

Wednesday, July 11, 2012

## Wednesday Rides



### Wheel Easy on Tour

At the weekend a group of Wheel Easy members led by John Russell completed the Pennine Cycleway from Appleby to Berwick upon Tweed.

### Poddlers Ride Report

Small Paul was wrong when he said it would be overcast on Wednesday morning! It was quite sunny as 10 Poddlers set off past the Squinting Cat and on to Beckwithshaw. (We had cancelled the Yorkshire Show so that we could easily park at Hornbeam and the traffic would be light). We turned up the hill and steadily made our way to the top. Alison suggested an alternative way to Almscliffe, but Max said "Too dangerous", so we swooped down into North Rigton, and up to Almscliffe Crag. After leaving Hubyard negotiating the main road, we continued through Dunkeswick, along the main road and turned off before Kirby Overblow. Riders commented that this was a new bit of road to them, so I was quite pleased with my planning. I'm not so sure that they enjoyed the next hill, although we were only keeping up with the Tour, as they were heading for the mountains today! Caroline left us at the top of the

hill (things to do, things to watch), and then the heavens opened for a couple of minutes - but - we were sheltering under a tree (planned of course) so didn't get wet. Poor Caroline was not so fortunate (Glyn said "That'll teach her to leave early!"). Then it was through Sicklinghall, onto the railway line (but my bike will get dirty, said Max) and back to Follifoot where Glyn fixed James's computer (he does love fixing things!). We tried to come across the Showground, but gave up and resorted to the road because of the mayhem and mud. We enjoyed the ride, hope the rest of you did as well. 28 miles. Jenny and Glyn

Wheel Easy Ride Report ( 'Poddlers with coffee', says William )

With uncertain weather and the success of Bradley's boys in the Tour de France Team Gia set off on its own hill stage. A group of 6 riders set off and were joined by the Hon Membership Sec at Pannal at the first time check. From there it was off up Drury Lane to Kirkby Overblow then a swift descent to the A61 and a 'dice with death' before turning to the first category climb of Weardley Bank. After a short recovery it was on to 5 Lane Ends and Bramhope where a short sharp burst of rain interrupted the peloton on its journey to Otley via a very wet East Chevin Road. A coffee and teacake break in Otley saw Stuart trying at drink Dave's coffee and plan a flat route back to Harrogate. He succeeded in the first task but failed in the second one so we set off in sunshine (is this really July 2012?) on the hilly route back via Farnley, Leathley and then Brackenthwaite Lane into Pannal where the group dispersed to get back in time for the Tour de France on the telly. A 'bonus' ride in that it we didn't get too wet, a good workout and good company. I just hope it's a flat stage next Tuesday as it might influence the choice of route! Distance : 29 miles Elevation Gain: 2,182 ft. Kevin

"Messrs Rowson, Cartledge and Smith headed west from Hornbeam for some hill work. Having just returned from an Alpine cycle tour, Dave R was keen to keep climbing. On the other hand, Peter C and Terry S had missed out the hills for a month and were looking to build up again. The first leg involved a warm up from Fewston to Timble, followed by Dob Park via Low Snowden, to avoid the heavy wagons on the Blubberhouses to Otley road. On the descent to Askwith we could see what sort of weather was ahead, with showers clearly visible and making their way down the valley. Our second climb took us from Ben Rhydding up to Langbar and involved a near miss with a speeding Mercedes for Dave. Fortunately, this was the only incident of the day.

A brief discussion at Bolton Bridge decided on Burnsall as the lunch stop, duly reached after 32 miles. Wharfe View Tea Rooms were thick with fellowcyclists but the fine sunshine allowed lunch outdoors, over which Dave gave us some

insights into the challenges of climbing and descending Alpe d'Huez. The wind became more noticeable after lunch. Luckily, it was mainly at our backs for the return, which involved the toughest climb of the day from Appletreewick up to Greenhow, via Skyreholme. Showers kept up the challenges on a day of contrasts, although these were pale imitations compared to Alpe d'Huez. From Greenhow and Duck Street, the return to Harrogate was a long wind-assisted downhill stretch that seemed to last all the way to Hampsthwaite. Knox Ford to Crab Lane was the last uphill stretch of an enjoyable and hilly day. Thank you to Dave for leading us. Stats: 58 miles with 3580 ft (1090 m) of ascent. Terry Smith

### EG's Ride Report

Not a particularly good weather forecast, but anything better than continuous persistent precipitations had to be good. So with ten riders at Low Bridge was a good turn out. Dave W and Peter B both sent in their sick notes, best wishes from the EG`s for a speedy recovery and back on your wheels soon. Norman was on family duty, and Eric was temporarily part of the labouring masses, it is debatable which is worst for cycling, blisters on your hands or blisters on your bum. Small patches of blue could be seen through the clouds, go south said Bill we will miss the rain. So south it was to Taddy, due to the cancellation of the Great Yorkshire Show the traffic to Little Ribston was light (a sort of no show traffic). A rain shower hit us before Little Ribston but short and sharp then clear, the route to Cowthorpe and Rudgate seemed to be heading towards the blue gaps in the clouds and Tykes Tearooms were arrived at without further rain, though the roads varied between dry and wet. Emerging from the Tea Rooms it could be seen that we had missed a shower. Then it was the climb to Bramham where John R and Roy left us. The remaining eight, Bill, Bob, Colin, Dave P, Dave S, John E, Terry and Theo continued on the ridge then on the descent to Collingham. If the weather had been bad we would have returned to Harrogate via Kirkby Overblow, however the sun was shining and we had pass outs from our other halves, so it was in to Morrisons for afternoon tea. The sunshine could not be wasted so nothwards it was on the cycle path to Walshford, then up the A168 in a headwind , the the heroes were Bill, Dave S and John E, who set off like twenty year old time trialers, pushing the wind for the pelaton. This was quite a blast, and not one rider fell off the back. Dark clouds beyond Boroughbridge convinced us that a third tea stop might be a stop to far, so a left was hung for Arkendale in the sunshine heading for the sunshine over Harrogate. Sorry for continually using the word sunshine, but I thought I was beginning to forget how to spell it. A good ride around 54 miles in SUNSHINE. Dave P



