

Wednesday, March 29, 2017

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers' Ride

As a protest I had thought of writing the ride report Esperanto or Greek or Spanish but as English and French would be the only languages that might make a smattering of sense that idea was abandoned, but my heartfelt protest has not been abandoned. By the time we finished the ride Mrs May's letter invoking article 50 to the EU council president Donald Tusk, had been delivered and replied to...."Missing you already and good luck".  
AAAAAAGGGGGGHHH.

Anyway poddling in the rain might take our minds off forthcoming horrors. Four people decided to poddle about six poddlers' decided to stay at home. The choice was a speedy burst of pain via Brimham Rocks or a protracted ache via Boroughbridge.....we opted for Boroughbridge mainly due I feel to the surprising lure of the very pleasant B.E.A.N. Cafe. So Knaresborough and the EGs

gathering; Farnham and the privilege of watching the start of the downhill non-pedal cup...by the EGs; egg buying somewhere en route to Bishop Monkton; foot massaging at Littlethorpe; a strange back wind pushing us to Boroughbridge, which featured shopping for plumbing items, two delicious looking scones, four good cups of coffee and two tastefully presented poached eggs on toast; back to Knaresborough the quick way through Minskip and Staveley; the departure of Carl for a gallon of larger in the bath before Knaresborough Hill, where we were overtaken by some shell shocked long riders, who seemed to have experience something nasty in a mud bath; our arrival in Harrogate saw the departure of Jen and Glyn to prepare for an evening out in the Cat's Pyjamas and a half hour's bike polishing for me. 34 or 35 miles perfectly pedalled or poddled. Caroline G



### Wanderers' Ride

Was it the weather? Was it the big hill I planned to climb out of Summerbridge? Or was it me?

Whatever it was, we had a small but perfectly formed group of Wanderers today.

Very quickly I realised that the inclusion of Hartwith Bank was not one of my better ideas so it was quickly changed to Stripe Lane.

Seven of us left Hornbeam. Max and the other Steve left us at the end of Holly Bank Lane for a secret assignation. That left the Famous Five - me, Liz, Liz, Nicky and Jo.

The great thing about leading a Wednesday ride is that you get to choose the route. This route included both my favourites. After Ripley, we went through Hampsthwaite to Kettlesing (favourite Number One). During this stretch Liz F said she needed a defibrillator (and she likes hills!). Somehow we managed without one.

We turned right at Kettlesing Bottom and rode along the ridge with views of Nidderdale, down Stumps Lane and into Darley where we had a delightful coffee stop at the Post Office. Great coffee and I bought a whole cake for the price of a slice in some other places. The others reported that the soup and the sandwiches were good too. Well worth a visit. There are tables outside but, if you have to be inside, they can only accommodate eleven. Then we went onward - over the Hartwith Toll Bridge, up Stripe Lane, past Brimham Rocks. Then my second favourite, flying down from Brimham rocks to Careless House Farm. Then back to Ripley and home along the Greenway. A great morning's ride. Thanks to everyone who came. Lovely views, a few hills and hardly any rain. According to Strava we did just shy of 34 miles with a total climb of 645 metres. Steve W





### **Wednesday Ride**

Having discussed two possible options for a potentially rain affected day both were discarded and ten of us set off for the Fewston Farm shop via Little Almscliffe and with a view to doing a "Fagan" and reviewing the situation over an early coffee. Suddenly the ten became twelve as Jeanie and John H tagged on the back as we left Hornbeam. The forecast was for rain later but it came a bit earlier than expected although not for long or too drenching and soon clothing was being discarded in the mild conditions.

Rapid progress was made to Little Almscliffe and farm shop to the accompaniment of the incoming curlews who were taking up summer residence in the fields around. Swift service ensued at the Farm Shop and with an improving weather outlook we took our lives in our hands along a short section of the A59 and then across the gated road by the old R.N.

Forest Moor site, down to Darley and a lovely swoop along the valley to Birstwith and to the top of Clint Bank and the entrance to Holly Bank Woods.

Sophie's then beckoned for Paul, Gia, Jeanie, Kevin John and myself, whilst the remainder headed home through Holly Bank and Ripley. The stop in Sophie's saw us escape another heavy shower and we headed home for a change up Hollins Lane and through Knox, where Paul departed and the rest went to inspect Kevin's handy work on the new Sustrans sign on the Greenway. Gia and John then went their separate ways and Kevin Jeanie and myself called on Sue Couture who I am pleased to report is in good spirits and doing very well having discarded her walking sticks and partly through force of circumstances is driving again. 30 plus miles with some ups and downs and some calories burnt and put back on, but in the usual good company. Thanks to all for their respective contributions to a good day. James G





### **Long Ride**

With Terry Smith stuck in traffic, six of us set off to Boroughbridge led by Richard P on his new bike. At Boroughbridge John S and Terry S joined the peloton and we headed for Norton Le Clay where the decision was made to go the cafe at the Industrial Park near Melmerby. We arrived at the cafe just as it started to rain. After consuming a mixture of poached eggs, beans and cheese on toast it was off to Wath and West Tanfield. At West Tanfield half the group decided to head for home while the remainder struck out for Masham via Thornton Watlass. No stopping at Masham as it was onto Spa Gardens for afternoon refreshments. We had avoided the rain for the best part of the ride so as not to push our luck we returned to Harrogate via Bishop Monkton, Markington, Ripley and the Greenway.  
PCJ



## **EGs' Ride**

We had nine riders at Low Bridge, in what could be described as iffy weather. Dave Watson very wisely suggested we go to Spa Gardens Cafe in Ripon, have our caffeine and calories, see what the weather turns out like and take our final destination from there.

Just before the EG`s downhill run to Occaney we met up with the Poddler`s, although with todays forecast, both teams could finish up as the "Puddlers". Here Caroline (got the name right this time) took a photo of both teams combined, and what fine specimens we made. The men`s downhill trophy, in the absence of Dave Siswick went to Dave Peatfield.

After elevenses Dave Watson got his team together to carry on.

Unfortunately, a few of us had to return home due to other commitments. (no it they were not heavy dates or involvement in Brexit Negotiations).

We are sorry Dave and promise to make it up to you next Wednesday. Buy you coffee? Polish your bike? Or just plain gravel? Look forward to hearing where you got to. Dave P.

Leaving Spa Gardens, following the departure of our leader, Dave P. and three others, keen to avoid a further potential soaking, five EGs headed off with no particular plan of action in mind but to meander north, awaiting the weather gods to see what they may throw at us.

Arriving at Wath, the decision was taken to continue in a loop through Sutton Howgrave, turning south past Middleton Quernhow, to aim for an early lunch break at the cafe in the Melmerby Industrial Estate.

Bill left us here, following our short break, whilst the remaining four, replenished with poached eggs, beans and pizzas, aimed for Rainton, Topcliffe, and Dalton at a continuing brisk rate, not the usual EG's steady pace.

Continuing through Sessay, we pushed on for Thornton Bridge, pausing for a brief moment to gather our breath following the push through the light winds and comparing pace against our distinct ages, one of whom turned out, surprisingly, to be nearing 79 years old. By now our leader was beginning to flag a little but with the help of the rest, still able to press on a little!

Reaching Boroughbridge it was decided to continue on for home, arriving at Sandy Bank, a little breathless, before 3.30p.m. The weather conditions had been less challenging than anticipated, with only light intermittent showers so we'd had a great ride, surprisingly, and managed to complete, at least to Knaresborough, 53 miles. (Others will have had nearer 60 miles under their belts). Dave W.