

Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Wind and then more wind, but no rain so despite dire warnings of blowing away and off ringing in our ears, four of us decided to visit a resting wheel easy couple at present running Kev's Kafe in Killinghall. We skirted Harrogate, within the shelter of various bike paths, to inspect Sue's boy's new house and garden and then into the wind to Killinghall and coffee via the Glorious Greenway bike path. An hour and a half later we made the return journey in about five minutes with a following wind full of fun and interesting chat. No effort, fewer miles, but at least we were out and about. CG

Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

The weather forecast was a little off-putting with the already gusty winds forecast to be 40mph plus by mid-morning. 12 Wanderers risked it and headed out on the Greenway in 2 groups meeting up at Ripley for the grind up Scarah bank. Steve gave us a breather at the top whilst we waited for him to do his civic duty and dispose of a dangerously low hanging broken branch. Another breather at the "Rocking Horse" house for the purchase of eggs then on to Fountains for coffee where Liz F organised the now required vouchers for a cyclist's free cuppa with our cake. Given the strong westerly wind we agreed to change the advertised route, which would have turned us into the wind at Bishop Monkton, and opted to continue south to Knaresborough via Occaney instead. Welcome, or welcome back to several including Jonathan, Lucci, Steven and Chris. It turned out to be a sunny day and the wind not nearly as bad as forecast. All very enjoyable in good company. Thanks to Steven for back marking. 31 miles. Dave G





Wednesday Ride

With strong winds forecast there were only five takers for this week's Wednesday ride, Kevin, Charlie, Mike, Tim and myself so it didn't take long to organise ourselves and set off for Tadcaster. Passing through Burn Bridge and onto the A 61 produced our first incident when an unexpectedly strong gust from the side pushed Charlie towards the gutter and with some quick reactions and a degree of agility he opted to do a flying dismount onto the grass verge rather than take a full tumble with the bike. No harm was done and we were soon blown along Walton Head Lane into Kirby Overblow and on through Sicklinghall to Wetherby. At this point Kevin, who had set a rapid pace to this point, left us to return via Knaresborough for a meeting that he couldn't miss - or least that was his excuse. The remaining four of us took the cycle path alongside the A1 and just short of Bramham we had our second incident when Mike suffered a rear wheel puncture. The offending thorn was soon removed and the tube replaced and we headed off round Bramham and on to Tadcaster without further problems. Costa beckoned and over coffee and food various current affairs were discussed, particularly the housing problem and after deciding on the appropriate solutions we wandered down to cross and view the newly rebuilt bridge. Although some scaffolding was still in place it was certainly in better shape than the last time we were there and having tried to get a reasonable photo including a somewhat chaotic selfie we took off through Wighill to Thorp Arch. Concerned about the pressure in his repaired tyre Mike opted to go through to Wetherby for further assistance, leaving Charlie, Tim and myself to take Rudgate to Tockwith and then turn for Cowthorpe. Until this point the wind had not been too troublesome, but suddenly we found ourselves battling straight into it and the section to Little Ribston was a lot harder work than usual. At Little Ribston I left Charlie and Tim to head back to Hornbeam via Spofforth and the Showgrounds, hopefully without further incident, whilst I went through to Knaresborough. Apart from the wind the weather had been quite good with sunshine and no rain and we clocked just over 35 miles, although with the wind it felt somewhat longer! Another good ride and thanks to all for your company. James G.







EGs' Ride

Although sunshine was forecast so was the odd gust of 40 mph winds from the West. We had sixteen riders at Low Bridge, and our choice was to head south (we went north last Wednesday) with the wind on our right side and return with it on our left side, with short distances (we hoped) with it on our backs or in our faces. So it was on to Wetherby (and guess who`s cafe) via Thistle hill and Follifoot, the less busy route for such windy conditions. Note in bike park, a scooter (see photo) a young lad parked this here amongst the old lads bikes, but not to laugh the PBP has been done on a scooter.

After caffeine and calories, the weather/wind looked rideable so it was south again to Boston Spa, Clifford and Bramham, then into the wind to Wothersome then right (wind now on left side) down to Collingham and on the A58 to Wetherby, and guess where for "lunch"?, even for the EG`s this was a first, and ten riders sat down to ten cooked lunches in ten easy chairs. (See photo).

This was just like a "gentleman`s" club, so relaxed, nonsensical conversation on silly subjects, there seemed no desire to move on, perhaps we could have stayed all night?, just like the House of Lords. After Morrison`s shares hit a new high, it was decided to move on northwards again up the cycle path on the old A1 towards Walshford, however six turned left at Ox Close House and four headed towards Walshford.

Then headwind for a while before a right turn meant wind on our left shoulders and into Knaresborough. Surprisingly the six and the four all met up again.

Then wind in your face to Harlow Hill, a nice little ride in some sun, enjoyed by all. However you might say "Preston your report is full of Wind". Dave P





