amid hail and threatening skies to the west. Such was our comfort zone at Sophie's that one of the Pateley party arrived home before we did. Mileages were consequently short today, 35 miles and c2600 ft at most. Another day, another ride next week. Terry Smith

EGs' Ride

Despite the "iffy" weather forecast we had eleven riders at Low Bridge.

However all focus of attention was on Terry's "electric" bike (see photo and more to follow on this subject).

Question 1/ what's the weather going to do?

Question 2/ do you care?

Answers "it's going to wee-wee down all day", "take me out and get me wet through", "I don't give a damn".

Destination Lemon Tree Cafe in Taddy via Ruddgate.

"Electo" bike centre of attention/conversation, what it could do, what it could not do, and what you could run off it, some queries were of a somewhat ribald nature, causing Terry to blush profusely.

At Taddy footbridge Norman assembled us for a group photo.

Getting eleven riders through those "kissing gates" caused three riders to take a different route which went through the Brewery, first time ever cycled into a Brewery and first time never to stop.

After lots of beans all round (surely that was not the cause of our troubles?).

Bob, Norman and Theo headed for home.

Eight happy souls comprising Dave P, Dave S, Dave W, Eric, Nick, Peter B, Terry and Tony (on a day off from work, Lucky Lad) headed for Ulleskelf, and for those who want to know those things that was 37.5% Daves, a bit down this ride.

It was virtually a free wheel from Taddy to Ulleskelf, to Cawood, to Riccall, causing Terry to divert the power from the pedals, to the kettle and make himself a brew.

A "banana" was taken in Riccall before heading up the Solar System to York, giving us a taste of what was to come.

The route into York was off the cycle track and on to the B1222, A19 to Fulford and the Cycle Heaven Cafe, for caffeine and cake and get Wheel Easy on the 10% discount list.

Getting Terry`s bike over the railway bridge as its walk mode would not play fair, so EGs gave a hand, this included Eric who left his bike on the bridge, along came a Lady who picked it up and carried it off the bridge. Chat up lines like carry my bike off the bridge "Sweetie" would for most people gone in the book of failed chat up lines, but somehow Eric made it work, How? you ask him.

Normally the route back would have been via Tockwith, but with the bad wind (not them beans) Dave S proposed back via Benningborough would be more sheltered (good call).

The wind was now really quite bad and Terry d` Ohms-Law helped us by pushing the wind, Watt? Watt? Watt? Yes there was plenty of them pushed out, let`s hope the bike does not have a built-in video camera in the rear to record our suffering.

Over Aldwark Bridge with a banana break at Branton Green. Knaresborough and Harrogate were reached, and unbelievably for one EG so was Harlow Hill, mileages around and over 70 miles in bad conditions making it feel like well over a 100 miles, in fact good training for the Wheel Easy 100.

Even our fit and fast riders admitted to a fair degree of knackeration in their bodies.

This was a ride of teamwork and although painful at times was one not to missed, and personally I am glad I didn't. The future of electric bike is safe in the hands of the EGs and more will follow, and those bikes will all go to good Ohms, sorry but others must suffer also. Dave P





