

Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers' Ride

About eighteen of us opted for Poddling on what promised to be a morning of good weather. Caroline had generously offered to assist me, and we split into two groups, with about twelve of us going first. We followed the nice new path through Hookstone Woods to the Showground, where we found preparations being made for the Flower Show. Down the Showground hill and through the open gate down to the Travellers' Rest and on to Rudding, Follifoot and Spofforth. The sun had started to shine and it got warmer as we took the Harland Way to Wetherby, where Dennis left us. Through Wetherby and along the cycle path next to the A1 towards Bramham, and then right over the A1 and right again towards Collingham along the lovely, quiet rolling road. Lots of oil-seed rape in full bloom, and Glyn thought he could smell the bluebells in the woods, but fortunately neither set off his hay fever. It was great to go down the hill into Collingham, rather than up it, and we crossed the A58 past the posh houses of Linton and towards Wetherby. Several Poddlers left us at the point where the Harland Way joins and headed back, leaving five of us to sample the delights of the North Street Deli. Max requested that the route back avoid the hill out of Knaresborough, so we retraced our steps along the Harland Way to Spofforth, Follifoot and Rudding. The traffic lights at the bottom of the hill were, as usual, unkind to us, and we were not afforded any benefit of a good head of speed to help us up the other side. Back through the Showground, where Max and I headed home, and the remaining three went back through Hookstone Woods to Hornbeam. About 30 miles. Joe S



Today the off bike inspector was cycling with us in order to carry out the two yearly off bike inspection. And how lovely it was to have the big chief off bike inspector cycling with our group in particular. We could all have a good chat with her. This however is the report following the inspection.

A satisfactory ride with some lack of direction and not fully following the prescribed Joe Smith directions during the first part of the ride. It is a good idea to not try to kill two riders in the group as well as the off bike inspector during the inspection, however apologies were forthcoming and the culprit noted. Lack of a designated back marker was also remarked

upon, as was the fact that the back marking would probably be done by the leader as soon as the hills were reached, thus losing the leader momentarily.

The ride structure improved as the group neared half way and the ride plan was followed to the letter, thus providing good pedalling opportunities for all levels in the group. The riders rode enthusiastically and tried to follow the leaders instructions when she remembered to give them. The group seemed a little out of control when Tour de France like cheering was showered on an unsuspecting group of E.G.s who powered past looking for their first comfort break or coffee stop, control was eventually regained.

On the whole a good ride, marred slightly by dog dirt infested tracts and scattered glass...none of which were the riders faults. Sadly no coffee stop (we were all too exhausted to deviate and cycle into Wetherby and then back out following the route to the letter), which prevented the inspector giving a higher level, as this is an expected feature of a good ride. Lack of rain and a following wind gave the effect of good preparation and leadership...how I am not quite sure.

Thank you ladies and token man for your lovely performance....I think on the whole our inspection went quite well, and would welcome a rerun and return of the chief inspector at any time. 33.94 miles...thus out riding the faster Poddlers who arrived home only three seconds before this weeks ploddlers. Caroline G



Wednesday Ride

Eight riders departed Hornbeam in great weather with a plan to head to Ripon for coffee and decide on the rest of the route during refreshments, all of us having different time restraints. Blue skies and little wind were appreciated as we bowled along via Knaresborough and Burton Leonard. The 1st Martin, with the least time, shot off and left us just before Ripon where we descended on Café Nero who possibly have the best coffee. (We tea drinkers are not so choosy). On leaving the café, at my request, we headed for spa gardens to see the knitted bike which was very impressive and the knitted jersey bunting was fabulous. The 2nd Martin then left us for the quickest route back and we lost Colin shortly after as he headed off for Dallowgill Moor the weather being too good to miss a longer ride. We remaining five headed back via Studley Royal deer park where we had to wait to allow the biggest herd of deer ever to cross the road just in front of us. Back past Markington and the greenway to end with 33 wonderful spring miles clocked up and plenty of time left to get all those pressing jobs done. Angela





Long Ride

Long Ride Weds 24th April 2014

Six candidates drew up for the long ride, three of whom were called Richard. Obligingly they wore different colours of red, blue and yellow, which made for ease of recognition on the road. Earlier discussion of objectives (i.e. cafes) and routes had suggested the Howardians and Sutton-on-the-Forest, later modified to Terrington.

The outward leg through Low Bridge and Scriven came to stop with the cry of puncture from Richard-in-red, who unluckily had picked up an industrial-standard staple, for which even the Conti Gatorskin had no answer. Spurred on by a helpful but watchful audience, the job was done in under 20 minutes. What followed was a helter-skelter dash into Boroughbridge for the toilets. What an incentive!

My navigational error at Thornton Bridge redirected the route plan towards Ampleforth rather than Terrington, but still gave the option of the Howardians around Yearsley. For several of the riders this was new territory and drew appreciative comments as we climbed out of the vale and took in the views. However, wall-to-wall rapeseed flowers occasionally became overpowering – fortunately no-one seemed to suffer unduly from this.

Lunch came at Ampleforth, not at the Abbey but at Ample Hamper on the main street, where service was very pleasant, the food good and the prices very reasonable. Garmin devices featured heavily in the conversation while Marvin showed his expertise to Richard-in-blue.

On the return leg, we sampled the Howardians through Gilling East, where Richard-in-yellow led a short detour to look at the very impressive miniature railway operated by the Ryedale Society of Model Engineers. A steady climb up to Yearsley was followed by more stunning view across the vale and a high-speed descent towards the outskirts of Easingwold. Alne's fruit and veg stall provided a quick stop and allowed Marvin to treat us all to a punnet of strawberries – thank you Marvin.

At Aldwark Bridge we were duly counted by the attendant, after which steady progress followed through Great Ouseburn, Arkendale, Ferrensby and Knaresborough. The final slog up to the Golf Club on A59 was its usual self. Here the group bade its various farewells after a very enjoyable long ride of almost 70 miles, taking in 2680 ft ascent. Terry Smith



EGs' Ride

Not a bad forecast, sunny spells with some rain around three to four pm. As we waited at Low Bridge for the stroke of ten, Martin arrived with his group, with the intention of making for Ripon. We were heading for Wetherby (it's to the South). "Ah!" said Martin that's where the Barbarians are, which is of course the direction you take to get to Wales. Before the stroke of ten, we had a "bakers dozen", we are not superstitious. Away we went splitting up in to different paced groups. On the way in to Wetherby, Caroline could be seen doing a "Poddler" count. Morrison's was up to its usual good standards for caffeine and calories. Then it was on the cyclepath to Walton and Taddy, here Colin left us to head for Bramham and home.

The twelve just men and true, making for Bolton Percy and Acaster Selby. As usual the Ouse was flowing towards Cawood, but it was very low, and just about ready to turn and flow towards York (no time to wait). The ride through the old WW2 airfield was spectacular, both sides of the road covered in high rape seed. Acaster Malbis then the cyclepath to the Sun, then in to Rowntree Park cafe for afternoon tea/lunch (call it what you like).

After a literary lunch (children's books are the best), Peter J suggested Beningborough; good call. This was longer than the projected ride, which had a rain factor built in, but might as well go for it, as the sun was shining. Linton on Ouse, Aldwark Bridge and the usual banana break at Branton Green.

Nice to see Chris back with us (a few good one liners from him) but he seemed to have a thing about bananas ?. Here the conversation descended and will not be commented on.

A few spots of rain at Ferrensby, but it held off till we were all home.

A nice steady ride, flat route, comfortable pace, good weather, good company and around 65 miles max under our wheels. Dave P

PS photos by courtesy of Dave Siswick



