

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report
9 veteran Poddlers trustingly followed their novice ride leader out of Hornbeam via Pannal to Spofforth and along the Harland Way to Wetherby. Taking the new cycle track along the A1, we made a quick tour of Clifford and on to Boston Spa, where a democratic decision was made not to stop at a cafe, opting instead for a toilet/ banana/ battery change/ cycle repair/ photo stop. Today was not Trevor's turn for the puncture; instead Pete suffered a flat tyre near Thorp Arch. However, this provided an excellent photo-opportunity: 7 gents repairing a puncture, with 3 ladies spectating/ gossiping. Certain persons suggested that the women should mend the next puncture, while the men stood around talking!! Luckily there was no next puncture! We returned to Wetherby along another section of the Harland Way and back to Harrogate via North Deighton, Spofforth, Follyfoot and Rudding Park. Thanks to Caroline for route photos and useful advice on hill-avoidance. 29 miles and back in time for lunch; a very sociable ride. Sue W

Click on slide show for all today's photos

Wheel Easy Ride Report
A north easterly wind didn't put off eleven hungry Wheel Easy riders who smelt coffee and tea and thoughts of an unlimited feeding frenzy of home made cakes at Timble Village Hall. We made a good stab at working up an appetite by riding to Hampsthwaite, Birstwith and Darley, on UP to Menwith Hill with the wind on our backs. So on up to Timble where every chair and table was full but as most of the residents had been there since 10 o'clock and it was now 11.30 they did the decent thing and moved on. And then the cakes, sausage rolls, scones, flapjacks just kept coming. As we finished one plate another one arrived. All delicious and fill ups of tea and coffee. The next Timble coffee morning is May 12th, put it in your diary!
Ben, Malcolm, Paul, Sue and Sarah headed back to Harrogate via the reservoir, Sarah very pleased

with the way her bike races up hills, whilst Martin, Yvonne, Peter N, Gia, Jon and new member Brian ventured down and then up through Little Snowden and across the moor to Askwith. It pained us to cycle past The CockPit Farm but noone could think of more food so we enjoyed the run down in to Otley and home via Castley, Dunkeswick and Kirkby Overblow. Excellent ride, a nice warm up for Martin's ride to Ampleforth on Sunday. 6 x 38 miles 5 x 32 miles.
 Gia

EG's Ride Report
 The debate over "where we going then?" was more decisive this week. "How about Timble? The good ladies of the village put on a coffee morning every second Wednesday of the month to raise money for the local community. They serve fabulous tea and coffee with unlimited cakes and biscuits all for only £;2.50 - and it really is 'eat as much as you can' - they keep coming back asking you to eat more 'cos they don't want to take them home!" I thought I'd sold it pretty well.

"Mmmm - isn't there a hill just before Timble?"

"Too hilly! How about Brimham Rocks and Pateley Bridge?"

"Mmmm - OK then!"

So 8 of us set off for Brimham Rocks, and I'm still trying to work out the logic of the decision! Anyway, off we headed on the undulating route through Farnham and Copgrove. Just before Bishop Monkton, Terry and Norman disappeared behind a hedge and said they would make their way to Ripon. So 6 of us continued to Bishop Monkton where the 9 mile climb to Brimham Rocks starts. 50 minutes later we reached the summit, and after a few minutes recuperation on oxygen cylinders, we were ready for the fast descent to Wilsill and on to Pateley Bridge for lunch. For the return, we declined Yorke's Folly and opted for the Bewerley, Glasshouses, Summerbridge, Hartwith Mill, Birstwith, Hampsthwaite route along Nidderdale - looking wonderful in the Spring sunshine. Just after Bewerley, we found a stray sheep wondering along the lane. It turned round and trotted back along the road, followed by 6 cyclists, until it arrived at the field where the rest of the flock were grazing. 2 lambs immediately ran up to the other side of the cattle grid, bleating greetings to their errant mother. As I tried to open the gate, the sheep bolted along the lane again. Clearly a job here for the Jungle Book characters to spring into action. Baloo cycled after the sheep, overtook it and headed it back whilst King Louie opened the gate and directed her through. The 2 lambs immediately dived underneath mum for a long awaited feed, and moments later all was happy in the sheep family (see photo). Just another day's work in the jungle! After a photostop on the green at Hampsthwaite, we took different routes back into Harrogate and Knaresborough. I'd covered 43 miles from home, and - for the Captain's Log - an estimated 295 total mileage by the 8 EGs. Eric W

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	872	YTD	31008
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