

Wednesday, September 28, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Wednesday Wanderers Ride

"Where are the Wanderers going today?" I heard James, the WE departure official of the day, ask. Sacré bleu! .... What! .... It was the shock that made my brain go into hyper-drive, in a similar way that your life flashes before you as you fly over your handlebars (not to be recommended). No designated Wanderers ride leader for today? .... Planning ..... what has happened to the meticulous planning ... can't be true ..... how will we get to the last summer opening of the Church café in Ripley, home of the famous cheese and onion pie ..... I will never get to taste it .... strong winds ... hills .... worse an adverse combination of the two ... there must be truth in the rumour that many Wanderers had set off to find out who would be King of the Mountains on the near continent (formerly known as the EU) .... Then..... this familiar voice was replying "don't worry we will cobble something together, I (what!) have a cunning plan". Oh Baldricks I think I had just volunteered to lead the ride.

I put my cunning plan to the other five Wanderers who all decided to take a pace backwards whilst acquiescing at the same time. (go on you try it, it takes real skill especially on a bike). We were then joined by potential new member Mark.

Noteworthy ride events.

1. Greeting a large group of EGs bonjour at Low Bridge .... Would the cafes, staging posts and Morrisonses (plural) cope?
2. Hearing of Yorkshire man Dave's dilemma when buying two new tyres. He had difficulty deciding what to do when he was offered the tyres with LONDON emblazoned on them at a considerable discount.
3. The EG styled freewheel distance decent, on the authentic route, was won by first time lucky Mark ..... he's banned!
4. The folly and sheepish return of those who wanted to extend the route to examine the new silk smooth entrance to Holly Bank but when faced with rain and "fearsome squalls" chickened out.
5. I did get my slice of onion pie (and met its creator.)

A pleasant ride in good company. A gentle 25 miles, tea and cake for some but a remarkable 25 miles and 85 yards by others, plus tea and cake and a bonus ribbing as well. Max

### The Wednesday Ride

The early talk was all about 'the wind:' it's reported direction and strength was more than likely to play a part in today's outing. So with this distraction the group (15) set off: some with a clear vision of direction of travel, and others (of us) with a sense of a magical mystery tour.

Leaving H Park at 0940, we made good progress against strong winds to Little Almscliff (providing excellent towing practice on the uphill stretch), before descending to Fewston, where Malcolm, reportedly performing "a wheelie" appeared as if from nowhere. After the toil up to Timble we crested above Low Snowden to enjoy the long downhill rest towards Askwith. With Ilkley as a potential destination we sailed past Denton with coffee beckoning... However, two wise men were dispatched to test out the supplies at The Station café - for the rest of us, the journey continued on via Langbar (a long haul), which provided some spectacular views as we circled round to return to Ilkley, arriving in time for coffee/ lunch at 1.15pm. Crispy bacon sandwiches won the usual contest and were mouthwatering according to the tasting panel. This was the point where a volunteer was sought to complete the ride report by deploying the club's full democratic principles, before we dashed off into the Ilkley traffic and down to the low road past The Cockpit farm towards Otley. Most of the group crossed the Aire at the 'pipe bridge' avoiding the centre of Otley and providing some delightful views of the river. At Pool we were once more fully formed, having recovered everyone, and then returned via Castley, Weeton, Dunkeswick, and Kirkbyoverblow where 3 or 4 took the Walton Head Lane turn down towards Burnbridge, the remainder favouring the Bypass...

Once the winds had been mastered, the conditions were not that difficult, and a warming temperature on the final leg led us to believe summer might not yet be completely finished.

The Author hasn't sufficient information to provide an accurate mileage, and is inclined to reject the initial impression of "at least 150 miles" in favour of a calculated: "55+" St.



### **Poddlers Ride**

There was a very jolly atmosphere at Hornbeam today perhaps it was the effect of the wind or perhaps the day seemed strangely summery in the shelter of Hornbeam car park or perhaps it was because the Wednesday riders had a ride plan. Three people chose a gentle Poddle.....as many hills as we could find to the north of Harrogate.....ending up at the last official Ripley church cafe morning of the season .....(if ride leaders email [evanskarenjane@gmail.com](mailto:evanskarenjane@gmail.com) the day before they lead a ride the cafe may open specially for you...) Our route included Scarrah Bank, Markington to the Drovers, down Cut Throat Lane, the hill out of Shaw Mills to Clint Bank and down the rather smoothly beautiful Hollybank Lane to Ripley church, where we met another group who seemed to be crowing about a lack of head on wind problems.....were they in the same county as the Poddlers' or have Poddlers' more sensitive skin. Delightful onion pie, a variety of moist cakes, scones and cream, tea and very good cups of coffee consumed, the cyclists left the ladies of Ripley in peace, to ride home along the GreenWay. No idea how many miles as my measuring equipment has a battery malfunction, but in the

wierd world of the Fitbit 10,987 paces and 79 floors. Thank you to the front , side and backmarkers.....what on earth will you be able to do after 4 months of Wheel Easy cycling. CG

### **EG's Ride**

We had ten riders at Low Bridge and the weather was looking good, with perhaps it getting a little windy later, however since all the past references to beans in our reports this is not surprising, but it seems they were not on the menu today.

Morrisons Cafe, in Wetherby was chosen as our first stop, well its been awhile since we were last there, so it was all there for a coffee and chin wag and take it from there.

The route taken was via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth and Kirk Deighton, because we were not to happy with the traffic on the B6164.

At Spofforth the group split and the second group was led in to Morrisons by Theo, our initial worry was that the first group may have plundered all the Toasted Teackes, however Theo felt most unwell and needed an immediate sit down.

After Tea and TeaCakes, Dave Watson took charge of the ride and headed for Otley with Colin, Eric, Geoff and Phil.

