

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Wednesday Rides

Sedate Poddlers Ride

A glorious warm morning standing in the sun at Hornbeam nearly resulted in an abandonment of bike riding, in exchange for just chatting and sun bathing. However Gia organised us and explained clearly and patiently that we needed to be in smaller groups and certainly people would be welcome in other groups as they got fitter and were desirous of distance and days outings. Liz had organised a lovely ride with loops and escapes, hills and dips, more or less miles. So with hills in our heads, power in our legs, three groups left Hornbeam as others politely waited. Three first timers Marcus, Cat and a nice man whose name I have rudely forgotten, joined hardly breathing poorly coughing Allison S, and her minder Gordon still a bit paley-waley from his bout of something nasty, Jane and Caroline as ever in a state of feebleness due to too much gossiping and over eating for the duration of their hols, on their jaunt around the two Almscliffes. Our route took in 5 rather long ups and 2 pleasing swoops down with some lumps in between. A good airing, lung expansion and a bit of leg work was had by all and we were back in time for lunch. Thank you Liz P and Paul B for a lovely choice of ride routes. CG

More Poddlers

24 poddlers counted at Hornbeam but not sure how many were hiding. Paul B took 7, I had 9 so presumably Caroline had 8 though there looked to be more. Paul's group were waiting for us at Stainburn Forest and we met up with them at intervals during the ride. After the forest we turned right then left on the B6451 across Lindley Wood Reservoir then down through Farnley and round to Leathley. The views of Wharfedale were wonderful. It was then up through Stainburn and to Almscliffe Crag where we met again with Paul's group and swapped around a bit. At this point a helicopter passed over us and there was great excitement as it was in the WE colours of blue and yellow. Paul took 9 back via Weeton and Kirby Overblow while 7 of us headed back to North Rigton and Brackenthwaite Lane. Nicky had gone ahead but we didn't see her (and I know the numbers don't add up!) Those heading down Brackenthwaite Lane had a no pedalling race and were impressed by the distance achieved - maybe something to do with the wind behind us! My group had done about 23 miles on what seemed a very hilly ride though Strava claims it was only 1800 feet. Thank you to my group for their patience while I lead from the back on all the hills! Thank you to Paul B and Caroline for helping out and taking a group each. EAP.

From Paul

9 of us headed to KO but were too late for the church's Macmillan coffee stop. However, the Shoulder shop next to the pub does coffee and cake and has tables outside (use the bus shelter when wet!). It's a bit basic but welcome when there's nowt else.



Wednesday Ride 1

October 1st and a fine day brought out over 50 people to Hornbeam this morning. Good to see the additional cycle shelter and new path being constructed by the station.

The large numbers meant that we needed to create more manageable groups so Liz and Paul sorted out the Poddlers into three rides, Colin took a group off to Wharfedale as did Richard although at a faster pace and the rest of us cycled out to Brimham. So six organised rides out today, splendid and big thank you to the leaders.

Excellent ride, about 36 miles, some decent hills, good café stop by the lake at Studley, back via Sawley and Brimham. On the Greenway on our return we met an 86 year old lady who used to cycle with Beryl Burton. She stopped us because she said we were riding in her old club colours! Thanks to Sue for the suggestion of the destination and Martin for refining the route. Gia



EG's Ride

A sunny morning for the first of October.

The choice was go either North or South, quick consultation with our sailing fraternity, who stuck a wet finger in the air and said North would be best, so that was that.

We had good turn out at Low Bridge, consisting of fourteen EG`s and one Nicola, who had the rules of the men`s downhill to Occaney explained to her, which is of course not a men only event. Once again Dave (wonder wheels) Siswick took the title but only by a wheels diameter from Colin P (the champion in waiting).

On to Ripon for the first cafe stop in the Spa Gardens, taken sitting outside in the sun, though before we left some dark clouds were starting to gather.

Bill, Nicola, Norman and Roy then took the homeward route, the remainder headed north to Wath and Kirklington, then south to Skipton-on-Swale, Topcliffe and Cundall (sorry you missed that Bob), on to Boroughbridge, and a quick look at the outdoor museum, that contained old every day artefacts, the visit was brief just in case we found ourselves put on display.

Then on to Morrison`s cafe for afternoon tea, this was declined by Dave S, Dave Watson and Terry, but taken up by Colin P, Dave P, Dave Wilson, Eric, John R (in training for the Dolce Vita), Marvin, Peter B and Peter J.

On leaving our second home a few raindrops were felt, but the weather was only bluffing and we arrived home in the dry with 50 or so miles in our wheels.

Nice little Autumn ride, dry weather, how long can it last?.

Dave P.





Long Ride

The call of Langbar this morning drew eight riders from the throng of WEs, a group that once again included multiple Richards - three this time. Langbar is not so much a destination as a prelude to grander things, many of them at the summits of climbs, or course! Today's heart-starters included Spring Lane, Pannal and Brackenthwaite Lane, followed by some fairly chilly descents to Leathley, which reminded us that this is October. Cheerily, in Otley a blackboard reassured us that Cockpit Farm cafe is still using its summer hours, but we were too early to be tempted in. Autumn means wasps and today one of them thought Richard S's lemon yellow helmet needed closer inspection. Richard resisted and was stung. Swelling followed, causing Richard and Lesley to divert to Ilkley in search of antihistamines and then head for home. Commiserations to them.

Bananas were not taken at Langbar summit, a flagrant flouting of the leader's call, indicating that the group was in serious need of coffee - duly found at Bolton Bridge. Coffee merged with lunch, after which the route choices all included Stump Cross. The forecast light rain scudded in as we passed the Strid, leading to a period of layer swapping as the boil-in-the-bag effect took hold. Mercifully, the wind was benign for the slog up New Road to Fancarl, where the outstretched flag declared that today's climb up to Stump Cross would be one of the easier ones. Greenhow played host our final route conference of the day, after which Martin, Peter, Ricard L and John S turned for Duck Street and Menwith, while Richard P and I did a fly-past of Toft Gate Farm cafe en route for Ripley church. Shotguns were much in evidence off Hollybank Lane, where something was being shot at. It could have been clay pigeons but it wasn't obvious, unlike the brave fellow armed with a bright orange flag, much needed in such situations, I imagine. Then to Ripley for tea and cake, amid a distinctly end-of-season atmosphere. They will be open again for the Ripley Fair 4th to 6th Dec after which it will be next spring. Many thanks to the small army of volunteers who made this a must-do stop for us this year. Back home along the Greenway, there are several points where some urgent cutting back is needed. I really must have a word with the Sustrans co-ordinator!

Stats: 56 miles, 4450 ft climbed. Thanks to all. TS.