

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

The question is what is the definition of slow? or fast for that matter? And whilst we are doing questions what has made flaming June turn into grey June? And another thought is how will Theresa sort out anything? And yet another thing why do some people's teeth rot quicker than others? And of course my weekly wonderment of why are the fit bit results so random....so I can't work out a cycling, pace and floors correlation, as each week something different shows up.

All these ponderings popped into my mind as I panted after the three people who had chosen to do a gentle ride today. Super speed Monica had decided to do Wandering today with her lovely new bike. Well done Monica. Knaresborough, Farnham, Arkendale, Great Ouseburn, the famous wine producing area of the Dunsfords, Boroughbridge, a pleasant outside coffee and snack at the Vintage Bean, Roeccliffe, Bishop Monkton where two sensible speedy people sped off, Markington, Ripley, the Greenway, where we met three Wanderers Wandering, and home in the grey with a score of 39 miles, 21,768 paces, 96 floors. Thanks Jean for front and back marking so beautifully.....I hope you got back speedy Zoe and nice Scottish man. Caroline G



Wanderers' Ride

Eighteen Wanderers today but fortunately Alison Noble and Mike Smith volunteered to lead groups, then later Mike was back marker. The first meeting point was Ripley. My group set off first but arrived last as we decided to divert down Bogs Lane and along the Starbeck old line to Bilton. The route was Hollybank Lane, Clint, Birstwith and over Hartwith Toll Bridge where we all posed for a photo. Up Stripe Lane and soon we were in the lay by with the long range views, above Brimham.

Max left us to use the direct route back leaving seventeen heading for the main Pateley to Ripon road, taking the lovely Sawley Moor Lane to Sawley and then up to Risplith. Risplith was a first for some and they did not let us down (I had warned them when we got to Brimham!) We all sat outside consuming many ice creams, cups of coffee and a few bacon sandwiches.

The preferred route back was to Sawley, from where Mike lead a few on the most direct way back, while the rest took Low Gate Lane with its wonderful tarmac. Going up the steep hill, I wasn't very popular when my bike ground to a halt nearly causing a pile up!

We continued towards Fountains but turned right past the gypsy camp to Watergate Lane, where numerous eggs were purchased, before the popular downhill ride into Ripley. Five of

us headed to the church for tea and cakes, sitting outside and entertaining a gentleman already sat at the table. The weather was overcast so not as hot as expected but still very pleasant.

Many thanks to Alison and Mike for your assistance. At the Bilton crossing we met the Poddlers returning so I had great company on the last leg into Harrogate. We had done about 34 miles but the Poddlers had done quite a few more! Liz P



Wednesday Ride

You know when you feel it's about time you raised a query, having scoffed a toasted teacake in double quick time, and have just lifted an enquiring finger, when you realise the last question which had produced the silence that you had just penetrated, was: "Anyone fancy writing this week's ride report?!" And so it was, that the (stunned?) newly appointed reporter quickly took a role call; some thought this was because he didn't know anyone's name but it was in fact a test to see if we could all remember our own names...just as well as one of our number thought he might have been the Russian President...

We had all voted for Ilkley and it was indeed a good choice with only modest traffic out to Beckwithshaw and Little Almscliffe - the descent from there (obviously) took us close a curlew's nest, judging by the alarm calls made by the bird circling our group. A further curlew posed for us as we topped the inappropriately named Low Snowden but sadly no one had the strength to stop and capture the moment. We did stop however at the car park beyond Fewston, mostly in mental preparation for that delightful little slope which would take us on to Timble. Such was the resilience of the group that despite the fact that it was clearly 'Timble Wednesday' (from the prominent notice displayed outside the Timble Memorial Institute) we rushed on past, thinking only of our Ilkley rendezvous with the Station Cafe.

More birdlife at Asquith where a house martin was spotted just before the Asquith Arms. A buzzard had been circling above some red kites but alas there was no expert on hand to verify these assertions (where is Colin, when you need him?)

