

Wednesday, August 31, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers' Ride

Lots of recognisable people at Hornbeam this morning ....it must be spring....well perhaps not. Five ladies wanted to pop over to Otley for the morning and one.... Jayne wanted to poddle but was very stuck in a traffic jam at Harewood. So after some naming confusion, the Poddlers', slower sedate riders set off for Otley. I think the long fast boys thought we were going with them as we kept meeting them en route. However having reached Stainburn Forest.(site of the old stuck in the mud Churchill tank some of us played on in the past before it was rescued ).....we saw the back of them. A right turn instead of a left turn coming down from Stainburn Forest took us speedily to Otley.....despite a real 10 percent hill up. Super guide and escapee fetcher Jen led us up the backstreets of Otley and onto a not too busy road to Pool and the delights of first rate savoury scones (cheese and red onion or need and horseradish)(pronounced excellent by sconaseur Sue)and a decent cup of coffee at the farm shop over Pool bridge on the Harrogate road. The only dilemma at this point was which way home. Jen and Monica chose up, the others chose busy, really we should have chosen Kirby Over low. Anyway we all arrived home within an hour or so..... after a different and shorter than expected new route. Thanks front, side and back markers...pleasant company and jolly chat. 24 miles or 30 miles at a sedate pace. Or in the alternative world of fitbits 56 floors and 12,59 paces. CG



### Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Another fine day with a large gathering at Hornbeam. There were eighteen Wanderers in an indecisive frame of mind so Keith sent us off with firm instructions that we would divide into two well-ordered groups at Ripley. This nearly happened but we did keep catching each other up and there was a lot of jovial mingling up Stripe Lane with the Wednesday longer group who were heading out in the same direction. However, we were cast adrift at the Brimham rocks turn off and some semblance of order returned. Our destination was Fountains Abbey Visitor Centre but the group began to shrink at Watergate Road when Dennis kindly lead the non-munchers back to Harrogate by the most direct route.

At Fountains there was the usual confusion and bafflement from the staff as we explained the National Trust policy of providing a free hot drink to cyclists who bought a cake, scone or other goodie. We had to put our Wheel Easy Chief Negotiator on the case and the deal was done. And very good it was too!

Meanwhile the forecast sun appeared and we enjoyed a delightful return via Westerns Lane to Markington, then Drovers Cross Roads, Ripley and the Greenway again after a very fine 34 miles (accurately recorded on le Garmin). Home in time for another snack and to get all known devices back on charge. Have you noticed that every time you try to make a slice of toast or put the kettle on, every plug in the house is occupied by a Fitbit/Garmin/i-Pad/Pod/Phone? It makes you yearn for the days when you just knew where you were and if you needed to know the time, you asked a Policeman. Plus ça change! Helen & Keith T



### **Wednesday Ride**

As this would be my first ride back with Wheel Easy since I fractured my elbow on 4/5/16 (also on a wheel easy ride) I thought it only 'fitting' that I 'volunteer' to write this ride report. In truth I lost out in a game of 'one potato two potato'. So here goes:

In the first place we couldn't decide what route to take - you know the vultures in the Jungle Book? - well it was a bit like that. 'Where do you want to go? I don't know where do YOU want to go - I'm not bothered I'll go where you go'. Anyway the 12 of us eventually pulled ourselves together - well Sue and Kevin did and we set off towards the Greenway, through Ripley and over the Toll Bridge to Brimham Rocks and down to Pateley Bridge for refreshments at Teacups. I was most impressed with the toasted teacake 'and a half' plus they had erected our own personal gazebo!! I think I put everyone off their food by showing them my gruesome photos of my injury - sorry team! However I'm so glad I had that extra half of teacake in view of what was to come. I was instructed that I should 'unclip' immediately at the bottom of Silver Hill - a particularly vicious and steep climb

out of Wath. It even had obstacles across the road! Everyone walked at least part of the way up, apart from our two Bobs or were they mountain goats in disguise. They were awarded the 'King of the mountain' winner and runner up - sadly not a spotted jersey in sight. We were all however rewarded with the most glorious view of Gouthwaite reservoir in the distance. Cycling across the moors gave us a beautiful view of the lovely heathers in all their glory. Apart from one 'bit of a hill' we descended into Ripley where we stopped at the church for tea and cake on the lawn. The sun came out and after this last pit stop we headed back onto the Greenway and home. Three of us parted company with the rest of the peloton to make our way back to Hornbeam. 37.26 miles, my average speed was 10.5. Great ride, great company as always! Janet Glynn



