

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

First of all a "get well soon, we missed you" message for Alison N who has injured her wrist, and to Caroline and Jane, both on the bench with coughing lurgies. Having carried out a recce, I had decided to revise my original plan for today's route as even yesterday morning there were occasional patches of compacted snow/ice trodden down by walkers on some of the cycle tracks. The milder weather today brought out 15 poddlers. Welcome to Marion who I don't think had been out with us before. Our route took us through Burn Bridge, Kirkby Overblow and Sicklinghall to Wetherby where the options of a cafe stop and the offer of a return to base early were shunned and the full compliment continued to Walton and then via Rudgate lane and South Field lane to Tockwith. There was some mention of a couple of time trial laps around the airfield but we had a photo stop and a banana instead. By this time the sun was making an appearance and the skylarks were singing in the fields, all quite spring like. On the down side our progress was slowed as we turned into a head wind towards Cowthorpe and Little Ribston where the group divided, some choosing the return via Knaresborough and the

remainder of us returning via Spofforth, Follifoot and Rudding Lane. Thanks to Steve for being an excellent tail end Charlie and to Kevin for going ahead down the hill at Crimble and changing the automatic lights so that some of us could get a run up! 15 x 32 miles. Dave G

Wheel Easy Ride Report

The Tourers set off to complete what most of us failed to do last Sunday because of the miserable cold and a puncture delay. So the sun was coming out and on a distinctly mild and bright day for February eight of us headed to Knaresborough, Farnham, Bishop Monkton, Littlethorpe and Ripon for the first break of warming coffee. It was almost clear blue skies leaving Ripon and we headed up to the three hilltop villages of Galphay, Winksley and Grantley. Then it was a steady climb up to the moors into a stiff breeze. The ride over the moor and down to Fellbeck was dramatic with clear views in the patchy sunlight, and with Gia showing that she could take the rough track the rest of us wimped out on the tarmac route. We headed off to Brimham Rocks, down to Burnt Yates and the oasis in the Yorkshire Desert known as Sophie's. Then well fed, we headed home after 48 memorable miles. Martin W

One perverse WE original insisted on cycling solo to Pateley, partly to deliver an envelope there which he'd been meaning to do for several months. The wonderful route is now Garmin-mapped as WE Route 120, and goes west through Hampsthwaite, Padside and down Yorke's Folly, and back along part of the Way Of the Roses to Brimham, Hartside, and Sophie's at Hampsthwaite where I met up with the Tourers. Plenty of hills, 36 miles. MM

Ride to White Horse

"My first ride of the year? Well, not quite. But I was so excited, I completely forgot myself and made 2 elementary mistakes : I was early (an hour!) so I thought I'd take on the sporting tradition of a warm-up (9-10 miles). Second mistake was nodding through the suggestion of a trip to The Kilburn White Horse. The 30 (my 40) miles on the way there took the party through the delightful villages of Stavely and Minskip before crossing the A1M and then quickly on with only a second and possibly a third glance at the cafes of Boroughbridge. Thornton Bridge and Little Sessay brought us to the A19 where we took our bikes on our shoulders for 300-400 metres to dodge fresh hawthorn clippings. More delights, as we found our way to Bylands Abbey. And then the ascent up past the horse. Around 1.30pm we (Darren, Julie, Richard, David and I) sat down for 'a glider's special' However, it could only be encased in white bread as they were still on winter rations.

We were all highly resolute, and thus able to turn down the quick return option of a trial flight. However, the temperature was now dropping from the highs of the morning, and we set off once more with a rapid descent, then passing the the frozen fish-pond on the Newburgh Priory estate we reached Easingwold and then the Ouseburns where we said farewell to David. Time was running out as Knaresborough and then Hornbeam came into view. The official Hornbeam-to-Hornbeam distance was over 65 miles. So some of us had broken 75 or simply, broken." Stewart

EG's Ride Report

The day looked like it might turn out as forecasted as riders gathered at Low Bridge, whilst muster was being called W.E.W`'s swept in to view and after a brief chat were on their way. Where were we going?, we haven't been over there for a while said Peter J pointing West, West is best said Dave W, who must have seen the forecasted wind direction, so the unlucky thirteen began to head South, fortunately Dave W appeared to make it lucky fourteen. On to Little Ribston, Morrisons ? shouted the fast group as they accelerated past the last five (silly question). So we had fourteen riders in Morrisons cafe, pushing up their share price. After sustenance Norman and Terry headed North for home, Eric , John E, Peter R and Colin did a slight detour to check out the route for a forth coming reliability ride and then meet up with us on the Sicklinghall ridge. At Kearby a Red Kite hung very low over us, as carrion eaters these birds can tell when animals are on their last legs and just wait. It was here that Rob handed in a sick note and made his way home (hope you made it Rob). For the descent to Netherby, Bill called for a freewheel competition, was this because he was on his heavyweight panzer bike?. However the podium consisted of Colin, Bill and Bob. Then on to Otley, got a nice cafe in Otley said JR, recommended by Paul T, cheaper than Betty`s or Sophie's (isn't everywhere) and as a reminder big thanks to Malcolm M from DP for his caffeine on Sunday. Dave S led the peloton (pushing the wind) into Otley where JR took us to what could be the street of a thousand cafes, however some of the names were not for macho cyclists eg " The Pink Teapot" and the "Velvet Cupcake" so it was into Cafe Cafe with wooden floors and bike parking round the back. Good food fast service, nice one PT. At muster it was all the rider leader could do to prevent EG`s entering a house of Ill Repute aptly named "Crumpet Cottage" (see photo). At Otley bridge Eric, Peter R and Colin turned left for Askwith and the hard way home, the lesser mortals for Stainburn and West Harrogate. Another day of excellent riding conditions, most riders doing around 38 miles with an estimated 40+ for Eric et al. Dave P



