

Wednesday, December 4, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

Eighteen Poddlers set off in the sunshine through the Showground, round Ridding Park and on to Kirby Overblow. Then down to the Leeds/Harrogate road, round the roundabout and down through Burn Bridge. Here the going got tough as we ascended up to the top, with splendid views all around. Beckwithshaw beckoned, and along to the army training camp, turning left onto Penny Pot Lane. Here John W left us, leaving seventeen riders, until another seven turned off towards Hampsthwaite, Sophies and home calling them. The final ten stopped at the end of Pennypot Lane to enjoy further stunning views, before we headed for Little Almscliffe, and hence downwards and homewards. 27 miles . Ian A



Wednesday Ride Report

Ten of us headed for the Foundry Cafe at Boroughbridge, using the Bishop Monkton, Roelcliffe route on the way out. A puncture held some of us up at Farnham, but even that turned into an excuse for more chat whilst Kevin and Colin sorted the puncture out. The weather was glorious for this time of year, with clear blue skies providing great views. Some of the talk in the cafe was about another Wheel Easy Slovenia tour for 2014. The others left, leaving Yvonne waited for Martin to arrive (from a meeting). No idea what route they used but under such a blue sky, with good company, good cycling, anything would have been good. Yvonne S

As ten riders gathered at Hornbeam it was agreed that it would be a flat ride today and so it turned out-in more ways than one! Setting off to Knaresborough to Low Bridge and the usual few minutes banter with the EG's, then along Abbey Road and making our way out to Farnham and the back roads. Going up the hill Kevin punctured and six others stopped to help (along with two spectator builders!) . After getting the new tube in place it refused to inflate and it was up to Yvonne to save the day and loan Kevin her spare before we could get back on the road.

The prolonged stop meant that Gia, Paul and Angela were well ahead and the revised plan was to meet up at the Boroughbridge. Good progress was made as Terry set a very EG like pace and we were soon on our way through Bishop Monkton and Roelcliffe to reach our caffeine rendezvous at the Old Foundry.

After a quick chat with the lead group they set off as Paul had more misery to prepare for this evening(he was off to the Stadium of Light) and the others wanted to ensure he didn't call off. After refreshment we set off through Minskip in to a cold wind through Staveley, Scriven and then into Knaresborough and back home via the re-surfaced Beryl Burton- a great improvement. It was a fraught ride in the early stages (for me anyway!) but a wonderfully clear day with low sun the

only major problem. A real great day to be out on a bike this late in the year. Thanks to everyone for the help with the puncture and especially Yvonne for the loan. 34 miles in supportive company!
Kevin D

Long Ride Report

With dire forecasts for the next few days, today's sunshine was to be made the most of. The original plan was to head for York via Tadcaster, aiming to be back for 3.30. Conviviality and the sunshine made for gentle progress along Rudgate towards Tadcaster, taking in the author's short cut into the trading estate. Not wanting to tax Richard S's recovering wrist too much, we called at the Wise Owl community cafe in Boston Spa village hall. Staffed by volunteers, this project is well worth a visit, not least because the scones are in the top 3 locally according to the Sacre index. Furthermore, the tea is served in china cups. Lesley and Richard headed home after the cafe stop, while Richard P, Martin and I headed for Tadcaster, picking up Rudgate again. At Tadcaster, Martin headed off to visit friends while Richard and Terry reconsidered the aim of central York. Too far for a 3.30 return to Harrogate, we thought, so Copmanthorpe became the goal - almost York! Having had a dry autumn so far, the bridle path short cut from Bolton Percy to Appleton Roebuck looked a good prospect. All was fine until the last 100m, when Terry hit a patch of slurry, forming a cement that quickly gummed up the brakes. Ten minutes later it was rideable again, but a bit noisy. Good clean needed today. Copmanthorpe proved to have a gem of a cafe - Little Acorns in Main Street. Welcoming and reasonably priced, the bacon bap and scrambled egg with goat's cheese on wholemeal (Posh Nosh they called it) set us up nicely for the ride home. The wind had freshened, it seemed, and was now definitely in our faces to Askham Richard, Long Marston and Tockwith. After that came a slog along the B1224 towards Wetherby, accompanied by the strobe effect of the low sun through trees and hedges which made concentration even harder. After Wetherby the sun began to set giving relief from the strobe, but not the wind. But Spofforth and Follifoot soon came and went, leaving just the climb out of the Showground to complete the day. We bade our farewells at 4.00 after we agreed that the day had been a December bonus: 60 miles in sunshine, comfortable temperatures, two good cafes and convivial company. And some climbing, 1470 ft (450m) according to Strava - it's amazing how much "up" there is in all those up-and-over bridges on a flat ride. Terry S.



EGs' Ride Report

It was a brilliant and accurate weather forecast (sun and blue skies) so the sixteen riders who gathered at Low Bridge Carpe Diem-ed and headed for Stump Cross Caverns Cafe. Amongst the riders was a record number of Dave`s, five in all. However amongst the riders was a majority of the seriously fit and fast, so this happy bunch was put in the tender care of Eric and Peter J. Away

went these eleven riders followed by a more sedate group of five consisting of Dave P, Peter B, Norman, Roy, and Theo (on gears). So it was back up the Beryl Burton track to Knox and Hampsthwaite, unfortunately for Roy (our hearts bled for him) there was no stop at Sophie`s cafe. At Duck Street we picked up Dave Wilson (who had applied for a transfer to the second team), we were now up to six, however at Meagill Bridle Path, Peter B caught a whiff of chip fat from Dunny`s cafe and headed for Otley, back to five again. The climb then continued to Greenhow, which considering that we set off from the bonny banks of the Nidd must have been in the order of 1,300 feet total. The views across the moors were fantastic, sun blue sky, wisps of smoke from burning off of the heather, must be some of the best scenery in England. In the cafe (only open because of the good weather "lucky DP") the fit and fast were just leaving. Roll call being taken, the ten consisted of Chris, Colin, Dave R, Dave S, Dave W, Eric, Nick, Marvin, Peter J, and Phil S. Away they went, the sonic booms could be heard in the distance, this meant Eric arrived home at 2.10pm in time to put in two hours in the garden a-diggin and a-pickin, some guys have all the luck. The remaining five tucked in to Beans on Toast, Sausage and Bacon sandwiches, and for Roy, Steak and Ale Pie, Chips and Peas to compensate for the Sophie`s bypass. What was in said Steak and Ale Pie we don't know but Roy was on fire on the swoop down return. Dave P and Norman at the back were more out of breath than on the climb. To start the Festive Season, a sort of warm up for Wheel Easy Christmas Din Din it was in to DP`s for a Malt Whisky tasting, lights were not necessary on leaving, as the riders had developed a warm glow about them. Dave P