

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

Wednesday Rides

Mixed Group Ride

It was a very cold and frosty morning in the bleak midwinter when eight cyclist arrived at Hornbeam to ride off their turkey, plum pudding and mince pies. Zowie from the Poddlers and Justin joined Mike, Andrew, Liz F, Joe and David from the Wanderers and James from the Wednesday ride. A ride out to Fountains and home by Ripon was decided on.

With words of warning ringing in our ears that the paths were quite frosty but dry and to take care we set off for the Greenway. Across the stray a beautiful sight of icy mistiness drifted across the grass as the sun dazzled us with it being so low in the sky. Down Claro Road over Dragon Bridge which was quite icy but once on the Greenway the path was not too bad and we all reached Ripley safely. A brief stop to do some jigging about and clapping of hands as Jack Frost nipped out toes and feet. Though we were soon warmed up as we cycled up the hill, along the road and turned right down Watergate Lane to Fountains café for a warm up and our free drink with our cake.

Reluctantly we left the warmth of the café and set out in the wintry sun and cold to Ripon and Bishop Monkton. James departed to return to Knaresborough and seven cycled on to Burton Leonard. Safely negotiating the ford, Mike was going to skate across it on his bike but unfortunately it was not frozen enough, across the bridge we reached the field where a photo stop took place. As we all dashed off to get warm again unfortunately Justin had a puncture and the group cycled ahead unaware, luckily Joe was with him. Along the lane Andrew waited and wondered what had happened to Joe and Justin, Mike the good shepherd went back to look for them. As time passed we realised that they must be a puncture, Andrew, Zowie and David needed to get back, so Liz went back to let them know that the others had to go. Liz returned right back to the ford, but the puncture had been repaired and they were on their way.

Andrew had given Liz instructions left right left, right, but I must have missed a left out somewhere as we ended up on the Ripon road. Anyway we went along the lovely track on the Mont Garrett estate, Joe missed the edge due to leaves and there was a loud bump, but luckily he was unhurt. On we cycled and Liz turned right instead of left, anyway a quick run down into Ripley, then along the Greenway which was full of walkers, dogs and bikes. A quick stop to look for the otter family over the viaduct. At Bilton Cross, Liz departed for home and left the boys to cycle on to Harrogate. A lovely cold frosty day, with wintry sunshine and a great ride of 34 miles, thanks to Andrew for leading. Happy New Year to everyone. Liz F





EGs' Ride

It was a cold cold day at Low Bridge, whilst no icicles could be seen hanging from the walls the EG's were certainly blowing their finger ends. This could be colder than Harlow Hill.

We had eleven starters including some of Wheel Easy's fast squad, who were going to push the EG's fast squad, to their limit? (see Dave Watson's report)

So it was on to Boroughbridge (got it right this time), Morrisons Cafe, see what the road conditions were like, if OK on to Easingwold.

It started off as steady away, but after a while the creeping sprint started to kick in. Unfortunately this meant your reporter was unable to judge the men's downhill to Occaney, Dave wonder-wheels probably won it, but who knows if Christmas indulgence and a few extra pounds changed the predicted result?

Morrison's cafe was having a bit of a hang over, in its service response, however a few drops from a flask improved the coffee no end. Dan met up with us in the cafe, is he psychic or just can't keep away from the full English.

The roads were OK, the weather was excellent winter cycling weather, best we will get this year?? It was decided to get the Wheel Easy "A"s and the EG "A"s to cycle together, to get a good one in, while the weather was so good, leaving Dave P and Norman to wend their way home in a more relaxed manner on a lesser mileage.

The "A"s headed for Easingwold, DP and Norman hung a right a Raskelf on to Tholthorpe, Flawith, Aldwark, Aldwark Bridge with coffee taken at Great Ousebun PO. The Beryl Burton was in good condition and safe with the gates closed. A nice ride in good conditions and in the high 40's. Dave P







Despite the frost, a little mist and perhaps because of the promise of bright sunshine, twelve enthusiastic EG's assembled at Lowbridge, including some fast, long distance riders reluctant to venture to higher grounds. Dave P. came armed with chocolate coated mini flapjacks to add fuel to our ride as we decided on the best route to adopt in view of the low sun.

Heading for Boroughbridge, Morrisons, the peloton split into various breakaway groups with the challenge at Occaney being taken by our usual protagonist, Dave Siswick!

Regrouping over tea cakes at Morrisons our leader suggested the follow on route was towards Easingwold to perhaps lunch in Curious Tables cafe.

Albeit the pace eased a little, it remained brisk, with the less experienced of us hanging on by our "saddlebags". Having dropped off the back, sensibly adopting a slower pace, Dave P. & Norman, intended to branch off at Raskelf towards Tholthorpe returning home via Aldwark. We hope they continued safely on their way.

Arriving at Easingwold the lead group discovered Curious Tables full of (KTM) cyclists. We therefore repaired to Clarks Cafe across the road. Initially it was thought the service was good, our table being served first, until it

was realised one of our tables order had not been taken, only to be served when the rest of us had already nearly finished. Much muttering and "chunnttering" was heard thereafter but patience meant we all were able to depart for home as one.

The journey west was accompanied by very low and bright sunlight presenting itself through the trees and bouncing off the slight misty air but at the same time making visibility a little tricky considering the residual frosty conditions alongside the road.

Keeping in close order with help with communication from the back we dropped off Ian at Ferrensby , Dave Wilson & Peter J leaving us at Sandybank. The remainder entered Knaresborough before 3.00pm right on target for winter rides.

Opinion was it had been a great ride particularly as the weather had been more than kind with the bright conditions. Most riders would have completed about 45 miles averaging in the region of 14m.p.h. most unusual for an EG's ride!! Dave W