

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride Report

Unlike last week, the weather forecast didn't look too bad until later and so eighteen Poddlers left Hornbeam in two uneven, but manageable groups, heading to Knaresborough via a slightly circuitous route through the Showground and down the cycle path to the bottom of Hookstone Chase. After waving to a sizable group of EGs the usual route round Knaresborough and out to Farnham was taken and then on to Arkendale, Marton and by means of a left turn along the Boroughbridge/York Road and the first right turn went onto the Dunsforths and Great Ouseburn. At this point the first group were joined by the second group who had omitted the Dunsforth Loop, despite protestations from Alison and Caroline who clearly wanted to do the full mileage!! Progress was then made via Thorp Underwood, Whixley, across the A 59 and the railway line to Walshford and south towards Wetherby on the cycle path alongside the old A1. The lead group then split near Cowthorpe with those wanting an early bath returning to Harrogate via Little Ribston and Spofforth, leaving the remain four to go to Wetherby for a well-earned Cafe stop at the North Street Deli. There being no sign of the Alison's group we headed back along the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot and our respective home towns. Although the wind became difficult at times we stayed reasonably dry apart from a very short shower in Wetherby and I hope everyone had a good ride, although I offer my apologies that the piece of string I used to estimate the distance before we set off, must have had some elasticity in it as I was wildly out and we covered rather more miles than anticipated! James G



Wednesday Ride Report

Being the second Weds of the month, it was to Timble's Coffee Morning that Richard, Stuart, Andrew and Terry S set off. The pace out through Burn Bridge and up Brackenthwaite Lane soon proved too hot for Stuart and Terry who opted for their own rate of progress. The gated road from Lindley brought the group back together, after which we made our own pace up Norwood Bank. Thence to Timble and a very friendly welcome, plus the usual plate of cakes and two cups of tea/coffee each. During our visit we learned that the coffee mornings will continue through the winter, which is excellent news. Over coffee Richard, Stuart and Adnrew opted for an early finish, all with things to do after lunch. Terry opted for a long ride and headed solo via West End and Greenhow to Pateley in the hope of catching the other longer ride. Beyond West End there is a road closure on Hoodstorth Lane while they build a new bridge over the Washburn, but a temporary pedestrian bridge works just fine for bikes. The weather over the top was boisterous to say the least. No sign of Wheel Easy in Teacups, so a leisurely lunch followed. On to Fountains for

afternoon tea. Opting for the moor road up past Madge Hill gave the weather the opportunity to chuck most things my way - brisk showers, hail, sun and rainbows all driven by a strengthening wind. It was a slog up to the turn for the track, but after turning with the wind behind, there was no need to pedal - I simply had to sit up, get as much sail on as possible and freewheel to the Ripon road. Fountains was really stunning: the sky had cleared to blue, the sun lit the lake and the tea was good. The sun and the sky held all the way back to Harrogate, giving the most stunning views of the North York Moors - an excellent payback for the slogging needed earlier on; 56 miles in all. Terry S.

Wheel Easy Ride Report

Five of us followed Colin's suggestion of a ride to Pateley via Thornthwaite. We "captured" a Poddler who rode the ride effortlessly! Colin took us on a route past a tiny church and a road where we could see a pretty packhorse bridge hidden in the woods. We mostly skirted any threatening weather, warded off by Martin D donning his rain jacket, one of his many chivalrous gestures of the day. Tea Cups in Pateley provided us with excellent sustenance to climb our way out of Smelthouses, up to Brimham and then the glorious run with the wind behind us to Warsill and Ripley. Fabulous ride, new bits for some of us, a first for Jennifer to ride to Pateley and fantastic colourful views in all directions. As Phil S said, "it doesn't get much better than this and it is all on our doorstep" Thanks Colin, 40 miles, some challenging, the final miles just a breeze. Gia M



EGs' Ride Report

It was a strange weather forecast, a bit like the Curates egg: good in parts. But it did not deter the sixteen riders meeting at Low Bridge from making use of the Autumn weather before Winter had a go at us. In view of the wind direction it was decided to head up Wharfedale to return with the wind on our backs. Good to see Peter R and Theo back with the EGs after both having a "blip" on their radar. Also best wishes to Janice Whale and Pam Watson from the EGs. So on to Wetherby, Morrisons being the only cafe to take sixteen appetites without cafe shock. For a change the route was via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth and Kirk Deighton. In the cafe Dan took over from an absent Eric to consume a full cooked breakfast followed by a large slab of gooey cake. Bob S and Roy returned home from here. Then on to the Sicklinghall ridge, the downhill freewheel challenge was again won by Dave (wonderwheels) Siswick, despite having top riders in the peloton (is there no stopping this man?). Bash, JR and Phil left to return via Kirkby Overblow, did they miss the rain?. Rain it did and Pool seemed aptly named, however it eased off and an emergency stop was not needed in Otley, Colin and Dave W having to leave us her, then it was on to Cockpit Cafe for soup, beans (a bowl in fact) and other goodies.(note winter opening times effective from

November). The climb up Askwith hill to the ridge was quite warm, sunny in fact, but it was a different climate on the ridge, as Dave P, Dave S, Dan, Marvin, Michael, Peter J, Peter R and Theo stopped to admire the view (and it was magnificent) it was into the headwind. Then the rain, then the hail, but after the Timble turn it was mostly wind assist to Fewston and a super descent to Beckwithshaw in clear blue skies. A good ride of around 45/47 quality miles, with an assortment of weather conditions which tests kit and determination. Dave P.

