

Wednesday, December 15, 2010

Wednesday Rides



Poddler's

Ride

Report

The day dawned grey, dank and moist, but thankfully no noticeable ice, so we could be out peddling, not paddling in the snow. Ten people listened to where I decided the poddlers were going and ten set off at 9.30 prompt for a loopy backwards action replay of Sunday's ride, which was to include practice pillaging at Killinghall, real marrauding and pillaging at Nidd, inspections of Brearton housing market, extra keep fit loopage at Farnham, bird watching along Bar Lane Knaresborough. The Plyms (pink ladies yellow men) had their own ideas of staying another few hours in the car park until the cafes had opened. Our first drop out was Max, who had the best way to the Sprusity Bridge at Knox. We found him, but Sur John, decided enough was enough at the end of Grainbeck Lane and we lost him, the delights of Nidd Hall Spa/health Club then beckoned to the ride leader, who had to be redirected through Nidd instead. We left Nidd and all witnessed a close up, Richard Attenborough moment when a Red Kite swooped low, round and down to the ground, snatching up some lumps of carrion, continuing to glide and swoop over the riders. As we progressed towards our mud and housing inspection of Brearton we lost Max again, and quite surprisingly not Trevor, who as we all know only too well, does not like mud much. We nearly lost Lynda and Glyn who were having a competition to see who could talk for an hour without a breath or repetition or anything other than talk. At Lingerfield Dennis had to be restrained from getting lost by following his favourite route towards Knaresborough.

On the fitness loop, outside Farnham, we nearly all got lost and caught up with the very smart ladies and gentlemen dressed in red coats with frilly neckerchiefs, quaffing stuff you quaff, on very smart horses dressed in saddles and bridles, in the back farmyard of the best cattery round Harrogate, before they went of in search of small reddish furry creatures. As we flashed into Knaresborough past the Co-op then Lidel's we lost Glyn, who has to go on a chocolate collecting mission, necessary to feed his chocolate addiction. Surprisingly Jan seemed quite unconcerned. At Low Bridge no one was lost to the cafe temptations of Knaresborough but we lost John W and Liz who chose the main Knaresborough Road home over the Calcutt route. Before we all split up a large figure looking heavily padded with some very chocolatey looking things, making very heavy

weather of cycling, caught up with us only to be hooted and gesticulated at in a very unpleasant manner by a white van man in a hurry. Lynda then took three riders back to the tip, whilst two headed for Morrison's car park and the easy way home. 25.22miles for 8 people, 21 miles for 1 person, 6 miles for 1 person. And it is amazing how easy and joyful that is when you 've had a few weeks of walking instead of riding. Caroline G

Wheel Easy Ride Report
 You know that times are hard when you see the morning weather forecast and become excited, rushing to get your bike because the temperature is going to be +5 degrees centigrade. Despite the heady high temperature it was decided that we needed a hilly ride to keep the circulation flowing. Richard had a plan and ten of us set off for the hills. We left Hornbeam via Leadhall Lane where Sarah managed to catch us up, to make our way as a group of eleven via Fewston and Swinsty Reservoirs to Timble. More hills were climbed as we headed for Askwith. The cold weather and clear skies gave fantastic views across miles and miles of glorious countryside towards snow capped hills in the far distance. This is why we live in Yorkshire, what a wonderful county. So with numbing fingers and toes on the descents quickly turning to sweating hands and feet on the ascents we peddled on to our cafe stop at Cockpit Farm in Weston. It would appear that we overwhelmed the lone assistant a little by our good turnout but help was at hand by way of Paul Tindle who made a fantastic unpaid waiter. So how did we repay Paul's helpfulness? Someone who shall remain nameless drank Paul's large coffee having only ordered a small one. You know who you are Yvonne! Never mind Paul by the time you had served us all you wouldn't have had time to drink a big one anyway. After our welcome warm drinks we headed off via Otley, Farnley, North Rigton and Burn Bridge to return to Hornbeam with 31.5 miles on the clock. I was informed that Martin had impressively led the peloton at pace to the top of a big hill but with head down at the back I missed it, sorry Martin. Angela

EG's Ride Report
 The day looked promising ie anything but ice. On the way to Low Bridge Jill was seen coming out of Rayleigh Rd (hope the bruising is going down Jill). Then Caroline came speeding out of Oatlands Drive "no ice today" cried Caroline, "only in the Gin" came the reply. Then a sneaky coffee in Morrisons before Low Bridge where we had a total of eight riders, Bill, Colin, Dave P, Eric, James, John E, Norman and Terry, Peter B and Roy having can't come out to play notes from their Mum`s. Otley or Easingwold was offered, and Easingwold chosen with no other bids. Getting past Boroughbridge without stopping is always difficult, so it was in to the top cafe for refreshment, a bit of banter with the proprietress, and a raffle prize for Bill. The roads up to Boroughbridge had been completely clear, but around Brafferton and Raskelf there was still snow/slush at the edges. Then into Temptations Cafe for hot soup and hot puds, DP who has his name on the short list for admittance, qualified for instant admittance by spilling some of his soup. Sitting in comfortable armchairs in the warmth, Norman and a few others could be seen to nod (ever so slightly), so we sprang to our feet (can you believe that?), paid our bill`s and headed for Alne, here there was still quite a bit of snow/slush on the road but with clear tracks so there was no problems., this all cleared before Aldwark Bridge. Here we were overflown three times by a Eurofighter and it was noisy, but on the third pass we though we had gone deaf as he gently depressed the throttle and flew away. Eric was most impressed and wants one for Christmas. Then it was clear dry roads all the way back to Harrogate, with a quick stop at Spa cycles for the famous foam. Total mileage say 8 x 50 = 400miles, not bad for a winters ride and two stops. Dave P

2010 Wheel Easy Miles (approx) Today 968 YTD 142797



