

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

## Wednesday Rides



Poddlers

Ride

Report

The usual leader having disappeared to the deep south I feel I was co-erced, though not unwillingly, into taking 12 brave members on a very fine if cold morning into the unknown. We set off promptly towards the showground and were soon crossing the A661 to the cyclepath behind the amenity tip to the Dalby estate and onwards to Calcutt by way of Forest Moor Road. Onwards along to Thistle Hill, across the by-pass thence the old road back to the A661 and Follifoot. Almost inevitably a red kite was seen overhead providing us with an excellent sighting of this large scavenger (?).

Good speed was made and we were soon into Spofforth to pick up the old railway cyclepath and before we knew it, it was Wetherby and the obligatory banana stop. A Preston caffeine stop in the market place was declined and then we were whizzing in Carolineless style towards Knaresborough. The absent leader would have enjoyed some of the chat about Black Forest, Berni Inns and Brentford Nylons. It shows how some of us are getting on a bit! The by-pass was crossed again and the group split so that members could make their chosen ways home. Thanks to all for a pleasant 25 miles or thereabouts and also to Dennis for his usual care at the back. Crawford PS Who can tell us the purpose of the wire-netted stones displayed around the parkland area behind the tip ? Do they serve a purpose ?

Wheel

Easy

Ride

Report

Chilly but very sunny and someone heard the word Wetherby so we came up with a long way round to get there. Our route took us to Knaresborough where we convened briefly with the EG's, then on to Arkendale and Great Ouseburn, Whixley, over the railway line where the Northern Rail guy was distinctly disinterested in us, didn't open the gate so instead watched as we all manoeuvred through the awkward gate. This was a new route for several riders as well as the cycle path along the A168 to Wetherby. David reckoned that he had jinxed us by commenting on the lack of punctures, as right on cue there were punctures for Ben, Gia and Yvonne! Ben had cycled over from York on his fixed wheel bike so racked up 65 miles by the time we got back to Harrogate.

David returned to Little Ouseburn where he lives and the rest of us after our coffee/lunch stop in Wetherby came home via Follifoot and the showground. A glorious day of cycling in great company.

1x 65 miles, 7X40 miles. Gia

EG's Ride Report

Another glorious day amongst the rainy ones, as Sundays and Wednesdays seemed unaffected by the downpours. EG`s and W E W`s gathering at Low Bridge, where there was a quick commercial from Gia regarding the Sunday Christmas Lunch and the Wheel Easy Calendar, before they sped eastwards to return via Wetherby. It`s a good calendar so please buy it, if it don`t sell, the year after calendar will be the EG`s doing the "Full Monty" , and that won`t be pretty, be warned. Ten riders with Dave Rowson guesting headed for Wetherby but not before an interesting encounter with a skip waggon and its "two" skips on Abbey Road. Bright sun a nip in the air and in to Morrisons cafe (where else ?) for tea , coffee, toasted teacakes and intellectual conversation. After sustenance and the initial where are we?, what are we doing? we found ourselves heading for the Sicklinghall ridge, and the views of Wharfedale and the North York Moors. A view and photo stop was taken at Kearby. Trying to get the EG`s in position for a photo shoot would have been found very challenging for even the most competent of Nursery Nurses, at this time Terry was regaling us with Limericks about Young Ladies from various places around the world and their curious attributes and desires. Above a couple of Red Kites circled us ominously, they were obviously dyslexic Red Kites as the didn't know the difference between right carry on and right carrion. Here Dave Rowson left us, can you blame him. Then it was the swoop down to Netherby, Dunkeswick and Wescoe Hill. Here we were confronted by a sign saying road closed due to flood, Norman being a cautious Celt stopped a motorist to ask if he had seen a big wood boat with animals marching two by two, as this was not the case it was considered safe to proceed, as it happened it was only damp under tire. As the nine riders approached Otley major decisions were taken with four riders declining to eat at Dunny`s, well who can blame them the menu does get a little boring with no change from Pate Fois Gras Duck a L`Orange and Lobster Thermidor always on the menu. After more sustenance and a search under cars for bits of Peters lamp (won`t say who caused this problem) Norman and Terry retraced the route back to Harrogate. Bill, Colin, Dave P, John E , John R, Peter B and Roy heading for the hills and Lindley Bridge, Lindley and through the woods to Stainburn Moor under a clear blue sky with magnificent views of Wharfedale, Washburndale and across to the North York Moors, then the swift descent to Harrogate, with non of the pain usually felt by Roy and DP as they climb out of Knaresborough to Harlow Hill. Not a long ride, but quality miles and you would have to travel many miles to get countryside like this. Say nine riders approx 40miles and one say 30 miles. Dave P

2010	Wheel	Easy	Miles	(approx)	Today	1035	YTD	134353
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