

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

## **Wednesday Rides**

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### **Poddlers' Ride**

What? Only me? Well yes..3 Poddlers were on a train somewhere in Cumbria feeding their faces, and one was poorly. So, I had to Wander rather than Poddle. As there were 22 of us, the plan was to swoop down the hills passing as many people as I could, and then watch them as they cycled past me on the uphill stretches. It mostly worked, apart from the top part of a hill that I walked up. Anyway, I got to Sophie's safely, got going ahead of the pack up Clint Bank, and got to the start of the Greenway. I decided I'd had enough Wandering for the day, and Poddled back down the Greenway, so didn't see any more Wanderers for dust! I did enjoy my 27 miles however, and it was good to chat to a different bunch of people. But you Poddlers better be back next week.....Jen Appleyard



### **Wednesday Wanderers' Ride**

A fairly large turnout at Hornbeam this morning, with about 24 takers for the Wanderers. No rain forecast, but strong-ish winds from the SE. It wasn't cold, but it wasn't warm either. Steve and Michael S volunteered to take manageable sub-groups, and, following the team talk about grouping and not irritating drivers, we set off along Leadhall Lane towards the Squinting Cat and Beckwithshaw. Paul B was loitering with intent just before the Squinting Cat. There was no significant headwind as we climbed up Norwood Lane towards Almas Cliff (aka Little Alms Cliff), but even so, it was impressive to see Alison N, Liz P, Dennis and one or two others from the sub-group behind us leading a break-away. It must be Dennis's new bike. They stopped at the car park by Stainburn Woods, thank goodness, or heaven knows

where they would have got to. By this time, all 3 sub-groups had got mixed up. Right past the Sun Inn and then L down the nicely-surfaces Bedlam Lane to Fewston Bents and Cobby Syke. Briefly on the A59 and then R along Meagill Lane past Fewston cemetery, and R again on the barriered road with the high-security-looking building. Michael S took over the lead at this point, as the official leader had forgotten his map and thus his carefully-made plan to 'make it up as we go along' failed. Past the Camp and towards Birstwith, but then a detour through Staupes, Longscales, Kettlesing Bottom and Swincliffe, cleverly avoiding the flooded bit which Martin W took us through on Sunday. Once again, Alison N and Dennis again launched a break-away up the long steep hill approaching Swincliffe (is there a WE! policy on testing for the use of triamcinolone in the over-80s?). Down into Hampsthwaite, where we almost overwhelmed Sophie's. Most returned to Harrogate via Hollybank Wood and the Greenway. About 25 miles Joe



### **Wednesday Ride**

Having eventually got some order in the assembled company, Martin set off with one group and nine of us followed in second group. Angela and Charlie were pulled back into the group in Knaresborough after trying to escape and we headed for Easingwold via Goldsborough, Flaxby, the back (and very muddy lane) past the newly commission incinerator and into Arkendale and then Great Ouseburn where we collected Paul for all of two minutes before he, Gia, Malcolm and Jenny headed straight for coffee in Boroughbridge. Crossing Aldwark Bridge and heading for Alne the breeze began to pick up, but being generally south easterly it was not too troublesome and despite Martin's group being there first there was room in The Curious Table in Easingwold. The service was back to the efficiency of old and conversation ranged over the usual varied topics of which the most important was advice to Sue on her dress as mother of the bride to be. Having politely refused Colin's invitation to join him on a return via Coxwold the unanimous decision was to return by the quickest, which was the way we had come. Surprisingly the route looks completely different the other way round! The breeze was still a bit troublesome but we arrived back in Knaresborough without mishap and went our several ways home. Just under fifty miles - well done to everyone considering the weather interruptions we have had this winter and particularly to Jeanie who made a welcome return. James G.



### **Wednesday Ride (Gia's Bit)**

Malcolm, Paul, Jen and I had a good ride through the Dunsforths and arrived at Bean Vintage to the usual welcome and excellent cheese and fruit scones.

Back to Harrogate via Minskip, good 38 mile ride on probably the best day of the week, Gia



### **Wednesday Ride - Martin's Group**



### **Wednesday Long Ride**

It was chilly at Hornbeam this morning but the forecast was promising double digit temperature and 20 mph south easterly winds in the afternoon.

So where to go? Our furthest point from Harrogate had to be South East. Our plan was to go east to York, Head south to Cawood, cross the Ouse and then return to Harrogate via Tadcaster. Simple.

5 riders set out across the showground shortly to be followed by J Sewell who was out for a short spin. It was fairly tough going east but the temperature steadily improved and the riding was pleasant. After 20 miles we stopped for a well-earned café break where using Richard P's mapping app we agreed the route down to Cawood via Naburn. Inexplicably somewhere south of York the two Richards vanished. We waited, tried to make contact via phone and waited ..... Eventually we decided that one Richard really had vanished and the other one rang in to say he would meet us in Cawood.

The main group re-assembled in Cawood after a hard 8 miles going south into a stiffening wind. Here we turned north west and were rewarded with speeds on the flat exceeding 20 mph and not much less on the inclines. We stopped in Tadcaster for a breather and some sustenance and made our way back to Harrogate via Wighill and Wetherby.

Ride stats. Just under 58 Miles, 750M climbing and lovely views of the vale (and flooding) of York. Martin D





### **EGs' Ride**

We had a good turnout at Low Bridge including a lady rider to add a bit of class to the ride, which is nice as we can no longer rely on Peter B for the class and glamour.

Much interest was shown on Malcolm M's electric bike, a nice looking machine, Malcolm was extolling the virtues of its step through frame due to its weight, however it would also appeal to the odd ?? Scotsman who might like to cycle in his Kilt, this would eliminate the need for men in the general public shouting to their wives "don't look Ethel".

The bike also had had an intriguing manufacturers name which reminded Dave P of the name of a good bottle of wine, some might say anything reminds DP of a bottle of wine. The other bike of interest was Dave S's Enigma, this had been bought as a basic bike and Dave for a change had decided to kit it out with Campag gear, this was still in the process of some minor adjustments, so Dave was up to some "variations" on his "Enigma" boom boom, sorry music lovers.

How would the bike perform? once again "wonderwheel" took the downhill trophy, one of his, best nearly making it over the hill, no reference to any of the VEG's condition.

Then in was in to Morrisons Cafe (Boroughbridge branch) for what they do best.

Afterwards the group fragmented, but no probs our main aim was to all have a chat and a cuppa together which we did and then little groups did their own thing depending on the distance and speed they wanted.

Dave P led the "A" team to Thornton Bridge, having had his moment of glory backed off (very sensible) and turned off at Brafferton to do his own thing i.e. get some miles in but very slowly.

On to Myton-on-Swale (the scene of an English defeat, no not Rugby) Flawith, Aldwark village and coffee and Eccles cake at Great Ouseburn Post Office.

Got to Low Bridge before the "A" team and the 5 mile climb to Harlow Hill does not get any easier, it seemed just like spring or is that just wishful thinking. Dave P.

