

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Another grey wind free sort of day. But eleven people chose to do a gentle slow ride to Braham via Knaresborough, Kirk Deighton, Wetherby, Boston Spa, Bramham and back for coffee and scones at Wetherby and home via Spofforth, Folifoot and Rudding. One or two interesting moments. A large coach full of school children and front seats full of geography teachers started waving enthusiastically reminding Sue and I of another life. At Boston Spa, Dennis, Dave and Gordon took Alicia, a lady visitor that someone had found asking for directions and kidnapped bringing her to ride with Wheel Easy, instead of being lost, and Little Caroline back to Harrogate as they needed to be home for lunch and other important things. Five of us continued to Bramham and went down the almost traffic free A1 sort of slip road to the bike path and refreshments. A lovely new take on scones was a lump of cheese included with the fruit scones, a brilliant invention Monica. Several very interesting facts regarding germs, medication and birth were commented upon and cleared up by out on bike medic Zoe. Jean planned a slow medium ride for Sunday. New person, Jean's friend Ann fus in on Beauty exams and suggested cycle beauty treatments. But the most interesting and possibly unusual moment witnessed was a dog holding up a long line of traffic in the middle of a zebra crossing, answering a call of nature with its owner carefully picking up the resultant mess as drivers and us watched in amazement. A lovely 32 miles of lovely fun, 21,157 paces 83 floors. C.G.



Wednesday Wanderers Ride

There was virtually no wind and, given the weather last week, thankfully no rain for my inaugural ride as leader. We had 14 riders, all feeling bright and breezy (nobody feeling at all crapulent) for the Wanderers ride. We set off for Boroughbridge via the usual route through Knaresborough, Farnham (for Alison's egg stop), Copgrove and Bishop Monkton. Good pace on the flat terrain saw us arrive at our coffee stop at Bean Vintage before noon. Great refreshments as usual apart from Liz F's mushroom soup which she had to change due to a "strange taste" - magic mushrooms maybe? After the coffee stop, 4 souls took the direct route back to Harrogate with the remainder going via Skelton to Ripon. From there, after a short debate, it was decided to take on a few hills with a route back through Studley Royal Deer Park to Fountains Abbey and Drovers Crossroads before descending into Ripley. The two Lizzies literally fizzed down Scarah Bank. A final afternoon tea stop at Ripley church before the gentle run home via the Greenway. Very enjoyable ride with a great group - no one was at all lugubrious!!

"Crapulent", "fizzed" and "lugubrious" were all "Words of the Week" from our morning coffee discussion and I felt obliged to work them into my report.
Overall ride covered 42.5miles according to Strava. Steve Smith



Long Ride

Despite the poor weather conditions, amazingly there were 11 riders prepared to do the Long Ride. Not having a leader the committee decided to go to Thirsk via Kilburn, Felixkirk and Upsall. Initially, the ride was uneventful with one rider jumping ship at Boroughbridge.

At Carlton Husthwaite the leader, PCJ and two others, turned off to head for Kilburn while the remainder carried straight on to somewhere else. The three of us continued the ride to Kilburn and then to Felixkirk where another rider jumped ship leaving two of us to make our way to Thirsk. Fortunately we met up with other riders in Thirsk. The return route to Harrogate was via Roecliffe, Rainton, Wath and Ripon. It was decided to have another cafe stop at Ripon, where we came upon a group of EG's. After Ripon it was the usual dispersal of riders with the majority heading for Knaresborough. PCJ



EG's Ride

Our leader was missing this morning having alternative commitments so deputy Dave was appointed to direct eleven EGs north towards Brimham rocks via Bishop Monkton. Passing through Markington, Bill, Bob & Theo left us to divert to Fountains Abbey whilst the rest of us climbed past the Drovers X roads up to Brimham. Our aim was to then drop down to G & T's tea room in Risplith where we were able to stock up on bacon butties etc. Leaving Risplith we pushed on at a steady pace through Grantley, Kirkby Malzard and up to Grewelthorpe then rapidly we dropped back down to Ripon, unfortunately missing out on the promised pub visit which shall be reserved for a later sunnier day. Here the leader had to, reluctantly, part company to head off directly for home whilst the remaining seven took further refreshment at our favourite water hole in the Spa Gardens. Despite the overcast skies and initially cool temperatures we all had a great ride covering upwards of nearly 50 miles. Thanks go to Eric for taking care of back markers and the remaining EGs for their convivial company. Dave Watson.



Cumbria Way Tour

Despite the terrible weather over the two day tour last year 12 intrepid cyclists signed up to tackle the 70 mile two day route across the Lake District from Ulverston to Carlisle.

Well, the weather was 50% better than last year with only one totally washed out day!

It was fine when we left Harrogate on the cycle trailer but it began to rain before Skipton - and continued all day until we cycled into Keswick at the end of the first day.

With our rain gear on we set off from Ulverston and made our way to Coniston for a fabulous ride along the shores of Coniston and then a coffee stop in the village. The views would have been spectacular - if the cloud hadn't been down!

After a dripping cafe stop we headed for Elterwater and climbed over the Great Langdale road and then along the minor road alongside Rydal Water and into Grasmere for lunch. The main pub were great giving us the conservatory to ourselves to drip dry (on their floor!) and re-fuel.

Duly revived we rode over Dunmail Rise and after ignoring road closed signs we had a traffic free cycle alongside Thirlmere and then into St John-in the Vale and on into Keswick and a warm shower. The 40 miles had not been too hard but the road conditions had meant we took great care.

We ate our evening meal in Keswick buoyed up by the weather forecast which predicted no rain!!

Our second day was an easier ride across to Carlisle and we were delighted to see that the sun was breaking through as we set off. The start of the 'official' route was still closed after the 2015 floods so we retraced our path past the Stone circles and headed for Threlkeld. After crossing the A66 disaster struck as Kevin's gear cable snapped. Jill had a spare but it still wouldn't work so Andrew did a 'Colin' and did a temporary fix that gave Kevin 3 gears for the rest of the ride.

Pressing on we crossed Mungrisdale Common - an almost traffic free road in the shadows of Blencathra which gave us great views over the other Fells we hadn't seen yesterday.

The lunch stop was at the Post Office Tea Room in Hesketh Newmarket and nearly turned into afternoon tea as the service was so slow. However we enjoyed the sunshine and concluded the pace of life was different in these parts.

Back on the road we followed the back roads of rural Carlisle and again ignored a road closed sign and kept on our route into the City and the Castle as our finish where the Sherwood Bike Trailer was waiting to take us home. Another great route that would have been outstanding if it hadn't rained on the first day. A great group would never get upset about the weather and we had some great banter, a few beers, and a great ride that takes you into some beautiful parts of the Lake District on minor roads with little traffic. Thanks to James and Andrew for route guidance and to everyone for their patience and understanding and being great travel companions. Perhaps next year we might manage a 100% rain free ride!
Kevin





