

Wednesday, October 5, 2016

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

Ripley, Scarrah Bank, Waterwharever Lane towards Fountains, left and onwards to Sawey, out to the Pateley/Ripon road, a turn to Brimham Rocks, with 1 speed'y swoop down to Ripley 1 cafe stop finishing in the Greenway; 3 cheese and onion slices; 1 bakewell tart; 4 excellent cup of coffee; 17 miles per hour easterly winds; 4 eager Poddlers'; 21 miles of up; 7 miles of down into the 17mph easterly wind; 4 miles of flat; a couple of bucket loads of gossip; 4 hours of exhausting exercise; 16,205 paces; 117 floors; 1 route new to the Poddlers'. CG

### Wednesday Wanderers Ride

A bright sunny day was promised by the BBC weather forecast. Lots of WE cyclists gathered at Hornbeam for probably one of the last fine days of the season. I had published my ride on the web site and wondered if anyone would join me on the longer version of the route or take the shorter route home from Boroughbridge! Soon I had 17 Wanderers looking amazed that I had devised a fairly flat route today, not the usual hills. I was trying to create some sort of order among the hubbub of noise, but the Wanderers though soon got themselves organised. Plan A meet at Low Bridge – some went one way, some another, but we soon merged at Low Bridge, but numbers had now increased, plus the EG's, it was like the gathering of the clans! I did not know who was with me or not. Wanderers now numbering 20 plus, the group set off and cycled along Abbey Road up into Knaresborough, out towards Arkendale. After a brief discussion about coffee and cake for a £1 at the village hall, it was decided to forego this and go to Lister's farm shop, (much to the upset of Yorkshire folk out on a cheap do). As we cycled on and up the hill towards Marton and Grafton, Helen decided to have a closer look at the hill gradient or she was checking if she would slide on her backslide due to an application of Waitrose Baby Bottom cream. After picking herself up a grazed knee and a bike chain were the only issues. On reaching Boroughbridge, Gordon and six others headed back due to other commitments. Max also disappeared so that left 13 for Lister's Farm shop. The café was fairly full, some went inside the others outside. After refreshments options were to go back via Roecliffe or to do the long loop round to Ripon. Mike (the vet) led a group of 6 back via Roecliffe to Harrogate. Maris, Liz P, Alison, Helen, Keith and Andrew joined me on a lovely cycle route up Kirby Hill, towards Dishforth, the White Horse and Sutton Bank was clearly visible in the distance, the views were spectacular. Turning towards Marton le Moor, then along the B6265 towards Sharow we pedalled on. Liz P, Keith and Andrew led us through Ripon to Studley and onwards to Fountains. Cycling up the drive the group were treated to a fantastic view of the deer as they jumped across the road in front of us, they must have been at least three different very large herds of deer leaping across the road. We cycled on through Fountains, up the road to Watergate where Alison, Helen and me stopped to buy the famous 'Rocking Horse' eggs. The builders were rebuilding the front of the house and looked slightly amused at us cyclists buying eggs, probably thinking they will be scrambled by the time they get them home. After a quick swoop down into Ripley, along the Greenway and onwards to Harrogate. A perfect day for cycling in good company not any big hills, 42 miles for the long route, 30 plus for the shorter routes. Liz F.



### **Wednesday Ride**

It was a select band of Wednesday Riders that set out from Hornbeam today and it was nice to see Angela back after her recent testing trips away to France etc. To try and avoid the rising easterly winds, particularly into the afternoon we set course for Fountains via Ripley and Watergate Lane and after Colin had remembered where the button was to operate the vehicle gate we sailed through it and into the Deer Park. The lovely swoop down was enjoyed without interference from the either human or animal and we progressed through Ripon on what was turning out to be another nice Autumn day. Leaving the busy main road was a relief and then it was on through Skelton to Listers at Langthorpe where we came upon a huge array of bikes in the car park belonging to the Wanderers who were heading in the other direction. As luck would have they were on the point of departing and so after some friendly banter we took over their inside table. After the usual excellent fare and photocall we headed through Aldborough into the increasing wind and on through the Dunsforths without stopping to desecrate any gardens. Through Whixley we opted for the backroad over the level crossing, just managing to avoid the passing York/Leeds train and into Walshford to pick up the cycle path alongside the old A!. At Little Ribston we parted company and I head straight for Knaresborough whilst the others went on to Spofforth and, I hope, home safely. 48 miles for me and I guess more or less the same for everyone, on what turned out to be a lovely day, apart from the breeze at times and in the usual good company. James G



### **EG's Ride**

We had ten riders at Low Bridge and the weather looked promising, but whilst waiting Wheel Easy Wednesday's arrived which included Max on his bit of sexy Italian stuff.

