

Wednesday, September 6, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride

In the Hornbeam microclimate, we were basking in the early morning sunshine, until the dreaded words: "suntan lotion" were to be heard... so as you might guess, rain was inevitable!

However, a star-studded cast made its way in 2 orderly groups towards Beckwithshaw and onwards past Little Almscliffe, the temperature fell and the wind strengthened, but the rain simply 'threatened' until just before the brunch stop.

Several members had joined the ride (I counted them out, but had forgotten this number before counting them back in...) and all were enthusiastically tackling the terrain out to Timble (naturally wishing it had been 'a Timble Wednesday') and on to Upper Snowden before the thrilling descent into Asquith, finally meeting a shortish shower on the outskirts of Denton before our scheduled stop at La Statzione, adjacent to Ilkley station.

The sun-worshippers/hardy folk opted for an al fresco experience believing it to be one of the last opportunities of the season, whilst others headed indoors for some home comforts. As usual the service was excellent and we were fully recharged after about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. It was also noted that a couple of riders had peeled off after crossing Fewston reservoir, denying all suggestions of a fish n' chips breakaway, claiming (instead) a cultural tour of Saltaire?!

Clearly the ride was gender neutral, however some of the ladies expressed disappointment that the boys were still gossiping after refreshments and had not taken to their saddles in a timely manner. It was ventured that the boys had been under instruction and taking guidance from the ladies on the subject of gossiping throughout the entire ride, but it appeared that they hadn't been paying enough attention and failed to realise that the technique being demonstrated was in fact: "speed-gossiping."

Matters were quickly resolved and we were homebound leaving via Ben Rhydding across Denton bridge and back through Asquith a second time, as we made for Otley, to be re-joined by our 'Saltaire cultural duo', before skirting over the 'pipe bridge' and on to Pool, then Castley and the climb to Almscliffe Crag for a team photo. Then a final push to the transmitter mast and the long descent into Burn Bridge. Here another dynamic duo took a shortcut home, whilst everyone else returned to H Park. Final mileages were subject to some dispute, although no one registered fewer than 41 miles. Stewart



Wednesday Wanderers'Ride

I volunteered to take a ride to see Linton Bridge (newly re-opened after flood damage) Collingham, Compton, Bramham, Clifford, Boston Spa, Thorp Arch village to cafe at Thorp Arch. Cycle track to Wetherby, cycle track - Harland Way to Spofforth and back to Hornbeam.

17 cyclists too part (2 groups) Mike Smith volunteered to lead a group - thanks Mike. Proceeded to Linton Bridge, some decent weather, all met up on bridge and took photographs. Departed for Collingham (3 departed here) and then on to Compton, Bramham, Clifford and on to cafe at Thorp Arch for refreshments. Afterwards, made our way back to Harrogate using cycle tracks where possible.

Enjoyable ride (Mike's Magical Mystery Tour!!!) On some different roads. Approx. 35 mile route with good company.

Thanks to all, Mike Wills



Wednesday Long Ride

Eight of us assembled at Rosedale Abbey for a long ride away day. The forecast was for a dry day, but with a fresh westerly wind, and it proved accurate.

As we started with a four mile climb to Rosedale Head, followed by the roller coaster run through Westerdale, all heading west, we certainly knew all about the wind. It forced us all to don rain jackets just to keep warm, even though 500m of climbing in the first ten miles should have done that job more than adequately. The spectacular views provided much compensation for our efforts.

Onwards to Kildale, Ingleby Greenhow and the climb of Clay Bank, where we admired the view of Rosebery Topping, and finally turned south for some welcome respite from the wind. Less welcome was our proposed coffee stop at Chop Gate being closed, which meant having to wait until Helmsley for sustenance after 35 miles of hard work.

Generously refuelled, we went up Bransdale to Cockayne and back down to Gillamoor and Hutton-le-Hole, before returning over the moor and down the infamous Chimney Bank.

58 miles in total, with around 6000 feet of ascent, quite sufficient to justify consumption of some man-sized puddings in the evening. Richard L





EGs' Ride

We had twelve riders at Low Bridge, the weather forecast was good though it did feel a "bit back endish".

Nice to see Justin L and Peter J (and get an update on Jill`s bike problem, her Dad will sort the shop out).

Tadcaster was chosen as our first cafe stop, so it was break down in to smaller groups and on Rudgate to Taddy and the Lemon Tree Cafe and flash our loyalty cards.

Norman was a bit under the weather so he headed for Morrison`s cafe in Wetherby accompanied by Bill (hope you both had a good one).

In Tadcaster there was some bewilderment, the Lemon Tree Cafe was closed, the group gathered outside Costa Cafe.

Costa do nice coffee, but because of the exotic Latin feel of the place it was thought that they may not do justice to the British beans on toast, the staple diet of the EG`s.

So, it was on to Bolton Percy and its quaint cafe, the garden tables were full so tea was taken indoors, which was very nice and reminded some people of taking tea in their Great Aunts front parlour.

(see photos) The EG`s took to this style of living and wondered if they did B&B.

The tea and coffee tasted very nice out of china tea cups, unfortunately today some of the coffee house chains drinking vessels seem like scaled down chamber pots.

The beans on toast were up to a high standard which pleased the majority of our riders.

(3/4 beans on the Siswick scale).

Then it was on to York and out to Benningborough, where it was decided to try the Linton Lock Cafe for a change. Unfortunately, it was 2-30pm and the cafe closed at 2-30 pm, as Linton is near to home the majority headed for home at a fast pace.

Colin, Dan, Dave P, Dave Wilson and Geoff had coffee, choc bars and also for Colin and Geoff a pork pie which were highly rated. Then away we went, Geoff and Dave P at a slower pace. Geoff pushing the wind a setting the pace (you are a star Geoff).

Dave P met up with Dan in Harrogate, he had been unable to match the pace of his group (that`s a first Dan) so he had gone in a pub (now that is style).

A good mileage ride in good weather. Dave P





