

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

## Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

A frisson of excitement sparked the air around the Wheel Easy women this morning. News had obviously leaked out that matinee idol, cycling legend and very great, great grandfather, head of the Butler dynasty, El Butler himself was going to lead a ride. The Poddlers were in luck, they were to be led by the man himself. The Big Boys and Girls rather grudgingly and perhaps not without jealousy, were 'encouraged' to head off for the café hotspots of the highlands of the Leeds Bradford Conurbation. Once Sue W had had her wheel secured back on by Tall John, we set off with excitement and enthusiasm at a speed which suited all, flashing along the Asda Path towards Bilton and Tennyson Avenue. Dashing down Knox Lane, Max effected a brief running check of Alison's brake, and we all whizzed over the Pack Horse bridge and onwards over the horrid A61, up Grainbeck Lane and Crawford's Couloir, the almost forgotten snicket towards Ripley. At the first Ripley roundabout we headed off for Nidd, no doubt with thoughts of vandalising and pillaging the residents of Nidd, uppermost in our minds. However, these ideas were banished as we turned left in Nidd and cycled on the glorious route, in the direction of Brearton. A car driving no less than 60 miles per hour, missed us and gave a passing pheasant a glancing blow instead. The pheasant survived and seemed merely disgruntled, we might have ended up differently. At the next turn left on the road to Knaresborough the pleasant man in an orange jumper (?Ben) realising we were having another stop, felt the call of the Grand Prix, which he had taken the day off to watch and he sped off to the nearest TV. Our leader led us onwards to Scotton and Lingerfield, where we had an elderly relative check, and then set sail for home, putting the world and breakdown of society right en route. At Knaresborough, we discussed the relative merits of the different hills and John W, Sue D, Lynda and Peter, Caroline and Max decided to follow in their leader's wheel tracks up to Morrisons via Calcutt, and Alison and Sue W and Tall John chose the main road, but not before numerous demands and pleas to lead the next ride had been aired. Dennis left us to go and view his new great grand son William, and we followed John W back to base. Thank you Dennis, a super ride, with several new twists and turns. 21.27 miles by 11 people, assuming the pleasant man in the orange jumper did not suddenly take it into his head to do 50 miles extra. Caroline G

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Wheel Easy Ride Report  
Nine of us met at Hornbeam for what was forecast to be a reasonably warm and dry day. However I looked at the grey sky on arrival and began wondering about my folly of not packing a waterproof. So, off we set following Martin on what was advertised as a fairly hilly ride with 4 coffee stops mentioned. Riding away towards Beckwithshaw I had a brief conversation "what is worse uphill riding or into wind on the flat?" I was soon to dismiss both those situations and can say without any doubt there is nothing that comes near to uphill riding into strong headwind for 20 miles all the way to Stump Cross!!! Never has a cup of tea and piece of cake tasted so good, so much so that there were even mutterings about a second cup. With the promise of a nice downhill sweep via Appletreewick to Bolton Abbey we shunned our temporary weakness and got back on to our bikes. So, on a steepish downhill lane why did I get the feeling I had become a drag racer? Were my brakes locked on? Had someone secretly attached a parachute to the rear of my bike when I was busily enjoying said tea and cake? No it was that blasted head wind again trying to push me back up the hill I was trying to descend. What a lovely relief cycling in the valley became, with only a few more hills to Bolton Abbey. Dismissing the promising café near the Abbey as being too soon after Stump Cross we headed onwards towards Ilkley. Just as we were approaching Beamsley conversations about previous assaults on Langbar Top cropped up but thank goodness we avoided the left turn and kept right on through Ilkley, towards Otley and the Cock Pit Café for lunch. Now was that just so that Paul could show off with his new loyalty card? Ha ha we all have one now too! Most of us were tempted by the curried parsnip soup and we were not disappointed. So refuelled we headed off for yet more hills. All except Gia who abandoned us in favour of a little retail therapy taking along Malcolm and Paul with her. Given that it was cycle related you are forgiven Gia. Martin led the rest of us back via Askwith to make the assault on Askwith Hill where at last we had the wind behind us. I did not think there would come a time today when I would be wishing that the wind was 10x as strong but with tired legs that is exactly what I was now wishing for! Onwards over Fewston and back via Beckwithshaw with one after another wheeleasy member peeling off along the way I arrived back at Hornbeam still dry and with 56 miles on the clock. Confused however about those missing 2 coffee stops but retrospectively thinking that maybe too much caffeine is a bad thing. A good day had by all and probably a good nights sleep too.  
Angela

EG's Ride Report  
Morning looked a little grey on the road down to Low Bridge. Martin and Yvonne coming up the hill, morning!, morning!, heading for Ilkley said Martin ,so that was a route option. At Low Bridge ten riders gathered, routes discussed. North to Masham/Bedale or South to Tadcaster/Towton or West to Ilkley/Wharfedale. East being out as that was done on Sunday. Then general consensus of opinion was to head south. So instead of "Go west young man" it was "Go south old men". Then on along Waterside taking great care, during the winter we were on the look out for icy patches, today we were on the look out for small snappy dogs off their leads. On the road to Little Ribston we were passed by a van containing a snapping dog, a moments pause "had the dam thing caught up with us". Through Cowthorpe and down Rudgate, then on to Taddy and Tykes Tea Rooms for light refreshment. Here we had a chat with a charming (very elderly) lady who was drawn to the CTC logo and informed us she had been a keen tandem rider. Then on to Towton and Lotherton Hall for lunch (not quite the distance originally stated by DP, did his nose grow longer?, but then the EG`s don`t need an excuse for a stop). The cafe has now gone a bit "up market", with some tables having settee`s. The older members wisely avoided these as some of us have a tendency to "nod off" after lunch. Then on to Aberford and Barwick in Elmet, Scholes, Thorner and Collingham, returning to

Harrogate via Kirkby Overblow.  
The day finished off with sun and superb views of Wharfedale, total mileage around 50 -52 door  
to door. Dave P

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 1265 YTD 19142

