

Wednesday, January 1, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

On the 12th day of Christmas my true love sent to me.....

12 brave cyclists at Hornbeam,

11 new gadgets gleaming,

10 routes a mentioned,

9 cafes closed,

8 fingers freezing,

7 uppy downies,

6 layers of clothing,

5 golden Poddlers,

4 going onwards,

3 storm clouds agathering,

2 wheels escaping,

And 1 carefree cycling New Year to everyone. CG

Wednesday Ride Report

There were some reports of icy patches around & the weather forecast predicted heavy rain & wind for later in the morning so the suggestion of going to Boroughbridge & Ripon & then deciding from there was agreed among the 6 who opted for the longer ride today. We headed for Low Bridge at Knaresborough to see if there were any EGs out today, but there was nobody there as we went past. Fortunately there were no further signs of ice & we made swift progress to Boroughbridge via Arkendale & Marton. As we approached Ripon the light rain that had been predicted arrived, but we got to Morrisons in Ripon for coffee relatively dry. By the time we set off again the heavy rain arrived & it was heads down & "let's get home" as quickly as possible. We did remind ourselves that we did this for fun as we pedalled for home, but it was an invigorating ride of approx 35 miles to start the new year. Jill F.

Another Wednesday Ride Report

On reflection, the ride to the east by 6 persons of sound mind proved to be a battle between hope and experience. We all hoped that the rain might be slower arriving than forecast, but experience gave us a ride of two halves, rather like sandpaper - wet and dry - with the rain arriving on cue before 11.00. The outward leg featured a familiar route to Boro'bridge via Ferensby, Arkendale, Marton-cum-Grafton and Aldborough. The views might have interested a Dutch landscape painter, but to us they were just water-logged fields. Light rain was falling by the time we reached a very quiet Boro'bridge, where brief consultation concluded that Ripon via Newby Hall would be the best bet for a choice of cafe stop. Pausing in the now steady rain at the Skell bridge, Morrison's proved to be the popular, if not unanimous, choice. Shelter for riders and bikes proved very welcome, while cake and butties revived the spirits enough for a quick dismissal of HS2 and the curse of political decision-making by "group think". Mercifully, the option of returning via Fountains and Ripley was also quickly dismissed in favour of the shortest and hopefully least soggy route. Into the wind and the increasingly heavy rain, the ride was dubbed "character-building" - a good test of resolve on the Day of Resolutions. In that frame of mind Littlethorpe, Bishop Monkton, Occaney and Knaresborough seemed to come fairly quickly, as did the final climb to the Golf Club and home. No clear crisp Boxing Day weather this week but, at least, ice wasn't an issue. No salt to wash off the bikes, but we've plenty of other muck to shift before the next ride. Well done to Steve who battled the elements and the drag of his MTB's knobbles for far longer than his usual range and thanks to Phil and Jill for piloting us round the 37 miles at something around 13.5 average. The other persons of sound mind but seriously damp clothing were Martin, Dave R and myself. Terry S.

EGs Ride Report

The poor weather forecast was unfortunately accurate. On the way down to Low Bridge a group of Wheel Easy riders comprising Dennis, JR , James and Caroline could be seen heading for the high ground (had they had a quick word from Noah regarding the floods forecasted ?) At Low Bridge it was deserted as 10-30 am, the New Years concession meet time for EG`s who like to boogie into the early hours of 2014, approached. So a solitary DP took a selfie. Suddenly we had Bob S, Peter J, Jill J, Dave Wilson so we had a group picture. Then along Waterside where Dave Wilson punctured, or did he ?, no matter an inner tube was changed, this delay enabled Dan to catch us up. Dave Watson was missing due to Pam having a fall, so best wishes for 2014 to them both and a speedy recovery for Pam. The intention had been to pick up caffeine in Boroughbridge, however the rain it were a raininging and the weather it were a worsening, so PJ suggested head for Ripley this was fully agreed with and he led us out via Breaton on a nice little route. At Ripley he offered to lead us up the dale to some hills in the driving rain, this offer was politely declined. Then past all the muddy, sweaty cyclo crossers through the full carparks and up the Greenway to met Malcolm and Gia coming the other way, so it was, exchange of greetings and best wishes for 2014 plus a photo. Despite the weather there was satisfaction in getting some miles in on the first day of the year. Around 24 miles without a coffee break. It has been suggested by some bodies that the public should try to make January 2014 alcohol free, I might just manage this, but never coffee free. Dave P.





