

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride Report

Despite the dismal weather 13 or so Poddlers left Hornbeam in optimistic mood that the forecast would prove correct and headed off in dribs and drabs via Rossett, Lund House Green and Beckwithshaw for the first re-grouping at Stainburn Car Park, by which time the initial optimism was wearing thin as the mist got thicker and thicker the further west we progressed. However soon after leaving Stainburn the mist started to clear and the forecast proved remarkably accurate with the sun putting in a guest appearance later in the morning. After heading past the Sun Inn, Caroline and Sue D opted for a quick return via Penny Pot whilst the rest after a few ups and downs hit the A59, turn left and right past Fewston cemetery (without calling in!) and took the gated road to Foremost School. At this escape point Dennis Gordon Bash and Max left to return past Menwith Hill and the direct route to Hampsthwaite and home whilst the remaining diehards went down towards Thornthwaite and took the valley roads through Darley, Birstwith and Clint to Hampsthwaite and a welcome stop at Sophie's. After a final pull up Hollins Lane we split with some returning home through Knox and others via Killinghall and the Greenway. After a grey start the sun eventually shone on the righteous and a good 25/30 mile ride (depending on the accuracy of your milometer) was had by all. Thanks to everyone for their support and company and to Dave for back marking and breaking the habit of a lifetime to stop for a coffee! Photo of the surviving group in Birstwith courtesy of Liz P – thanks Liz. James G



Wednesday Ride Report

On a foggy Wednesday morning after a bit of faffing around with lights four of us set off in the direction of Low Bridge Knaresborough en route to Boroughbridge. The fog was quick to lift despite there being hardly any wind and we bowled along to the Old Foundry Kitchen where it was fruit toast all round. John and Paul who both had time restraints then headed off back the quick way whilst Kevin and myself with a little more time decided to return via Ripon making the most of a relatively bright winter cycling day. Despite still being Garminless I was assured it was a good 38 miles at 11.9mph. Angela

Long and Hilly Ride Report

A furious five - some faster than others - set off through the mist, bound for Pateley. Before Beckwithshaw, we'd caught stragglers from earlier groups and greeted each with friendly hellos, before heading for Pennypot. Along Pennypot Lane, Richard was unshipped by a ridge in the carriageway which deposited him into the soft verge. Luckily, no injuries or damage resulted, but it's one to watch for on Pennypot, as is the dead badger a little further along. Menwith was reached

by a meander or two through the Kettlesings, which led to a brief conference on the intended route for the day. Mercifully, the sun broke through after Menwith, giving us some interesting atmospheric views as Ripley and Burnt Yates emerged from the mist. Spirits cheered, we headed for Darley, Dacre and Summerbridge, where the real agenda for the day became clearer - hills and plenty of them. Hartwith Bank came first and soon split the bunch, giving a longer banana break for the leaders. Then it was downhill to Pateley through Smelthouses and, unusually perhaps, the high street.

With Teacups in sight, the leaders peeled off on the Lofthouse road, producing a cold shudder in the back marker as the prospect of lunch in Masham and the climb over Lofthouse Moor dawned. But it was only one of Richard's extra loops to sharpen the appetite. The Heathfield loop is a steady slog up to the top and then a slippery descent to Gouthwaite - interesting, but it needs care. Even more interesting was the announcement by one of the group that his front brake wasn't working very well. Then it really was lunchtime. Over lunch, taken pudding first by several in the group, topics were varied but perhaps the most out-of-the ordinary was a look at the problems of disposing of mercury safely. After lunch, only one route option was on offer - Yorke's Folly. Again, another well-split bunch emerged, giving a long photo break this time (see below). With the agenda completed, we headed back for Menwith and various routes to Harrogate, including the Killinghall by-pass otherwise known as Malt Kiln Lane. Thanks to all for an enjoyable ride, with plenty of route mystery to encourage return visits before too long. About 50 miles ridden and, Strava says, over 4000 ft of climbing. It felt like more to me! Terry S.



EG's Ride Report

We did have a ride out to Angela's, and on to Topcliffe; some left for home via Ripon, some went on, who knows where? We're leaderless and rudderless without the Daves. Dave S.

Visit to the Velodrome

Eleven Wheel Easy members had a great day out at Manchester Velodrome on Tuesday, Chris Bishop, Colin Pritchard, Darren Warner, Eric Waters, James Grimshaw, Marvin Hurst, Nick Morton, Peter Jackson, Richard Pugh, Theo Tomkin and Tony Platt. We were joined by Rob Waterhouse, who came to spectate as he was already in Manchester.

Graham Turner unfortunately had to drop out on the morning, due to the recurrence of an injury. The more enthusiastic and brave were straight out onto the track, those new to the discipline or less experienced were instructed into the etiquette of track riding by Paul Morphet, the coach provided by the Velodrome.

Towards the end of the session we had a 'sprint'. Fastest was Tony, followed by Darren and Chris. The session seemed to be over in a very short time.

We were followed onto the track by some more experienced riders as the photos show. Marvin