### **Wednesday Long Ride**

The A61 was its mercurial best today, with a tailback reaching almost as far as Leeds Grammar School. This was later identified as the result of a prang at Harewood Bridge. So, it was a flustered scribe who arrived at Hornbeam, via Wetherby, 10 minutes after the flag dropped this morning, greeted by stony stares and folded arms, vividly captured in our first photo. E-mail musings the previous evening suggested Pateley and Masham by divers routes, each involving a stiff climb but hopefully with some help from the brisk westerlies forecast for the day. But the opening 5 miles were a stop-start affair as Richard L's derailleur began to play tricks. Desperate measures were employed, chiefly the massaging of a partly seized pivot with Factor 50 sun cream. Other sources of makeshift lubricant, saliva and a crushed banana skin, were not needed today. Miraculously, Factor 50 seemed to do the job.

Somewhere in the Fewston area three became separated from the main group; our photo shows some puzzlement outside Timble. Pressing on to Pateley via the Smokehouse climb and the Yorke's Folly descent, we were confident of catching the main group at Teacups. There were indeed cyclists aplenty there, but we had stumbled into Gia's party in jolly array under the gazebo (photo). Declaring ourselves to be detached rather than lost, we awaited the arrival of our main group, who had been inspecting progress in the road rebuild on Hoodstorth Lane and slogged up to Greenhow before taking the main road descent into Teacups.

Over an early lunch, crowned by Trefor's demolition of a chicken croquette, Trapping Hill was written out of the script as was Masham, replaced by Old Church Lane (audible drawing of breath from behind a Farmer's Weekly) and the Dallowgill loop. For the challenges of Old church Lane we were blessed with the arrival of the sun and a helpful wind. Richard L's derailleur, nourished by the Factor 50, gave him no trouble as he powered up the 1 in 5, while many of us managed to glimpse the wonderful valley view emerging between the gasps. Once on the moor top views across to North York Moors and Roseberry Topping were stunning, as was the wasp sting that Richard P sustained in his mouth. Anti-histamines were given on the spot. Looping past the Greygarth monument, there was time for a photo while we sheltered from the strong wind and admired the views once again. Kirkby Malzeard has long boasted a cafe which until today had been thought to exist only in the digital realm. But there it was – Rose Lea Tea Rooms! Sadly, with no time to stop we could only note it for another high season occasion.

Ripon Spa Gardens was our target for a stop, reached after a quick descent from Kirkby. Here Trefor and Martin starred in a double act on Bristol, their home city, and Brunel their schooldays hero. Along the way, Apple's tax affairs were given a going over while strawberry tarts disappeared at great speed (excellent fare from Caroline, once again). Our ride of many parts and detachments concluded with the Deer Park, Fountains, Ripley and the Greenway, with farewells being exchanged at Bilton Lane and Claro Road. At less than 60 miles, this was not a long ride by our usual standard, but with 4300-4500 ft of climbing it was a grand day out. Many thanks to all for waiting for me at Hornbeam, it was greatly appreciated. Sand on the road at Harewood Bridge on the way back to Leeds confirmed the site of this morning's mishap. Terry Smith



**Waiting For Terry**







### **EGs' Ride**

"Distance in the Round" says our intrepid & adventurous sailor, Colin, difference between flat charts & a globe! And so our conversation went whilst we sat out in the sunshine at Thorpe Perrow having lunch contemplating our next move, north or west?

We six remaining riders were left to our own devices as our leader, Dave P had handed over the baton to "young Dave" earlier as he needed to return home early.

Leaving our first stop at the Sun Parlour, Ripon, we drifted north with one eye on the accompanying black clouds overhead.

Norman, Terry, Bob & Theo left us at Wath to skirt back home via Melmerby etc.

The rest of the peloton blindly followed a meandering course set by deputy leader, Dave W. The skies had by now cleared and we made good progress towards our next rest halt north of Snape.

Refuelling on the usual baked beans and, for some, panini, we set off refreshed in a northerly direction to the constipation of some at this late hour.

Reaching Crakehall we reversed our course heading across the railway level crossing just in time to see the Wensleydale steam train disappearing in a cloud of black smoke.

A course was set towards Masham, punctuated by a small technical problem involving Eric's rear mech! A first was reported!

Passing through Masham with a brief rest halt we followed the route up the long climb through Grewelthorpe and after a banana break we swooped back down to Ripon to give tired legs a respite.

Eric, Colin & Marvin craved for another cafe visit whilst Geoff, Nick & Dave W. aimed for home concluding the ride perhaps a little earlier than expected before 5.00pm completing just over 60 miles, dry miles at that! Dave W.