Theo headed back for home at a slow but steady pace accompanied by Bill, Dave P and Terry, with Dave S returning a different way.

Fortunately Theo suffered no further problems and arrived home safe and sound at his door.

Theo in the past has been an excellent cyclist, in time trialling and 24hr rides, and it is hard to get rid of being at bit competitive, but we take our hats of to him and wish him well.

Dave Watson perhaps will continue from here. Dave P





### **EG's ride, Part 2**

After a high speed blast from Spofforth to our usual Wetherby coffee stop - to get the toasted tea cakes ordered before the others - it emerged that most of the EGs would be returning to Harrogate and Knaresborough once their coffee had been drunk. Now I'm not one to complain about such behaviour, but EGs, you must consider that this could potentially wreck your marriages! For years your wives have so appreciated your absences on Wednesdays. Thursday have been a terrible day for them - the worst day of the week - as there is another 6 days to go before they have their one day of peace and quiet. Then all of a sudden 10 EGs arrive home before Wednesday lunchtime to ruin their day! Well, if their wives have got any sense, they'll lock their doors as you leave home next Wednesday morning and give you a stern lecture that you will not be allowed back into the house until after 5pm and you've damn well exhausted yourself on a 50-mile ride, at least. Come on guys - give your wives a break by staying out of the house all day - they deserve it!

Meanwhile back at EG's report, Part 2..... it emerged that only 5 EGs would be cycling into the distance after Wetherby - but where would that distance be? Cawood and Ryther over the eastern horizon were offered as

Plan A, but having done those a few times in recent weeks, we settled for Plan B over the western horizon: Otley, Askwith Bank, Swinsty and Fewston Reservoirs. We indulged ourselves in the pleasure of a downhill freewheeling competition on our high speed 'away' track down Kearby Bank; congratulations go to Phil who won on his first attempt. Then on to Dunkeswick, Weeton and Castley, during which time Colin and I discussed possible extensions to the ride with Plans C and D, as it was such a lovely day. Plan C was to continue to Ilkley, and Plan D to Bolton Abbey, but other commitments by the group forced us to stick with Plan B. After the climb up from Leathley to Farnley, we paused to regroup at the road junction on the summit, pulling into the side road at the entrance to Farnley Park. There is an old gatehouse by the junction, and I was recounting how, on a previous ride, a 'wicked witch' came out of the gatehouse and told us all to move away - even though we were on the public highway. Bang on queue, the door opened, and the pantomime villain emerged once more, shouting at us to get away from her house. She probably got the politest replies she's ever had from any cyclists, such as "Oh hello, we were were just wondering how you were" "Are you still happy?" "We'll see you again soon!"

We lunched in Otley before starting the return route which took us up Askwith Bank, followed by the delightfully fast route to Swinsty and Fewston, and the final climb to Little Alms Cliff, with wonderful long range views in all directions. A great day to be out cycling, how blessed are we to be enjoying such conditions at the end of September! Thanks to Dave W, Colin P, Phil and Geoff for your company. This Harlow Hillbilly arrived home at 4pm, and those who reside in Knaresborough should have been home 15 minutes later. 47 glorious miles, 3,600' climbing. Eric

### **Long Ride**

Today's outing by the "Long" group is best described as a "disintegration ride". After an initial call of "Ilkley and see", when six of us set off into the wind, it was a tale of successive peel-offs. However, the initial goal was reached as planned, although some route variations were a surprise to several - notably the diversion through Stainburn Forest along the tracks. These proved rideable for thin-tyred road machines, just. New tarmac along the gated road, however, did redress the balance favourably. A self-selected descent of Norwood Bank led us to views of Lindley Wood reservoir or, rather, the bottom of it as it has been drained down for what we must assume are essential works to the clearly visible dam wall. Once through Askwith, the first spots of rain were felt. Just a light shower it may have been, but it triggered a ferocious cafe sprint along the back road to Ilkley - strictly no freewheeling allowed! The Grove at Ilkley had been given a proper wetting by the time we parked up at Christ Church cafe and anticipating more showers the group mainly opted for a very early lunch (just after 11.10) with only yours truly treating it as elevenses. Outward from the cafe, Ilkley Cycles' end-of-season sale proved too much of a temptation for David R and John S who peeled off to look at some clothing for next summer. Closed roads by the riverside split the remaining four into two pairs but we re-united for a climb up to Middleton and a descent of Carter's Lane. Andy vanished from view after the climb up from Askwith to the moor, while Peter chose the top road to the Timble turn and Richard P and I inspected the new tarmac through Low Snowden and briefly glanced at the hall for sale at just £1m. Brief discussions at the Timble turn led Peter to head off for Blubberhouses and Menwith, with just two descending to Fewston - it, too was low. Richard spotted a cache of pickable blackberries and stopped for gather, leaving me to devise a way filling the next four hours of my furlough. Without making this report too top-heavy with my own ride, I was delighted to call in at the Darley community cafe and shop, situated in the pavilion at the sports field. Excellent quality sandwiches at very reasonable price were put away with gusto. The cafe opened in its latest guise on 8<sup>th</sup> Aug this year and, for a cafe, is open all hours: weekdays 8.00 am til 7.00 pm, plus slightly shorter hours at weekends, which struck me as very unusual for a community project. Let's hope it stays the course; it's well worth a visit. By the time Hartwith Bank was climbed layers were off and it had turned out warm, a pleasant state topped off by a brief laze in the sun at Spa Gardens, Ripon. After that it was back to HG via the usual route through Knaresborough and the climb to the golf course. Trusting that my companions got back without hitch, I can only speak for my own stats today: 66 miles and 4620 ft ascent. Terry Smith