

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

## **Wednesday Rides**

---

### **Poddlers' Ride**

No need for pre ride communications.....it was not going to rain, snow, wind, freeze, ice up....a good day for a cycle...and we ought to remind ourselves we could do more than 30 miles on one ride. Nicola joined us, insisting she had not ridden a bike since she travelled the west coast of USA and she would need stabilisers and someone to push her. Well the Poddlers' ride was for her. So Boroughbridge it was and the smell of newly baked scones encouraged us to ignore the Dunsford and get to the Bean Cafe before all the cheese scones had been scooped. This goal achieved, we headed to Roelcliffe, where we had a photo shoot in front of two contested herons, Bishop Monkton, Markington and the Hill to the Drovers. Jen on her glorious purple bike and Nicola who seemed to have lost her stabilizers flashed up the hill, Jen into the arms of Glyn and Nicola, into the potential coffee stop belonging to her friend who had just moved into a Drovers new build house. Caroline and Jane slightly doing less flashing reached the Drovers without the need for oxygen or resuscitation. Nicola left us to inspect the possible Drovers Diner, Jane returned home at Killinghall and three of us attacked the Greenway which appeared to be covered with a dog carpet and home in blazing sun. What a superb glance of what Spring could be like. Thank you all for playing so nicely. 32 miles, 72 floors, a load of paces. Caroline G





### **Wanderers' Ride**

The prospect of a dry day without ice or strong winds saw fifteen Wanderers assembled at Hornbeam today. As we cycled up the Greenway we could see blue sky ahead of us and at Ripley Mike was waiting in the sunshine to join us.

It was still cold though, with little heat in the sun, but by the time we gathered again at the top of Scarah Bank we had all worked up a head of steam. We continued on our way to Fountains with Dennis peeling off to return by a shorter route. A brief stop at the junction with Watergate Road for egg buying, however Glyn, who usually buys some, claimed that he had got some from Aldi recently which were actually better (top tip of the day).

Café stop at Fountains where some discussion took place around the benefits of electric bikes to keep people cycling or encourage them to start. On to the deer park with a brief stop for a photo before the wonderful sweep down the hill with the deer herds grazing on our left. Through Ripon, Littlethorpe and Bishop Monkton, where some departed towards Knaresborough.

Not long after Markington Anne had a puncture and of course it was the back wheel. Fortunately, we had our Wanderers ace mechanic, Glyn with us and with a little assistance, mostly verbal, it was quickly fixed. This afforded us a useful rest just before the short but nasty climb on the way towards the Drovers cross roads. Return was via Ripley and the Greenway. Sunshine, deer in the park and snowdrops in the verges. With good company in a sunny mood what more could you want on a Wednesday in February. Thank you to Steve for back marking. 33 miles. Dave G





### **Wednesday Ride**

The photo tells the story, brilliant sunshine, eight riders( including photographer), lots of snow drops. The best weather of the year- the route up to Timble and down to Askwith, cafe stop in the river park Otley. Home via Castley and Kirby Overblow. 33 hilly but enjoyable miles in good company. Sue C



### **Long Ride**

The long ride came out of hibernation today. After much yawning, stretching and blinking in the light, a group of six set off for Brimham and a good hard think. John S started late and chased us so well that he beat us to Brimham – nice one John.

Our route had been via Beckwithshaw, Hamphststhaite, the toll bridge and Stripe Lane. The god hard think took place at the junction on the Ripon-Pateley road with several options tossed around in the safety of the road works at the junction. Finally, the need for a post-hibernation feed won the day and Fountains became the immediate next target. After a welcome assisted blast along the B road to Ripon, group cohesion faltered at the first turn for Sawley, with Peter R and me opting for the shorter route, while the rest carried on to Risplith.

Fortunately the group re-united at Fountains, in time to greet the departing Wanderers who had gathered in force and occupied nearly all the bike racks - an excellent show with some fine machinery to admire. As with the Wanderers our group kept the staff busy dispensing free tea and coffee to accompany our counter purchases. After much discussion of plans for cycling and sailing tours during the coming season, we set off for Ripon through the Deer Park, leaving John and Martin to head back home via How Hill and Ripley.

With the sun having some warmth it felt like a corner had been turned in the seasons as we headed towards Bishop M. Here once again group cohesion faltered as Richard P and I took the turn to Markington and Ripley leaving the rest to tackle the hill to the golf club in due course. The pair of us greeted the Poddlers as we passed through Drovers to Bishop T and a rest stop at Cut Throat Lane, followed by a muddy excursion along the bridle path leading into hitherto unvisited parts of Shaw Mills, for me at any rate. Worth the mud - even it will require a thorough bike clean tomorrow. Law Lane led to Whibley Lane, the Saxon Cross, Hollybank Lane and the Greenway back to HG for a final tea stop at Baxter's cafe in the new Knapping Mount Council Offices - yes, you can go in and the prices are remarkable. Give it a try - don't let doorstep familiarity get in the way. As HG Council Tax payers you'll have paid towards it anyway. Maybe Leeds lubbers like me should pay double!

The day really did have a spring-like feel to it but, with a massive "high" building over Russia and northern Europe bringing the beast from the east to us at the weekend it will seem like an illusion. Back into hibernation then, chaps? 45 miles and 2800 ft. Terry S



### **EGs' Ride**

Although this strictly speaking is not a ride report, albeit associated with today's EG's ride, I had to express my sincere appreciation for the EG's dropping by to visit me whilst I was attending my wife on my daily visits to Ripon Community Hospital.

Having been unable to join the group these past three months it was great to see the lads,

reminding me of the great times shared and the close relationship built up over these past eleven years.

Thanks chaps, it was great to see you all (Norman, Peter, Ian, Colin, Nick, & Geoff). Hope the rest of the ride, in wonderful sunshine, went well.

Sorry I'm not around to lead! Dave W