

Wednesday, August 29, 2012

Wednesday Rides



Poddlers Ride Report

9 intrepid (others might choose a different description) cyclists assembled at Hornbeam in the rain this morning. The gathering included Phil who is new to wheel easy and arrived sensibly attired in a waterproof cape which attracted envious looks as we sheltered under the trees. Our route took us through Bilton where we lost a rather wet Alison to the overwhelming temptation of her warm dry home nearby. Over Knox Bridge to Hampsthwaite where we stopped near Sophie's Cafe to consider options. Sue C, Alison N, Steven and myself headed up to Clapham Green where I discovered that Geraldine, Joe, Paul and Phil had considered the option of sheltering in Sophie's Cafe preferable. As we 4 cycled along towards Menwith the rain petered out and appearing amongst the clouds, as my Gran used to say, "there was enough blue to make a pair of sailors trousers". Not wanting to tempt fate though, we decided to turn left after Menwith rather than continuing past Forest Moor, and we headed home via Little Alms Cliff and Beckwithshaw. Thanks for turning out and for the cheerful company in the face of poor weather.

Best wishes to Sue D for hopefully, a rapid recovery from a recent knee injury. 24 miles .Dave G

Although I was enjoying Dave's ride I could not cycle past 'Sophie's' on a wet day! After refreshments, 'bike talk' and admiring Phil's Mercian we cycled back to Knox. Phil and myself left Joe and Geraldine and followed the cycle path to Starbeck and Spa Cycles before returning to Hornbeam. 20 miles. Paul

EG's 200K Ride Report

'Please can you pass on my thanks to John for organising a great route for the 200k'. Peter L

Eleven hardy soles set off from Low bridge on the epic 200k ride. The weather was fine and dry at the start, but when we hit the Dales, down came the rain. Dave P Theo Peter? and Bob(hospital appointment) headed back at Kirby Malzeard for Ripon in the pouring rain. By now, Theo on his fixed had descended a 1in 5 and climbed a 1in 6 how does he do it? DP, witty as ever, commented what will be our cycling style, the Breaststroke or the Front crawl ? Now down to seven(super or stupid?) we decided to carry on. We rang out our gloves etc. and dried out a bit at the cafe stop in Bedale. Fast friendly service here, and the rain had stopped, 3 hours into the journey. A good steady pace was maintained to Thirsk where it was decided by committee to carry on to Easingwold for our next Pit stop, as the rain was holding off. Again good service at the Bakery cafe in Easingwold, 6 hours into the journey, and about half way. Peter J Peter L Andrew John E Colin Dave S and Glyn, now started the loop out to Castle Howard and our next stop at Hovingham, At 4.15 pm we arrived at the Cafe not a warm welcome or friendly service here , we were obviously not wanted as they wished to close early! In the Cafe we noticed clear blue skies and fluffy white clouds going over, out of the Cafe a different story! Coming towards us, as we headed back to Easingwold were black ominous clouds. Our worst fears were realised as the heavens opened and water fell out of the sky, this was more than rain! We sheltered under the trees, as Peter J reminded us as we did on the 100 miler at nearly the same place. Dave S and Glyn decided to carry on, we never saw Dave again! We met Glyn coming back to us when we got going, he had lost Dave up the road, so now there were six of us ploughing through the rain, completely soaked and passed caring, the delights of a late summer cycle ride! On the run into Easingwold (second time) Peter L sensibly decided to tour back in at his own pace, while the rest of us headed by Bradley Wiggins, sorry Colin raced into Boro -bridge we were going along at 17-20mph here after 100+ miles. The good news was we were soon through

Boroughbridge and back into Knaresborough at 7.15pm. Considering the conditions it is no mean achievement that we finished at all. No doubt when we are soaking in the bath, we will say we enjoyed it, and a good way to spend the day! Our Average speed was 13mph over 9hrs 45 mins travel time for the 200k. Now we are all looking forward to riding it again next year!
John

Despite a horrible weather forecast John E`s enthusiasm must have got through to some riders as we had eleven hopefuls at Low Bridge. The weather seemed to be reasonable and the odd patch of blue sky was seen now and again.(see photo). Just after 7-30am away went the eleven heading for Ripley and (if you can pronounce it) Risplith. The 8-00am forecasted PID did not occur and hopes rose, however by 8-45 it was pitter patter raindrops and by 9-00am not only was it PID, it was bouncing up. At Kirkby Malzeard four wet wimps, Bob, Dave P, Peter C and Theo took their leave of John E`s superheroes and headed for Ripon and home. On arriving back we had 40plus miles, numb finger, numb toes and please don't say it out loud, numb from the neck up. After thawing out at home, just like the Bernard Cribbins song "the weather started brightening". Good luck to "the magnificent seven" who carried on, we feel less guilty when we realised we had done 40 plus miles without a coffee break. Dave P

As an Honourary EG for the day, I was most impressed with the pace maintained throughout the ride - which as they all know by now was too fast for me ! As always with WE, good humour was maintained through the downpours - if Dave Preston thinks the morning douche at Kirby MALzeard was bad, he should have experienced the Hovingham drencher eight hours later ! This split the company and I can confirm that I made it home alone to knaresborough by 7:20 and subsequently to Harrogate thereby fulfilling my allotted miles (including the final grind up Knaresborough road).

Question : why was John's ride like a good German white wine ?

Answer : because it was cold and wet but ended with dry, bright finish
many thanks, Peter L

