

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Wednesday Ride

The second Wednesday of the month usually means the coffee morning at Timble, but today the vote went to Masham via Brimham. Five set off led by Richard P and after a minor right-turn confrontation along Oatlands we eased along the Greenway to Ripley, taking note that the Wednesday cake volunteers would be on site in the church from 11.00. Out along Hollybank Lane, steady progress took us to the crossroads above Smelthouses, where Richard P - on a shorty this week - left us for Hartwith Bank and Summer Bridge. The remaining four set off for Dallowgill Moor, enjoying the fast descent to the Fellbeck turn and savouring the warmth that was building. On the moor top the haze prevented spectacular views across to the North York Moors but watching the shimmering heather dancing in the heat was a fair trade. We were also above the insect line, it seemed. The drop down into Laverton soon restored our dietary supplement, available in the form of ingested flies. A gentle ride through Kirkby M failed to reveal the location of Roselea Café. It has a digital presence on the internet, so another recce is called for.

Then to Masham, where Martin and his Trek attracted the attention of a reporter from TTTV who was looking for some cyclists. Lucky us - strangely we seemed to be the only ones around at the time. After some crowd scenes, we left Martin to handle the heat of an interview. At least two plugs of Wheel Easy were woven into the piece and there was a club fleece in shot. Assuming it makes the grade, it's going out on Friday in an item on Le Tour. With lunch and TV duties over, we opted not take the high road to Lofthouse but instead chose the low road, taking in Snape, Carthorpe, Wath and Hutton Conyers en route to Ripon. Here the siren call of the cakes at Ripley church drew us to Fountains and, to justify the treat, the couple of short steep climbs towards Drovers. Once at the top of Scarah Bank there was little doubt about the destination and the outcome, which in my case was the cherry and pineapple fruit loaf. Shades of Heaven. In the car park at Ripley, we merged with the returning WE ride from Wharfedale and Stump Cross and a convivial exchange of the day's enjoyment took place all along the Greenway back to town.

It was the season's first truly warm day and we revelled in it - 63 miles and 3300ft of climbing.

Terry Smith



Poddlers Ride

On a most welcome sunny, dry morning 14 Poddlers followed Steve onto leadhall lane, avoiding the M&S roadworks. At Burnbridge Jane and Kevin left us to return home via Brackenthwaite Lane [quite a hill!]. The remaining dozen enjoyed a scenic ride through Kirby Overblow, along to Sicklinghall and thus to Wetherby. Here we picked up the railway track to get onto the path by the

side of the old A1. At Walshford eight of us decided it was time to head for home. Steve and the others added in an extra loop out towards Cattal. All in all a very pleasant ride with the usual cheerful company. Alison N



Wednesday Ride

The Wednesday lot were remarkably well organised today. Terry' s group were heading to Masham, the Poddlers were led by Steve and Alison off to Wetherby and Walshford which left 13 of us to savour a ride postponed from last week.

Everything was in our favour, sunshine, little wind and a glorious route. Most of us rode to Ilkley via North Rigton, Otley and Askwith with two of our group arriving in Ilkley via Timble and Askwith Moor.

We sat outside at Ilkley spread between two adjacent cafes by the station where we were well looked after.

After Ilkley we left Paul to investigate the bike shop, JD, that has relocated, and the rest of us rode to Cavendish Pavilions and along the valley to Appletreewick. One of our group embellished the ride with a scenic detour but all was well and we arrived at Stump Cross for our second café stop.

With the slight wind behind us we sailed down Duck Street and taking a slightly longer route home most of us were drawn to Birstwith and Hollybank Woods and Ripley where we met up with Terry's Masham group and Malcolm who had enjoyed a gentle ride to Sophie's.

We all agreed that this is one of our finest routes, the views are wonderful, the space and peace remarkable. 58 miles, I am sure 1000's of feet of climbing but most of all probably our best ride of the year. Gia





EG's Ride

The weather forecast looked good, and by Jove it turned out even better.

So the twelve EG's, no messing headed for Angela's and that morning coffee (or tea) and the toasted teacakes.

Then it was on to Grafton, Boroughbridge and Cundall.

Approaching Topcliffe a silver "thingy" could be seen in the sky.

Could this be where the EG`s meet the ET`s, its a barrage balloon said the older riders (who could remember such things), but what its purpose was nobody knew. It certainly would not be barraging and it was not advertising.

Roy left us here to return via Ripon, with the 1st eleven continuing to Skipton-on-Swale, Pickhill, Maunby and Southeast to Kirby Wiske and Thirsk, where fish and chips were taken al fresco in the sunshine in the square. Then it was South to Dalton, Topcliffe again, Thornton Bridge and back to Boroughbridge, with only one rider electing to stop for tea. (now that`s unusual for an EG ride). Back to Knaresborough and Harrogate in that magnificent cycling weather, defined as wall to wall sunshine, little or no wind, and not too hot, though some did venture out with naked knees. A good flat mileage to wear in your bike saddles, the maximum, for them as living yon side of Harrogate just over seventy miles, though Low Bridge to Low Bridge would have been around 59 to 60 miles. Dave P







Now for something completely different. Especially for those who like that sort of thing.
Screen Superstar Eric with companions.
Video Superstar Eric with the celebrated Mimi la Bonk sitting on his crossbar, no that is not a euphemism, well you can if you like.
There`s more to the EG`s than just knarled knees and seeking out toilets.



