

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Poddlers Ride

It was a very select group of Poddlers that set off today. So many Poddlers were away, at work or whatever, that just 7 assembled at Hornbeam. Having had such beautiful sunshine yesterday, I was hoping the sun would break through today so that we could really enjoy the ride Brimham. So we set off along the Greenway only to be caught up by a bevy of 'big boys and girls' who had finally decided to take themselves to Pateley. Our ride continued to Brimham in chatty fashion with a stop for blackberries and a photo. There were teasing glimpses of sun, but it was still warm. Once past Brimham, we were anticipating the wonderful descent to Wilsill. However, we had to slow down twice because of copious amounts of mud and then a tractor whizzing along with an extra long trailer. We safely arrived at the Drovers and then Ripley. Here, four of us enjoyed refreshments at the church, while the others returned straight home. It was a most enjoyable, relaxed ride. Alison N



Medium Ride Report

For the first time in a long time the Medium Riders outnumbered the Poddlers- but not in organisation! It took James to sort out the eleven of us with a route to Ripon via Brimham Rocks and then he was quickly nominated ride leader- some people never learn!

We set off at a cracking pace and soon realised that we were following a similar route to the Poddlers and so there was a long train of cyclists on the Greenway out to Ripley (all well behaved I might add). Both Groups continued on the Greenway extension but at the top we made our way to Birstwith over the toll bridge and then up Stripe Lane to Brimham Rocks.

We were only just in front of the Poddlers(a title that now needs to be challenged under the Trades Description Act) so we quickly made off towards Ripon and down Risplith Bank but took the short cut (via Aldfield) to Fountains Abbey and a fast ride down the Deer Park into Ripon and a coffee break at Spa Gardens. The sun was forcing its way through so we sat outside enjoying a well earned cake when James sprung a surprise and announced that we would return via Boroughbridge rather than the normal route. Some mutterings ensued but everyone agreed it was

right to extend the ride and we set off via the Racecourse and past Newby Hall and into Boroughbridge via Littlethorpe.

A further stop to agree the route home was convened and after rejecting the option of another loop via Ouseburn and the Mountgarret path it was agreed to go for the Staveley and Knaresborough hill option.

With all the group still together and looking like a well disciplined peloton (not often we can say that) we made good time back to Knaresborough where our distinguished leader departed and we made our way back into Harrogate with each one taking differing routes home from Starbeck.

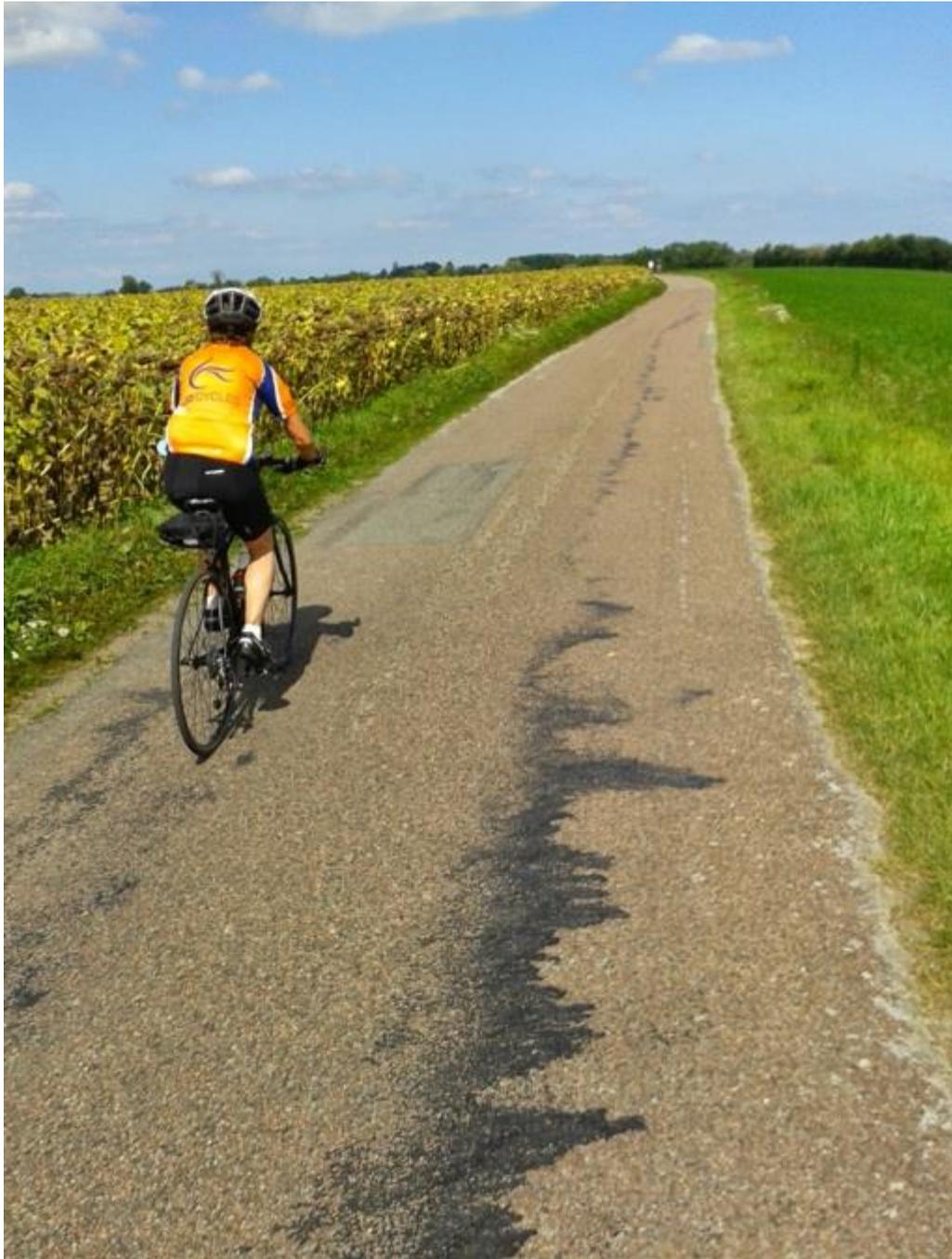
An excellent route at a reasonably good pace with the star of the day being Charlies new bike - red to match his outfit) and he was last seen speeding off to clean the specks of dirt of it!

