

Wednesday, May 21, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

Fifteen riders set out from Hornbeam, following David A leading his first ride. The cool of the morning soon gave way to a very warm ride. From the showground and Ridding we descended into Spofforth via Higgs Road and having caused a blockage at the entrance to Harland Way, our numbers, or was it our colour schemes caused surprise to the many dog walkers also enjoying the sunshine. At Wetherby a right turn took us to Linton and following the Wood Hall signs to Ebor Way and Tripp Lane. Having agreed that Wood Hall Hotel would perhaps not be the best place for us to roll up for coffee we passed behind the Hotel, and in-front of the Carmelite Monastery where David A explained that the Monastery is inhabited not by monks but by 15 nuns of the enclosed Carmelite order: www.carmelnuns.org.uk, whose life is spent praying for the rest of us. After Paddock House Lane and the magnificent views of Cliff Top our ways parted. Some stayed on the ridge and rode sedately back via Barrowby whilst the main party swept on down Bodrum Hill into the Wharfe Valley past Netherby, and then gently back up the valley side to Kirkby Overblow. On route to Pannal, Paul B very kindly invited all for coffee; Pam was most generous in not only providing eight coffees but a box of excellent chocolate biscuits which we just had to finish. The final leg of the 24 mile route resumed taking in Pannal, Leadhall Lane, the Mallinson Estate and Fulwith Mill lane.



Wednesday Ride

Richard L and Dave R had zoomed off, for Duck St, that was heavy with Hanson's gravel, while Terry and Richard P bridled through the signals and to Heyshaw. From Coldstones, Tofts more fine off road with late lambs and bluebells, to Eagle Hall where the seasons had caught up with magnificent rhododendrons, thence Teacups, just missing the others.



EG's Ride

The ride of diminishing numbers! 11 EGs assembled at Low Bridge on a magnificent warm sunny day. "Where's the coffee stop?" is the usual question, to which there are only 3 possible answers on EG rides: Angela's, Morrisons, or Spa Gardens, Today it was the turn of answer number 2, so we headed off to Wetherby, via Thistle Hill, Follifoot, Spofforth and North Deighton. After coffees had been supped and plates emptied, our esteemed and revered leader, DP, dropped a bombshell of Richter Scale 9 magnitude: he was leaving us!!!!!! We would

have to decide on the rest of the ride ourselves!!!!!!

This normally results in a few hours of EGs scratching balding pates, cycling round in circles, whilst waiting for a little inspiration and a decision. But today, in answer to the question 'so where do you want to go?' Colin, who hasn't been on too many EG rides recently, was therefore the only one still capable answering in a most un-EG like manner: "West and hills". So rather than waiting a few hours for a second option to emerge, off we set to the west and to the hills: via Sicklinghall, Kearby Bank, Castley, Otley. DP cycled with us to the top of Kearby Bank, before making his way home, so then there were 10. Chris T turned off at Farnley to make his way home, so there were 9 of us sitting outside in the sun enjoying our lunch at Cock Pit Farm, Magnificent! Norman and Theo opted for the flatter route home, so 7 of us climbed Askwith Bank. At the junction for Timble, Peter J and Marvyn continued on to Blubberhouses, Hardisty Hill and Menwith Hill, so 5 of us descended the fast sweeping curves to Swinsty Reservoir. Colin and Dave Wilson took the left turn in Fewston to Penny Pot Lane, leaving just 3 of us to return via Norwood, Little Alms Cliff and Beckwithshaw. I turned right at Harlow Hill leaving Dave S and Dave Watson to continue back to Knaresborough. Mileage for 3 of us was about 46 miles, but wildly different for all others. Whatever the mileage, we all had a great ride, in perfect cycling weather, with good hills and scenery.

We also wish 'Tarmac Inspector' Terry all the best after a third excursion over his handlebars in as many weeks. Once is unfortunate, twice is careless, but three times is.... ..(censored)!!!! If you believe things happen in threes, Terry, you've had your quota so you can now look forward to safe riding henceforth. We look forward to you returning to the EGs as soon as you are able to ride without stabilisers. How's the design of the handlebar-fitted airbag coming on? Eric



