

Wednesday, January 27, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers **Ride** **Report**
Another cold damp morning as I arrived with a snowstorm of other yellow cyclists. A carefully planned route, which avoided steep hills, wind into our faces at anytime and cafes, was put into action at precisely 9.30. Leaving the big boys and girls to arrive and decide which cafe to head for, eight enthusiasts set out full of determination and a head wind, up towards Church Lane and Pannal. We quickly reached Kirkby Overblow and stopped for a breather in the middle of the village to confirm our plans of where we were actually going. As we surged (there was a lot of surging going on) John W noticed a red kite being buffeted by the wind, and the rest of us saw five others soaring above us, which is very unusual they are not keen on being in groups I was told. We sped and powered through Sicklinghall, and arrived at Wetherby ahead of schedule, which allowed us to have a banana and breakfast bar stop - and for Richard to lead us astray down the cycle paths of Wetherby. There is a positive maze of them, and fortunately we did escape back onto somewhere I recognised, without Trevor 's new bike getting wet wheels as we had laid our cycling jackets over the puddles as instructed. Reassuring Sue that the wind would be behind us on the way back we turned towards home at Kirk Deighton, with a force 6 gale coming straight at us. As we reached Spofforth Trevor was panicking that his bike would get wet, not just the tyres, as the wind had joined forces with a very cold rainstorm. Making a very quick pit stop, one that any formula one team would be proud of, Peter had a battery change and we continued against the wind to Follifoot. Big John had surged off for a rendez vous on Leadhall Lane, and the rest of us continued gleefully to speed down Rudding Lane and along the new cycle path to a photo opportunity admiring forty tons of hard core and noticing a flock of red kites, which turned out to be crows in disguise. John W kindly led everyone back to Hornbeam, whilst the leader took the easy route home via the traffic of Wetherby Road, to prepare lunch for her grateful partner. 20.87 miles cycled by 8 people. Caroline G

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Wheel Easy Ride Report

Tempted out with the promise of 8 degrees several Wheel Easy hardy winter souls headed for Hornbeam. One member due to have a back op drove to meet us to pay his sub which shows real dedication, Bob we wish you well and look forward to seeing you back on your bike. Caroline encouraged Kevin to come out with the "big boys and girls" and rolling back the years he arrived first at the coffee stop with Martin. He probably wasn't best pleased that I had locked my bike to his and had no idea of the combination number! The rest of us, Paul, Yvonne, Bridget, Angela and Gia arrived shortly afterwards with Ben on his single speed bike, who took us round and down to Darley Mill avoiding the steep hill. Our ride out was a real challenge, first Martin in rebellious mood took us through Moor Park but we made it unscathed and it really is a much nicer way to attack the slope up to Stainburn Woods. Arriving there the wind speed took off and we all braced ourselves for the wind coming in towards us and from the side. We did well not to get knocked off our bikes. Then the rain came so our stop at Darley Mill was very welcome as we cosied up near the warm fire. By the time we left, panic about bike lock solved as I had failed to twizzle the numbers, the rain had stopped, we had the wind on our backs and even the sun came out. 30 hilly/windy miles. Gia

EG's Ride Report

The weather forecast of light rain did not deter the eight riders that met at Low Bridge. Bill W, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, John R, Norman, Peter B and Roy. Last Wednesday`s ride had been to the north so southwards it was. Wetherby here we come and into Morrisons Cafe for Tea, Coffee, scrambled eggs, omelettes etc. We were soon joined by York Wednesday Wheelers and an interesting bike, a hand cranked faired recumbent, whose rider Eric had met on the Morecambe to Bridlington ride. Whilst under cover (bikes included) there had been a downpour, but now it was only damp as we set off for Linton and Collingham where Dave W and John left us (due to previous appointments) then on to East Keswick (a previous abode of Eric). Peter B being disappointed that there wasn't a Blue Plaque on his house wall, obviously Eric`s fame as Wheel Easy Treasurer and Conqueror of the St Gottard pass has yet to reach East Keswick. On to Wike and into Harewood House grounds, possibly the first Wheel Easy riders on this route since the snow melted. Fortunately for DP the route was not too muddy, as he had been threatened with having to clean all the bikes if it was. Three riders cycled down to the Emmerdale village, obviously stardom was not for them as they came back without an actors contract. On to Weardley, Arthington and Pool and to the Garden Centre Cafe in Otley for more refreshment, here Eric and Peter left us to visit "Dunny`s" for beans and cholesterol. After sustenance we all met up to return via Pool and Wescoe where Bill , Eric and Peter left us to return via the shorter but hillier Almscliffe Crag route. DP, Norman and Roy returning via the longer but less hillier Weeton and Kirkby Overblow (with a banana break) route. The ride finished on a high note with the sun (no it wasn't an hallucination) shining and a small amount of blue sky. Total mileage around 41 to 43 miles. Dave P

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	728	YTD	3227
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