

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Ride completed by exactly 12 o'clock. It was lovely to have Sue Threadgold join us and also Paul Blackham in case any of the 5 lady poddlers' needed male thumbs to take off difficult tyres in a puncture emergency. We went swiftly to Beckwithshaw, slightly less swiftly for some to North Righton and nipped along Leeds Road (but for Sue T. she nipped home) and we continued upwards to Kirkby Overblow. At this point we'd all got going and an extra loop to Wetherby seemed very attractive. Jen led 2 ladies with time to spare, as Paul B and I wheeled back home. For us about 19 miles and unsurprisingly 90 floors but only 10,017 paces. Goodness knows what Jen, Monica and Sandra have done...but suspect a coffee was involved.CG

Wednesday Wanderers

A fine Autumn morning saw a good turnout with 16 opting for the Wanderers Ride. After breaking into regulation formation, we proceeded to Ripley car park. Thence up to Brimham Rocks via Birstwith, the toll bridge and Stripe Lane. At Brimham, 5 folks opted for a more direct route home via Warsill whilst the remainder had a blustery ride down to Fell Beck and then up over Dallow Moor. We then went through Grantley & Aldfield, spurred on by the prospect of well earned coffees at Fountains Abbey. Unfortunately the half term mobs that descend on the NT had been overlooked, so a slightly disappointed group undertook a diversion to G&T's at Risplith. After much appreciated refreshments a speedy track home with only the obligatory egg stop for Alison. Overall, an enjoyable (somewhat lumpy) ride in great Autumn weather & with great company. A total ride of 42 miles. SS



Wednesday Medium Plus Ride

The medium plus ride made a late decision to head for Linton Bridge via Sicklinghall and on to Tadcaster through Bramham. 11 of us took this route, including Richard and Lesley who wanted a shorter ride today and although Paul Hudson said the weather would be sunny we got drizzle towards Sicklinghall. The repaired Linton bridge seems to have higher sides to it and it is super clean!. A couple of climbs and a good decent into Tadcaster saw us reach the tea shop next to CycleSense where the main vote went for fruit scones.

Then Gia informed us of a new Sustrans route being built between Thorpe Arch and Newton Kyme. At Thorpe Arch Richard and Lesley set off homewards as they had a deadline and the remainder set off into Thorpe Arch to get to the end of the existing Sustrans path. Thorpe Arch could register on a mental nightmare list as once inside it all looks the same. Could it have been designed this way so that if the Germans had invaded they might have never got out!?

However Gia and Malcolm then led us to a small lane off of Thorpe church and a mile later down a rickety lane we reached the Newton Kyme viaduct. Now the good news.... this will be part of a new Sustrans route from Thorpe Arch towards Tadcaster. It is tied in to the large Redrow housing development in that area. The viaduct from the lane is impressive and has been repaired ready for use. From the ground its a long way up (see photo). It now needs the link lanes to be finished and the redrow site completed.

So a new route for us all in the future!

The group then came home via Wetherby and the sun finally came out!! About 43 miles on a grand day out. JR.





EG'S Ride

Arriving a little later than usual I was immediately confronted by Dave Siswick explaining that our leader, Dave Preston, had damaged his knee leaving it so painful he was unable to continue with our promised ride. Thus Dave S. kindly volunteered to drive D.P. home up on Otley Rd. whilst the rest of the group pressed on initially intent on ourselves picking up Dave S. from Dave P's home.

Strange how the best laid plans etc. Things started going wrong as the group approached the Empress roundabout via Bogs Lane .A call from Dave S revealed he'd returned down the main road and had reached Starbeck crossing. Our paths had thus not crossed so we agreed he would turn around and we would all meet next to the Empress Inn. Whilst waiting, Bob & Roy, not hearing the arrangements, had continued west towards Dave's house. So another call was made to explain we would now all be heading down the Greenway to Ripley. (As Dave P.. remarks "it's like herding cats")

Pete Bradley shot off whilst we were cogitating and the remaining riders followed on being careful to avoid any mishaps caused by wet leaves on the smooth tarmac surface.

Eventually we all gathered at the "Stocks" in Ripley but Bob & Roy who'd eventually "returned to the fold", decided to tarry a while in the local cafe in the castle yard. The rest of us agreed to head on to Spa Gardens in Ripon via Drovers X roads & Fountains.

Passing through Studley a number of riders realised they would be presented with the challenged of "Knaresborough hill" for a second time, dreading the thought. Dave S. yet again volunteering his services, perhaps, at £2 a time. I didn't hear any takers!

As we approached Ripon Dave S. peeled off to return back to his "pickup" parked in a restricted area to ensure, hopefully, he'd not be awarded a £60 fine (or whatever).

We caught up with Pete Bradley (again) in the Sun Parlour just ordering his beans on toast. We all seemed to opt for similar fare or scrambled eggs.

The weather, by now, seemed to be improving as so far the forecasted dry sunny day had not materialised and our ride had been accompanied by heavy clouded skies and light rain.

As both Dave S. and myself, Dave W., had chosen our favourite machines, (based on the weather forecast) meaning, no guards, we both suffered the consequences of wet muddy roads, (meaning lots of cleaning when we get back) apologising to any following riders in our wake.

Six riders in the Sun Parlour seemed to be reluctant to disturb themselves from the comfort offered by the cafe but with a little persuasion we aimed for home via Boroughbridge. Here Colin said his farewell as he needed to head off directly for home whilst the rest followed the well "trodden" route through Dunsforth turning west for Grafton and Arkendale.

By now the wind was in our face so progress slowed and a welcome pause at the top of Sandybank was appreciated.

There followed a long discussion on bike design and sizes agreeing that as with all products these days decisions of choice is a minefield of alternatives whether it be bikes or indeed TVs.

Nice to see Rob joining us again this week, having now fully recovered from an earlier spill. Sorry we lost Dave Wilson somewhere in Harrogate. Hope he returned home safely! (One of the "cats" that got away).

Despite the confusion of route intent, I'm sure we all at least enjoyed getting out on our bikes and hopefully had a good ride. For those completing the whole route, we totalled about 40 miles, perhaps no less than originally intended for this time of year!

We hope our illustrious leader, Dave Preston, recovers very soon and will be back on his bike as early as possible.

Dave Watson.

Long Ride

Seven set out on a North Orbital route today, heading for cafe stops at Melmerby and Tancred Farm. The plan was do the hills early, leaving the flat lands til the final few miles into the wind. A brisk pace and no mishaps ensured that the first leg of 30 miles to Melmerby was achieved in just over two hours. Although greeted by agreeable scents from its micro brewery, the industrial estate and the cafe proved to be a Marmite experience for some of the party, largely revolving around a broken coffee machine. En route we witnessed a long job in progress in Kirkby M where two willing chaps with lump hammers were gamely knocking render from a building fronting the cross roads. We wish them well. Post lunch sun dried out the lanes from Rainton to Cundall but not sufficiently to prevent an incident where a white van splashed through a pond at speed engulfing two of our number in road wash, apparently to the evident glee of the van passenger. Considerably peeved, the group headed for Tancred, where strong coffee, tea and cakes restored some good humour. Watch out for a van from AAA Power Cleaning - maybe they were creating business! Peel-offs began at Great Ouseburn, continued at the Rugby club and ended at the Showground climb. Approximately 67 miles in length, this is likely to be last 60 plus ride while the days shorten. Roll on the Solstice!

Terry Smith

