

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Four keen Poddlers left Hornbeam after a very quiet start owing to the number of enthusiastic early cyclists. Our usual chief, aka OFL, is currently running a family crèche and soup kitchen somewhere in the French Pyrenees. Due obeisance having been made to her Poddling leadership, Jen, Monica and Dennis agreed to follow one of the three routes in my repertoire and we hurtled across the Showground and onward to Follifoot, Little Ribston, Scriven, Brearton and eventually to Ripley where Dennis confirmed that sausages and mash would be awaiting his immediate return. Somewhat enviously, Jen, Monica and I repaired to the Ripley Cafe. Just as we were securing our bikes, we spotted someone looking remarkably like "Skipton Linda". She and Sue O had been walking from Bedlam and were ready for a snack! A very pleasant hour ensued whilst we caught up with each other's activities before resuming our various routes home. Linda said she would not be cycling until the end of March, by which time, she thought the temperature would be soaring!

Thank you all for a very pleasant 26 mile ride and apologies, OFL, for the lack of picture. Sue Downes

P.S. Paul the weatherman had predicted mid-afternoon rain so a good pace was maintained to avoid any early downpours.

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Numbers for the Wanderers ride were rather depleted. Presumably due to the awayday rather a reflection on the leaders or the route. The weather forecast was average, so 11 set off for Burn Bridge. This was quickly reached, followed by Kirby Overblow via Walton Head Lane. The sun was now out and we enjoyed a lovely ride along the ridge into Sicklinghall, Wetherby and onto the Harland Way to Thorpe Arch. The coffee stop was at the ever accommodating Tim and Elle's where scones, cakes and bacon butties were consumed. On emerging from the café the weather was back to forecast – overcast and grey. We pressed on via Rudgate, around Tockwith to Cowthorpe and then Little Ribston where we parted with the Knaresborough contingent. Home was via Spofforth, Follifoot and the sneaky show ground hill. The sun was now shining again. In total 34 miles.



Awayday Ride - Grassington

With mixed weather reports for the day 15 riders (including debutant Mike) gathered in the car park for today's ride over to Malham.

We were hoping for some decent riding with good views thrown in- and were weren't disappointed.

The first part of the ride, after leaving Grassington and leaving the main road, was a steady ride up the valley into Littondale along a lovely traffic free road arriving at Halton Gill. Some of us made use of Katie's Cuppas- a self-service coffee and cake stop in a barn – which fortified for us for the climb out of the valley. The weather was now warm and sunny and we had great views of Fountains Fell and Pen-y-Ghent with a smattering of snow on the tops.

As we reached the top the wind got up and there was a slight mist but that didn't detract from an enjoyable ride along the ridge towards Malham and the steep descent into the village and lunch.

We were all quickly accommodated at the Old Barn and we had good food and drinks served very efficiently.

We set off for the final part of the ride (described by Colin as undulating! but with several steep inclines) and joined the Way of the Roses route passing through Airton, Winterburn, Cracoe and back into Grassington. The last part of the ride has seen the sun break through again and we were pleased to finish the ride without any rain and it not being too cold overall.

Another great route from Colin with a mixture of climbing and opportunities to view the beautiful Yorkshire Dales. Great company and good banter throughout.

37 miles and 800m of climbing – and another fine weather day! Kevin







Wednesday Long Ride

The decision today was head south to Lotherton Hall. Six riders set off in a southerly direction reaching Wetherby via Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall. Then it was along the cycle path to Aberford where we had a small diversion to look at the alms houses. Finally we arrived at Lotherton Hall where the refreshments were accompanied by plenty of chatter. Martin D has served a super injunction such that his comments regarding President Trump's views cannot be printed. On leaving the Hall the cloud cover increased and it all turned a bit murky. The return route involved a circuitous route taking in Saxton, Church Fenton, Cawood, Naburn and Askam. After using the facilities at the park-and-ride it was

full steam ahead back to Harrogate, even though the promise of another refreshment stop did not materialise it was a great day out. PCJ





EGs' Ride

The Title of this ride is "They came to Cordoba" or "The faster tyre lever this side of the Nidd".

It was to be Terry Wadkin's last ride with the EG's, we sincerely hope it will not be his "last" ride with the EG's, a better description might be that he will not be so regular in future?, in fact none of us are despite our perfect diets, mainly exercise and cold showers.

We had sixteen riders to see Terry on his way. It was Terry's day so he chose the route, and the cafes, today "Mr Electric" was left behind and that smooth sleek "Italian" was given an airing. The destination chosen was Ripon and Spa Gardens Cafe, and away we went, splitting up into groups for safety and cutting down on "Cafe Shock". Away we went in good weather and a slight tailwind, good company, bad conversation and terrible jokes, it just does not get any better.

We were met at the gates of Ripon by Eric (Bless 'im) whose duty was to escort us to Wetherspoons as Spa Gardens Cafe was closed. It was great to see Bob Shears there who had cycled all the way to Ripon to support Terry and then cycle back.

After some severe not counting calories it was on our steeds and heading to Wath, Terry's choice, a strange name?, a lot of agriculture there, did they ever grow grapes there?

Then South, in a bit of a headwind to Asenby, where we managed to lose a few riders, but by aid of modern technology we found where they were and Colin (another good un) went back to round them up and deliver them to Boroughbridge. Terry you have won your "Spurs" you can never be classed as a ride leader till you have lost some riders.

Afternoon tea was taken in Morrisons Cafe (where else?) along with York CTC Wednesday Wheelers, according to Keith Benton, they were in a cafe on Waterside when a large contracting vehicle completely destroyed three of their bikes parked outside.

Then it was back to Harrogate and no rain. The weather had been good and it had been a great ride for Terry to finish on, with the jokes being up to their usual standard (think of a word or phrase).

Best wishes to Terry and Maureen we are sure they will be very happy being near their family.

Our thoughts are also with Ken Dickinson, a founder EG, who has just lost his wife after a long severe illness. Dave P