

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

Wednesday Rides

Wanderers' Ride

What a difference a day makes. With the thermometer back in single figures I was back in my winter woollies. On the drive into Harrogate the Skipton road wind turbines indicated a brisk northerly so I decided to reverse the published route to try get a tail wind on the high exposed part of the ride.

Eleven Wanderers set off from Hornbeam and I quickly changed from leader to back marker as my chain came off at the Hornbeam light. A gently ride to Ripley then onto Clint taking in a photo in front of the final days of the blue bells. A nice descent in Birstwith then along to valley to Darley.

There was then a slow grind up to Dacre, onto Dacre Lane and Dike Lane. The views of Nidderdale made up for all the effort. Onto Braithwaite Lane and Sandy Gate, however the expected tail wind didn't materialise. Fewston Farm café was soon reached for re-fuelling weary legs.

Four opted to return via Penny Pot Lane whilst the others stuck to the original route via Little Almscliffe and Beckwithshaw. Peter had a puncture on Brown Bank Road but was happy to fix and progress alone. Once again I was disappointed on the run into Beckwithshaw as didn't get another wind benefit. Had it changed? Some opted to stay on the Otley road with just three remaining for the return past the Squinting Cat. 32 pleasant miles in good company. Michael S



Wednesday Ride

With a group away on a 'train ride' to the Wolds there were only a few waifs and strays left at Hornbeam on a cold and windy morning. With time constraints and some recovering from illness it was decided to head for Ripon and see how things went.

We headed for Low Bridge and had to go at a decent pace to warm up in the icy cold wind. We headed to Ripon via the usual Farnham/Littlethorpe route and made straight for Olivers Pantry and a warming cup of coffee.

Good banter and tea cakes delayed the off but we then decided to head for Fountains with the aim of doing the hills on the way home.

We made good time and at the top of Watergate Lane the option of extending the ride was spurned and we made our way back to Ripley and home via the Greenway- just as it was starting to warm up!

A good work out for those who were recovering and a steady ride for the others. A enjoyable ride which left Stuart with time to do more gardening when he got home! 35 miles with a bit of climbing. Thanks to Stuart, Jeannie and Sarah for their company.



Long Ride

It was chilly at Hornbeam this morning with a north-north easterly keeping temperatures in the low teens. After much discussion York was chosen as the destination. Six riders set out across the showground. After navigating between crowds of dog walkers we were on our way to Spofforth and then on towards York. As we approached Askham Richard we could feel a few drops of rain so it was decided to stop at the café. After some debate it was decided to go to Tadcaster via Naburn and Bolton Percy. Approaching Naburn the leading group of three riders continued along the cycle path, ignoring the turn off for Naburn. Eventually, we reached Ricall where we were left with no option but to carry on to Cawood. We then headed for Tadcaster where we stopped for much needed refreshments. We returned to Harrogate via the usual route Wighill and Wetherby. No photos today. PCJ

EGs' Ride

We had ten riders at Low Bridge all kitted out for the deceptively cold weather. Our destination was to be Easingwold and "take it from there". We were told Terry Wadkin was to join us, so our first coffee stop was to be Morrisons in Boroughbridge.

As we waited (it was cold) we were past "Eric time" (how are you Eric? not heard from you in a while, hope you are OK) so a faster group left for Boroughbridge, leaving the slower group to follow when Terry arrived.

It was in to a head wind, which gave a chill factor to the already unseasonably low temperature, in fact Richard left the group to call home for some warmer gloves joining us later on route, a decision he did not regret. The pace was quite fast for the slower member but this was not a problem with riders pushing the wind in turn. There is a lay bye on the minor road just off the A6055 where we usually take the odd layer off after we had warmed up, today it was add on.

In to Morrisons cafe where Dan did justice to their excellent and good value menu. We were then joined by the slower group to add to the chat.

The faster group then headed for Easingwold in to the cold headwind, the riders taking turns on the front making it easier for the less able. The cafe chosen (forget the name, just off the square) was very good and Dan again had another breakfast which looked excellent. Dan, Dave S, Geoff, and Marvin then headed for the hills, Dave P and Richard headed for home aided by some wind assist.

For one rider it was home by 4.15pm with 53 miles on the clock, best this year, are things getting better? Could be but he was well looked after. Dave P



And finally....
Wheel Easy's Tour of the Kalihari Desert

