

Wednesday, July 10, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

Report to follow

Wednesday Ride Report

I was informed that I was ride leader today and as our group was me and four ladies, one of them my wife, I was in no position to disagree. I guess the route was my idea in that I'd read it in Cycling Active magazine, and it seemed novel and worth trying to copy. We didn't quite get it right but it was a lovely ride anyway - short but plenty of 'good' hills. Spruisty Bridge, Hampsthwaite (outvoted and denied an early coffee at Sophie's) Birstwith Hall, Kettleasing, up and up to Menwith Hill Road. Then right to Birstwith (we should have turned left and then right to Darley at this point), left at village Post Office up Clint Bank. Bump along Hollybank Lane to Ripley and stop at Ripley Church for their weekly Wednesday coffee morning, a new venture in response to the dramatic increase in visitors since the opening of the Greenway. James G, a Poddler refugee joined us for coffee and most of the ride home before taking the western fork for Starbeck and Knaresborough. Malcolm



There was considerable discussion at Hornbeam Park among the Medium Plussers with the shadow of the Tour de Lancashire hanging over a group who had looked at the route and seen a lot of little brown lines on the map and were looking for a short ride to conserve energy. Under the guise of wanting to test out the Church café at Ripley a group of 5 decided on a short ride out along the Greenway. They were last seen heading into Town...The four 'gentlemen' remaining decided on Brimham Rocks/Pateley Bridge as their destination and having contacted John R (on a pre tour shopping trip to Spa Cycles) and agreed to meet him at Ripley the ride finally began. Kevin lead the way and, after making two false turns just getting across the Stray (he was missing Gia's presence already!) he was replaced by Colin who safely lead us onto the Greenway where we met up with John R on the way to Ripley. From Ripley we started the climb up towards Pateley Bridge with Martin showing off his new bike to good effect by making a bid for the King of the Mountain jersey and leading us all the way to Brimham. As we reached the Rocks we met the Faster Group (led by William C) and in our excitement we missed the turn to the Refreshment Hut and so we pressed on to Pateley Bridge via the sweep down to Wilsill and then down through Glasshouses and Beverley to our revised stopping place at Teacups on the Showground. This was Colin's ideal place- good value, good food etc- so he regaled us with tales of IKEA furniture....and other stories. Suitably refreshed we set off back to Harrogate by retracing our steps through Beverley and

Glasshouses and then on to the Hartwith Toll Road and a climb up towards Birstwith. John R made a plea for Sophies so he could justify his pass out from the EG's but was overruled and we made a left turn and more climbing up Clint Bank and then a descent down Hollybank Lane and, after a short 'off road' section we reached Ripley where it was decided to give the Church refreshments a try. There was some concern about the tables in among the gravestones with mutterings of 'already got one foot in the grave...' and 'my wife thinks I'm Victor Meldrew....' Nevertheless we enjoyed tea and cake and wide ranging discussions on religion, the skill set of certain areas of South Yorkshire, and Colin secured his place as the Equal Opportunities Champion of Wheel easy. We set off back along the Greenway to complete a really enjoyable ride that left Colin and John warmed up for the Tour de Lancashire, Neil ready for his Ashes debut at Trent Bridge (as a spectator), Martin feeling good about his new wheels and Kevin still trying to find his way back over the Stray after being taken on a new route! 34 enjoyable miles. Kevin



