

Wednesday, July 19, 2017

## Wednesday Rides

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### EG's Ride

The weather forecast was a bit, sort of neither one nor the other, though at the time of writing the thunderstorms had not yet happened.

We had nine riders at Low Bridge including Jill (just to add a bit of class), though as we might be considered in riding the flat lands of Yorkshire, she might not be seen as riding in her element.

Though indeed being most welcome in our midst.

Our first coffee stop was to be the Lemon Tree in Tadcaster.

However it was Wednesday (a working day) and we were on the B6164 (a busy road) so it was into small groups and regroup just before Kirk Deighton (see photo).

On to Cowthorpe (splitting up) into A team and B team, The A team soon got the smell of toasted teacakes in their nostrils, so the creeping sprint set in and it was eyeballs out down Rudgate and on to the Lemon Tree.

The B team was led and paced by Geoff, who did a great job maintaining the pace at just under 15 mph, which meant Bob's electric job did not go in to a sulk and switch off.

Bob left us at Thorpe Arch industrial estate to have his coffee before returning home.

Geoff carried on leading (in to the wind) to take us to the Lemon Tree.

After caffeine and calories Dave Watson left to return home by another route route not wanting a long ride today. (see photo).

The remainder of us headed for Ulleskelf and Cawood crossing the Ouse to Kelfield and Riccall, for a short banana break (see photo).

A slight drizzle began, so was it capes on ?. Usually somebody puts a cap on and it stops, Jill said it would stop and it did, so no capes.

Then up the cycle track to Bishopthorpe and Copmanthorpe for afternoon tea/ late lunch at the Small Acorns Cafe, to sit outside in the sun, with blue skies.

It was beans on toast all round, however Dave Siswick complained about the size of his portion of beans.

To be fair to the lad, his portion was rather small, this resulted in a pan of beans being produced, and it was extra beans all round, Dave is our bean expert and to him beanz meanz a furrz size porzion.

Nick complained he did not get us extra toast and sulked over his posh tea (see photo).

Then it was back via Askham Richard with a banana and water break at Marston Moor then on to Knaresborough with the wind on our backs.

The team was Jill, Dave P, Dave S, Geoff, Marvin and Nick all good company with plenty of laughs.

Nick's observation was that Jill had not given all her effort to the ride as she still had a banana left in her back pocket.

It was a pleasure to see Jill, because it emphasizes that we are all Wheel Easy, and to ride from Low Bridge at 10-00 am, you do not have to be elderly or male, and if any member misses the 9-30 am start from Hornbeam Park that is where they should head.

The mileage would be in the high sixties.

Dave P.







### **Poddlers Ride**

Leader away in France cycling round the Somme bay and eating moulles, so Monica and I decided on today's ride. Dennis and Paul B accompanied us out to Beckwithshaw and little Almscliffe. Here Dennis left us to go and get his air bag sorted (in his car). We three cycled through Stainburn forest and towards Leathley. Unfortunately I had forgotten that I was no longer cycling in France, and met a car on the bendy winding road which seemed to be coming at me on the wrong side of the road. I escaped into the side, whereupon Paul apologised for me (explaining that I was a woman!!!!) We arrived safely at the bulging cafe at the bottom of Poole bank, and sat outside ...the thunder storms hadn't got to us yet. The topics of conversation ranged from reading the Bible, new bikes, Welsh soap operas, to "what is the German for easy?" Little snippets of foreign languages were spoken, ending with Monica's fantastic Scottish accent. Zooming along we knocked off Castley, Weeton and Dunkswick, and Kirby Overblow...(leader leading from the back at this point!). We finally said "au revoir" to Paul at the by pass, and made our way back to the Showground. Monica even escorted me up the showground hill ...well actually she was in front of me for most of the way. It was good to be back, although my hill climbing has got to improve. 27 miles in lively company. JA



### **Away Day**

Today's Awayday was a first- in that it was the first time a previous ride had been repeated- by special request I might add.

However, as we made our way towards Reeth it was clear we were not going to get the glorious blue skies of last year as we were nearly in the mist as we approached Reeth.

