

Wednesday, August 4, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Drizzle and holidays were, I suspect, the main reason for a lowly turnout of only seven riders this morning. Two left "in search of elderly gents (café crawlers)" in Knaresborough and as we haven't received requests to raise bail, suspect that they were successful! A variety of pressing engagements necessitated a short ride for the remaining five and the traditional route to Little Alms Cliff Crag was chosen. As we were enjoying the gentle climb to Alms Cliff we were joined by another group whom we noticed, via discrete glances were somewhat older than our group (hard to believe but true). It was difficult, nay embarrassing, to accept, but one by one we were overtaken by elderly wheezing plodders. Then finally a very highly-tuned purring Rolls Royce passed and joined the rest of the vintage cars on what must have been a trans-Pennine rally!

The male member of the group noticed that he had gradually pulled away from the ladies, due he felt to a lack of ability to multitask (put the world to rights and cycle simultaneously), so upon reaching the summit he decided to turn back and, inspired by things many years older than himself, set off, with a cheery wave to the ladies, to conquer the summit of the "end of the world" before returning home. Meanwhile.....

The ladies continued beyond Alms Cliff, down Pennypot Lane turning left to skirt past Hampsthwaite, to Knox and home. Such was their concern for the world that when exiting Grainbeck Lane they failed to notice the resurfacing of the road to Killinghall and almost ended up in the newly laid wet tar. They did however avoid a sticky ending. For the record 5x 20ish miles more than if no one had turned out and the world will be a better place - guaranteed. Max

EG's/Wheel

Easy

Ride

It was an extremely wet morning made worse by the fact that one had just cleaned one's summer bike and there it was sparkling, and it had to go out in the rain as the winter bike was still in bits in the garage. On the way down to Low Bridge the rain started to ease off and the day felt that bit warmer.

At Low Bridge we had six EG`s and two Wheel Easy Wednesday`s. Yvonne to add a bit of glamour to the group and John to keep Norman company as they could both converse in their native tongue. A few of Wheel Easy Wednesday group together with some EG`s had declined to cycle in the rain and had sent their apologies by phone and text. This will no longer be tolerated, in future they must have a note from their Mums. The intention was to return to Harrogate via Ripley and Knox as we had been given an invitation to call in at Norman`s place for a little celebration and that route suited us best. So it was north to Ripon and Spa Gardens Cafe, but not before Yvonne had lost a screw. This resulted in screws being swapped around various bikes before we were on the road again. Conversation is a major item on an EG ride, today the themes were of a more intellectual nature such as the homing instincts of snails, verified by John who noted that when he threw them into his neighbours garden they always came back. We concluded that they would never outperform homing pigeons as one could die of old age waiting for them to "home" back. Terry said they could be identified by painting them in "snail varnish", but he managed to sprint away before anybody could get at him. Unfortunately the Spa Cafe was only serving ice cream and soft drinks so it was back in to Ripon for T&TT at the cafe next the Cathedral. The rain had stopped long before we reached Ripon and the rest of the day looked promising as we headed north west to Kirkby Malzeard to return via Aldfield, missing out the "lumpy " bits in Hebden Wood. Here Dave W led the group through his old stomping ground to take in Laverton and Grantley. Soon we were swooping down to Ripley (for comfort stop) then back to Bilton via Knox ford. Approx 46 miles. This is the occasion of Norman and Rosemary`s 40th (Ruby) Wedding Anniversary and Rosemary had very kindly laid on tea and cakes. But the best was yet to come, "a bit of the Bubbly" and it was pink. Fortunately Martin and Barry arrived before all the cake was eaten and before the Bubbly was served. All those years ago Norman was attracted to Rosemary not just for her looks but how she maintained her bike. I`m sure all of Wheel Easy (the EG`s, the Poddlers, the fit and the not so fit) would wish them Congratulations and much happiness in the Future. DP

Evening

Ride

I kindly volunteered to a) lead the evening ride and b) write the report as 5 of us met up at Hornbeam Park (Simon, Steve, Wilf and Dawn) pretty impressed that I remembered all of their names!! Well, after a quick discussion about the route we all headed off toward Beckwithshaw and up and over Norwood/Bland hill and veered off toward Menwith. We all managed to catch our breath now as there was a bit of a headwind (as always) over the gentle ascent to Little Almscliff!! and I quickly managed to introduce myself and catch up on names etc. We quickly descended toward Beckwithshaw and took the right turn shortcut (above the church) toward Hampsthwaite. Cue, first encounter with angry mini car driver who was brave enough to beep his horn after we had all safely passed him. I've no idea why he had a bee in his bonnet, but was obviously feeling

brave inside his little square metal box!! The ride carried on through Hampsthwaite and some riders peeled off as we cycled up and through Knox and I kindly guided Dawn back to Hornbeam so she could be reunited with her car. I believe she has only been on a couple of rides with us and is still not too familiar with the roads/local area. (Note, she did the ride on her Cervelo TT bike!) All in all a good ride at that was at a brisk pace.

5 riders x 20+ miles.
Paul A

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 568 YTD 90032

