

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

A sedate, slow ride via the closed roads and diversions of Ripley, Birstwith, Stripe Lane to Brimham Rocks, (where sadly the bilberries had not yet ripened), finishing with a speedy free wheel back to Ripley and the Greenway with pleasant, if solitary company, no stops and back for lunch. 28 miles at an average of 8 mph in the real world, 51 floors and strangely only 10,002 paces in the parallel universe. CG

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

There appeared to be a large number keen to set off prompt at 9-30am weather was warm but overcast and promise of sunshine later. A quick count as we left indicated about 18 so we split into two groups. Through the Showground and round Rudding then regrouping just before Follifoot, a quick phone call to Tancred's farm shop to warn them potential large numbers later for coffee etc. On we went through Spofforth, picking up another cyclist at junction for Little Ribston (it can be useful publishing route beforehand), then passing EGs at turn off to Cowthorpe (to be kind I think they were regrouping), some did pass us a little later on their way towards Tockwith but we turned left at crossroads towards Cattal and over the bridge where Denise and Gordon left for quicker way home. We turned right then right again to Kirk Hammerton, left in village and over manned rail crossing (it appears to be for pedestrians and cyclists only) through Green Hammerton and onto Tancred's for well-earned refreshments, back on the bikes to Thorpe Underwood, Great Ouseburn, Lower Dunsforth, Aldborough, Boroughbridge, Minskip, Staveley and back via Knaresborough. Sun never really got out but made excellent cycling conditions (about 35mls) Steven Perry/Dave Griffin



Wednesday Ride

Martin, Colin, Paul, Dave, Gia and Steve set off for Ripon with a plan to add in some moors and hills. Cycling up the hill into Ripon we noticed a new cafe/bookshop that looked tasteful but sadly no good for hungry cyclists and the young man needs some more experience in the art of making coffee! So after a small snack and feeling warmer we left Dave to return via Fountains, while the rest of us went up to Galphay stopping to let the hens cross the road in the middle of the village and on to Winksley where Paul and Gia returned via Aldfield and Fountains and Colin, Martin and Steve rode off in to the distance. I hope they had a good ride and made it home! Gia



Wednesday Long Ride

Emerging from the mist of discussion at 9.30, How Stean became our target for today. Soon, five riders found themselves chilling off in the northerly breeze along the Greenway en route for the constitutional stop at Ripley. Some donned layers, others stuck with clothing suited to last weekend. We were all confident that the sun would scatter the mist before long. Scarah Bank had the desired effect of warming us up and by the time we reached the Felbeck turn we were functioning normally. The Wath Lane descent beckoned through the lingering mist, inducing some nervousness in one of the riders, as his last visit had brought about a tumble. No repeat of the summersault this time. At the foot of Wath Bank, schedules were checked and timings assessed. Sadly Lesley and Richard had to head off to Pateley at this point to be back for an afternoon appointment, leaving Martin, Richard L and me to boost the trade at How Stean cafe which, despite having a school residential camped next door, was sparsely populated. Chaffinches (possibly!) kept us company while we stoked up for Yorke's Folly. A brief stop followed, to examine the development potential of property and land for sale adjacent to Lofthouse cricket club, evoking interest from one of our number. The Folly proved its usual tough self but all made it up in one stint; prizes, if there were any, would have gone to Richard L. The sun was still its bashful self, although it was now pleasantly warm for the run back to Harrogate via Pennypot and Oak Bank. A visit to Martin's car workshop rounded off an interesting day. Thank you to all. Cateye tells us that 50 miles were ridden and 3400 ft climbed. Terry Smith



EGs' Ride

We had twelve riders at Low Bridge, including Norman`s brother Dougie, you are very welcome "Doogie". The destination was Selby but for those who wanted a shorter ride or had time constraints, the first cafe stop for all was the Lemon Tree in Tadcaster.

As usual the group was split for safety and reduction of "cafe shock", consisting of a swift seven, a sedate five who was led by Theo into Tadcaster at a cracking pace (nearly back to top form Theo, well done), and a slower two (well this was family).

After caffeine and calories we only had six takers for the Selby run, but it looked like Dave Watson would have to lead a shorter run.

So the dirty (not really) half dozen headed for Selby then Sustrans Route 65 to Barmby on the Marsh, where we had a very interesting chat with the Lock Keeper who explained the functions of the Barmby Barrage. We noticed a strange contraption that climbed out of the Derwent over the Barrage and descended into the Humber Estuary (certainly not a salmon ladder) however it was a Lamprey Ladder.

We were informed that there are three types of Lampreys, but it seems the Yorkshire Lampreys have no head for heights and non-have been seen to use the ladder.

So no surfeit of Lampreys in Barmby. This was also the first time any of us had seen the Barrage open to admit a boat.

On to Howden for a pleasant lunch in the Town Square in the sun, being overlooked by the Minster. To return we had the choice of using the A63 to cross the River Derwent and hit the cycle path to York or take the B1228 to Bubwith and cross the Derwent on the A163 to get to the cycle path.

The B1228 was chosen but unfortunately the turn was missed and we headed North on the wrong side of the Derwent, but we took in two villages new to the EG`s East Cottingwith and Storwood, crossing the Pocklington Canal at Hagg Bridge and the Derwent at Sutton upon Derwent, then Elvington, Weldrake, Escrick and on to the cycle path to York, on the Askham Richard and banana break at Marston Moor, then Knaresborough and home. The ride was longer than intended being into the 90`s, however miles are not everything as 2/3 mile on the flat lands of Yorkshire are equal in effort to a mile in the dales.

However it was not all easy peasy as suffering was encountered, as when you are lean highly trained athletes like the EG`s you do not have much padding on your rear and there were a few sore sit bones in the group.

Once again the weather was kind and the company even better.

Thanks to Dave Siswick, Dave Wilson, Peter Bradley, Peter Jackson and Phil Prior.

Dave P





