

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

The weather forecast indicated an optimistic sunny interval due mid-morning. Seventeen Poddlers emerged from the somewhat misty environs of Hornbeam. Unfortunately, Co-pilot John Wood was unable to play today and he would have led the zippy Poddlers. However, the noble Dave Griffin managed to decipher my route plan and nine keen and speedy riders followed him from the car park and were not seen again. Thank you, Dave and hope all went well. Meantime, we welcomed Chris (from t' other side o' Pennines but who has now settled in "God's Own") and Jennie who can ride pretty fast but who nobly threw her hand in. We set off briskly and managed to negotiate the crossing of the ringroad in safety. However, upon reaching the gap in the hedge in order to ride along the old road, we found ourselves in a jam. Five gentlemen cyclists were heading for Knaresborough and waited while we scrambled onto the path. They were rather surprised to see us and asked if we were lost. One courageous WE member asked if we were on the right path for Liverpool and one of their group hinted that they were en route for York. There was some doubt as to the veracity of this as one of our ladies felt sure they were bound for coffee in Knaresborough having come from Harrogate and returning to same... Mmmmm! All good fun and the ride continued cheerfully with conversation ranging from the Sunday's joyous walk to Sunday's equally joyous ride. There was the occasional glimmer of sunshine as we pedalled through Nidd. Here the decision re coffee was made and the group split equally with Liz, Lynda and Jennie taking James to the Ripley pitstop. Caroline, Dennis and I continued with Chris who hadn't used the Greenway before and seemed quite taken with seeing what N Yorks can offer – no dark satanic mills 'ere! A very pleasant morning, thankyou. Sue Downes

Hornbeam to Follifoot via Thistle Hill and old road from ring >Spofforth> Little Ribston>Knaresborough>A6055>Scriven>Lingerfield>Scotton>Brearton/Nidd>Ripley> Greenway> any route from Greenway 25 miles



Wednesday Ride Report

After Kirby Overblow the front rider was reminded that travelling East was extending the ride to Ilkley so a drop down to Netherby brought us right for Pool. But the Ilkley skies looked awful so we swapped Old Pool Bank for double chevrons of Arthington. Overtook the LCC roadsweeper in training for tdf on a minor road, hoping he would visit NY and continued through Weardley and Stanks to Harewood VH new café. 5* Masham marmalade with 1* white bread. A good find of Kevin, whom we allowed to order first, even though his group had not done the miles (maybe later on a full tum). Dave R found our climbing pace too poor so left us, as Terry took on the lead on his patch, through Bardsey, sweet smelling Tad and Ribston, observing snowdrops at Calcutt, reminding us that for once it was neither cold nor damp at 3pm. 58m. Richard P. HIC free tickets re tdf talk 1045 Thursday 27/3/2014 now available via Advertiser website. Velodrome spaces available re 1300 Tuesday 21/1/2014.

Medium Ride Report

A grey damp day saw a smaller than usual number of riders gathering at Hornbeam and once the super organized Poddlers had handed out their route plan and sped off we were left with just 4 trying to agree a route as no prior plan had been agreed. There was a rumour of a new café in Harewood (the Muddy Boots) so a plan was hatched to ride there and market test it. However the difficulty was in agreeing a route. Kevin proposed a loop through Wetherby and Collingham and with no alternative we set off. The early part of the ride through the showground, Spofforth, Kirk Deighton was fine and the cycle path round Wetherby worked well but the A58 route was not the 'leafy country lane' we were used to and a speedy ride to Harewood was mixed with mutterings of mutiny and the potential for a ritual flogging of the ride Leader if the café wasn't up to Paul's standard. We parked up and entered in and were welcomed and enjoyed a full English, bacon sandwich cake and coffees between us and it seemed to satisfy the 4 Amigos as they smiled as they set off again. The word had obviously spread (or they had been listening to our chat at Hornbeam) as the Long ride arrived just after us (they had probably been via Pateley Bridge in the time it had taken us to get there!) and they also seemed happy with the fayre on offer. A deserter from the Long ride, who needed to be back early, joined us as we set off to take us up to five in number on the bridleway through Harewood House and over the bridge and then back via Kirby Overblow, Pannal and the Showground. Paul T left us at Walton Park and we then realized we had forgotten to take a photo so you have been spared our mugshots for this week! The weather held up, too much main road riding in the early part but Muddy Boots is worth trying out. We agreed with more Poddler-like planning we could find a pleasant route there and back. Thanks for sticking with it Colin, John and Paul T – an interesting ride 32 Miles Sue & Kevin

EG's Ride Report

It was in great trepidation that the dozen EGs left Low Bridge this morning; we had no leader, (hope you get rid of that bug, Dave, before your hols), there was no deputy leader either (best wishes to your wife, Dave, for her speedy recovery), and no real agenda. Talk was of Easingwold as we headed off with no great sense of purpose. Shunning our more usual wateringholes we continued into the unknown, saying cheerio to Chris (you hadn't got your pass stamped, had you?) and finding ourselves at the excellent Benningborough cafe for a leisurely cake and cuppa. We all agreed Boroughbridge as our next destination, but still some turned left, some turned right, on leaving. We weren't exactly lost, we've been here loads of times, we just didn't know the way. My group had a most furious blast, accidentally taking in Easingwold, and catching our colleagues just outside Boroughbridge. They were having a lovely peaceable ride. Some stopped for further refreshment, but not the furious six, who could not stop themselves by now from raging on back to base. We had a splendid day, and thanks to all concerned: Theo, Norman, Terry, Bob, John (R), Colin, Dave Wilson, Phil, Peter and Dan (nice to see you out again Dan, after your Christmas commitments. About 50 Miles. Dave S