Can bikes be "sexy", well when they have beautiful classic lines, lugs that are works of art embellished with fine designs and chrome work whose thickness is measured in "thou`s" instead of microns, a definite yes.

Norman`s passion was too much for him and he persuaded Max to let him take the object of his desire for a spin. Then away they went leaving Norman to express his passion with a dour "Aye she`s a nice bike".

Then it was on to Boroughbridge and at the Occaney Men`s downhill, despite some good efforts by our riders, Dave (wonderwheels) Siswick retained his title.

Bill and Norman left at Boroughbridge the remaining eight heading for Easingwold and the Queer Table cafe for lunch, this was a genuine mistake from last Sunday, but the way things go it might be the Weird Table by next week. No matter the Curious Table`s bean`s were up to the Siswick standard (see photo).

After lunch Geoff headed back home but the remaining magnificent seven, after consultation with our seafarer`s (who have years before the mast) decided to head for Coxwold and use the headwind we had to Easingwold to aid our return (which it did).

In Coxwold on the hill there were road works, be careful of these if they are still there.

They start halfway up the hill and because of the short time allowed, cars are coming down before a cyclist can make it to the top.

Hence a lot of verbal`s from vehicles who thought we had jumped the lights.

On to Carlton Husthwaite and Sessay at a fair pace.

At Boroughbridge Colin, Dave P and Eric took afternoon tea with Dave Watson, Dave Wilson, Dave S, and Nick headed for home.

Once again an excellent ride with good weather and good team riding.

many thanks. Dave P



### **Long Ride**

The idea was to get the hard miles into the wind covered whilst the day's legs were fresh and then coast home in the tailwind. Our goal in this venture was the knowledge that Hawaby's cafe would shut at 1.30. With this in mind, nine set out through Knaresborough, Staveley and Minskip to Boroughbridge for the "constitutional". Here, comments that Boltby Bank would be sheltered from the wind cut little ice with several, who at this point turned for Ripon and Pateley. Dispatches say that John S reached Fountains and got home via the Greenway; of Andy, David R and Trefor, little is known, but it will have been done at rapid pace! The remaining five got to Thirsk in time for elevenses, choosing this time the White Rose Bookshop cafe, which proved to be an agreeable venue with reasonable prices and a garden for the warmer weather. Over teacake and scones Hawby was shelved for the day, partly in deference to the Sacres who had just finished 900 miles in 14 days in Spain – equivalent to LEJOG in high heat – and were feeling a little leg-weary. Other bits were sore as well, I understand! With Hawaby ditched, attention focussed on Bedale for lunch. On reaching a critical T-junction, Lesley and Richard opted for home via Ripon, completing 60 miles (roughly their daily average in

Spain!). Thus, Richard P, Peter J and I arrived in Bedale looking for lunch. After an episode involving mistaken cafe identities, establishments that has gone under, advice from locals who obviously knew what we were about (I wouldn't go there, love; try Costa, it's new!), we landed at Whistlestop cafe in the station yard (see picture). We soon had the place to ourselves – worrying for the viability of what is a very interesting venue. From Bedale it was payback time for the wind, as we headed southwards to Ripon via West Tanfield and Mickley after a brief but leg-sapping stretch on A6108 towards Lightwater Valley. After that, Spa Gardens was a must for a third cafe stop. At Bishop M, Richard opted for Knaresborough while Peter and I chose the Markington alps and the Greenway, parting company at Bilton Lane after c75 miles. Many thanks to all for an enjoyable ride with two new cafes for some. However, there is a coda to the ride, involving a trip to Morrison's cafe for tea, attendance at the Harrogate and District Cycle Action group's committee meeting at Veloheads and the boarding of the bike on the 20.39 train from Starbeck to Leeds, at which point it could be said that the day's long ride finally came to an end after 79 miles. Incidentally, the train was two-coach Pacer which already had a bike on board and was well crowded. Pacers really are woefully poor for bikes; let's get rid asap.

Terry Smith

