

Wednesday, April 9, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

Seventeen poddlers set off on an overcast morning, along the new cycle track, past Sainsburys and onwards to Forest Moor road and thus to Knaresborough. After passing the large group of EGs we cycled along by the river, through Scriven, Scotton, Nidd and on to Ripley. Liz (with her wrist and her plaster cast) had heroically ridden this far, and so she, ably accompanied by Sue W, decided to go for coffee and then return home. The rest of us continued to Hampsthwaite, where seven turned for home, leaving seven of us riding up to Kettlesing, Penny Pot Lane and finally swooping into Harrogate. 28 miles Jen A

Wednesday Ride

Paul T, Colin T, Bridget, Yvonne, Sue C and David on his third W.E ride set off to recce Sunday's Medium Plus route. A familiar route up to Timble and over to Thruscross reservoir and then onto a really beautiful and lesser known route with stunning views. Down to Darley and up to Birstwith and to Sophie's for tea and scones. Well worth the effort of a lumpy ride, snacks required to replenish before the tea stop. Sue C



EGs' Ride

We had fourteen riders at Low Bridge all ready to go. Including a full set of Dave`s: Dave P, Dave R, Dave S, Dave Watson, and Dave Wilson, though slightly down on Peter`s and an Eric. Destination Tadcaster, "ah", said Bob" the cycle friendly cafe was shut". So route change to Little Ribston, Cowthorpe, right at the bottom of Rudgate, Thorpe Arch and cafe takeover in Boston Spa.

Good coffee and gooey cake, then on to Clifford and Bramham, some fragmentation near Collingham, but all meeting up on Linton Green for a banana break.

Up on to the ridge to Sicklinghall. At Kearby Dave R, Peter R, and Phil (all lean and fast) hit the downhill into Wharfedale, followed by a more sedate two of Roy (back from skiing, full of Gluhwein, Strudel and energy) and Theo. The remainder after a few laughs headed for home via

Kirkby Overblow. Nice little ride of around 40 miles for the majority, and lots more for t` others.
Dave P



Long Ride

"Are we nearly there yet?" The question stung the ride leader's ears. Was the plan to work up a justifiable reason for two plates of cakes at Timble's coffee morning about to unravel? We were fifty minutes to closing and still had the Gated Road past Stainburn Forest, Norwood Bank and the

climbs to Fewston and Timble to do. However, fear works wonders sometimes and we all swanned into the crowded and coal-fired warmth of the Robinson Library with 20 minutes left to do justice to the cakes. And justice was done! Sadly, the picture is blurred but the sole surviving piece of chocolate cake is (un)clear testimony to our efforts.

After Timble, the plan was to head for Kirkby Malzeard and the Rose Lea Café on Main Street. The café's website indicated it would be open, but Richard P had some doubts. Alternatives would be needed. Stuart left us for home at Pennypot Lane. In the event, after a switchback route from Timble, taking in Kettlesing, Birstwith, Burnt Yates, Bishop Thornton and Sawley, the group of five played for safety and called in at G&T's ice cream parlour at Risplith. The menu was more limited than the ride leader had hoped, focusing as it did on cakes rather than hot/cold snacks. Nevertheless, the curd tart was first class and did the job perfectly. Dropping the Kirkby Malzeard loop meant five miles along the B6265 into Ripon, giving Martin a chance to open up his carbon Trek to see what it would deliver when the hammer went down. After Ripon, more stately progress was made along the back lanes to Farnham and the turn for Knaresborough. Although never a cold day, the sun arrived on the way to Copgrove offering a glimpse of what might have been. After last week's encounter with the cloud base, we couldn't complain: scenery was seen. Lesley and Richard S headed for home at Halfpenny Lane, leaving Richard, Martin and Terry to climb the A59 into Starbeck and home.

Stats: 55-60 miles with 4400ft ascent, says Garmin, or 4100ft from Strava. Terry S