11 riders+42 miles+1 good leader= a good ride. Thanks to James and everyone for an enjoyable outing. Kevin



Wednesday Ride Report Burgundy Sub-Group:

Two of us assembled at the reasonable time of 10.30 (well, that is 9.30 in the uk), and we set off from our campsite near the River Soane at Gigny along the lanes to Sennecy-le-Grand. Here we crossed the old N6 with the trucks trundling along and took to the back lanes of the old town heading west to open country and quiet sundrenched lanes. Soon we were passing through the Burgundy villages nestling in the folds of the green hills - France has had a very wet summer- but September is looking good. The vines are loaded with grapes promising more of the rich red nectar from the Cote d'Or. Today we were looking to climb some hills and we arrived at the hill top medieval village of La Chapelle-Sous-Brancion for a spot of sightseeing. A lovely long steady descent brought us to Tournus and a ride north along by the Soane into the brisk breeze, bringing us back to the campsite and the obligatory glass of red nectar after 35 lumpy miles. Burgundy in September is one of our favourite places and times to cycle. Martin and Yvonne





EGs Ride

Dave W led the ride until we reached Great Ouseburn where Peter J took over the lead. Peter J then suffered a puncture. The ride continued to Aldwark and Flawith and Brafferton. At Brafferton the majority of riders decided to return to Harrogate leaving only three riders, Peter J, Rob and Glyn, to continue the ride as planned. The three arrived at Easingwold and were rewarded with cheese scones, served with cream and chutney, and a bowl of chips. Having lots of carbs we decided to go to Stillington and Sutton-on-the-Forest, and then returned to Harrogate via Tollerton, Aldwark Bridge and Great Ouseburn Peter J

Long Ride

Terrington was the hastily devised goal for today's long ride, offering a flatish day with the prospect of good views from the Howardians. Three set off in cool conditions, aiming for Abbey Road Knaresborough and a rendezvous with the Sacres, fresh from their Calais to Nice holiday. After admiring Mt Ventoux souvenirs, five of us headed for Easingwold and a coffee stop using the well-worn route over Alwark Bridge. Wednesday means that Easingwold is not the cafe desert that the town becomes on a Sunday. Our choice was the curiously-named Curious Table. Cabinets in the cafe were strangely empty - just one scone! Nevertheless, needs were met within the bounds of Stell's Rule, which states that riders shall not order anything that is not on display. In conversation it emerged that the cafe in the care home, used by us over several years, may have closed. Research needed here - Easingwold has few enough cycle-friendly outlets. After coffee, Peter left us to prepare for the first bridge night of the autumn term, a shivering thought at the start of a fine weather spell. Into the Howardians through Crayke and Brandsby we headed for Terrington, choosing to climb the bank rather than use the lumpy ridge road. Regrouping at the top of the bank, a route conference was held and decided that Terrington Bank is far steeper than the Ventoux, but eleven miles shorter, and that it was too early for lunch at the Lavender Farm. Sutton on the Forest became the new venue for lunch, requiring the use of the lumpy ridge road so carefully avoided earlier! En route, a WW2 bomber droned over the vale, identified as either a Lancaster or a Halifax. Daisy's Tearooms at Sutton Park proved to be enjoyable, not least for Richard L, who had a choice of gluten-free items. Eerily empty at first, the café proved its worth with excellent food at reasonable cost and is well worth a visit. Michelin chef, Adam, got cracking with the baking and suddenly the tearoom started to fill, attracting not least a group from York

Wednesday Wheelers. Over our late lunch conversations covered the summer's challenges, including a gluten-free LEJOG, Calais to Nice and the Drumochter Drop. The ride back from Sutton was as direct as possible, retracing the morning's route. Busy lanes around York are not always enjoyable, especially now that the school run is back in operation, another reminder that the year progresses. Sadly, there were no hoped-for views from the Howardians across the vales, but the day was enjoyable for its variety and good company: 72 miles Hornbeam to Hornbeam and 2560 ft of climbing.

Terry Smith