

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Wheel Easy Wednesday Ride

Nine of us set off from Hornbeam with high hopes of a dry ride, and so it proved to be with only light misty rain occasionally threatening. At Boroughbridge we stopped for coffee, dropped two riders who were making excuses to get back early and the remaining seven rode across the Vale of York to Carlton Hustwaite and on to Easingwold. We enjoyed an alfresco sandwich on the green before plugging back into a steady headwind, arriving home after 62 miles. Martin W



Gia and Bridget tagged on to Martin's adventure to Coxwold, and after excellent coffee at The Old Foundry in Boroughbridge left them to return to Harrogate.

Bridget had not yet used the new cycleway so this was a great opportunity to return via Roecliffe, Bishop Monkton, Markington and Ripley to join the Nidderdale Greenway. At the Bilton end we met the "poo fairies" who were highlighting the need for dog owners to collect from their little dears! (Photo attached) The council officer said that we could join in the fun and stick flags and bags along the route on one of our Sustrans workdays. She then said that we would also need to "pick up" At this point my enthusiasm waned but am sure we have plenty of dog owners who would do this???

34 miles, great ride. Gia

With a stiff breeze from the west expected as our constant companion for the day, five riders - Richard, Stuart, Neil, Peter and Terry S - opted for staying low and heading east. Although Coxwold was mentioned, this was to prove too far the day and was left for another occasion when our legs would be better seasoned. In the event, it was to Asenby that we ventured, performing a circumnavigation of the Crab and Lobster.

En route we beat the familiar path to Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge via Knaresborough, Staveley and Aldborough, where handsome buildings won admiration from first-time visitors in our group. The return to Boroughbridge from Asenby was enlivened not only by more handsome village scenes through Brafferton and Myton-on-Swale but also by our choice of the bridleway from Myton to Milby, around the fields where a locally-raised militia was routed by the Scots nearly 800 years ago (see <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/resource-centre/medieval/battleview.asp?BattleFieldId=26>).

To say the least progress along the bridle path was careful, with hard-packed tractor tracks offering a sample of what the pros in the Spring Classics cope with.

Stuart bowed out at Boroughbridge, making for an early finish in Harrogate.

The rest pushed on into the headwind to Ripon Spa Gardens for lunch where rain prompted a suitably leisurely stop.

With Richard game for some short hills, we returned to HG through Studley to Ripley where we could use the now-operational Toucan/Pegasus crossing - an excellent facility. At the end of a longish ride, the Greenway provides the perfect run back to town. Along the approach to Bilton Lane crossing there was the curious sight of neatly matching bagged and flagged dog deposits. Mystery was resolved by HBC's dog warden team who were in action with a "show and shame" event.

At 63 miles, the ride had most things that cyclists enjoy - picturesque villages, quiet lanes, accommodating cafes and good natured conversation, plus the challenges of the bridlepath, the headwind and the dogs. Many thanks to Richard for piloting us around, it's good to see that he's recovering well - we did average almost 15.5 mph on the outward leg to Boroughbridge. Terry Smith



Poddlers Ride

To the hills, to the hills, we need more hills....It was meant to be a lovely sunny day but my forecast was lost in the wrong day or in the wrong place or lost in another time zone, so with only thoughts of summer in our minds, we did indeed head for the hills. Fourteen Poddlers' set off from Hornbeam, by the Asda Path we'd lost one and found another, by the Ripley path, bowing reverently to the Malcolm Bench and having a quick pose for photographic evidence, we lost the back marker Max, by the end of the Ripley path we had found two, by the time we had pulled ourselves up the first hill to the Drovers Building Plot, I had lost virtually everyone. Then shimmering through the mizzle an orange jacket was spied, we'd found Jane, waiting at the turn off to Fountains. At the Gilmore Food Factory turn off, everyone seem to have been found, kindly waiting for any stragglers, but we lost Jen and Glyn, who were on a mission to get more teeth put into Glyn's mouth and turned for home. By the T junction at the top of the hill past Brimham Rock Cottages the four stragglers had lost everyone else and nearly lost Maris as she headed to Dallow Gill. As we skirted Brimham Rocks, Jane had a chain Malfunction and we nearly lost her as she cleverly put it back on, and as we the four stragglers continued onto the left turn from Brimham towards home, we saw a host of golden daffodils floating as if on high, who were in fact the lovely main body of the group who had kindly waited for us and then got cold and were now pretending to be daffodils on the horizon, having decided to keep going towards home. Down the lovely hill towards Hartwith Toll and through Birstwith to Clint, Surjohn was lost and then Max carelessly lost Gordon, Alison, and David A who were wanting to sample the joys of the Greenway again, and then as if four losses were not enough lost three more to the lure of Sophie's cakes. This depleted group, including Liz, Dennis and Gardener John led by Max reached Harrogate via shorter but not so interesting Knox Lane. The straggling group having made sure Jane was within hopping

distance of her house set off along the glorious flat well surfaced perfect Greenway, to discover a very exciting stake out at the Bilton start end. A load of flags, attached to full polythene dog muck bags, stated clean up your mess, and the two dog wardens were lying in wait for the police and a dog walking suspect who they way laid and introduced to the arriving policemen. All perfectly timed. I hope it is the same dog walking muck slinger, that Surjohn found attaching a dog muck bag to a tree last week. Anyway lots of hills lost and found in the mizzle and mist. Thank you everyone you were all very kind to wait. About 30 miles. CG



EG's Ride

The weather forecast looked favourable for the Eastern side of the county, unfortunately the wind was in a Westerly direction, so we knew the return journey might be a bit difficult. Not being deterred, the eleven EGs headed South on the B6164, left turn after Little Ribston to pick up Rudgate and in to Tadcaster and a minor problem; the Tykes Tea Rooms were closed . The only cafe open was quite full, with no bike parking space. The majority had to avail themselves of takeaway food and drink at Rob`s Rolls sandwich shop.

John R, Norman, Rob and Roy then headed for Wetherby and Morrisons Cafe and its reliability, with Bill, Dave P, Dave W, Eric, Peter B, Peter J and Peter R heading South East for Cawood, freewheeling along at 25mph on the flat prompted cries of we are going to suffer for this later "we're doomed, doomed" as private Fraser would say.

A "banana" break was taken in Riccall, on the green with some goodies bought from the local post office shop. Then North on the cycle track to York with the wind on our left hand sides, another reminder of what was to come when we made the left turn.

Afternoon tea was taken in Tesco`s cafe (every little helps) that's sad, where they serve Costa Cafe. The return journey was not as bad as expected with heroes pushing the wind for the peloton. The usual Marston Moor stop was missed out, as it is in an exposed area, and getting started again in the wind would take extra effort and energy. The peloton broke up on the B6164, it had been a good days cycling with some sunshine and no rain, something which Harrogate had had in our absence.

Maximum mileage around 67 miles.
Dave P

