

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

How lovely we all wanted to play out.....we could tell spring had sprung as even Jean and Max came out to play. So, seven ladies set off under clear skies, for Kirby Overblow via Pannal, Wetherby, coffee in the Shambles, back via Knaresborough and Knaresborough hill....and quite frankly I had a lovely ride and hope everyone else enjoyed it too. Job done with 24 miles, 82 floors and only 13,893 paces. CG



Wednesday Wanderers' Ride

Another sunny Wednesday! It had to be off to the hills! 16 of us made our way to Ripley, trying to take account of 'groups and gaps' where appropriate. Here the slow trickle of leavers started. Maris had a wheel rim crack so chose to retreat. The rest of us made our way through Hollybank Woods to Burnt Yates and thence to Brimham. Well almost. We had an enforced stop, courtesy of a group of escaping alpacas! Quick thinking Steve W. sped off to find the farmer. In no time, the recalcitrant alpacas were back on home territory. At Brimham, 6 of the group chose to enjoy the descent to Rabbit Hill Farm and home. Thanks to Liz P for back marking to here. The remaining 9 enjoyed a beautiful ride to Sawley and

then Risplith. We heard curlews for the first time. G&T's satisfied our coffee/snack needs. Here, another 1 left to rush back for table tennis. At Fountains, 1 more slipped away to return to Bishop Monkton. So, 7 of us enjoyed the return to Harrogate via Watergate Lane [and usual egg stop], fuelled by Mike W's 'magic' jelly-babies. It really was a co-operative effort- thanks to Steve W. as 'leader support', to Bridget for operating pelican crossings, to Mike for the 'fuel' and to every one for their cheery company and good humour. Alison N



Wednesday Ride

Two electric bikes, four Spa bikes and four other select bikes made up our group of ten heading for hills not miles. Kevin and Co slightly altered their outward journey to accommodate a sticking shifter but we all met at Bloomfield Square Cafe in Otley. The staff haven't quite worked out that we like our drinks and food to be delivered at the same time!

and that we all like hot not lukewarm coffee. But these are minor details of what is otherwise a good cafe stop.

Exiting Otley was interesting and the ride leader led the wrong way but we saw the suburbs of Otley and surprised Malcolm by doing a return loop to the cafe where he was still in discussion with the barista about coffee temperatures. As Helen Tate would say, I like it nice and hot! We also saw a group of cyclists all ages with 80% on electric bikes.

With the wind behind us we flew along to Pool and Castley where most of the group took the Kirkby Overblow run home and three of us took the Almscliffe route. The net result was the same, we were back in Harrogate about the same time and the same mileage. 28 miles lots of hills, chilly in part but enjoyed the sunshine, the wind behind and the great views. Gia





Wednesday Long Ride

Five riders left Hornbeam Park heading off to Ilkely and its environs. An uneventful ride to Ilkley by way of Brackenthwaite Lane, Briscoe Ridge, Norwood Edge and Askwith. Refreshments were taken at Christchurch in Ilkley where the return route was discussed. As we had battled into a head wind on the way out returning via the Cow and Calf was a viable option. So, with the wind at our backs the return route was Cow and Calf, Burley Woodhead, Menston, The Chevin, Bramhope, Weardley Bank and on to Kirkby Overblow. Not the longest Long Ride but a testing one given the weather conditions. PCJ