It certainly had not put off the riders as we quickly filled the car park and bikes were unloaded ready to go. 26 riders was the final count (not far off a record) even with a few regular rides absent and we split into a smaller faster group (lead by Richard) who set off and wasn't seen again as they sped on the ride.

The remainder split into smaller groups and we set off up Swaledale towards our first stop at Thwaite. Even without the sunny skies it is a glorious ride along the valley with undulating roads and interesting locations. Colin and Andrew did the 'off road' alternative but found it had been upgraded and so wasn't as challenging!

We joined up again in Thwaite arrived for coffee and this year he was ready for us and we all got served in decent time(he even smiled at one point!) and we were all refreshed ready for the climb ahead.

With quiet roads we quickly got going and climbed steadily to the head of the valley- the views were hidden in mist but there was no rain so we were thankful for that.

After a quick photo stop we prepared for the rapid descent into Kirkby Stephen and lunch. It was real reward for all the climbing to exceed 30 mph on the way down- with some braver than others.

In Kirkby Stephen we dispersed into the various tea shops for lunch where we had varied experiences with speed of service. We were joined by Terry Smith who had taken the train to Kirkby Stephen, had done a morning ride and was joining us for the afternoon ride to Tan Hill- and he didn't even have time for lunch. Sorry Terry!

In preparation for the climb of Tan Hill we split into two groups and Eric and Andrew set off with one group and Colin lead the second group.

The clouds were down and it was threatening rain as we set off and it was clear we were going to be climbing into the mist. After the gentle run through the Eden Valley villages we began climbing and we soon spread out as we made the long climb to the highest pub in England ( although was disputed by some of the group!). There was a damp mist and some drizzle(the kind that wets you through) as we pushed up the hill. The sun came out as we re-entered Yorkshire which bought a smile to our faces.

Eric had waited for us and Terry was about to set off back (having had a food break) as we all rolled into the car park. A quick photo and then we headed for home and few more climbs -but a lot more downhill!

An hours ride back to Reeth got us all in in good time after a hard days riding but one that everyone had enjoyed the challenge and the ride in the Dales- particularly Swaledale.

Thanks to Colin and Richard for leading rides and for everyone being disciplined as we were a large group.

Good company and many subject covered as we went along and everyone agreed it was a great route and worth the repeat. No one seemed bothered by the weather and the lack of great views(certainly early in the ride). Another excellent Awayday Kevin



MOTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION



KIRKBY STEPHEN 1 1/2

**NATEBY**

MOOR COCK INN 9 1/2

LONDON 266 1/4

SAFETY FIRST

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A 5















### **Wednesday Wanderers**

Fifteen starters for the Wanderers ride this morning. A few new faces and some escapees from other groups.

The weather forecast was dire but it was decided to stick to the planned route and hope we would get round without a soaking. We collected Alan and a friend at Bilton Lane as we headed to Ripley where we regrouped.

The morning was still grey and misty but at least we warmed up on the climb up Scarah Bank. We continued to grind our way upwards towards Brimham where Richard offered an extra loop around Warsill, but there were no takers.

At Brimham Rocks road Julie, Gia, Liz and Richard departed. Liz and Richard to prepare for their cycling holiday in Switzerland. The remaining group set off for Fellbeck with a group of three taking the bridleway shortcut to avoid losing height. We met up again at the top of Skell Gill Bank. Then it was onwards skirting the edge of Dallow Moor. Peter left us to solo to Masham while we turned for the descent down Drift Lane to High Grantley. Unfortunately the lingering mist spoilt the distant views, but the heather was just beginning to flower. We took a narrow overgrown lane to Low Grantley and headed on to Fountains where Alan and two friends headed off through the Deer Park. The remaining ten enjoyed their free drinks with various cakes. The stress of back marking for the first time had given Angela an appetite as she was seen tucking into two cakes!

Suitably refreshed it was home via Watergate Lane and the Drovers, stopping briefly to allow Glyn and Alison to buy eggs. The local egg producers must all be relieved that Glyn has finally returned from his sojourn in France.

The sun eventually appeared as we reached Ripley and we enjoyed a gentle ride back along the Greenway and home.

Hopefully everyone enjoyed what was a new route for some and fortunately we avoided any thunder storms and no rain. A big thank you to Angela for back marking. 36 miles. KM