

Wednesday, December 11, 2013

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

It was very misty, maybe even foggy, when we arrived at Hornbeam. The forecast implied that the sun would probably burn off the mist a bit later. Good turnout, and after being shepherded to the correct part of the car park, 17 opted for poddling. We reinforced the message that we should not all ride in a big, vague bunch, but we should leave space between groups to allow cars to overtake. This message was taken to heart, and we split into 3 sub-groups for pretty much the whole ride. We went to Knox via ASDA car park and cycle path along the railway, thus avoiding Skipton Road. The mist had not lifted. Thence to Hampsthwaite and up the hill on the south side of the Nidd to Clapham Green; the mist still had not lifted, and many had cold hands and feet. Onwards and upwards towards Menwith Hill Camp, and, lo and behold, the mist lifted and the sun shone, and everyone enjoyed views for the first time on this poddle. We headed south and crossed the A59 at Dangerous Corner, and shortly descended into the mist... James left us at Penny Pot Lane, but we continued past the Sun Inn (where there was no sun...) and turned left on to Watsons Lane and then left again along Broad Dubb Road up to Little Alms Cliff and the car park at Stainburn Woods. The wind turbines on Penny Pot Lane were clearly visible, with the masts sticking out of what seemed to be the clouds. The photo was taken in the mist at the car park, and visibility decreased markedly as we descended Norwood Lane and turned left to Beckwithshaw and right on Otley Road. Several members carried on into Harrogate that way, but we turned down Howhill Road towards the Squinting Cat and back past Rossett School. About 23 miles. CPS.



Wednesday Ride Report

Fantastic Wednesday ride today, fog, bright sunshine, fog, bright sunshine, fog, then someone said something about cracking the flags and so it was that we returned home in bright sunshine. William and Mark chased us up to Stainburn Woods for a climb somewhere near Bolton Abbey while the rest of us cycled on to Fewston. Well we thought that was where we were all going but Martin and John felt the temptation of Sophie's and turned right for Hampsthwaite. We found our way up in sunshine to the top of Askwith, then gingerly cycled along the top in the fog hoping not to miss our turn down to Otley. One of our team was anxious that we were passing a coffee stop but with Cockpit closed and Paul T in the lead coffee was always in the plan. So down we went to Otley then up to Farnley and down to Leathley for our coffee destination just outside Pool at the Farm Pantry. Excellent coffee stop, great service, good coffee and much hilarity about a previous ride where allegedly some of the group were abandoned at somewhere called Risplith. Anyway no hard feelings, much amusement and a great ride, home via Castley and Kirkby Overblow. A good 35 miles in great company as always. Gia



EGs Ride Report

Well it was sunny on Harlow Hill, but from the seventeen riders (including a set of five Daves) that gathered in the mist at Low Bridge few believed it. It was a bit raw, to put it mildly and thoughts turned to hot coffee rather than route. So it was on to Angela`s first priority, in small groups. Seventeen Wheel -Easy plus six of North Yorkshires finest completely filled the cafe. Nice to see Bill W back again after a nasty bug, to make him welcome Norman read him a story (see photo) from the Playboy Christmas Album. After caffeine and calories it was decided to head south, did it look brighter that way ????. Bill and Norman headed for Boroughbridge, and a bit later so did Eric. For the rest it was through the Dunsforths, Great Ouseburn and Thorpe Underwood. Chris had entered in to the Christmas Spirit by wearing bells on his ankles (so we should have music wherever he goes), unfortunately this initially resulted in riders stopping and examining the mechanical bits on their bikes to see if they were causing the noise problem. Where these bells came from nobody knew. Perhaps whipped from Santas Sleigh when it was in for an M.O.T. Or perhaps from an Exotic Dancer while her attention was distracted as she picked up her discarded raiment's. At Thorpe Underwood Dave Watson donned the yellow jersey, became Tete the Course and took the pelaton through, Green Hammerton, Kirk Hammerton, Tockwith and Walton to Wetherby via the road, Peter B choosing the cycle path and hurdling a fallen tree. We now had eleven riders in to Morrisons for late lunch, bacon sandwiches, a belated sausage sandwich, scrambled eggs, and baked beans (we know how to live) all this before we OD on turkey. After which it was back (in the winter sunshine) via the road to Spofforth, Peter B again choosing the cyclepath (is he a pyscolopath) and Harrogate. In to Harrogate for around 2-45pm , in the Winter sun with about 48/49 miles in our wheels. Not bad for a winter ride. Dave P.



