

Wednesday, June 11, 2014

## Wednesday Rides

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### Poddlers Ride

A lovely day saw 19 poddlers set off down Hornbeam towards the cycle path. After only a few hundred yards the number was almost reduced to 18 as a car turned left within inches of Geraldine. Slightly shaken but most definitely stirred Geraldine was soon on her way again and we headed across the Leeds road to Leadhall lane and then to Burn Bridge having split into 2 groups. Then up to Kirby Oberblow via Walton Lane Head and on to Wetherby. We followed the cycle path to Thorpe Arch Estate where the two groups gathered for a sociable banana stop (no takers for the cafe). Reforming into our two groups Peter showed us a shortcut out on to Rudgate Lane, new to me. Up Rudgate lane to cross the York Road and then turn right on South Field Lane around the back of the old airfield to Tockwith. Through Tockwith to Cowthorpe and over the A1 to Little Ribston where the first group divided, some returning to Harrogate via Spofforth and others continuing to Knaresborough. The second group all headed to Knaresborough. Shortly after Little Ribston Max performed a spectacular aerial manoeuvre. Max, bike and chocolate bar all undamaged. On his annual Wednesday outing Peter showed us another alternative "jiggle" off the usual route, this one through the underpass to Rudding (muddy today!). Thanks to Steve for navigating the second group and to all for the pleasant company. 35 miles. Dave Griffin







### **Wheel Easy Ride**

We gathered at Hornbeam with a disappointing number of only 5 for the medium ride-especially given the great weather forecast of sunny all day. Several regulars had already had their pass-outs signed as they were off spending the grey pound at far off places before the school holidays began. After a quick discussion Angela made a case for a flat ride as she had dodgy brakes and didn't want to do hills. This led to agreement to ride to Easingwold and then decide on a route back.

We set off and quickly saw the rising enthusiasm for the TdeF with the large number of yellow bikes appearing (more on this later) and some spectacular decorations in the villages (with Minskip doing a brilliant job). We went via Farnham, Arkendale, Marton -cum Grafton and then over Aldwark Bridge (glad Chris Froome hasn't got to negotiate that surface!) and on to Easingwold via Alne. Just outside Easingwold we saw a brilliant yellow bike buried in the hedge with a rider positioned with feet out of the hedge. We stopped to take a photo and Colin on examining it told it was a Curly Hetchen and 'worth a fortune' and so decided to tell the owner who had got it off a skip and had no idea. Subsequent internet research showed even a tatty frame was worth £400! and he would now keep an eye on it. On to Easingwold with Colin still in a daze and a coffee/early lunch break at Teehee and an encounter with another old bike and a rat in the garden. Here a decision was made to do the Coxwold loop although due to time constraints Paul T set off back leaving just 4 (Angela, the 2 Colin's and Kevin) to press on. It's a great area to ride in and we had the added bonus of great views- although by now we were heading into the wind. After going through Coxwold we had a few mad sprint sessions (pretending to be in a peloton) and made our way back via Milby, Boroughbridge and Knaresborough and up the Beryl Burton Way into Harrogate and home. A great ride, mainly flat (hence no rests!), great views and most importantly good company- 57 miles Kevin



Today's long ride to Timble, Wharfedale and Greenhow began with four riders and ended with four. But that rather dull headline hides a day of fluctuating numbers and coincidental meetings. Timble is the early destination of choice on a second Wednesday, to take in the monthly cake-fest. First must come the justification, however. This time, after a brief stop at (not in) the Black Swan in Burn Bridge for Richard-in-blue to retrieve his helmet, Brackenthwaite Lane, the gated road, Norwood Bank, Fewston and North Lane brought us to Timble with appetite for cake or two. With two bikes already parked outside, would there be cake left? Fears subsided when

the two riders were revealed to be Stewart and John, from WE who had dispensed with the Hornbeam preliminaries and dashed straight to the table. Having fed and watered, the party split into two threes, with Richard P heading home with Stewart and John, leaving David R, Richard-in-blue Leake and myself to set off over High Snowden and into Wharfedale. Progress along the lower valley road to Bolton Abbey came to an unexpected halt near West Hall, where the roadworks gang directed us to the suspension footbridge and steep path leading to Addingham. This was one occasion where a climb over Langbar might have been quicker and easier. A comfort stop in Bolton Abbey village brought another unexpected meeting. A "stray" WE member, John from Wetherby, recognized the club colours and joined us for the rest of the ride. A leisurely lunch was taken at Burnsall's Wharf View café, after which we set off for the climbs to Greenhow, stopping briefly to admire the grand old Bentley stored in a barn near Appletreewick. The climb to the Pateley road was hard going in the heat but the rewards were the views into serenity of Parcevall Hall gardens contrasting with the rugged scars of the moors beyond. On reaching the Pateley road, a third reward showed itself in the form of a tail breeze to assist us with the serious business of climbing over Stump Cross and reaching Greenhow. David R very generously came back for a second shot at the climb to offer encouragement to us strugglers at the back. After Greenhow, the road home is long, straight and downhill past Menwith and Pennypot. Farewells were exchanged at the Killinghall road where we parted in two pairs to end an excellent day out. Stats: Hornbeam to Hornbeam 60 miles; 4330 ft (1320m) ascent. Terry Smith

### **EG Ride**

It was an unusual day, being a Wednesday and not being wet. Despite the excellent weather we only had seven riders, however some of the absent had sent notes from their Mum`s. Whilst waiting Wheel-Easy Wednesdayers arrived, a quick word with Paul T ref coming Sunday`s ride then away they went.

Then it was away on Abbey Road, meeting Dennis K and his muddy mates coming the other way. On to Tadcaster via Rudgate lead by Bob at a steady pace, arriving at Tykes Tearooms for Tea and Toasted Teacakes in 75 minutes from Low Bridge. After some very nice teacakes, Dave Wilson (on Granddad duties) left us, accompanied by Colin, who had to prepare for his sailing trip, we assume scraping the barnacles off his bottom, getting in the grog, practice keel hauling and all those other things sailors do.

Bob lead out again ,taking us through Ulleskelf village (usually bypassed), and on to Cawood, after which Bob and Roy continued on the B1222 to Naburn and Sainsbury`s Cafe. Dave P, Dave W, and Peter J hung a right to Kelfield, Riccal and a quick banana break, then up the cycle path to Sainsbury`s Cafe, arriving 12 mins behind Bob and Roy. After Tea and Toilets the fantastic five headed for home in the sun but with some headwind. A quick break taken at Marston Moor, then in the wind to the B6164, Dave P and Roy heading for Spofforth and home, Bob, Dave W and Peter J heading for Knaresborough and home. A mention in dispatches for Peter J on how pushed the wind all the way from York, and also to Roy, who has not been riding regularly due to various problems, topped the 60 mile mark, well done. Theo has been missing from the EG rides for a while now, this has been due to ill health, so best wishes from the EG`s, a speedy recovery and hope to see you soon. Dave P.

