

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

How lovely Hornbeam was not too full of people.....they were all doing interesting things elsewhere. Everyone managed to decide on a ride without too much trouble, and no one introduced anything. Four Poddlers poddled off....although we could have gone with the Wanderers as it was a select group of sympathetic gentlemen, but I had done their chosen ride last week. New Jo joined Monica, Caroline and nearly doing days only Bridgette, as we powered off to Burnbridge and a heart attack hill to Briscoe Woods Lane. Here new Jo had obviously had had enough of us and headed off to explore the woods. Look forward to seeing you again Jo and hope we were not too slow. Into Beckwithshaw and onto the outskirts of Hampsthwaite, Killinghall and Ripley we sped, in order to get maximum coffee and cake time in the church in Ripley, before the Brimham group, who in fact were less speedy and did not get there in time to chat as they had had a couple of mechanicals. Having had general cake appreciation and consultation we set off home down the Greenway, where I tried to point out the very nicely but only slightly attacked Himalayan Balsam, which is trying to take over the verges and banks at the side of the path. Thank you for your company all other climbers.....and sorry it was so short, but with so many vertical ascents that is what you got. CG

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

There was an air of tranquillity at Hornbeam this morning due, one suspects, to the attractions of high tea in high places and the holiday season. In fact it was so quiet that there was no need for formal announcements as riders easily found their place on one of the three rides of the day. So five of us set out for Brimham Rocks via Ross toll bridge. At Ripley we were joined by Steve. Riding with us today was "El Butler" the mountain goat. Not only were his legs going around so quickly that they caused two chain derailments but they also caused him to, inadvertently I'm sure, overtake the ride leader on the steepest part of the climb. On reaching Brimham Rocks the views were less than perfect due to mist.

A slight diversion to express my love of that specimen of mankind, the impatient motorist, especially the one who overtook us on a long, fast descent and then immediately turn left in front of El Butler. Names for this idiot on a postcard please!

Returning to Ripley via the B6165 we split, with perfect symmetry, into those progressing straight home and those with a wish for coffee and cholesterol. A very pleasant ride, thanks gents for your company and banter. Mileage anywhere from 28 miles to 28 miles with positive and negative climbing. MG

Wednesday Away Day Ride

Despite the grey skies and not too promising a weather forecast riders gathered on the green at Easingwold in surprising numbers- most enjoying an early morning coffee before the off.

When it came to go there were 17 riders from the various groups of the club (a really great number considering quite a few regulars were away) with a few making their debut on the Away Day rides. We set off ready to tackle the route with the climb of the White Horse being one of our targets but it was an inauspicious start as we missed the second turn off to Carlton Husthwaite and had to retrace our steps. Pleased to say this was the only mishap of the day and we made good progress on the warm up hills to meet the A19-it was a quick spin along the busy road before turning off towards Bagby and Kilburn.

There was an earlier than usual coffee stop as the cafe in Kilburn didn't open on Wednesday so we stopped at the Old Barn Coffee Shop at Balk who didn't panic when 17 cyclists turned up (I had told them maybe 10 would be coming!) and service was fairly quick and very friendly. We did however make a schoolboy error in letting Daniel order his Full English breakfast last- so when we were all finished we left him enjoying his meal certain that he would us up- which he duly did in no time at all!

On to Kilburn and then the climb of the White Horse which everyone took at a steady pace- some breaking the climb with a short rest at the car park and some touching tarmac on the way up but we all gathered at the top for a quick photo and then rode on to enjoy the good views over the ridge.

We then dropped down to Rievaulx Abbey and began our second climb of the day- again everyone made it up and as we gathered at the top we were ready for the ride down into Helmsley to reward ourselves with lunch. Being such a big party we spread among the cafes and met upon again under the market cross to head for Ampleforth.

Colin's promise of no more 'big hills' which challenged as we made our way towards Ampleforth but by now everyone was in the groove and we sailed along through the village and on towards Coxwold.

We still had not had a drop of rain and the sun was now out and people were shedding layers as we began the last little 'big climb' of the day up past Newburgh Priory and into Easingwold.

With the climb accomplished we made swift progress into Easingwold to finish the ride in good style and untouched by rain. A definite result!

We also met Richard who had turned up late and had set off to catch us and had managed to do the whole ride without seeing us. Sarah also had a solo ride having missed us at the start (sorry- and emergency phone no. will be provided for the next ride)

Thanks to everyone who turned up and for the great company and banter. Another great route from Colin and another good days riding!

40 miles, 1100m of climbing (and for many their first climb of the White Horse) Kevin





Wednesday Long Ride

The cavalry arrived at Almsford Avenue today in the form of Richard P, Martin D and Dave Rang, bearing an Allen key, to fix my seat post into the frame (always a good idea). Embarrassing, especially as I have three sets of tools and left all behind! Chastened, I followed the pack at brisk pace to Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliff, aiming for Embsay in a broadly clockwise direction. Climbs to Timble and Askwith Moor were completed without a single lorry in sight, a rare occurrence we concluded. Given the Wharfedale climbs to come, Langbar was omitted today and swift progress made to a comfort stop at Bolton Abbey car park. The gated road to Halton East proved deserted except for a quad bike (no dog); the reason was a road closure to allow a new cattle grid to be inserted. Walking through the obstruction, we exchanged greeting with a German/ Dutch female tourer, doing the Dales from Skipton. A long descent into and through Embsay revealed a worrying lack of anywhere to have a cyclist's lunch, other than two pubs. Two cafes listed on Google had closed – Blueberry Kitchen and Samuel Taylor's Coffee Shop no longer trade, so beware. After the briefest of banana stops, it was back over Halton on Barden Road, past a cheery group of well-wishers as we negotiated the 17% gradients, to reach the

Burnsall road, with its customary group of bird-watchers. After the desert of Embsay, lunch at Wharfe View Cafe (closed Thurs and Fri, note) was most welcome. After nearly mistaking a rider as a fellow Wheel Easy member, it was revealed that Halifax Imps CC has club colours very similar to WE, easy to confuse at a distance. The route back was the usual one over Stump Cross, taking in a loll on the bench overlooking Parceval Hall (see photo) and a look at the old railway tracks for Dave's benefit, before serious consideration had to be given to the scones at Stump Cross. Although only an hour since lunch, the siren call proved irresistible and soon we were enjoying the newly-created outside seating area, with its nice touches like the mosaics and the colour-coded bike locks and stands. Well done! A head wind over Greenhow was mercifully short-lived, after which we did find some lorries on the descent to Menwith and the blast to Pennypot. Oak Bank and Harlow Hill rounded off a grand day out of 61 miles and 4600 ft ascent, all without the wet weather we expected. Terry Smith



EGs' Ride

We wondered whether we had turned out on a Thursday by mistake when there were only four trusty and true EG's at Low Bridge this morning.

Leaders were conspicuous by their absence; hope your test went OK Dave P, and that Pamela can gain some strength Dave W. We really miss your guidance. Suggestions were offered for all four points of the compass, and eventually Thirsk was agreed as the chosen destination.

If you had followed our route, you would never believe that we have been there before (actually dozens of times), but we did find Arabica Café about one o'clock.

World class problems were duly discussed and generally obvious solutions found for most of them.

The return downwind journey was pretty easy with a short shower around Dalton. Bill and Rob dropped off in Boroughbridge, leaving Nick and myself to hightail it back to Knaresborough for around half past three.

Thanks boys for a very enjoyable day out; what could be better? Dave S.

