

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Now which weather forecast is ever actually accurate? Accuweather seems to predict the onset of rain quite nicely but today kept teasing us till 11.0'clock. And what, you may ask is the point of knowing what the weather will throw at us? Well do you mind cycling in the rain or as on Sunday does the weather forecast trick people into not cycling because of inaccurate information. For example today's forecasts mentioned north east and south east winds being around at the same time, and the TV forecasts that threatened everything from gales, snow and storms heading north. Anyway the poddlers' felt a short burst of hills around Harrogate, thankfully, would fit the bill. Thus Burnbridge, over the A61, up to Kirby Overblow, back to Pannal and onto Leadhall Lane roundabout and into Cafe Downes for coffee and cake with political discussion for three, whilst Zoe 2 and Carl headed off for important engagements for teeth and other bits. Not many miles, a bit of heavy breathing, a bucket load of rain to finish with, lots of chat and better than day time TV. Caroline G

Wanderers' Ride

Seven set off; three Mikes, two Liza's, a Maggie and a Keith. Weather overcast. Greenway to Ripley, back roads to Birstwith where Keith departed to get back. Rode on up hill, down dale hitting snow on banks. Ten minutes later rain came down heavily. Not deterred, rode on, lovely lanes to Sophie's for lunch. Back to Harrogate, wet through but good company thanks to all. Great route Mike, need to try a bit harder with weather!! Michael W







Wednesday Ride

No photo, by the time we thought about it we were far too wet to stop. The rain almost spoiled a great ride which, until we got to Aldborough, was dry and we avoided any cafe shock by demurring to the EG's seniority and letting them go to Tancred Farm shop. The ride from Little Ribston where we tagged on to the EG's for a while and on to Cattal and Whixley made a refreshing change to ride this way round and with not too much wind to contend with we made good progress. The daffodil displays near Kirk Hammerton were fabulous and Colin and James heard the sounds of chief chaffs. Bean Vintage quickly sorted us out with a table for eight, two large cafetieres, good food and a warm welcome.

We returned as quickly as we could via Minskip and apologies for holding up the group as after the Sandy Bank closure two of us followed the route back to Knaresborough via Lingerfield.

Thanks to Colin, Martin, Monica, Charlie, James, John and Paul for a great ride, 39 miles and am sure everyone is now warm and dry. Gia M

Long Ride

Either we got it wrong or the weather people got it wrong! Lured out to Easingwold on the forecast of the deluge being delayed until 3pm or so, four riders enjoyed a fairly pleasant tempo ride out through familiar territory. Against a head wind, it's true, but the promise of a breeze back home made the effort seem worthwhile. Bond End was at its choking best, requiring three or four passes of the lights for the whole group to get through. Once over Aldwark Bridge, Richard Pugh took us on a diversion through Aldwark Manor to admire the real estate and avoid eye contact with the procession of golfers, one of whom revelled in driving a buggy on the grass verge to allow us to remain on the tarmac. Unchallenged, we emerged on to the road towards Alne.

We reached the Curious Table in Easingwold just in time for breakfast, although Richard had to argue his point to get his eggs and soldiers. Over an early lunch, David Rowson told us he'd arrived back from NZ the previous day after 25 hours in flight. Not a trace of jet-lag could be detected, but the contrast of climates must have been a shock, as was the scene on emerging from the cafe. Heavy rain was bouncing down having arrived 2 hours early compared with the forecast. The rest of the ride was a time trial to reach Morrison's at Boroughbridge for a temporary respite from the rain. Splitting into two pairs, David Rowson and I set off in pursuit of Richard and David Rang. Thinking that front pair must have been flying, we reached Morrison's alone, the other pair having diverted to pay homage to the late Sir Ken at Myton Hall. Regrouping at Morrison's Richard wrung out his gloves into his cup! Large puddles and roads awash featured on the dash back to Knaresborough – at least the climb to the golf course was pond-free. Rounding off the ride with a bus shelter photo, we bade our farewells, taking comfort that we'd had a comfortable morning, got in about 50 miles and gained a stiffened resolve to get some better rain gear. It's good to get out of the house! Terry S.

EGs' Ride

Despite the forecast of significant rain later in the day, ten EGs gathered at our usual meeting place, Low Bridge, Knaresborough. However it was because of the impending bad weather that the route of the proposed ride had to be reappraised and accordingly modified. Thus it was decided to head initially south continuing in a circular route with the intent to aim for Tancred Farmshop.

Pausing at the left junction after Little Ribston to consolidate the riders and ensure we were all following in the same direction, Gia, accompanied by the medium (or were they the medium plus) riders passed us by. Saying our hello's we briefly conferred to agree on our proposed stopping off point, establishing that our plans did not clash.

Our ride then became fragmented as over enthusiastic riders headed off the front leaving those behind to ponder our direction. Our leader, realising this, did an about turn to gather up his "flock" and, together, caught up the remaining riders as they waited for further directions.

We arrived at Tancred Farm, having passed through Kirk Hammerton, in dry conditions and were served most efficiently by the staff. It was noted, however, that before we'd even finished our break just before midday, it had already started to rain, despite the forecast for around 2pm.

Dave P, needing to return home early, left on his own to head down the main A59 towards Marton-Cum-Grafton and onwards to Harrogate. Others headed off into the downpour in a direction of their choice. The remaining five followed our leader, homeward bound, via Great Ouseburn through continuing rain, reaching our destination well before our usual finishing time, this time as early as 1.00pm. However, despite the early finish, we managed to complete in excess of 30 odd miles. David W.