Passing Denton we waved cheerfully at the poor cyclists travelling in the opposite direction (ie uphill) and finally crossed the river, making our way into Ilkley town centre. We had a delightful table and good food/drink before setting off towards Ben Rydding and back across Denton bridge toward Asquith once more. This time we continued on to Otley making our

way through the park, and over the 'pipe bridge' on to the Pool road, stopping only to pose for the team photo. Here it was that the more imaginative amongst us set up a rather ambitious pose in the hope that some artistic merit would be recognised... Pool was reached fairly quickly and here we had to bid farewell to Paul who was rushing back to prepare for his holiday (alas no more verses of: "...we're all going on a Summer Holiday...etc.") and so a squad of five made for Castley, before heading on towards Dunkeswick and the dreaded short section of the busy A61. Safely across and we detoured towards the caravan site at Kearby so that one of our number could be reacquainted with that delightful little bank called 'Moore Lane' So it was, that we rode quietly through Kirby Overblow and up past 'the graveyard hill' and down to the bypass. The six that had become five, soon became four as John, Sarah, Dave and Pete rode on towards Harrogate. Almost 50 miles of delightful terrain with obligingly good weather, and enough sun to give the illusion of summer. Stewart





Long Ride

The long ride to Helmsley and possibly Rievaulx began with five setting out from Hornbeam to visit motor dealers in Starbeck and Knaresborough, where three more were added to the complement. Soon, familiar flat miles were covered at a steady pace to Aldwark Bridge where it was noticeably busier than normal.

Reversing the former Acorn charity route, we were able to negotiate the crossing on foot of a newly rebuilt railway bridge under construction at Tollerton. Our thanks go to the work gang who shifted barriers for us – there is safe pedestrian access should cyclists wish to use

that route, but you have to walk through. On the outskirts of Sheriff Hutton we met the first incline since Ouseburn – bit of a shock.

Quarmby's cafe lured us in after almost 30 miles in 2 hours. There is no doubting the quality of the cake and drink on offer, but prices are on the high side; it's best to see it as a treat to be saved up for.

Angela and Richard L headed for home after the coffee stop, continuing with the reverse Acorn route and clocking up 60 plus miles. The remaining six headed north into the Howardians to tackle two very stiff climbs at Terrington Bank and Caulkley's Bank near Nunnington, then back into the Vale for Helmsley and lunch at a busy Castle Gate tearoom. Fortunately, an 80th birthday celebration ride was just leaving, to give a free table. Brief conversation established that the 80th celebrant came from Whitby Wheelers and was by no means riding anything electric – a fine testament to the virtues of a cycling life.

After a cheerful and entertaining waiter served us our order, the route conference ruled out Rievaulx in favour of the undissolved monastery at Ampleforth, although it was the village we passed through, making use of one of the caravan routes notable for its poor road surface. As the afternoon got hotter, Richard P persuaded us of the virtues of a third but unscheduled stop at the honesty cafe in the ex-station house between the Husthwaites. Thereafter, time-trial mode was adopted with Andy setting the pace to meet a deadline of 5.30 at the Starbeck motor dealership featured at the outset. We bade our farewells to the Sacres who will be cycling in Alsace next week and went our separate ways after 75 miles in the sun. Thank you to all who came along. Terry S

EGs' Ride

Our leader, Dave P. had to abandon his plans for a ride today to attend a medical appointment so we were cast adrift to do our own thing! Theo had joined us today so we headed for "Rabbit Hill" on the old A1 to enjoy an early break for tea & tea cakes etc, although Dan had his usual large portions of breakfast to top up this reserves after a night in Tadcaster dancing the light fantastic. We arrived just in time to beat the York Wednesday Wheelers swamping the poor staff who had only just managed to organise serving our demands.

Moving on we were immediately confronted by a large snow plough which some felt didn't bode well for our adventures but unperturbed we aimed for Easingwold albeit Norman, Theo and Geoff peeled off at Aldwark to take a shorter route back home via Helperby.

Arriving somewhat later in Easingwold, following steady progress, we gathered outside Sugar Mouse cafe for an early light lunch basking in the warm sunshine and swapping tales of bikes and cars and even the vagaries of Flemish bond brickwork. Regrettably, much as we'd have liked to continue our ride in the warm sunny weather, some of us needed to return home, missing out on the opportunity, this time, for an extended ride and thus taking advantage of conditions!

A brisk pace was set by our deputy leader assisted by Nick who helped to drive on the peloton towards Boroughbridge reaching our goal sooner than expected and arriving at the top of Sandybank well before 3.00pm, completing 42 miles. Dave W