

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Glorious sun again today. As we have no designated leader it was decided after a short consultation that we would ride to Wetherby. Eight of us set off via the showground, Rudding, Follifoot Spofforth and the Harland Way cycle path. Glad to say the cycle path not muddy.

Cafe stop outside at North House deli and back via Little Ribston Knaresborough. We split at North Deighton and 3 riders returned to Harrogate via Spofforth. A ride of about 25 miles. Jean B

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Having come to terms with the proposal to cycle the less-travelled anti-clockwise route towards Brimham Rocks sixteen wanderers prepared to set off from Hornbeam. Almost immediately five gallant gentlemen and their screwdriver were engaged in a quest to repair Diane's errant brakes. Plan B was implemented "We will all meet up in Ripley". Arriving in Ripley via the Stray and Greenway the eleven waited a respectable time but in the absence of any sighting a phone call established that at least two of the mechanically minded men had already exited Ripley. They had unbeknowningly arrived in Ripley ahead of us having used the faster Greenway access route of the Town Centre and Asda. Thus Dave and Steve were re-united at Scarah Bank with the group that had now grown to 13. Further on John appeared from nowhere, however there was still no sign of riders 15 and 16. Perhaps they would be found lurking in the rocks of Brimham, where the views were wonderful on this beautiful spring day. But alas, no such re-union took place.

Last week there was the malfunction of the speedo which gave a maximum reading of 199mph, this week it was the turn of Liz and her electronic thermometer, which recorded a temperature 29C. It was indeed a pleasantly sunny and in places warm morning but this reading stretched credulity too far. As we really going to be able to trust self-driving cars?

The route to Hartwith Mill Toll road was particularly enjoyable as we had the normally hazardous B6165 to ourselves, the section being closed to vehicles. Arriving for coffee and cakes at Ripley Church the mystery of the missing Mike and Steve was solved. Their story was that they thought they had arrived at Ripley behind the pack, and that they had been left behind. Therefore they peddled furiously round the route attempting to catch riders who were in fact behind them! At least they had first pick of the lovely cakes and a quiet coffee before the gang arrived depriving them not only of their tranquility but also their seats. 25 miles, on a perfect cycling day. David A





Trailer Trial Ride

Today's ride was a little different as John Russell had organised a ride starting in Settle and riding home using Sherwood Minibuses new bike trailer. This was with the aim of testing it to see if it was OK in transporting bikes and what kind of service was provided.

So 12 riders rolled up at 7.30am (yes 7.30am!) and in half an hour all the bikes were loaded and we were on our way up the Dales. After a smooth ride (in a nice mini bus) we unloaded in Settle and after a few warm up circuits of the Car Park set off back towards Harrogate.

John had decided the first part of the route would follow the Way of the Roses so we were straight into hills (and steep ones at that). Only a few streets out of Settle and a steep 700' climb which only Peter, Paul, Gill and Gia managed without touching tarmac (well done to them).

We, after manoeuvring round a herd of Highland sheep, made our way to Kirkby Malham and a coffee stop which we enjoyed sitting outside.

Then on through Airton, Hetton and Cracoe and a superb ride along the lanes to Burnsall where a decision was taken to head to Appletreewick and on to Bolton Abbey for lunch.

Clothes were being shed a regular intervals(it was cold at 7.30am) and the sun was now at its highest and the views were spectacular as we headed upwards again. Lots of villages were preparing for the Tour of Yorkshire so there was a very 'festival feel' as we rode through the Dales.

We rode into the Cavendish Pavilion to be met by hordes of bikes (had the Tour arrived early?) and the disappointment of the bacon sandwiches being off the menu (which cafe does that?) Apparently the aristocracy don't eat bacon after 12 noon-it's just not done.

After a bacon free lunch sat out in the sun we rode out of the Estate and headed for Ilkley via Beamsley where 8 new signs were out warning of cyclists in the *carraigeway* (a dyslexic traffic engineer we thought) and no one at NYCC had noticed the spelling mistake!

By this time we were feeling all that climbing in our legs as we made our way to climb out of Askwith and it was a quiet, weary group of cyclists who made it to the top.

From there we made our way to Timble and Fewston where Peter and James left us for their route home and the rest of us made our way up (get today's theme?) to Little Almscliffe before we enjoyed the freewheel down to Beckwithshaw and back to various points in Town.

A great days riding across the Dales, great weather, good company and a challenging route (for us).

47 Miles and 3000' of climbing and we all came back tired but with a big smile on our faces after a superb ride. The trailer experiment was a great success and we would recommend it to others to try (we will post contact details on the website)

Thanks to John for organising the transport, route and all of us! Kevin













Wednesday Long Ride
Ride report to follow.



EGs' Ride

A brilliant forecast on the BBC web site, little suns on the hour every hour and no clouds, and it was! We had eighteen riders at Low Bridge including Rob and Nicola (nice to see you back Nicola).

First stop Morrison`s Wetherby, eighteen riders, so no cafe shock. The ride broke down into small groups for safety and comfort. A refurbished Morrison`s Cafe all new furniture and fittings, very smart indeed.

Then on to Wighill, Healaugh and Askham Richard, here Theo who had got the miles in wanted to head back for home.

Eric led a faster group into York and the Cycle Heaven Cafe, but for us, the slower ones, Norman (David Bailey "got all his records") posed us around a tree??, and the Millennium Bridge. We all made it in to the cafe for excellent food and 10% discount.

Rob, Nicola and Nick made their own way back from here. As did Bill, Bob, Norman and Terry W, who headed northwards up the river and hopefully stuck to the cycle path and remained dry.

The rest headed on route 66 (is this the route we get our kicks on?) heading for Grimston Interchange, however route 66 seemed more concerned in getting us to Brid on the way of the Roses leaving us finishing up in Dunnington, on checking to see where we were, this prompted Colin to ask if we were still in the EU, this immediately resulted in a straw poll, the result being sort of 50% to 50% intention like.

South to Elvington and Wheldrake, Colin and Eric headed west to Crockey Hill, York and home, the rest of us to Escrick and Stillingfleet.

At Cawood, Dan headed for Church Fenton leaving us a "Magnificent Seven", comprising Dave Peatfield, Dave Preston, Dave Siswick, Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, Phil and Tony (over 70% Dave's) a new record? On to Ulleskelf, Taddy and Wetherby, here a desperate Dave P hit Morrison`s again (it must be the new decor).

There was an outstanding ride, not just from the excellent weather point of view, but that all its riders got something from it. Club riding is meant to be sociable, and it was, and riders should be able to put as much as they want to into that ride (in terms of time, effort and mileage) and they did, and this was good to see.

Mileages would have ranged from mid-50`s to mid-70`s.

Oh! I forgot (you are gonna like this, not a lot), Dave S got his knees out from the beginning, but Eric only from York. Dave P



