

Wednesday, April 2, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

On a murky and misty Wednesday morning ten stalwart Poddlers set off from Hornbeam heading for a circular tour round to Hampsthwaite and whilst nine of us went through Hornbeam and along the new path into the Showground, Max headed off to collect more head gear. Having got everyone past Fodders without stopping we headed down the Stonefall Cycle Path to avoid the worst of the deteriorating surface of Hookstone Chase and over Forest Moor to re-group and collect Max at Low Bridge.

The mist seemed to lift a bit as we progressed round Knaresborough along the usual route via Chain Lane and headed out to Farnham, where we turned left, making a change to the usual turn right up the hill, and headed through Lingerfield and Scotton, having a brief halt outside the Guy Fawkes to debate the quality of the fare in that establishment following its refurbishment. After a brief spell along the Ripley Road we turned right and headed passed Brearton, with a short stop for those who had coffee with them and for photos with a daffodil background courtesy of Geraldine, although I did manage to find the only spot in the road with puddles for us to stand in! Onwards through Nidd and into Ripley where the majority headed for home leaving four of us to carry on through Holly Bank Wood on the wonderful new path, down Clint Bank and in Hampsthwaite, to enjoy the delights of Sophie's, after which we headed home via the Greenway or Knox Bridge, depending on where home was. A leisurely 25 miles in the usual good company. Thanks to all who came and to Geraldine for the photos. James G



Wednesday Ride

One Misty moisty morning, when cloudy was the weather..... Sue Courture led us all together along to Burnbridge, Kirby Overblow, and Pool Bridge. After a very pleasant coffee stop at the Pantry, we climbed up to Farnley, over Lindley Bridge up to the B road, and down Brackenthwaite Lane. It was a quality 25 miles with eleven riders, including our most welcome, new member, Beth. Martin W

Long Ride

Five set off into the chilly mist bound for Ilkley for coffee and aiming to climb over Cow and Calf to work up an appetite for lunch at Muddy boots café in Harewood's village hall. The hope was that the mist would lift or burn off as the day progressed. How wrong can you be! When we climbed it seemed that we were into the cloud – literally true on Ilkley Moor. An ex-colleague of Richard and Lesley, another Richard, joined us today as part of preparation for an end-to-end in July. The conditions were somewhat testing, resulting in an early finish, but we hope to see him again soon.

The scenic route to Ilkley via North Rigton, Leathley, Otley took us past Cockpit Farm café, now open for extended summer (sic) hours. Of course, there was no scenery to see, so it was heads down until the coffee stop at the excellent Christchurch café on The Grove, Ilkley. We would have liked to stop for photo by Cow & Calf but there really was no point. Once through Menston, David R headed for home via Otley, leaving four to enter the cloud base again past the newly re-opened Royalty pub. In Bramhope, Richard took a direct route back through Pool. Just three headed for Harewood for lunch, taking the opportunity to sneak into the estate along the route of the Tour and wondering how all those vehicles and cyclists are going to get along such narrow estate roads. After lunch, it was clear that we were going to have low cloud and mist for the rest of the day, so after braving the A659 for only as long as was necessary, we headed back through quieter lanes to Collingham, Wetherby, Spofforth and Follifoot, thence to homes.

Stats: c 55 miles; 4100 ft of ascent, (according to gb.mapometer.com and subject audit).

Terry Smith



EGs' Ride

The day started with not a good weather forecast for old men. The forecast started with Saharan Sand, not something you want in your front and rear mech`s. It then progressed to air pollution, and advice to the elderly not to venture out in it, and especially not to take strenuous exercise in it, this meant the EG`s would have to stay in with cocoa and slippers and get in the way of ladies doing what ladies do, or down the pub.

But with certain EGs surviving the "Leeds Killer Smogs" who cared? A heavy shower on Harlow Hill, lots of riders in Hornbeam car park and thirteen EG`s at Low Bridge, where beside welcoming Roger to our group we found ourselves with a spare Max, just as well as the Poddler`s seemed to have misplaced one.

Then on to Angela`s cafe in group`s - yes we did after some encouragement. The first arrivals found some nervous York Wednesday Wheelers wondering if we had come to rob them of their toasted teacakes and would there be room for both groups. Eric as diplomatic as ever offered to move the EG`s on to another cafe, but Angela insisted we stay (our money being as good as anybody`s).

The service was slick, and we were on our way before the York group was up to full strength (see photo of bikes at cafe just like the 50`s/60`s).

Then East to Grafton, and South through the Dunsforths to Whixley village and on to Wetherby and Morrison`s Cafe, up to their usual service standards, i.e. Dave Watson`s beans on toast ready before he had taken his seat.

After lunch and a good chat, Dave W, Norman and Terry headed home via the Harland Way, the rest of us climbed the hill to take us on to the ridge to Sicklinghall and Kirkby Overblow. Our fit and fast members declined to put a Wharfedale loop on the ride, so it was home before the forecasted rain should arrive.

Nice little ride of around 40 miles, big miles got in on Sunday, with the Long, and Daffodil ride. Dave P.