It was day of debates, starting with the location of the first cafe stop. This emerged as "Masham, to be reviewed further when we get there". Six set out for the longer ride today - William, John, Lesley and Richard (welcome Richard, whose first WE ride this was), Phil and Terry. Outward via Beckwithshaw, Penny Pot, Hampsthwaite and Burnt Yates, the group stayed together; after the turn to Brimham Rocks the hares - William and John - were set free. Group debate was reopened at the crossroads at the top of the hill above Smelthouses, with the non-hares wondering if the hares had turned towards Brimham or gone on towards Pateley. Phil took the initiative and dropped into Smelthouses to check, while the other three set off for Brimham Rocks. A comfort break and cheery hello to Colin, Neil and co from another WE ride, got us debating the next turn at the B6265. Having almost decided to head towards Grantley, Phil caught us after climbing back from Smelthouses and changed the game with a route over Dallow Moor towards Kirkby M and Grewelthorpe. On arrival at Masham, it transpired that it had all been a waiting game, with the hares waiting at the Brimham Rocks car park turn and the rest waiting at the crossroads. Oh for GPS tracking! Masham provided a final twist, with William and John sitting in one cafe and the rest opting for Bordars. SMS messages finally cleared things up, with the hares dropping in to say hello, followed by a fond farewell as they headed back to Harrogate via Ripon for an early finish. Having given Bodar's scones the thumbs down - too heavy and too old (from Lesley) it was back to the debate. This didn't last long as we all opted for the climb over Lofthouse Moor/ Jordan Moss. Our photo shows three of us ready for the off. Phil led the way, having got his legs tuned nicely with the Smelthouses detour. If the wind had been capricious over Brimham and Dallow Moors - apparently in our faces from several directions - it redeemed itself by assisting the climb up to Jordan Moss. The Auction Mart tearooms hosted our final debate: which way back? Phil opted to round off his day with a shot at Yorke's Folly ("to see if I can do it"), while Lesley, Richard and Terry chose the valley road (complete with roadworks) to Ripley and the Greenway back to

Bilton, where farewells were exchanged as we left for our various destinations. A grand day out, especially for Phil, with varied mileages in the range 60 to 70. Terry.



EGs' Ride Report

After Tuesday's sunshine and heat it was disappointing to be greeted by a cool cloudy sky for the E.G.'s Wednesday ride. Initially eight rides gathered to ride off into the unknown until Roy arrived just on the point of departure. So off we set towards "Angela's", south of Boroughbridge on the A168, for our early morning break. Toasted teacakes and tea complete, Dave P. left us to ready himself for the Tour of Bowland scheduled for Thurs. & Bob & Marvin left us to attend other matters. The remaining six were persuaded to continue towards Coxwold via Aldwark & Myton on Swale. It was here that the unscheduled cultural tour began when Bill invited us to visit the site of the "White Battle" (1319) between the English who were routed by the Scots. Following the short lecture of events we "fled" north to Helperby where our resident "Tour Guide" continued to educate us, in French, on the history of Helperby hall. By this time lunchtime was approaching and we were nowhere near the intended stop at Coxwold. So looking around we spotted the local pub, "The Golden Lion" and on enquiring were served with tea, coffee & sausage rolls of doubtful heritage. (not an experience to be repeated). Colin decline the invitation & decided to return home early to spend two hours, apparently, cutting his lawn before joining the sojourn to Bowland on Thursday. The rest of us carried on to Sessay, Dalton & Topcliffe. Here a small diversion was introduced to vary the usual route home, turning right across the bridge to Rainton and then in Rainton plotting a course for Dishforth and Copthewick. Approaching Copthewick a phone call was received from Eric, who having just returned from riding alongside the Danube, was keen to join our return group somewhere along the intended route home. It was also at this point yet two more riders deserted the group, Terry, who had an evening gig and Roy. This left Dave W to lead Peter J. & Bill. along their merry way. So we headed quickly towards Tasty Snacks in Boroughbridge fearing we may miss the closing time deadline. Just in time we were plied with more tea with scones & bakewell tart. Not long after Eric and his daughter, Michelle, joined us, to the apparent consternation of Sonia, who was, however, fortunately persuaded to serve them refreshments before we headed for home along the usual road through Minscip & Staveley. Despite the disappointing dull/overcast weather the "Tour of the Grand Halls" of North Yorkshire was enjoyable. A little different from our usual rides and we still completed 56 miles after all. Dave W